A Collectors Guide to:
Ironstone China in Museums, Historic Sites
and Bed & Breakfasts

Many members have asked WICA to publish a list of places where White Ironstone is on display, so that while traveling around the country, they could plan to stop and see it. Members have sent us brochures and have described what they have seen over the past years. Since so many of us collect Decorated Ironstone and since the museums and historic sites include all kinds of Ironstone we have also included it. Museums sometimes have significant examples of Tea Leaf, Flow Blue, Mulberry and Transfer Ironstone. White Ironstone is noted, when exhibited. The historic sites sometimes have only a child’s tea set, a few platters, tureens and ewer and basin sets in the bedrooms, but the other objects and the restoration itself is well worth seeing.

The sites are alphabetically listed by state – followed by a group of Canadian sites.

We have been warned that some places do change their exhibits. It is worth checking before to be sure they are open. Most are open all year, but some are seasonal. A phone number and an e-mail address are included when available. Please send us any new places with White Ironstone that you have visited so we can update the guide in a few years.

We wish to thank all who contributed. Especially Shirley and Ira Parmer, Chris Weinbrenner, Julie Rich, Harry Lowe, Adele Armbruster, Patty Hurt, Bill Lancaster, Anne & Jim Miller, Janice & Ron Stork, Amy Earls and Jean Wetherbee. Apologies to anyone we have forgotten.

*Cover photo of the Appomatox Courthouse, VA, by Parmer.*

Bev & Ernie Dieringer

The White Ironstone China Association Convention 2005
Ironstone China in Museums and Historical Sites

**Arizona**, Phoenix – Rosson House on Heritage Sq.
6 Saint & Monroe – Phoenix, AZ 85003 (5 mi. NW of the city) Phone (602) 262-5022

One hundred and ten pieces of Tea Leaf Ironstone on loan in a Historic Victorian Eastlake style mansion

**Arizona**, Tombstone - Tombstone Courthouse – Historic State Park
Corner of Toughnut & Third Streets, Tombstone AZ 85638, Phone: (502) 457-3311

Tea Leaf Ironstone

**California**, Point Loma - Cabrillo National Monument in the Lighthouse

State Highway 209 to the end of point Loma, Phone: (619) 222-8211

Tea Leaf Ironstone in the lighthouse kitchen cabinets and set on the table - including some nice double eggcups.

Hours : 9 to 5:30 all year – till 6:30 in summer

**California**, San Diego – Star of India (a Clipper ship anchored in the harbor)

Tea Leaf Ironstone in the officers dinning room and chamber pieces in the Captains cabin.

**California**, San Francisco: The Fine Arts Museum

131 Third Street San Francisco CA 94103-3107, Phone (415)357-4000

Original Painting by Grant Woods 1934 “Dinner for Threshers” In this cut away view of a house showing the porch – dinning room – and kitchen, Woods painted the cupboards full of Tea Leaf Ironstone and the dinning farmers with Tea Leaf cups held high.

Worth the trip

224 Danbury Road (Route 7) Wilton, CT 06897  Phone (203) 726-7257
Email info@wiltonhistorical.org

A collection of Sydenham Shape White Ironstone and an E&F Ceres Shape child’s tea set. Also a notable collection of Red Ware.

Hours: 9:30 – 4 Mon.-Thurs. (Closed Fri). - Sat. & Sun. 1 – 4

Call ahead for tour hours.

Nielsen photo

Illinois, Galena  US Grant Home  State Historical Site

Bouthillier & 4th, Galena, IL  61036, Phone: (815) 777-1248, Email: GrantHome.com

Tea Leaf Ironstone on display

Illinois, Galesberg  - State Historical Site  - Carl Sandberg Birthplace

313 East Third Street, Galesberg, IL

Tea Leaf Ironstone and some White Ironstone

Hours: 9am - 5pm Wed.- Sun.
Illinois, Springfield - Lincoln Home

426 So. Seventh St. – Springfield, IL 62701-1905
Phone: (217) 492-4241 Ext.221 or 492-4150

Pitchers and bowls in bedrooms (including Sydenham) Boote’s 1851 and Grape Octagon tureens in kitchen - a footbath plus more in other rooms.

