

Lenox Pottery

36B

Other Names Lenox, Incorporated
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 1906-1954
Owners/Operators Lenox, Inc. (1906-1954)

PRODUCTS

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

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Belleek ware (Industrial Directory 1909); porcelain specialties (Industrial Directory 1912); Belleek and bone china (Industrial Directory 1918, 1927); china tableware (Industrial Directory 1931); china novelties (Industrial Directory 1934); Belleek china, dinnerware, lamps, novelties (Industrial Directory 1938); fine china (Industrial Directory 1940-41)

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MAP REFERENCES

Sanborn 1908, vol. 1, plate 38: shown as "Lenox Company, Inc. Pottery Works"

Sanborn 1927, vol. 1, plate 66: shown as "Lenox Incorporated Pottery"

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Franklin 1930, plate 35: shown as "Lenox, Inc."

Sanborn 1955: Shown as "Lenox, Inc. Pottery"

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

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).

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).

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