

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1850-1860

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Mahogany, ash, wool embroidery

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Description Mahogany side chair in the Rococo revival style, with a carved crest

rail and slat, a balloon back, a needlework seat cover, and cabriole front legs.

The back of the chair is formed by an arched crest rail atop two curved stiles.

The top and front of the crest rail are carved with flowers, leaves and scrolls.

Below the crest rail is a horizontal, pierced slat, carved with symmetrical

scrolled leaves. The crest rail and slat bow back in the center. Each stile curves

outward at the top to continue the curve of the crest rail then narrow toward the

back seat rail; this shape is known as a balloon-back. Below the seat, each stile

extends down to form a leg that is curved back. The seat is trapezoidal, with a

serpentine front seat rail, and bowed side seat rails. The seat is upholstered with

a dark blue embroidered upholstery, with two large pink and red flowers in the

center surrounded by a circular spray of green leaves. The front seat rail is

carved with a projecting flower and leaves in the center. Each cabriole front leg

has a carved knee with a projecting, abstract spray of leaves over a foot that is

also carved with a small scroll of leaves. Condition: The left side of the seat rail

has broken and been repaired. Both side seat rails are lightly worn and

scratched. The needlework seat cover is replaced. The linen and sackcloth on

the underside of the seat frame have been replaced or reapplied; the linen has

begun to detach from the nails. Design and Construction Details: The crest rail is

constructed of two pieces of wood that are laminated together. The crest rail is

supported on tenons at the top of each stile. The slat is tenoned into each stile.

Each seat rail is tenoned into the top of the legs. The remainder of the seat frame

construction is hidden underneath the upholstery. The upholstery consists of a

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needlework seat cover (replaced) applied partially over-the-rails, with an

applied navy and tan braid where the needlework cover meets the front and side

seat rails. The upholstery is supported by springs and other stuffing materials,

over a coarse sackcloth and a black plain weave linen nailed to the underside of

the seat frame.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 34 1/2 x 18 x 19

7/8in. (87.6 x 45.7 x 50.5cm)