

Basic Detail Report



Title Chess Table

Date 1856-1900

Primary Maker George A. Fairfield

Medium Walnut, mahogany, chestnut, and oak, cast iron

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Description Chess table in the Rococo Revival style; the top is made with pieces

of wood from the Charter Oak. The table has a scalloped top over a slender, cast

iron pedestal, with a tripod foot. There are sixty-four squares of alternating light

and dark wood, surrounded by a square, dark wood frame, all inlaid in the

surface of the table top. The inlay is about 13 ½ inches square. This is

surrounded by eight inlaid circles of light wood; there is one circle at each corner

and one in the center of each side of the inlaid square. The slender cast iron

pedestal has two rings over a small flower, over a reeded column, over a pair of

curled leaves, a slender baluster, and a compressed ball. The tripod foot has

three legs, each with a raised shell on the knee, and a foot with seven lobes.

Between each leg is a flower that hangs down from the tripod. The cast iron

pedestal and tripod base are finished with a bronzed coating. Condition: The top

has been refinished, or the finish has been removed. The top has water damage;

the inlay is uneven and the color has faded on the various woods. The finish on

the cast iron is not original. Design and Construction Details: The top is made

from four boards that are butted together. The top is screwed to a rectangular

cleat from the underside. The cast iron pedestal is screwed to the cleat. The

tripod is screwed onto a rod with spiral threads on the bottom of the pedestal; it

is secured with a square nut.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width x depth of top): 27 13/16 x 19 x

18 5/8in. (70.6 x 48.3cm, 18 5/8in.) Component (maximum width between two

feet): 13in. (33cm)