



Dorset Dresser circa 1840

Fig. 2

An English dresser (R.H.S.) with shelves above, made in Dorset, circa 1840 and collected in Martinstown near Dorchester. It is painted on the front and sides in red lead paint with deep blue painted back boards to the shelves.

The small, central drawer flanked by two longer drawers is a configuration found in many dressers from Devon, Somerset and Dorset. It illustrates a distinct regional design preference, also found in dressers from Trinity Bay, Newfoundland. The base is supported on bracket feet in a similar manner to Trinity Bay examples.

The detachable rack is mounted with a simple composite cornice and is held in place by dry mortise and tenon joints.

Private collection

Wood: pine

Measurements: 193hh., 161w., 50d.