

Basic Detail Report



Title Chest of Drawers

Date 1800-1815

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Mahogany veneer over cherry primary wood, various secondary woods,
brass hardware

Description Mahogany veneer chest of drawers with a bow front in the Federal, or early neoclassical, style. The top (replaced) has a pattern of light wood inlay in the center, consisting of an oval fan. A pair of light wood, inlaid lines outlines the top of the chest, about one inch from the edge. The top edge of the front and side of the top has a band of alternating light and dark wood, cut at an angle. The drawer arrangement below consists of four, full-width, graduated drawers. Each drawer front is veneered, and has a thin line of light wood inlay at the outer edge. About an inch in from the edge is additional inlay, consisting of a pair of

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light wood lines separated by a thin line of dark wood. Each corner of the rectangle created by these lines has a quarter fan of light wood inlay. The front corner of each side of the chest has an inlay pattern, consisting of short, vertical bands at the top over a pattern of figure eights, over a pattern of increasingly narrow horizontal bands, or a carrot, over three dots, and a semi-circular grouping of inlay at the bottom; this is flanked by a thin line of vertical inlay.

Each ogee bracket foot projects beyond the sides of the case and has a knee return with a spur and a cyma curve, or S-curve. Hardware on each drawer consists of a brass-lined keyhole flanked by an oval, stamped, brass escutcheon with bail pull. There is one working key for the chest of drawers. Condition: The top is replaced. Small areas of veneer all over the front of the chest have been repaired. The veneer on the left side of the top is separating from the wood below, most notably at the corners. The right side of the case has split, and was repaired with a textile strip on the interior right side of the chest of drawers. The drawer runners and guides have been replaced. The lower edges of many drawer sides have been repaired or replaced. The chest of drawers is refinished.

Design and Construction Details: Case Construction. The backboards are horizontally oriented and are nailed into rabbets in the sides of the case. The top (replaced) is attached to the case by three struts across the front, center and back of the case; the struts are dovetailed to the top of the case sides and the top is screwed to these struts from below. The base is constructed of a three-sided frame that extends at the front and sides to form the base molding; this frame is nailed to the bottom of the case. The ogee bracket feet are constructed

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of molded ogee facing over a supporting pad; the feet are supported by corner

blocks. The knee bracket returns are nailed in place and reinforced from behind

with blocks that are nailed to the frame. The back of the rear feet are supported

by a plain brace with a curved lower edge; the brace is nailed in place. Drawer

Construction. The drawer dividers are tenoned to the sides of the case; the front

of the drawer dividers are veneered. A single scribe mark is visible in the center

of each drawer divider. The drawer runners (replaced) are glued and screwed to

the side of the case. Small wood blocks have been nailed down to the tops of the

drawer dividers. Each drawer front is bowed and veneered; the interior

conforms to the bowed shape of the drawer front. The drawer sides are flat on

top. The drawer bottoms fit into grooves in the front and sides of each drawer

and are nailed at the back.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 36 3/4 x 45 1/4

x 21in. (93.3 x 114.9 x 53.3cm)