

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1790-1820

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Maple, ash, rush

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Description Black painted armchair in the William and Mary, or early baroque,

style, with a slat-back, one arm, turned stiles, front legs, and stretchers, and a

rush seat. The back of the armchair is formed by four horizontal slats between

two turned stiles. Each stile has a ball and ring form finial at the top over

alternating cylinder and ring forms. The slats are bowed back slightly in the

center. The top slat (replaced) is rectangular; each slat below it has a shaped top

edge consisting of a horizontal section in the center that curves down at each

side. Below the seat, each stile forms a cylindrical back leg. The arm is bowed

down slightly in the center and has a downward-curving handhold that extends

past the top of the front leg. The handhold has two recessed lines across the

center. Each front leg is turned with three cylinders, each separated by a ring,

over a short, tapered foot. The left front leg extends up to form the support for

the arm. The chair has a trapezoidal rush seat. All four sides of the chair have a

plain turned stretcher connecting the lower portion of the legs. The back of the

chair has a single plain, turned stretcher. The chair frame is painted black with

painted gold lines and bands decorating the stiles, the three lower slats, the

arms, the stretchers, and the front legs. Condition: The top slat is replaced; the

pins are replaced with nails. The lower portion of the back right leg has split

where the back stretcher meets the leg. The chair has been repainted; the gold

paint is faded on the arm and front legs. The paint is worn from the handhold.

The lower portion of the front legs are worn and scratched. The top of the right

front leg is worn. The rush seat is replaced. Design and Construction Details: The

top slat is tenoned and pinned into each stile; the slats below are tenoned into

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each stile. The back of the arm is tenoned into the left stile; the front of the arm

is supported on a tenon and pin at the top of the left front leg. The right front leg

is rounded on top. Each seat rail is probably bladelike, with a rounded outer

edge and a tapered inner edge. The seat rails and stretchers are tenoned into

the front and back legs. The chair never had a right arm.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 40 7/8 x 19 x 17

3/4in. (103.8 x 48.3 x 45.1cm)