

Basic Detail Report



Title Rocking Chair

Date 1750-1780

Primary Maker Treat family

Medium Maple, ash, rush

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Description Maple rocking chair in the William and Mary, or early baroque, style,

with arms, a wavy slat-back, turned stiles, front legs, arm supports, and

stretchers, and a rush seat. The back of the rocking chair is formed by three slats

between two turned stiles; each stile has a ball-and-urn-shaped finial at the top,

over cylinder, baluster, and ring forms. The slats are curved back in the center,

and each has a wavy, or undulating, profile. Below the seat, each stile forms a

cylindrical back leg. Each arm is slightly bowed and has a handhold that extends

just past the top of the arm support. Each arm support is turned with a ring and

baluster form, over a tapered base that extends down to the upper stretcher on

that side. Each front leg is turned with three cylinder forms, each separated by a

ring. Each front leg has a rounded top that extends slightly higher than the rush

seat, which is trapezoidal in shape. The front of the chair has two slender

stretchers that connect the front legs, each turned with baluster and ovoid

forms. Each side of the chair has two plain turned stretchers. The back has one

plain turned Each rocker has a wavy top edge that echoes the shape of the slats.

The rocking chair frame is painted black. Condition: The center slat has cracked,

or split in the center. The chair is repainted, and the rush is replaced. Design and

Construction Details: Each slat is tenoned and pinned into each stile. The back of

each arm is tenoned into the stile; each of these joints is secured with a nail.

Each arm support is tenoned into the arm above and into the upper side

stretcher below. Each seat rail is probably bladelike, with a rounded outer edge

and a tapered inner edge. The seat rails are tenoned into the top of the legs. The

stretchers are tenoned into the front or back legs. Each rocker is constructed of

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a shaped board that fits into a groove on the underside of each leg; each of these joints is secured with wooden pins and possibly nails. Faint grooves circle the stiles and legs, marking the placement of the slats, seat rails, and stretchers.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 43 1/4 x 23 1/16 x 23in. (109.9 x 58.6 x 58.4cm)