

Basic Detail Report



Title High Chest

Date 1770-1790

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Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Cherry primary wood, eastern white pine secondary wood, brass

hardware

Description Cherry high chest with a flat top in the Queen Anne, or rococo style.

The high chest has local characteristics associated with Glastonbury style

production. Restrained cornice molding is located just below the top. The

drawer arrangement of the upper case consists of two equal-height drawers in a

line over four full-width, graduated drawers. The top case fits inside the shallow

mid-molding of the lower case. The lower case drawer arrangement consists of

one full-width drawer over three drawers in a line. The bottom center drawer

has a recessed, carved shell. The front skirt has a shaped bottom edge consisting

of a small cyma curve, or S-curve, and a small reverse cyma curve; this pair is

flanked by a small horizontal and a large cyma curve. Each side skirt has a flat

arch flanked by a diagonal cyma curve. Each cabriole leg terminates in a pad

foot; each knee return has a small curl. Hardware on each full-width drawer

consists of a brass blind lock escutcheon in the center, flanked by a brass

escutcheon with a bail pull. The two top drawers and the lower side drawers

each have a brass escutcheon with a bail pull in the center. The shell-carved

drawer has a small brass pull (now missing) in the lower center of the shell.

Condition: All of the drawer runners are worn, especially the bottom drawer

runners in the upper case. The top two side drawer runners have detached from

the sides of the case in the back; the top center drawer runner is missing. The

dovetails in the front left corner of the top drawer of the lower case have come

Basic Detail Report

unglued. The small brass pull on the shell-carved drawer is missing. The

hardware appears to be original. Design and Construction Details: Carving and

Design. The carved, recessed, shell has twenty-four projecting rays and a round

edge; the compass lines are still visible. The compound cornice molding consists

of ovolo, or thumbnail, molding over a cove, a bead, a small fillet, and another

cove. Case Construction. The top is dovetailed to the sides of the upper case.

The cornice molding projects slightly above the top and is nailed to the case.

The backboards of the upper case are horizontally oriented and are nailed into

rabbets in the sides of the case. The lower case is formed with mortise-and-

tenon construction, which is secured with wooden pins. The knee returns are

nailed to the front of the skirt. Drawer Construction. The top rail and the drawer

dividers in the upper case are visibly dovetailed into the sides of the case. The

vertical partition is visibly dovetailed to the rail above and the drawer divider

below. The drawer runners are nailed to the sides of the case. The top center

drawer runner is now missing; it used to rest on a strip of wood nailed to the

back of the case. The lower case rail and drawer divider are tenoned into the

sides of the case. The vertical partitions are tenoned into the drawer divider

above and into the skirt below. The side drawer runners and guides are nailed

into the front and back leg posts. The center drawer runners and guides are

tenoned into a strip of wood nailed to the back of the case. The drawers are lip-

molded on all four sides with ovolo, or thumbnail, molding. The drawer sides are

rounded on top. The drawer bottoms are chamfered at the sides to fit into

grooves in the front and sides of each drawer, and are nailed at the back. Each

Basic Detail Report

drawer has a "Suffield notch", where the bottom rear of the drawer side dovetail is omitted, leaving a gap where the edge of the drawer bottom is visible below the lowest pin. The back of each drawer is thick and has a chamfered top edge, conforming to the shape of the top dovetail pin. Some of the rear dovetails extend past the back of the drawer to form stops.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 74 1/2 x 40 x 21in. (189.2 x 101.6 x 53.3cm)