

Maple City on a Stick

by Dave Thorpe

I was recently sent some photos of a Maple City lamp that exists in Pennsylvania. Its owner was interested in knowing any others like it were known and what I might be able to tell him about it. The photos show a cap lamp top with a candlestick attachment. Although I knew of a Maple City lamp with a soldered on stick, that once belonged to John Coons, I had never seen this arrangement.



The question becomes, what is factory made and what isn't. Most stick attachments for lamps do not include the hanging hook. This item has the hook, which is redundant for a lamp with its own hook. It is unlikely that the stick was factory made for this lamp.



Back side showing two hooks, one on the lamp, one on the stick.



Let's look at the stick first. It detaches from the lamp with a large tubular sleeve in place of the thimble. The sleeve is riveted to the stick.



Is this a factory made piece? It is certainly well done, and I could be convinced of it if I had ever seen another, but my gut feeling is that it is a standard blacksmith smith that was hand modified to accomodate this specific lamp. Still I wonder...it looks very well made.





Now to the base. This tall base is like no other Maple City base, and yet it screws on to the top. Note the faint rolled grooves in the base that would lie above and below the stick clamp. Pretty impressive!

Still, no backyard mechanic could ever duplicate the screw threads of a Maple City lamp. They are narrow and will not interchange with any other lamp.



In the photo above you can see the vertical solder seam, which is very un-factory-like.

The dilemma of the threads is answered by examining the interior. There is an entire Maple City base dropped into the external base. The original base had its bottom cut away so as to make full use of the new taller chamber.





The top itself is in nice shape. The two forward arms that once braced the reflector have been cut off and filed smooth to the surface. The gas tube looks to be reinforced with a sleeve. The reflector and water feed have been removed.

So what is the verdict on this piece? It is probably a home-modification, though I would not state that with 100% confidence. It is a very interesting a purpose-built mining item.