

Basic Detail Report

Title Borne

Date 1855-1865

Primary Maker Gideon Welles

Medium Various woods, metal hardware, silk and cotton fabric, and various upholstery materials including metal springs and horsehair

Description Upholstered borne, or circular sofa. The borne has a cylindrical, hollow backrest in the center that tapers slightly from the bottom to the top.

The backrest has an upholstered, circular cap. The sofa surrounding the

backrest is divided into six seats by low armrests. The borne is constructed in

two halves; each half has four armrests, so there are two armrests between the

seats where the two halves meet. There are eight short, wooden legs on each

half of the borne; each leg has a castor at the bottom. Upholstery: The original

upholstery of the borne is a polychrome floral silk brocade, with elaborate trim

all over and tassels circling the bottom. Only remnants of the original silk

upholstery remain; a plain-woven, cream-colored fabric that was once beneath

the silk is visible over much of the borne. The upholstery is supported by metal

springs, horsehair, and other materials. Design and Construction Details: The

original upholstery obscures the structure of the wood and the (possibly) metal

frame beneath. The two sides of the borne are held together with a pair of small

metal hooks at the inside edges of the backrest cylinder. Each half of the inside

of the cylinder has a pair of metal supports, in the shape of an inverted "L".

These were possibly used to support the cap.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x diameter): 38 1/8 x 64 1/2in.

(96.8 x 163.8cm)