

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1796-1800

Primary Maker John Wadsworth

Medium Basswood, maple, ash, oak

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Description Armchair in the Windsor style, with a high back, a plank seat, and

turned posts and legs. The back of the chair includes a bowed crest rail atop

seven tall spindles; the crest rail is serpentine, a shaped upper edge with an arch

in the center flanked by flat scrolls. Below the crest rail is a rail that curves

forward to form the flat, scrolled handholds. The rail contains the seven tall

spindles and is supported at each arm by an additional short spindle and a post

turned with a baluster form. The back of the armchair is slanted back; the

spindles and posts are joined to the seat in a semi-circular arrangement. The

basswood plank seat is shield-shaped and has a saucered, or recessed, surface

with a flat area at the back where the spindles and posts join the seat. The sides

and back of the plank are curved and chamfered, or cut at an angle. Below the

seat are four turned legs that are raked, or slanted out from top to bottom; each

is turned with a baluster form over a cylindrical ankle and foot (replaced). Each

side of the chair has a single stretcher with an ovoid form in the center. Between

the stretcher is a single medial stretcher, also with an ovoid form in the center.

Condition: Each foot is replaced below the baluster. A nail has been inserted

through the joint where each post joins the arm above. The seat and front legs

are lightly scratched and worn. The armchair is refinished. Design and

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

the tall spindles; the center and each side spindle is also pinned to the crest rail.

These spindles extend through the rail. The rail is supported on a tenon at the

top of each short spindle and post; the tenon at the top of each post has a small

wooden wedge through the end. The spindles are tenoned down into the

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spindle platform. The posts are tenoned through the spindle platform. The

plank seat is supported by a through tenon at the top of each leg; a wedge is

inserted through the end of each tenon. The side stretchers are tenoned into the

lower legs. The medial stretcher is tenoned into each of the side stretchers.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 37 1/2 x 21 3/4

x 22 3/4in. (95.3 x 55.2 x 57.8cm)