

Mom's Joy Room

2964 Fairmont Road • Morgantown, West Virginia 26501 • (304) 282-3671

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & PROVENANCE

Victorian-Style Wicker Doll Carriage with Porcelain Lady & Parasol

Late Twentieth Century • Circa 1980s–1990s • A Decorative Display Ensemble

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$350 – \$550

Specialty decorator / collector ceiling for a complete, display-ready ensemble with parasol and paperwork



The ensemble as displayed — carriage, porcelain lady, and lace parasol

Form: Hand-woven wicker doll carriage, display scale

Dimensions: Approx. 28" L x 15" W x 28" H; 44" H with parasol raised

Doll: Porcelain head and hands; dressed in lace-trimmed Victorian gown and bonnet

Mechanism: Rolling carriage on spoked wheels with push handle

Ensemble: Carriage, porcelain Victorian lady doll, lace parasol, original manufacturer's Certificate of Authenticity

Condition: Excellent, display-ready; wicker tight and intact

PROVENANCE

Acquired in September 2026 and welcomed into the collection at Mom's Joy Room, Morgantown, West Virginia. The ensemble retains its original manufacturer's Certificate of Authenticity, which arrived tucked into the carriage lace exactly as it left the factory — a small paper passenger that has ridden along for decades and is archived with this piece.

HISTORY

To understand this carriage, one must begin a century before she was made. In the 1870s through the 1910s, the great American wicker manufacturers — Heywood Brothers & Company and the Wakefield Rattan Company of Massachusetts (later merged as Heywood-Wakefield) — elevated woven wicker from porch furniture to high fashion. Their baby carriages, with rolled rims, woven hoods, and graceful curved frames, became icons of the Victorian nursery, and doll-sized carriages in the same style were made both as children's toys and as charming parlor ornaments. That image — the lace-hooded wicker carriage — became one of the enduring emblems of the Victorian age.

Nearly a century later, that image worked its magic again. The 1980s and early 1990s witnessed a great wave of Victorian revivalism — a nationwide longing for the gentler, slower age of lace parlors and Sunday promenades. Out of that nostalgia grew the decorative porcelain doll industry at its height: companies such as Seymour Mann, Brinn's, the Hamilton Collection, and dozens of fine import houses produced limited-edition porcelain ladies, each with her own Certificate of Authenticity, for collectors who displayed them proudly. The most ambitious of these ensembles paired a porcelain Victorian lady with a matching hand-woven wicker carriage and parasol — complete display pieces meant not for play, but for the parlor, the bedroom dresser, the bay window.

This ensemble is one of those creations: a late twentieth-century decorative collectible, most likely of the 1980s–1990s, hand-woven in the old tradition and dressed to the nines. She is not a nineteenth-century antique, and this certificate says so plainly — but she is a genuine artifact of the late twentieth century's love affair with the Victorian age, and she was made with real care. The wicker is tightly and evenly woven; the carriage rolls on spoked wheels with a graceful push handle; the parasol rises on its pole to a full forty-four inches, turning the piece into a true statement display. Her porcelain passenger wears her original lace-trimmed gown and bonnet, as fresh as the day she was seated.

Today these ensembles have found a second life among decorators, photographers, and lovers of cottage and shabby-chic style — nursery displays, photo shoots, shop windows, and reading corners. They are bought the way one buys a mood: gentleness, prettiness, a whisper of the nursery about them. This example, complete with parasol, doll, and original paperwork, stands at the fine end of the form.

NOTABLE FEATURES

- Hand-woven wicker body with rolled rim and fitted push handle

- Spoked wheels; carriage rolls freely as a display or prop piece
- Lace parasol on pole — a full 44 inches of statement height when raised
- Porcelain Victorian lady doll with porcelain head and hands, in original gown and bonnet
- Original manufacturer's Certificate of Authenticity retained and archived with the piece
- Complete ensemble — carriage, doll, parasol, and paperwork — seldom found together after decades

CONDITION REPORT

Excellent, display-ready condition. The wicker is tight, intact, and evenly woven, with no splits or sagging; the wheels roll and the handle stands ready; the parasol is whole; the doll's gown, bonnet, and lace remain clean and fresh. The piece shows only the gentle dust of display, and presents beautifully exactly as she is — no restoration required.

COLLECTOR'S NOTES

Attribution is honest: this is a late twentieth-century Victorian-revival decorative collectible, most likely made in the 1980s–1990s, created in the image of the great Heywood-Wakefield-era wicker carriages — not a nineteenth-century antique, and it is presented as such.

The inclusion of the original manufacturer's Certificate of Authenticity is a genuine plus; complete ensembles with paperwork, parasol, and doll together are markedly scarcer than carriage-only survivors on today's market.

The retained certificate of manufacture had not yet been unrolled at the time this document was issued; it will be read and archived upon the piece's arrival, and any maker, date, or edition information it reveals will be incorporated into the record. Dating is therefore presented as an informed attribution of era rather than a fixed manufacture date, and may be refined accordingly.

Valuation reflects the current decorative market, in which comparable Victorian-style wicker display carriages are offered by specialty dealers in the mid hundreds; this ensemble's completeness and height justify the upper end of the range.

*"She was never meant to carry a child — only to carry the dream of one, and the gentler age
that dreamed her."*

Sandy Wade

Proprietor, Mom's Joy Room

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