

# Trenton China Company

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**Other Names** Trenton China Company  
**Present Day Municipality** City of Trenton  
**Historic Municipality** City of Trenton  
**Historic Location** Third Avenue and Landing Street; 301 Third Street; 300-303 Third Street  
**Years in Operation** 1880-1891  
**Owners/Operators** James H. Moon, Phillip P. Dunn and John Tams (1880-?1892)

## PRODUCTS

**Tableware**     **Garden Ceramics**     **Rockingham**     **Other**   
**Hardware**     **Art Ceramics**     **Toilet Sets**   
**Sanitary ware**     **Hotel China**     **Electrical porcelain**

## ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

pure china, with a specialty in thick and half-thick ware for hotels, restaurants, steamboats (Industries of New Jersey 1882:164); translucent vitreous china earthenware, hotel ware (Woodward and Hageman 1883:693)

## REFERENCES

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## MAP REFERENCES

Haven 1882: shown as "Trenton China Co."

Sanborn 1874 (1886), plates 4 and 19: shown as "Trenton China Co."

Sanborn 1890, plate 37: shown as "Trenton China Co."

Scarlett & Scarlett 1890, plate 29: shown as "Trenton China Co."

## IMAGE REFERENCES

## DUN COLLECTION

## NOTES

"The business was started in 1880 ... Their manufacture comprises everything in the line of pottery of pure china, making a specialty of thick and half-thick ware for hotels, restaurants, steamboats, etc. The manufactory is of brick, 100x150 feet in size, and divided into the various departments, such as moulding rooms, storehouses, d[r]ying rooms, kilns and kiln sheds, packing-rooms, salesroom, office, etc. There are three stacks, and the facilities throughout are of the finest order. Employment is given to one hundred hands ... The finest clays here used are imported, yet considerable of our native clay is utilized. The office has telephonic communication with the chief business houses of this city ... The officers and members of the company are James H. Moon, President ... Thomas A. Bell, the Secretary ... James Clarke, the Treasurer ... The Superintendent is Mr. John Tams, a thoroughly practical and skillful potter ..." (Industries of New Jersey 1882:164-165).

"This [firm] was organized in November, 1880, with James Moore, president, and Charles Satterthwaite, secretary and Treasurer. The present officers are Thomas A. Bell, president; Charles Cadwallader, secretary; and James Clarke, treasurer. This company is engaged in the manufacture of translucent vitreous china exclusively. Hotel ware is a specialty, although other kinds are produced. This pottery has four kilns, and employs one hundred hands" (Woodward and Hageman 1883:693).

"The Trenton China Company have succeeded in improving the color of their vitrified goods and bringing them nearer the tint of true porcelain, a very desirable object the attainment of which has been attended by considerable difficulty. In the production of hotel china they have carried the same point of improvement and are now manufacturing a class of goods that meet the approval of

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the leading hotel keepers and restaurateurs in the United States" (Trenton Evening Times, Sunday, November 15, 1885).

In 1859 a corporation titled "Trenton China Company" was founded, but construction of a pottery with that name did not occur for another 20 years. "The plant was located on the site of what had been the Trenton Terra-Cotta Company which had been purchased by James Clark and James Tams both of whom remained associated with the new pottery company" (Goldberg 1998:48).

The Trenton China Company was incorporated in 1880 with \$40,000 of capital stock, 75% owned by James H. Moon of Falls, Pennsylvania, 22.5% by Phillip P. Dunn of Trenton, and 2.5% by John Tams of Chambersburg. The company enlarged and refitted parts of the pre-existing terracotta works on the site. Four kilns and 100 employees. Capital stock was increased to \$100,000 in 1883 and to \$200,000 in 1887. The company was in the hands of the receivers by 1891 and the plant was sold to the newly formed Maddock Pottery Company in 1892 (Hunter Research, Inc. 2003).