

Basic Detail Report

Title Dressing Table

Date 1740-1760

Primary Maker Lydia Belden

Medium Sycamore and maple primary wood, eastern white pine and yellow pine

secondary wood, brass hardware

Description Sycamore and maple dressing table in the Queen Anne, or late

baroque, style with local characteristics associated with the William Manley

group of case furniture. The replaced top has ovolo, or thumbnail, molding on

all four sides. The drawer arrangement consists of one shallow drawer flanked

by two deep drawers. The front skirt has a high center arch flanked by deep

cyma curves, or S-curves. Each side skirt has a cyma curve and reverse cyma

curve. The maple cabriole legs each end in a pad foot supported by a truncated

cone. Hardware includes a blind brass lock escutcheon on the center drawer.

The two side drawers have a single brass escutcheon with a bail pull. Condition:

The top and the knee returns are replacements. The top is attached with screws

to the front rail and to strips of wood glued to the sides and back. The finish on

top is matte, with the exception of a glossy area in the center. The front left

corner of the top is missing two small chips of wood. The two left leg posts have

dormant insect holes; additional small insect holes are located throughout the

lower case. The hardware is replaced. Design and Construction Details: The case

is made with mortise-and-tenon construction. The backboard is tenoned into

the leg posts. There is a rail above the top drawer. The vertical partitions

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between the drawers are attached at each end with an exposed dovetail. Each

knee return has a simple, rounded profile and is applied to the front of the

apron. The drawers are supported by pairs of runners that are tenoned into the

backboard. The drawer fronts are lip-molded; the drawer sides have double

astragal molding on top. The drawer bottoms fit into grooves in the front and

sides of each drawer; the underside of each drawer bottom shows frame-saw

marks. Dovetail pins are an average size and angle. Please see attached essay by

Dr. Thomas P. Kugelman for more information about this piece.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 27 3/8 x 33 1/2

x 23 1/2in. (69.5 x 85.1 x 59.7cm)