Hours: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Iowa, Des Moines – Living History Farm

2600 111th Street Urbandale, IA 50322, Phone: (515) 278-5286

A turn of the Century Farm exactly as it would have been with some Tea leaf Ironstone in the cupboard.
**Iowa.** Missouri Valley - DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge and Visitors Center – Museum of the Wreck of the Bertrand

1434 316th Lane - Missouri Valley, IA 51555, Phone: (712) 642-4121
Email: DeSoto@fws.gov

The museum has an exhibition of thousands of cargo artifacts from the wreck of the Bertrand, a paddle wheel riverboat that sank in 1865. It includes a large collection of White Ironstone. Especially interesting are the James Edwards and JF shapes.

Worth the trip

Hours 9:00 to 4:30

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**Kentucky.** Auburn - Shaker Museum at South Union

850 Shaker Museum Rd. Auburn 42206, Phone: (270) 542-4167
Email: shakmus@logantele.com,

Wonderful examples of the Shaker aesthetic in white ironstone shapes.

Worth the Trip

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**Louisiana.** New Orleans - Herman-Grima House - 820 St. Louis Street & Gallier house

1132 Royal Street - 2 National Historic sites in the Old French Quarter -
Phone: (504) 525-5661

The Herman-Grima House has a collection of 41 pieces of Corn & Oats as well as some E&F Ceres and pieces by JF. There is a partial child’s dinner set in the Gallier house.

Monday - Friday, 10am- 4pm. Worth the trip.
Massachusetts, Pittsfield - Hancock Shaker Village - Route 20 (junction 41)
Pittsfield, MA 01202, Phone: 413: 443-0188

White Ironstone made in America and England in the Shaker aesthetic displayed in and among superbly designed architecture, furniture, and all the other hand made objects in their life.

Worth the trip

Open year round - May 28 through Oct. 16 - 9:30 am to 5 pm

Oct. 25 through May 27 - 10:00 am to 3 pm

Michigan, Dearborn - Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village

20900 Oakwood Blvd. at Village Rd. Dearborn, MI
Phone: (313) 982-6001 or (800) 835-5237

Hours: Monday - Saturday 9-5, Sunday noon - 5.

There is White Ironstone in the Sarah Jordan Boarding House in Greenfield Village. Decorated Ironstone in some of the other village buildings including the Firestone Farm. Decorated Ironstone in the Henry Ford Museum. Reportedly there is a huge collection of white ironstone in the basement storage. Jean Wetherbee saw it once in the company of a guide. Perhaps someday we can get permission to photograph it.

Michigan, Mackinac Island - Fort Mackinac The post HQ, Quartermaster’s Storehouse, Officer’s Hill Quarters and the Post Hospital all have White Ironstone. The Officers Hill Quarters also has Tea Leaf. The Post hospital has Gothic shape Blue Transfer Ironstone chamber pieces. The Biddle House (in town) has Tea Leaf.
Phone: (906) 847-3328 K12
Email www.mackinacisland.org

Michigan, Whitefish Point - Great Lakes shipwreck Museum.

18335 N. Whitefish Point Road - Paradise, MI, Phone: 888-492-3747

The main Museum room has White Ironstone found on sunken ships in Lake Superior. A restored lighthouse has Flow Blue, Tea Leaf, Luster Band and White Ironstone.
Minnesota, Mendota - Sibley House (Home of first Governor of MN)

1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. Mendota, MN 55150, Phone: (651)-452-1596
Email: silbleyhouse@mnhs.org

Some Tea Leaf Ironstone

Missouri, Independence – Woodson Guest House / Bed & Breakfast –

1604 W. Lexington Ave. Independence, MO 64052

Please call ahead: (816) 254-0551, Email www/woodsonguesthouse.com

An Historic 1850s home with a huge collection of wonderful Flow Blue and White Ironstone. It is run as a B&B and was voted as the best in seven states by Discover America Magazine last year.

Owner and host is Charlotte Olejko

Missouri, Independence Harry S. Truman Historic Home

219 Delaware Street Independence MO

We have been told that there is Tea Leaf Ironstone in this 1860 house that was built and furnished by Bess Truman’s Grandfather. Bess was born there.
Missouri, Kansas City - Arabia Steamboat Museum
400 Grand Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64106, Phone: (816) 471-4030

The steamboat Arabia sank in the Mississippi river near St Louis. It carried thousands of items including White Ironstone, Mulberry and some blue feather-edge decorated Ironstone. (see photo) Worth the trip

Hours: Mon.- Sat. 10 to 6 - Sunday noon to 5.

