

Ceramic Art Company

36A

Other Names	Ceramic Art Company
Present Day Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Location	Mead Street and Prince Street; Mead Street near Prince Street; Mead Street corner St. Joes Avenue; 15 Prince Street; 50 Mead; 15 Prince
Years in Operation	1889-1906
Owners/Operators	Walter Scott Lenox and Jonathan Coxon, Sr. (1889-1906)

PRODUCTS

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

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Belleek china, Belleek vases (Industrial Directory 1901); Belleek china (Industrial Directory 1906)

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Friday, April 12, 2013

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MAP REFERENCES

Sanborn 1890, plate 21: shown as "Ceramic Art Co."

Scarlett & Scarlett 1890: shown as "Ceramic Art Co."

Lathrop 1905, plate 15: shown as "Ceramic Art Co."

IMAGE REFERENCES

The Lenox corporate archive contains numerous historic photographs in addition to those reproduced in published sources. In 2006 this archive was donated to the Rutgers University Special Collections.

DUN COLLECTION

NOTES

The Ceramic Art Company purchased a tile shop on Prince Street from Miss Robinson in the 1890s (Harney 1929).

Eight connected Lenox-era structures, two to four stories high, were still standing in the late 1970s. The oldest building was along Mead and St. Joe's Streets and dated from the Ceramic Art Company period. This building was constructed in such a way that the structures could have been converted into tenements if the pottery venture failed. Walter Scott Lenox, one of the two founders, became the sole director of the pottery in 1894; in 1906 the name was changed from the Ceramic Art Company to Lenox Pottery. The firm made high quality ivory-tinted Belleek ware with help from two potters who were brought in from Holland. Lenox was the first company to sell china by the piece rather than the entire set. President Wilson bought a china set for the White House in 1917; it has been the official china there ever since. In 1954 Lenox moved all production to Pomona, New Jersey. In the 1970s administrative functions were still carried out in the old buildings on Prince and Mead Streets. Further architectural detail is given within the text (Abramson and Karschner 1978).

"Jonathan Coxon, Sr., who served as superintendent of the Ott & Brewer plant during most of [the] period of American Belleek production, entered into a partnership with [Walter Scott] Lenox in 1889 establishing the Ceramic Art Company at Prince and Mead Streets. He and Lenox applied their knowledge of the new process to their own production.

Coxon retired in 1896 from pottery making but Lenox continued the Ceramic Art Company

changing the company name to Lenox in 1906. From the very inception, the Ceramic Art Company concentrated its effort on the creation of high quality Belleek porcelains creating some of the finest decorative porcelains ever produced in the United States. Lenox dinnerware ultimately achieved a degree of acceptance accorded only the finest of its foreign competitors. The highest accolade was bestowed upon Lenox when it was selected to supply the White House with its dinner ware during the Woodrow Wilson administration. This is a distinction which it continues to hold" (Goldberg 1998:52).

All buildings and structures on the site were demolished in March and April, 2005, except for the three-story office building and one-story workshop on Prince Street (Hunter 2005).