



Newfoundland Dresser circa 1840

Cover illustrations

Fig. 1

A Newfoundland dresser (L.H.S.) with shelves above, circa 1840, collected from Trinity East, Trinity Bay. It is over-painted following the original colour scheme.

This dresser is similar to dressers made in the Dorchester region of Dorset, England, and when compared with a Dorset example, clearly illustrates the transmission of design from England to the earliest major settlement in Newfoundland.

It has a base with cupboards below three drawers, in a similar manner to the Dorset dresser. The flat panels composing the doors and sides are similar, too. The simple rack is without boards in the back, which suggests that the wooden housing in Newfoundland provided a flatter surface for resting objects against than did the stone or 'cob' house walls in Dorset. The rack is held in place by dry mortise and tenon joints.

Newfoundland Museum collection

Wood/s: fir.

Measurements: 199hh., 92h., 145w., 50.5d base, 21d. rack.