

MAINE FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS CATALOGUE

1783-1820

Carol Adam
Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Assoc.
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

Dear Carol,

I am completing the organization of the research materials compiled under this inventory project during 1983 and 1984. Enclosed are copies of the worksheets of the objects we examined during our visit to your institution on June 3, 1983. We included some other objects in the survey, but their histories were not as clear. I haven't made copies since we didn't add much information from what you had in the files. Enclosed is duplicate slide of the lady's writing desk we photographed with your permission.

Eight volumes of the project notebooks containing copies of over 1200 worksheets, 500 slides and nearly 250 negatives for black and white photographs in the photographic study collection will be available to historians, teachers and other researchers through the Maine State Museum. If in your research or exhibition planning you might like to identify particular objects, please plan to visit Augusta to use this resource.

The collections maintained by historical organizations and museums throughout the state are valuable sources of material for the study of Maine history. Thank you for your interest and participation in this important research project.

Sincerely,



Laura Fecych Sprague
Project Director

January 18, 1985

MAINE FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS CATALOGUE



MEDIUM:

OWNER AND LOCATION:

LCCA: OLD JAIL

OBJECT:

LADY'S WRITING DESK

ACCESSION NUMBER:

ORIGIN:

New England

MAKER:

Signature/Marks:

DATE:

1800 c.

MATERIAL:

MAHOGANY + BIRDSEYE MAPLE VENEER, PINE

Primary:

Secondary:

SIZE:

Height: 131.7

Width: 103

Depth: 51.0

Diameter:

DESCRIPTION:

MAHOG

WRITING DESK, SIDES OF 3 DRAWER LOWER CASE MORTISED INTO POSTS WHICH ARE TURNED + SERVE AS LEGS. BACK HELD ON W/ SOME NAILS LOWER RIGHT. TOP OF LOWER CASE NAILED THROUGH TO BACK BOARD. DRAWER DIVIDERS TENONED INTO POSTS; DRAWER RUNNERS ARE NAILED TO SIDES W/ SINGLE GUE BLOCKS RUNNING FRONT TO BACK ABOVE + BELOW RUNNERS. DRAWER DIVIDERS FACED W/ .7 CM MAHOGANY VENEER. LID SUPPORTS FLAMED IN W/ BLOCK OF MAHOG APPROX DEPTH OF DRAWER DIVIDERS. BACK HAS 2 HOLES W/ PEGS TO SERVE AS STOPS. SHAPED SKIRT - OX-BOW W/ SCALLOPPED CENTER. ALSO SHAPED SKIRT ON CENTER EACH HELD IN PLACE W/ GLUE BLOCKS. APPLIED 3 BEAD MOLDING AROUND FRONT + SIDES BASE OF LOWER

PROVENANCE:

great-grandfather JOSEPH DONNELL MARRIED JANE WOODBRIDGE (dau. BENJAMIN WOODBRIDGE, JR.) OF NEWCASTLE NOV. 12, 1812 + ESTABLISHED HOME w/ ALNA. DESK + TABLE WERE PART OF THE MARRIAGE DOWER FROM WOODBRIDGE FAMILY. THE DESK STAYED IN DONNELL HOME UNTIL 1917. EXCEPT FOR THE FIRST 3 YEARS THEREAFTER WHEN IT WAS STORED WITH HER AUNT MRS. H.K. WHITE OF NEWCASTLE IT HAS TRAVELLED WITH C.D. SHE RETURNED TO HER HOME IN SHEPHERD IN 1958

CONDITION: RECENTLY REPAIRED; REFINISHED (1980) } ACCORDING TO DONOR
BRASS PULLS ARE MODERN REPROS

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

PUBLICATION AND EXHIBITION HISTORY:

Maine Fine & Decorative
Arts Catalogue

209 ✓

COLOR SLIDE?

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO?

METHOD OF ACQUISITION:

DONOR/VENDOR CHARLOTTE C. DONNELL
SHEEPSKOT, MAINE

DATE OF ACQUISITION: 1980

CREDIT LINE: WOODBRIDGE - DONNELL COLLECTION

EXAMINED BY:

DATE:

of cont

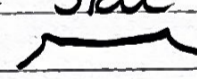
bisecting stringing coming in rectangle on fronts of posts in rectangle stringing is 3 small blocks together alternating w/ solid one

reverse of writing lid has large rectangular piece of landscape maple outlined w/ dark stringing + Mitered mahogany veneer of left drawer support Donnell 1844 [] pencilled on outside

Original hinges appear to be in place as is old glue covering writing surface

top section rests on top of lower case in area defined by 3.2 cm high molding (ogee + flattened bead) 2 wide + narrower central door each having kite-shaped ivory escutcheons + flame mahogany veneer open to reveal compartmentalized interiors with middle drawer. Larger spaces ~~some triple~~ have one above ^{drawer} below; central section divided into 3 spaces. Triple lead out lining doors. Double lead above doors on cornice. large single bead ~~curve~~ + then small alternating light + dark squares

INTERIOR DRAWERS Mahogany fronts w/ brass knobs front + back dovetailed to sides, bottom fits into grooves in sides + front nailed to back.

double bead interior top divider 2 side sections faced w/ mahog single bead center section  shaped fronts

interior drawers may have replaced sides, back, + bottom door hinges may be replaced; w some patching on interior top veneer patched ~~both~~ all ~~top~~ top corners patched damage + warping to door fronts. Cloth torn, faded, stained

3 lower case drawers constructed same as interior. Central rectangular panel of b.e. maple ^{dark stringing + mahog banding} + applied bead. bottoms of drawer sides pured

ring legs turned harraning to bull feet

20
219.

1
Retinished numerous repairs

Sides lower case split

back of upper case nailed to sides

interior dividers nailed through back to front