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Model 1892 Special Short Rifle Number 949110  
I have carefully inspected this rare rifle,  
inside and outside, and have determined it is  
all original as made by Winchester.

Records show this serial number was  
assigned to the Model 1892 in 1925.

Standard rifles in this model were  
provided with twenty-four inch round barrels. On  
special order, shorter or longer barrels could  
be ordered, but relatively few special lengths  
were ordered.

Most gun buyers simply purchased  
standard guns, and few were inclined to order  
special guns and wait for delivery.

The sixteen inch octagon barrel  
seen on this gun is very rare; when a  
customer wanted a shorter gun the usual  
choice was a carbine. While also rare, special  
short carbines were more popular than shorter  
rifles.

Full magazines, as seen here,  
were standard for all of the 1892 model  
series.

Barrel markings on this gun are  
on the side of the barrel, correct for a rifle  
in this serial series.

All of the markings on number  
949110 are correct and unaltered.

The upper tang marking is of the correct style and type.

On the receiver near the lever is the marking "19"; this is the stamp of the assembler-fitter who worked on the hammer and trigger, one of the most critical jobs on a gun.

Assembly numbers were not usually used on Winchester in this high serial series, and none are present on the gun.

On the inside of the crescent buttplate is seen the small letter "O"; this is the code of the forging die used to produce the buttplate.

Crescent buttplates were considered standard for all 1892 model rifles.

The front sight is of standard "spanting" style, and it has the small "thin-face". On this special sight, records state this sight was furnished "to the South American trade".

Thin faced sights are a feature seen on many special short Winchester but they are seen on standard guns only rarely. This model of sight has the marking "Pat. Nov. 4 '02", which was the date of the thin-face feature. A small set-screw was provided in the base of this sight.

A "semi-cloverleaf" rear sight was provided; this is rarely seen on these special rifles.

Winchester proof marks, the letters "P+W,"

in an oval, are seen on the top front of the receiver and on the top rear of the barrel.

This rifle chambers the popular ".44-40" Cartridge, and the barrel is marked ".44 W.C.F."

The old ".44-40" was the most popular in the 1892 model when in use, and is the most favored by collectors today.

Straight grain walnut was selected for stocking this rifle, and most of the original finish is still on the stocks and forend.

Winchester used soft steel for forging receivers, buttplates and forend tips as well as some other parts. After forging, machining and marking, these parts were case-hardened.

Because of the high carbon content and the hardness, the blued finish was very shallow and usually wore off quickly. Other steel and iron parts were blued, and on number 949110 much of the original blue remains.

Most of these special short Winchester have seen a great deal of use and abuse, and it is unusual to see one in the excellent condition of this rifle.

With the rarity of the sixteen inch barrel, great condition and age, this is a fine Winchester and it will be an important addition to any collection of rare arms.

Henry Goddard