

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1797-1800

Primary Maker Amos Denison Allen

Medium Pine, maple, ash, oak, red paint

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Description Red, painted 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 wooden 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 pine 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: Each post has a straight iron brace screwed into the side that extends

down and back to the side of the seat. The left bracing spindle has dislocated

from the mortise in the seat extension. The two right most projecting sides of

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the plank seat have split off from the seat and been glued and nailed back on.

The swelled spindle, second from the right, has been tenoned through the plank seat; this spindle is possibly replaced. Two of the tenons through the top of the bow have disintegrated. Nails have been added to the back side of the plank seat to reinforce the joint where the spindles join the seat. The tenon at the bottom of the right post has been repaired with a screw and a wedge inserted through the underside. The chair has dark red paint over a light green paint, over black paint. The red paint is flaking, revealing the green or black paint below. 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 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. 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): 37 15/16 x 24 5/8 x 21 1/2in. (96.4 x 62.5 x 54.6cm)