

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1790-1800

Primary Maker Nathan Fuller

Medium Butternut, maple, ash, oak, black and gold paint

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Description Black painted armchair in the Windsor style, with a sack-back,

turned posts, legs, and stretchers, and a plank seat. The sack back consists of an

arched rail over a horizontal bow, or wooden stick, that encloses six long

swelled spindles on the back of the chair and curves forward to form the arms

and flat handholds. The swelled spindles have a bulge in the lower half and are

tapered up to the top. Each handhold consists of a flat scroll at the front with a

stepped profile at the outer side. Each arm is supported by two additional short

spindles and a slender post at the front that is turned with 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 butternut plank seat is oval with a

saddled surface, or recessed top surface with a projecting ridge at the front

center, and 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 maple legs that are raked, or slanted out from top

to bottom; each is turned with a baluster form 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,

also with the same turnings. Painted Decoration. The chair is painted black with

bands of gold that curve around the front of the arched rail, spindles, posts, legs

and stretchers. A painted gold line also outlines the top of the plank seat.

Condition: The left post is repaired or replaced; the shape of the end of each

tenon is not consistent with the right post. The black and gold paint is a later

addition. The paint is well worn on the arched rail, handholds, spindles and

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posts. There are multiple small scratches and gouges on the top surface of the

seat. Design and Construction Details: The arched rail is tenoned down through

the bow. The arched rail is supported on a through tenon at the top of each of

the six spindles that extend through the bow. The bow is supported on each side

by through tenons at the top of two spindles and a turned post. The spindles are

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

plank seat. The spindle platform is outlined with a narrow groove. The plank is

supported on tenons 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): 36 1/8 x 24 1/2

x 21 1/2in. (91.8 x 62.2 x 54.6cm)