

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

Heavy Metal

CAST IRON STOVES
FROM THE CAPITAL REGION



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During the nineteenth century, Albany and Troy, New York, manufacturers were considered to be among the largest producers of cast-iron stoves in the world. Stoves made in these cities were renowned for their fine-quality castings and innovations in technology and design. The strategic location of Albany and Troy, located nine miles apart on opposite banks of the Hudson River, afforded easy and inexpensive transportation of raw materials to the foundries, and finished stoves to worldwide markets.

Cast-iron stove making reached its highest artistic achievement and technological advancement between 1840 and 1870. Flask casting and the advent of the cupola furnace permitted more elaborate designs and finer-quality castings. Stove designers borrowed freely from architectural and cabinetmakers' design books, a process that resulted in the use of Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Rococo revival motifs, patriotic symbols, and lavish floral designs, all reflecting current taste and sentiment. Stoves were given romantic names like "Venetian Parlor," "Gothic Parlor," and "The Temple" to enhance their allure and help the buyer identify them when ordering from a catalogue.

Heavy Metal: Cast Iron Stoves of the Capital Region showcases these utilitarian objects as both works of art and technological innovations that made the home more comfortable as well as beautiful. Twenty-five cast stoves from the Albany Institute's collection will accompany early patent models, trade catalogues, and other rare materials to reveal the history of these often-forgotten products of American ingenuity and creativity.

Rathbone Sard & Co. Stove Exhibit, 1888, New York State Fair at Albany, stove and decorations designed by J.S. Van Buren, Albany Institute of History & Art Library Photo Collection_168



Rathbone & Co. Stove Works, on stone by E. Forbes, lithograph by J.H. Hall, Albany, N.Y, c. 1845,
Albany Institute of History & Art, 1954.59.11



**Two-Column Parlor Stove, Pratt & Treadwell, Albany, NY, c. 1835, cast iron, 64 H x 32 ½ W,
Albany Institute of History & Art Purchase, 1967.29**



**Two-column Parlor Stove, Low and Leake, Albany, New York, 1844-1846, cast iron,
Albany Institute of History & Art Purchase, 1969.41**



**Four-Column Parlor Stove, John Morrison of the Green Island Stove Works, Troy, NY, 1844, cast iron, 68" x 35 ¼" x 22 ¾",
Albany Institute of History & Art Purchase, 1977.18a-c**



**Parlor Stove “Morning Call”, Stow and White, Troy, New York, 1861, cast iron,
Albany Institute of History & Art Purchase, 1980.38**



**Box Stove, O.G. DeGroff Albany, c.1838, ht.23.25" x w.17" x d.33", cast iron stove,
Albany Institute of History & Art, 1987.21**



**George Washington Dumb Stove, designed by Alonzo Blanchard (1799-1864), Albany,
c.1843, cast iron, ht.48 3/4" x w.15", d.9",**

Albany Institute of History & Art, Rockwell Fund, 1992.7



Dumb Stove Representing a Full-length Classical Female Figure, designed by Alonzo Blanchard, Albany,

c.1843, cast iron, ht.48 3/4" x w.14", d.9",

Albany Institute of History & Art, Rockwell Fund, 1992.8



**Temple Parlor Stove, Vose & Co. Albany, N.Y, patented 1854, 45 H x 32 W x 23 D,
Albany Institute of History & Art, collection of John I Mesick, 2008.4.2**



**Parlor Stove, Ransom & Rathbone, Albany, NY, c. 1840-1844, cast Iron, 48 1/2 H x 35 1/2 W x 19 1/2 D,
Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of John Mesick, 2008.4.7**



Jesse C. Potts, Albany Stove Makers, unidentified photographer, c. 1847–1852, daguerreotype in embossed leather case, Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of Jack Shear, cased photograph collection, series 1, box 1, no. 1



Employees of Jesse Potts & Company, manufacturer of cast iron stoves, pose for group portrait. The foundry was located in Albany on the corner of Grand and Hamilton Streets.