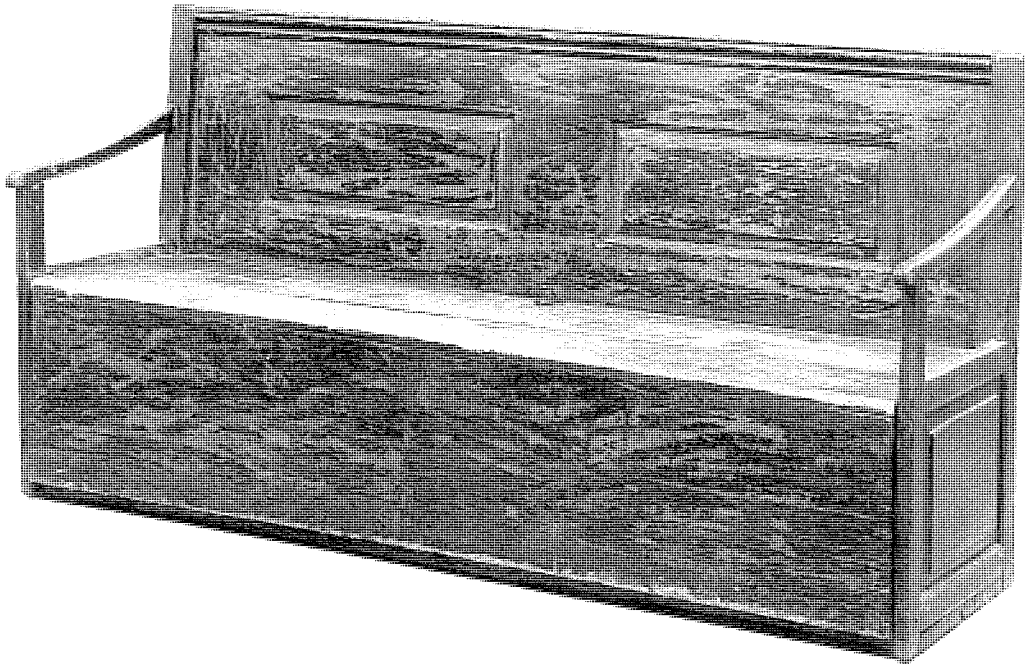


Miscellaneous Furniture Forms



60

60. SETTLE BED

Probably Connecticut Valley, Massachusetts,

1750–1790

Yellow and white pine; maple

H. 36" Seat H. 16½" W. 71½" D. (closed) 21½"

N-130

DESCRIPTION: Wide settle with arms. Back and sides of framed mortise-and-tenon construction. Rear stiles rectangular in cross section with planed grooves at edges. Upper back panel, framed on three sides, has two horizontal rectangular fielded panels and a bold ogee molding across the top. Framed side panels, each with a single rectangular fielded panel. Front stiles, which support sloping arms, are extensions of the frame for the side panels; grooves in stiles for side panels extend up to arms. Lower back panel consists of two plain boards, with ends chamfered, nailed to rear stiles. Rear horizontal frame members rabbeted into rear stiles. Seat and front are nailed board construction and can be opened to the front as a unit, creating a large open box, i.e., the bed; lower front is hinged to the bottom board by two crude strap iron hinges. Stop molding for seat nailed to

back. Seat is two boards; front of settle is one board. Bottom consists of two boards, nailed construction. Sides reinforced at bottom with nailed strips. Maple arms. Remnants of several paint colors: red, black, etc.

PROVENANCE: Ward, Shumway, Nadeau. Used in Gen. Artemas Ward's general store, west of the meeting house in Shrewsbury, Mass.

COMMENTS: Its construction suggests that the settle was made by a carpenter-joiner rather than a cabinetmaker. Settle beds are rare. A few examples have been found in the Hudson Valley and the province of Quebec. In Quebec, they are called *banc-lis*.

