

Basic Detail Report

Title Dressing Table

Date 1831-1838

Primary Maker Oliver Williams Mills

Medium Pine and maple primary wood, tulip poplar secondary wood, brass hardware

Description Painted pine and maple dressing table in the Empire, or late neoclassical, style. The top backboard has scrolled corners, above a shallow shelf supported by two shallow, narrow drawers, above a deeper second shelf supported by one wide drawer. The turned legs are straight; each has two groups of three rings over a tapered portion that ends in three additional rings, over a tapered portion with a ball at the bottom. The painted surfaces of the dressing table are black and gold on a white background. The front of the top backboard has a bunch of grapes, four grape leaves, and several curled vines. The curved, sloping edges of the two shelves of the dressing table have a stenciled border consisting of gold leaves on a black surface. The edge of the backboard, the edge of each drawer, and the top of the front legs each have a similar border of elongated gold leaves on a black background. The rings on the front legs are painted black or gold. The back legs are painted white. Hardware consists of one large brass knob on each of the top shelves, and two large brass knobs on the lower shelf. Condition: The top back left corner of the lower shelf has been replaced and repainted. The white surface of the dressing table has light scratches and nicks, and has yellowed over time. Portions of the paint are

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flaking lightly on the left side of the top backboard and around the handles of

the two top drawers. The hardware appears to be original. Design and

Construction Details: The dressing table is joined with tenons, screws, and small

iron nails. The top backboard is screwed to the top shelf, which is nailed to the

shallow drawer case below. The top drawer case is formed by rails that are

tenoned into the sides. The back of the top drawer case is nailed into a rabbet at

the back of the sides. The rails of the top drawer case are screwed into the

second shelf below. The second shelf does not extend the full depth of the

dressing table, but is nailed to the drawer case below. The lower drawer case is

formed by a rail, sides, and back that are tenoned into the leg posts. The drawer

runners in both drawer cases are nailed to the sides of the case. The drawers are

dovetailed at each corner. The drawer bottoms fit into grooves in the front and

sides of each drawer and are nailed at the back. Plane marks are visible on the

underside of each drawer bottom.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 42 x 34 x 18in.

(106.7 x 86.4 x 45.7cm)