

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1797-1800

Primary Maker Amos Denison Allen

Medium Butternut, maple, ash, oak

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Description Armchair in the Windsor style, with a continuous bow-back, bracing

spindles, turned posts, legs, and stretchers, and a plank seat. The continuous

bow back consists of a bow, or a oak stick, bent in an arch that sweeps forward

at each side to form an arm and flat scrolled handhold. The front of the bow is

flat with a beaded edge. The top of the arms are flat and each handhold has a

small spur behind the scroll. The bow is supported by twelve swelled spindles of

varying height, two turned posts at either side, and two swelled bracing spindles

in a "V" at the back of the seat. The swelled spindles have a bulge in the lower

half and are tapered up to the top. The posts are turned with wide baluster

forms. The back of the armchair is slanted back; the spindles and posts are

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

joined to the semi-circular seat extension at the back of the chair. The butternut

plank seat is shield-shaped and has a saddled seat, or contoured upper surface

with a raised ridge at the front center, with a flat surface 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 wide baluster and ring

forms over a tapered ankle and foot. Each side of the chair has a single stretcher

with an ovoid form in the center flanked by a tapered form. Between the

stretcher is a single medial stretcher with the same turnings. Condition: The

front of the plank has a short split; portions have been repaired with a small

patch. The tenon at the top of the two right legs have been reinforced with small

wedges at the edge of the mortise. The armchair is refinished. The underside of

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the seat has a few areas of an earlier light green paint. The underside of the left

side of the seat, left side stretcher and medial stretcher have a few drips of an

unknown yellow substance. Design and Construction Details: The bow is

supported on a through tenon at the top of the posts and all but four spindles;

four of the spindles are only tenoned up into the bow. The bracing spindles are

tenoned and pinned through the bow. The through tenons have a small wedge

through the end of the tenon. Each spindle is tenoned down into the spindle

platform; the bracing spindles are tenoned down into the rounded seat

extension. Each post is tenoned down through the plank seat; a wedge is

inserted into the end of the tenons. The seat and seat extension are constructed

of a solid plank of wood and supported on a through tenon at the top of each

leg. The side stretchers are tenoned into the lower legs. The medial stretcher is

tenoned into the side stretchers. All the tenons are inserted at an angle, where

necessary, to give the proper slant to the bow and each of the spindles and legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 30 5/8 x 20 x 20

1/8in. (77.8 x 50.8 x 51.1cm)