REFERENCES: Kettell, *Pine Furniture of Early New England*, no. 69, for a settle bed with five back panels and freestanding arms. Nutting, *Furniture Treasury*, nos. 1623–24, shows a settle bed open and closed, but its back consists of eleven vertical panels. Pain, *The Heritage of Country Furniture*, figs. 400–406, for settle beds from Upper Canada. See *Maine Antiques Digest*, Oct. 1985 for a *banc-lit* from the estate of Emily LeBaron, North Hatley, Quebec; and advertisement of R. L. Stewart & Co., *Maine Antiques Digest*, Feb. 1987, for a settle bed attributed to the Hudson Valley.

61. CHAIR-TABLE

Southern New England, *1800-1820

Butternut

H. (top up) 50 $\frac{7}{8}$ " H. (top down) 28 $\frac{7}{8}$ " H. of seat 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

W. of seat 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ " D. of seat 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

L. of table top 53 $\frac{7}{8}$ " W. of table top 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

N-401

DESCRIPTION: A six-board chest with high rising sides that allow an attached rectangular table top to pivot: up for seating, down for dining. The seat is a box with a hinged lid; the front and rear panels are rounded off on each end and overlap the end panels; strip applied to top of side panels to cover end grain. Seat lid has finish strips applied to end grain; lid hinged to strip applied to back panel. Side and end panels joined by glue blocks inside each corner. Bottom panel has applied strips on all four sides that are mitered at corners and which project beyond body panels. Rectangular table top consists of two wide boards, running lengthwise, enclosed on all four sides by four narrower boards mitered at the corners. Two cleats underneath top are secured by four wooden pins that penetrate the top; each cleat end is shaped in an ogee curve. Two sets of drilled holes on each cleat: one receives pins to allow top to pivot; the other set receives pins to secure table in down position. Many shallow circular depressions on underside of table top near edge, probably the result of clamping a device to the table top.

COMMENTS: Considerable variation is found in this form. Many examples have a more chair-like base, while others



61A

have a more box-like base. The latter often have trestle feet.

PROVENANCE: According to the owner, the table is said to have been used as a work table to make bread. One of its later owners, Orin Shumway (d. 1920), Hamden, Conn., had it in his milk room. Shumway is a maternal ancestor of RWN.

REFERENCES: Fales, *The Furniture of Historic Deerfield*, figs. 233, 234 for chair-like bases, and figs. 235, 236 for box-like bases. Kettell, *Pine Furniture of Early New England*, nos. 70-73, 95, 96.



61



62



62A

62. BEDSTEAD

Southern New England, *1810–1830

Maple

H. of posts 63½" H. to top of canopy 81" (Both dimensions include casters.) w. (block to block) 55¾"

L. (block to block) 79½"

N-313

DESCRIPTION: Field bed with four blocked-and-turned posts, with very bold vase-and-ring turnings. Blocked section receives side and end rails and has stamped brass covers for bolt holes. Turnings on posts from bottom up: large vasiform foot, reel, two bold rings, block for rails, two bold rings, reel, vase, one bold ring, reel, vase, one bold ring, reel, elongated vase, reel, one bold ring, tapered shaft. Rails have channels and holes for rope used to support mattress. Arched canopy sitting on posts has five straight cross members. Shallow arched curvilinear headboard with scrolls flanking central section; each scroll has a stamped brass plate. Casters. Posts,

rails, and canopy painted red; some rings on posts painted black; stencilled acanthus leaves in gilt with black accents on uppermost vase; block outlined in black.

PROVENANCE: Mary Shumway, RWN

COMMENTS: In his accounts Providence cabinetmaker Job Danforth refers on a number of occasions to bedsteads and canopies. In 1797, he sold a "high post Bedstead" for £2.2.0 and a "head Board to a Beed Stead" for £0.1.9. In 1796 he sold a "cornish for a Bedstead" for £1.10.0, and in 1800 he sold a "Cannipy for a Bedstead" for £0.5.0. Based on price, the cornice was clearly a more elaborate piece of work than the canopy. The woods and the degree of elaboration also affected price. A mahogany bedstead sold in 1801 cost £4.4.0, while a "high post birch bedstead, fluted posts" cost only £2.2.0 in 1802. In 1786 David Haven of Framingham, Mass., sold a "Collard [colored] Bedsted with Teasters [tester]" for £0.8.0. Titus Preston, cabinetmaker of Wallingford, Conn., in 1808 sold a "high post bedsted for lacing with Crooked teesters stained with logwood & fustic" for £2.5.0.