Missouri, Richmond - Ray County Museum
901 Royal Street Richmond MO 64055, Phone: (816) 776-2305

A Collection of Tea Leaf Ironstone.

New Jersey, Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie in Cadwalader Park ,

Good collection of Ironstone mostly Decorated – some White.

Phone: (609) 989-3632

Hours: Tues.- Sat. 11 to3 PM  Sun. 1 to 4 PM
**New Jersey**, Trenton - State Museum

225 West State Street, Phone: (609) 394-9535

Good ironstone collection – more Decorated than White on display


Hours: Mon – Fri. 11 to 6 PM  Sun. 11 to 4 PM

**New York**, Rochester - The Strong Museum - 1 Manhattan Square Dr, Rochester, 14607  Phone (585) 263-2700

Home of the famous Petra Williams collection of Flow Blue & Mulberry as well as some good examples of Copper Luster Decorated and White embossed Ironstone.

Hours: Mon-Thu, Sat 10am-5pm, Fri 10am-8pm, Sun noon-5pm

Worth the trip

**New York**, State Historical site at Sackets Harbor (on lake Ontario - near Watertown)

The Commandants House supposedly has a collection of White Ironstone - Fig shape

**Ohio**, Columbus – The James Thurber House

77 Jefferson Ave., Phone: (614) 464-1032

Has White Ironstone.

Hours: noon to 4 pm
Ohio, East Liverpool  The Museum Of Ceramics

400 East Fifth Street - East Liverpool, OH 43920 - Phone: (216) 386- 6000

This is a famous American ceramic center and has some fine displays of ironstone china as well as earlier yellow ware and Rockingham pottery.

Hours:  March to Nov. 9:30 - 5:00 Wed. through Sat., Sun. and Holidays 12 - 5:00 closed Thanksgiving.

Worth the trip.

Ohio, Newark - Sherwood-Davidson House  -  Next door to the Heisey Museum

6 North 6th Street Newark, OH

A dinning table and a corner cupboard full of Tea Leaf Ironstone
Oklahoma, Grove – Harber Village at Grand Lake of Cherokees

4404 West 25TH Street, Phone: (918) 786-3488 or 786-6446

Email: Jan@HarBerVillage.com

Amid the eighty log houses is a one with a typical kitchen set with leaf and also a store with shelves of Tea Leaf Ironstone

Tennessee, Hermitage (near Nashville) Andrew Jackson House

4580 Rachel’s Lane, Hermitage TN 37076-1331, Phone: (615) 889-2941

Email: info@thehermitage.com

A magnificent, possibly Masons, white ironstone six paneled water cooler or cistern (with a foo dog finial and lion’s head handles) is on display along with some other pieces. (See Photo)

Hours: Daily 9 am to 5 pm
Texas, Kilgore – East Texas Oil Museum

Highway 259 at Ross Street, Phone: (903) 983 – 8295
Email: info@easttexasoilmuseum.com

The General Store in the Museum has 24 pieces of Tea Leaf Ironstone.

Hours: Tues. – Sat. 9 to 4 pm - Sun. 2 to 5pm

Texas, New Braunfels - The Museum of Handmade Furniture in Heritage Village

1370 Church Hill Dr., New Braunfels, TX 78130, Phone (830) 629-6504

A large collection with a good variety of White Ironstone. (See Photo)

Hours: Feb. 1 through Nov. 30 1:00 - 4:00pm, Tuesday through Sunday - Closed Monday

Worth the trip
**Utah**, Salt Lake City – Beehive House - Brigham Young Home

67 East South Temple  Salt Lake City UT 84111, Phone: (801)240-2671

Almost forty pieces of Tea Leaf Ironstone in the kitchen, which the tour guide said was original to the home.

Hours: Mon- Sat 9:30 to 4:30  -  Sun 10 to 1 PM

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**Vermont**, Shelburne - Shelburne Museum

US Route 7, PO Box 10, Shelburne, VT 05482, Phone: (802) 985-2331

An eclectic collection of fine art and objects, including a steamship and a lighthouse.

