

Enterprise Pottery

26B

Other Names	Enterprise Manufacturing Company; Enterprise Sanitary Manufacturing Company; Enterprise Pottery
Present Day Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Municipality	Lawrence Township; Millham Township; City of Trenton
Historic Location	New York Avenue near Olden Avenue
Years in Operation	1880-1892
Owners/Operators	William N. Weidner (1879); E. Mercer Shreve & Wife (1879-1881); Shreve & Skirm (1880); Charles H. Skirm & Wife (1881); Samuel D. Oliphant [1/2 share] (1881-1885); Charles H. Skirm [full share] (1885); Andrew Cochran [1/4 share] (1885); William H. Umpleby [1/4 share] (1885); Richard Brian [1/4 share] (1885); William H. Umpleby, Charles H. Skirm & Richard Brian [1/4 received from Cochran] (1886-1892); William S. Hancock (1892)

PRODUCTS

Tableware <input type="checkbox"/>	Garden Ceramics <input type="checkbox"/>	Rockingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Hardware <input type="checkbox"/>	Art Ceramics <input type="checkbox"/>	Toilet Sets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sanitary ware <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hotel China <input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical porcelain <input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

earthenware closets, druggists' vitrified ware, plumbers' earthenware, stationary wash-stand basins, decorated toilet ware, and other earthenware (Woodward and Hageman 1883:860)

"oval washout closets, tall f. r. hoppers, round Philadelphia f. r. hoppers, traps, urinals, bidet pans, ship closet basins, plug basins, closet bowls, and other sanitary specialties ... " (Quarter Century's Progress 1887:280)

REFERENCES

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MAP REFERENCES

Robinson 1881, plate R: shown as "Enterprise Pottery Co."

Haven 1882: shown as "Enterprise Pottery Co."

Sanborn 1874 (1886), plate 16: shown as "Enterprise Pottery Co."

Enterprise Land Company Plan of Building Lots and Manufacturing Sites 1873 (1890): shown as "Enterprise Pottery"

Sanborn 1890, plate 18: shown as "Enterprise Pottery Co."

Scarlett & Scarlett, plate 64: shown as "Enterprise Pottery Co."

IMAGE REFERENCES

Naar, Day & Naar 1899

J.M. Elstner & Co. 1889:90

DUN COLLECTION

NOTES

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"New Pottery on the Co-operative Plan. -- A party of operative potters, sanitary and druggists' ware makers, have formed a company and will start a pottery on the co-operative plan, at Millham. The small pottery formerly occupied by Willet Hicks, will be remodelled and enlarged, for which the architectural plans have already been issued. Building will be commenced on Monday. The new company will be known as "The Enterprise" (Trenton State Gazette, Saturday, February 21, 1880).

"Work was begun yesterday in Shreve & Skirm's new sanitary pottery, in East Trenton, giving employment to about fifty hands" (Trenton State Gazette, Tuesday, July 27, 1880).

"The business of the Enterprise Pottery, on New York Avenue, was established in 1880. Earthenware closets, druggists' vitrified ware, plumbers' earthenware, stationary wash-stand basins, decorated toilet ware, and other earthenware in general are manufactured, a specialty being made of sanitary goods, and shipped principally to New York and Philadelphia. The manufacturing capacity of this establishment is one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars annually, and fifty hands are employed" (Woodward and Hageman 1883:860).

"This business was established in 1881 by the present proprietors, Messrs. C.H. Skirm, W.H. Umpleby, and Richard Brian, all of whom are thoroughly practical men, fully conversant with every detail of this important business and the requirements of plumbers and sanitary engineers. The premises occupied are spacious and have a frontage of 350 feet on the canal and 300 feet on the railroad track. The works comprise several extensive buildings, which are fully supplied with all the latest improved appliances, apparatus, and machinery necessary for the successful conduct of the business. A fifty-horse power steam engine is utilized to drive the machinery, while one hundred and twenty experienced workmen are constantly employed. There are five regular 22x6-foot kilns in constant operation. The average production of the works is \$200,000 worth of sanitary earthenware annually. The Enterprise Pottery Company manufactures largely oval washout closets, tall f. r. hoppers, round Philadelphia f. r. hoppers, traps, urinals, bidet pans, ship closet basins, plug basins, closet bowls, and other sanitary specialties ... " (Quarter Century's Progress 1887:280).

"... the main building has a frontage along the canal of 350 feet, and along the railroad of 300 feet. There are several buildings on the premises, in all covering about five acres, and making one of the most extensive, if not the largest in its special line in the country. The output of the Enterprise Pottery consists of sanitary earthenware exclusively ... The plant consists of seven 16 feet 6 inches kilns, which since their erection have been running to their full capacity; a seventy-five-horse power engine furnishes the motive power, and to its aid is called the services of one hundred and fifty skilled operatives. They have a decorating establishment, where customers can always find a full line of decorated washouts, basins, etc., equal to any produced in the country" (J.M. Elstner & Co. 1889:90).