

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1750-1775

Primary Maker Churchill family

Medium Maple, tulip poplar, rush

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Description Maple armchair in the William and Mary, or early baroque, style, with

a shaped crest rail, a banister-back, turned stiles, legs, and stretchers, and a

rush seat. The back of the chair is formed by a solid crest rail at the top between

two stiles; each stile has a turned urn-shaped finial at the top. The crest rail has

a shaped upper edge, consisting of two raised half circles in the middle, with a

fillet, or short horizontal, a recessed half circle, a raised spur, and a recessed

quarter circle to each side. Below the crest rail are four baluster-and-reel turned

banisters, which attach at the bottom to the stay rail. The banisters are turned

and split; the rounded side of each banister faces the back of the chair. The stay

rail is taller in the center, because the lower edge curves up at each side. Below

the seat, each stile forms a straight back leg and foot. Each front leg supports a

serpentine arm that is bowed down in the center. Each arm has a small, scrolled

handhold that extends past the top of the front leg. Each front leg is turned with

a baluster over three cylinders, each separated by a ring. The chair has a woven

rush seat. The front of the chair has two stretchers turned with baluster-and-ring

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

plain stretcher. Condition: The wood on the left front leg is repaired below the

handhold and on the lower portion of the leg. The wood on the right stile is

repaired on the outside of the baluster. There are minor scratches and points of

wear on all the turned portions of each stile and leg. The rush seat is replaced.

Each foot is replaced. The chair is refinished with a mahoganized finish. Design

and Construction Details: Each end of the crest rail has a rectangular tenon that

extends into the cylindrical section at the top of the stile; each of these joints is

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secured with a wooden pin through the back. Each banister is constructed of a split spindle; each banister is tenoned into the crest rail at the top and into the stay rail at the bottom. The back lower edge of the stay rail is chamfered. Each end of the stay rail has a rectangular tenon that extends into the stile. The back of each arm is tenoned and pinned into the stile. Each front leg is tenoned and pinned into the arm above. The seat rails and stretchers have round tenons that extend into the front or back legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 46 1/2 x 23 3/4 x 18in. (118.1 x 60.3 x 45.7cm)