Stolen $1,500 Bed Found; Possession Charge Filed

One of four century-old antique beds, each valued at $1,500, and reportedly stolen, was spotted by their owner Saturday.

Joseph Meraux, an official of Antique Imports, 1100 Perdido, with the aid of two police officers, then tracked down David Nelson, 28, 1202 S. Robertson, after which he was arrested and booked with possession of stolen property.

Patrolmen Earl Kilbride, who investigated the case with Patrolman Norbert Fonseca, said the four beds were stolen from the firm’s storeroom at 431 S. Rampart several days ago, and that Saturday afternoon Meraux saw one of them in a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of Magazine Street.

At that point, the officer said, Meraux was asked by the driver if he was interested in buying the bed, at the same time mentioning that he had three others for sale.

The man fled the scene after he apparently became suspicious of Meraux’s interest in a possible transaction. He was later found by the officers in the vicinity of his residence after ownership of the vehicle was traced through its license plate.

Meraux identified the arrested man as the person who offered to sell him the rosewood Victorian style bed, Kilbride reported.

The officer quoted Meraux as saying that the recovered bed and the other three, which are mahogany four-posters, were made about 100 years ago by a well-known craftsman named Prudent Mallard who operated in a Royal Street shop.