The lighthouse has a complete White Ironstone chamber set in Berlin Swirl. Not a lot of Ironstone but definitely worth the trip.

Hours: 10 am to 5 pm daily, May 1 to Oct 31

Email: info@shelburnemuseum.org

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The dinning room is set with Ceres dinner and tea service for twelve. There are many other pieces of ironstone, furniture and objects in the house supplied by Ira & Shirley Parmer. They were actively involved in the restoration. (See Cover Photo)

Open daily 8:30am – 5pm

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**West Virginia**, Harpers Ferry - The Country Store - The building was once a barracks. Which now houses an 1860s General store with all the period provisions selected from an 1860s store inventory, including a lot of White Ironstone. The barracks above the store have the appropriate ironstone potties and chamber articles. (all c.1860s)

Hours: 8am – 5 pm  off season,  8am – 6pm  summer.
**West Virginia**, Pricketts Fort State Park – The 1859 Prickett House (outside the fort)

Route 3 Box 403 Fairmont, WV 26554, Phone: (304) 363-3030

Email: info@prickettsfort.org

A large collection of Tea Leaf Ironstone (over 150 pieces) is on display. (Part of the original families household articles).

**Wisconsin**, Brookfield (near Milwaukee) Historic Site - Dousman Stagecoach Inn

1075 Pilgrim Parkway - Brookfield, WI 53008, Phone: (262) 782-6312

Wheat shape white ironstone provided by the Lancasters.

**Wisconsin**, Eagle (near Milwaukee) Old World Wisconsin

Hwy 67 Eagle, WI 53119, Phone (262) 594-6300 Email: oww@whs.edu

Bill Lancaster says there is ironstone in some of the many historic homes.

Open May - Oct

**Wisconsin**, Eagle (near Milwaukee) Eagle Center House Bed & Breakfast

W370 S9590 Highway 67 - Eagle, WI 53119

Phone(262) 363-4700 Email: info@eagle-home.com

Extensive collection of tea leaf Ironstone used to serve guests.

**Wisconsin**, Prairie Du Chein - Villa Louis  (A fur traders mansion near the Mississippi River)

521 N. Villa Louis Road – Prairie Du Chein, WI 53821, Phone: (608) 326-2721

A Flow Blue china table setting.
CANADA

**Nova Scotia**, Sherbrooke (Canada)  Sherbrooke Village

Route 7 (Nova Scotia’s Marine Dr.)

Phone: (888) 743-7845 or (902) 522-2400  Email: www.sherbrookenow.ca

The General store had a fabulous collection of White Ironstone.

Hours: daily 9:30 -5:30   June 1 to Oct.15

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**Ontario**, Morrisburg (Canada)  Upper Canada Village

CR2 off Highway 401 - Morrisburg, Ontario

Phone: (800) 437-2233 or (613) 543-4328

This Village depicts life in the 1860’s. It is comprised of buildings that were moved to make way for the St. Lawrence Seaway. There is a lot of Decorated Ironstone through out the village and some White Ironstone as well.

Hours: 9:30 to 5, Victoria Day weekend to October 6.

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**Ontario**, Toronto (Canada)  Royal Ontario Museum

100 Queen’s Park at Avenue Road at Bloor Street W - Toronto, Ontario

Phone: (416) 586-8000

There is some decorated ironstone and a little of White Ironstone. One plate has the name of a church printed on it.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 - 6 (also Fri. eve. 6 - 9:30 pm) Sunday  11- 6
Ontario, Toronto (Canada) Skydome (home of the Toronto Blue Jays)

Front & John Streets - Toronto, Ontario

Phone: (416) 341-2770

The home of the Toronto Blue Jays. The Armbruster’s took a tour of the place and found in the guest hall, cases of china shards- some white ironstone, others of decorated ironstone. Apparently, the Skydome was built at the site of a garbage dump.

Quebec, Hull Canadian Museum of Civilization 100 rue Lauier

(Hull is across the river from Ottawa)

Of interest in this museum is the full size general store window that advertises White Ironstone, among other things

Call for Hours: (819)776-1000 or (800) 555-5621

Quebec, Montreal McCord Museum of Canadian History

690 Rue Sherbrooke Quest (across from McGill University) Montreal, Quebec

A small amount of Decorated Ironstone