

Columbian Art Pottery

43A

Other Names	Columbian Art Pottery Company; Morris & Willmore Company
Present Day Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Location	Parker Avenue above Olden Avenue
Years in Operation	1892-1906
Owners/Operators	W.T. Morris & F.R. Willmore (1892-1906)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electrical porcelain <input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

china and earthenware (Industrial Directory 1901); china and Belleek ware (Industrial Directory 1906); thin Belleek china and ivory ware; table and toilet china and artwares in a Belleek body (Lehner 1980:44)

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MAP REFERENCES

Lathrop 1905, plate 14: shown as "Columbian Art Pottery Morris & Wilmore Co."

IMAGE REFERENCES

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NOTES

The Columbian Art Pottery was established in 1892 and manufactured "Fine Ceramic Art Productions: Expert decorators of Steins, Tankards, Loving-Cups, Jardinieres, Umbrella Handles, Souvenirs, Vases and Specialties for Metal Workers" (Board of Trade 1900:72).

"Perhpasd their most famous item is the Belleek Liberty Bell ... Other items include a nice assortment of transfer-decorated mugs and tankards which are touched up by hand and which have hand-painted shaded backgrounds" (Robinson and Feeny 1980:57).

"William Morris had been trained at the Belleek Works in Ireland as well as in the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works in England. He also held the position of foreman with Ott & Brewer. Willmore had been associated with Royal Worcester and Ott & Brewer as a decorator. The two joined together as partners in 1892 and their company produced an outstanding line of fine Belleek. While few examples of their work are displayed publicly, the New Jersey State Museum is the owner of a cobalt blue tea set considered by many to be one of the finest examples of American porcelain. Morris & Willmore also produced Belleek tankards and mugs and vases which combine thinness of fine porcelain with the decorative skills equal to the best produced during this period.

The artistic brilliance of this company was not matched by its commercial acumen and the company operated for less than fifteen years. Their plant was located in a small building on Parker Avenue near Olden Avenue. In 1905, a forced sale of the property apparently led to the end of the partnership although the partners did retain control of the property. Morris continued in pottery production at this location for perhaps another ten years under the name of Morris China Co." (Goldberg 1998:52-53).