REFERENCES: Churchill, *Simple Forms and Vivid Colors*, sects. 2, 3 for furniture decorators and their techniques. Job Danforth, Sr., Account book, Providence, R.I. David Haven, Account book, Framingham, Mass. Titus Preston, Ledger, Wallingford, Conn.

63. DOLL CRADLE

New England, *1800–1810

White pine

L. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ " W. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " H. 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ "

N-726

DESCRIPTION: Rectangular form of nailed box construction; sides angled out toward top and higher toward head; end panels arched; flat bottom set on two rockers. Painted or stained a dark red.

REFERENCES: Brant and Cullman, *Small Folk: A Celebration of Childhood in America*, fig. 113, for a full-size cradle of similar form, New England, early nineteenth century; fig. 22, for a painting of a child standing next to a cradle. Little, *Little by Little*, fig. 342, for the only doll cradle found.



63



64

64. STEP STOOL

New England, 1800–1850

Maple, pine, oak (or chestnut)

H. 15 $\frac{5}{8}$ " W. 18 $\frac{1}{8}$ " D. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

N-1145

DESCRIPTION: A rectangular box with a flat top which serves as the first step. Above the first step, the end panels are incurved and flared on both edges, rising to support a narrower second step or shelf. Voids at bottom of each end panel cut in double ogee pattern, creating feet. Rectangular top step is nailed to end panels. First step is rabbeted to end panels. Drawer below first step on long side is of nailed construction; small brass knob. Maple end pieces; pine steps; oak or chestnut back panel. Tack holes show that both steps were once covered—probably with carpeting.

PROVENANCE: John Perkins, Obediah Perkins, Ella Jane Perkins, Nadeau

COMMENTS: This very simple piece of utilitarian furniture was probably made by a country carpenter and may well be one of a kind, since all published examples of bed steps are quite different. Whoever made it achieved a degree of elegance with pleasing curves on the upper portion of the end panels and double ogee curves on the bottom of each end panel. To twentieth-century eyes, however, this piece looks for all the world like a shoe-shine box, lacking only a wedge on top against which the wearer forces the front edge of his

heel. Winterthur owns a single-step federal period "bed stool" with the same ogee-arch end panels and a single drawer.

Job Danforth, Sr., Providence cabinetmaker, debited customers in years 1794 and 1804 for a "Standing Stool," a form that clearly differed from the "crickets" or footstools that he also sold. We don't know what a standing stool looked like, but perhaps it permitted the user to reach a higher shelf or to climb into bed.

REFERENCES: Nutting, *Furniture Treasury*, nos. 1560A-1563, for examples of bed steps. Job Danforth Sr., Account book, Providence, R.I.

65. BENCH

Connecticut, *1710-1730

Oak

H. 23 $\frac{7}{8}$ " L. of top 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ " W. of top 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ " D. of top 4"

Max. width (legs) 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

N-538

DESCRIPTION: Crude bench with a rectangular top and four splay legs. Top is solid oak rough hewn underneath. Legs, also rough hewn, are octagonal in section and penetrate top. Unpainted.

PROVENANCE: Perkins, MacGregor, Shumway, Nadeau



65

COMMENTS: According to family tradition the bench was used for slaughtering hogs at a house in Coventry, Conn. Marks on the top reinforce the idea that it was used for cutting or chopping. On January 11, 1811, Titus Preston, cabinetmaker and jack of many trades in Wallingford, Conn., sold to Samuel Sperry "2 Chopping knife handles" for six pence and "a bench to cut meat on" for one shilling four pence.

REFERENCES: Kettell, *The Pine Furniture of Early New England*, no. 51. Titus Preston, Ledger, Wallingford, Conn.