

Basic Detail Report



Title Bed

Date about 1775

Primary Maker Eliphalet Chapin

Medium Cherry, iron, canvas, rope

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Description Cherry bedframe in the Chippendale, or rococo, style, with legs in

the style of the Eliphalet Chapin school. The head of the bedframe has two

tapered head post columns, each of which is over a rectangular block, a straight

swelled leg, and a tapered foot. The head posts are joined by a solid headboard

with a peaked top edge, over a rail with multiple small knobs, or pegs (replaced);

each knob is joined to the inside of a rabbet on the interior top edge of the rail.

The foot of the bedframe has fluted foot post columns, each of which is over a

separately turned round base, a rectangular block, and a cabriole leg that ends

in a carved claw-and-ball foot. The bottom tip of each flute on the column

extends below the column, and terminates on the separately turned base. The

foot posts are joined by a rail with multiple small knobs (replaced); each knob is

joined to the inside of a rabbet on the interior top edge of the rail. Each cabriole

leg has a cyma, or S-curved, knee bracket where the leg joins the rail. The

bedframe has two removeable, long side rails, each with multiple small knobs

(replaced); each knob is joined to a rabbet on the interior top edge of the rail.

The side rails are tenoned into the rectangular block at the top of each leg; each

of these joints are secured with large iron screws, or bolts. The exterior top edge

of each rail has ovolo, or quarter-round, molding, flanked by a fillet, or short flat

section. The bedframe is accompanied by four wooden testers (all replaced), or

rails at the top of each side of the bedframe that are used to support bed

hangings. (Testers not shown in photograph.) Each tester has a lap joint at the

end and a small drilled hole to fit into a slender iron post at the top of each head

and foot post. The underside of each tester has a modern curtain rod and velcro

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for attaching bed hangings. The bedframe is also accompanied by a rectangular piece of canvas (replaced) with holes around the edge, and a length of rope (replaced). The rope would be wound around the canvas and the knobs on each rail of the bedframe to support a mattress. Condition: The width and possibly the depth of the bedframe have been altered. The headboard is replaced. The knobs, or pegs, on each of the four rails are replaced. Later holes in all four rails were filled; these holes had been added to accommodate different support systems for a mattress. The testers are replaced. The bedframe is refinished.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height including testers x width x depth): 84 3/4 x 53 x 76 3/4in. (215.3 x 134.6 x 194.9cm)