

# Basic Detail Report



**Title Armchair**

Date 1790-1810

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Poplar, maple, ash, oak

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Description 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 seven 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 poplar 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 slightly 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. The armchair has a dark brown finish. Condition: There are scratches and small gouges in the finish on the seat and lower front legs. The finish is missing from four horizontal areas at the top front edge of the plank seat. The armchair is refinished. Design and Construction Details: The arched rail is tenoned down through the bow. The arched rail is supported on tenons at the top of each of the seven long spindles; the center five spindles have a through tenon at the top.

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The bow is supported on each side by through tenons at the top of two spindles and a turned post; the tenon at the top of each post has a wedge inserted through the end. 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):  $33 \frac{7}{16} \times 21 \frac{3}{4} \times 22 \frac{7}{8}$ in. (84.9 x 55.2 x 58.1cm)