

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1788

Primary Maker Hannah Welles

Medium Maple, rush

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Description Maple side chair in the Chippendale style, with a yoke-shaped crest

rail, a vase-shaped splat, turned front legs and stretchers, and a rush seat. The

back of the chair is formed by a yoke-shaped crest rail atop two stiles. The

center of the crest rail is arched, and each side has an ear that curves up.

Centered below the crest rail is a solid, vase-shaped splat, which attaches at the

bottom to the stay rail. Above the seat, each stile angles backward. Below the

seat, each stile forms a leg that angles backward. Each front leg is turned with a

sequence of baluster, block, baluster, block, over a Spanish foot. Above the top

turned baluster, each front leg has a block that supports the rails of the rush

seat, which is trapezoidal in shape. The front stretcher connecting the two front

legs is turned with a double-baluster-and-ring form. Each side has two

stretchers, each turned with a double-baluster form. The back stretcher is

turned with a slender ovoid swelling in the center. The side chair has an overall

red wash. Condition: The chair is refinished, and the rush is replaced. Design and

Construction Details: The crest rail is supported by a tenon at the top of each

stile; each of these joints is secured with a wooden pin. The splat is tenoned into

the crest rail above and into the stay rail below. The sides of the splat are

chamfered slightly. Both back edges of each stile are chamfered above the stay

rail. The stay rail is tenoned into each stile. Each seat rail is bladelike, with a

rounded outer edge and a tapered inner edge. The seat rails are tenoned into

the stiles at the back, and into the separate block at the top of each leg at the

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front. Each of the blocks is supported by a tenon at the top of the front leg; the

top of each block is chamfered on the front and side edges. The stretchers have

round tenons that extend into the front or back legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 39 7/8 x 20 1/4

x 17 1/2in. (101.3 x 51.4 x 44.5cm)