

Basic Detail Report



Hammered dulcimer

Date

1865-1875 ca.

Description

Rectangular wooden case (walnut) with hinged lid (decorative brass lock) and top molding simulating a writing desk; lid interior padded and lined with green linen, secured with red edging and small iron tacks; 2 front-oriented cabriole legs, 2 straight rear legs - not detachable; applied molding with hand-carved scalloped edge with dots; case stained and varnished throughout; metal chain supports lid. Integral trapezoidal dulcimer with thin backboard/bottom; 9 double-strung treble

courses, 4 double-strung bass courses; one-piece crenellated treble bridge and 4 individual bass bridges (flat, not chessman style); 26 tuning pins inserted into left-side pin block; 13 standard screws inserted into right-side pin block; continuous stringing; soundboard stained, unvarnished; 2 "s"-shaped soundholes to left of central bridge. The backboard/bottom is quite thin, a result of the instrument being built into a case. However, this also suggests an older vintage. Gifford describes this type of instrument as transitional, as it's built into a rectangular case and has a trapezoidal shape.

Dimensions

Overall height: 35-3/4 in (909 mm) Case dimensions without legs (LxWxH): 41-1/4 in (1046 mm) x 17 in (432 mm) x 10-1/2 in (266 mm)