

Bassoon, C

Date

1811-1827 ca.

Primary Maker

J. & H. Meacham

Description

Dark-stained maple in 4 sections: wing, butt, long, and bell joints. Brass ferrules and keywork. 6 keys with flat, round covers, mounted in saddles. Flat key springs attached to keys. The wing and long joint likely do not belong to the other joints because of the imperfect fit and the lack of stamps. This instrument exhibits a somewhat different style from other Meacham bassoons, which arouses the suspicion that it may not have been made in the United States. Brothers John Meacham Jr. (1785-1844) and Horace Meacham (1789-1861) were among the first American wind instrument makers. They served an apprenticeship with George Catlin, who was working in Hartford, Connecticut, but very few instruments survive from their Hartford period. In either 1810 or 1811, John moved to Albany, and was soon followed by Horace.

Dimensions

Height: 1220 mm Wing joint: 439 mm Butt joint: 425 mm Long joint: 482 mm Bell: 313 mm (excluding tenons)