

The Organ Clearing House

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Builder: Unknown (Walcker?)
 Pipes by George Mead
 Woodwork by Irving & Casson

Date: ca. 1895

Location: Newton, MA

Condition: Restorable

Asking Price: Free to a good home.

Dimensions

Height: 240"
 Width: 150"
 Depth: Approximately 100"

Great (61 notes)

8'	Diapason	
8'	Viola da Gamba	
8'	Dulciana	
8'	Melodia	
4'	Octave	
4'	Flute d'Amour	
2'	Super Octave	

Swell (61 notes)

8'	Violin Diapason	
8'	Aeoline	
8'	Stopped Diapason	
4'	Violina	
4'	Harmonic Flute	
2'	Flautino	
8'	Oboe-Bassoon	
8'	Vox Humana	

Pedal (27 notes)

16'	Bourdon	
8'	Violincello	

Swell to Great 8', Swell to Pedal 8', Great to Pedal 8'

Composition Pedals: Mezzo, Forte, Fortissimo, Tutti

Great to Pedal Reversible

Irving & Casson was a decorating and furniture building firm in East Cambridge, MA, founded in 1875, specializing in interior woodwork. They provided interior furnishings for buildings designed by Henry Vaughan, Ralph Adams Cram, and Bertram Goodhue, among others. Robert Casson built a grand house in Newton, MA around 1895, with woodwork provided by the firm, including this unique pipe organ.

The builder of the organ is not known but presumed to be an employee of Irving & Casson, very likely a German immigrant with experience as an organ builder. The organ is built with "Cone Valve Windchests," a predominantly German style of keyboard action. An analysis of the wood used to build the chests would accurately determine their provenance, but the style of joinery and precision of manufacture implies that the windchests and perhaps the console chassis and original (now missing) tracker action were manufactured in Germany (Walcker?) and shipped to the factory in Cambridge.

The pipes were built, and presumably voiced by George Mack, an expert pipe maker for Roosevelt, the preeminent organbuilder in New York, NY, until that shop was closed in 1892. Mack established his own pipe making company in Bloomfield, New Jersey and provided organ pipes of the highest quality to numerous organbuilders.

Though originally installed in a residence, this organ has bold and brilliant tones, suitable for the support of congregational singing.