

An Abingdon Writing Table

The illustrations show a very original, provincially-made mahogany writing table that recently appeared on the market. It measures 32in wide, 21¾ in deep, 29½ in high. It is made of good quality mahogany and retains its original leather-lined top and knob handles. The mahogany-lined drawer has kept protected a printed label stuck on the back rail for W. Staniland, Thames Street Wharf, Abingdon, Oxfordshire (previously Berkshire).

The *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers* includes a reference to William Staniland of Thames Street, Abingdon, cabinet maker & upholsterer, recorded between 1822 and 1840, who married Miss Hannah Bloxham of Bodicote, Adderbury, Oxon on 26 August 1822.

The table has all the charm and simplicity that one might expect of such a country town at this date, perhaps the only slightly unusual feature being the fact that the back edge of the top is moulded like the front and sides.

I am grateful to Ted Few for allowing me to publish it.

Christopher Claxton Stevens

Fig 1 Mahogany writing table by W. Staniland, Abingdon

Fig 2 Position of the label

Fig 3 Staniland's printed label

