

Basic Detail Report



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Title Tall Case Clock

Date 1800

Primary Maker Eli Terry

Medium Case: Cherry primary wood. Dial: Brass. Works: Cast brass and iron.

Description Tall case clock in the Chippendale, or rococo, style, with a cherry case, a pagoda pediment with fretwork panels at the top of the arched hood, a brass clock movement, and a brass dial that is engraved "E. Terry/ Plymouth".

The tall case clock consists of three major components: the removable hood, the removable dial and clock works, and the clock case. The dial and works sit on a horizontal board at the top of the clock case; the pendulum and weights (all separated from the clock) that drive the works would be suspended in the trunk, or narrow body, of the case. The hood slides over the works and sits at the top of the case. At the top of the hood are three turned, cherry finials, each consisting of a slender cone atop an urn. Each finial sits at the top of a square plinth. The pagoda-shaped pediment consists of a panel of wood that arches in the center, then abruptly slopes down to meet the base of each side plinth. The top edge of the pediment has fretwork in the shape of scrolls. The front of the hood has a

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glass door that is arched and recessed, with a small brass knob at the left side.

The door is flanked by a fluted, free-standing column. Each side of the hood has a rectangular glass window with a rounded top. The trunk of the clock case has deep cove, or recessed quarter-circle, molding at the top and bottom; a wide, rectangular door on the front; and fluted quarter columns at each front corner. All four sides of the door are edged with incised bead molding. The rectangular base of the clock case has projecting, stepped base molding at the front and sides. Construction Details: A single, vertically-oriented backboard with an arched top edge extends the full height of the hood and case. The hood does not have a back; it slides over the clock works to rest on the cove molding at the top of the trunk. The hood is constructed of a three-part frame, with a top and two sides that are joined with a nailed butt joint at the top corners. All ornament is nailed or glued to this frame: the pagoda pediment with fretwork, the plinths, the projecting arched molding at the front of the hood, and the projecting panels and molding at the top sides of the hood. A rectangular window is cut out of each side of the hood. The sides of the hood attach to a horizontal, three-sided frame with molding at the outside edges. Each free-standing column extends between the projecting molding at the top of the hood and the horizontal, three-sided frame at the bottom. The door is constructed of wooden rails that are tenoned at each corner. The door pivots on a pair of brass hinges at the top right and bottom right corner. The backboard is nailed into a rabbet on each back corner of the sides of the trunk. The boards that form the sides of the trunk extend several inches above the bottom of the hood. The clock works rest

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on a seat board, or horizontal board immediately behind the dial. The seat

board rests on the top edge of each side of the trunk. The cove molding is nailed

to the front and sides of the top and bottom of the trunk. There is a rail above

and below the door, and a vertical post at each front corner of the trunk that

forms the carved quarter column. Large, vertical glue blocks join the front to the

sides of the trunk. The door is constructed of a single board that is joined to the

trunk with two brass hinges at the right side; there is a brass lock escutcheon on

the center left side (the lock is missing). The sides of the trunk extend down to

the top of the base. The front and sides of the base are each joined with a nailed

butt joint at the front corners. The bottom board is nailed to the underside of

the base sides. The base molding is nailed to the front and sides of the base.

Dial: The engraved, brass dial is square with an arched top; it would have been

silvered originally. The center of the dial arch is engraved "E. Terry/ PLYMOUTH"

inside an oval wreath. There is a small flower to either side of the wreath. The

middle of the square dial plate is engraved with a chapter ring, consisting of a

ring of Roman numerals, inside a ring of minute gradations, inside a ring of

Arabic numbers from one to sixty in increments of five. In the center of the

chapter ring is an arbor, or axle, around which the hour and minute hands pivot.

To either side of the main arbor is a winding arbor, to wind the clock. A round

seconds dial is engraved above the main arbor, with a hand pivoting around the

center. A round calendar dial is engraved below the main arbor, with a hand

pivoting around the center. A semi-circular arch is pierced through the interior

top of the calendar dial. Additional scroll and floral designs are engraved in each

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corner of the dial plate. Clock Works Movement: weight powered, key wound

Duration: eight day Materials: cast brass Strike: rack and snail Escapement:

recoil The works have bulbous pillars. The works are accompanied by a

pendulum and a pair of cylindrical weights. Condition: The left side of the hood

is split, and the glass is broken in the window on that side. There are multiple

nail or screw holes through the backboard. There are two holes pierced through

the bottom of the case. The silver has worn off the brass dial. The pendulum and

a pair of cylindrical weights are separated from the clock works.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 89 3/4 x 19 3/16

x 10 1/4in. (228 x 48.7 x 26cm)