

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1825-1835

Primary Maker John Hanmer

Medium Maple, rush

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Description Figured maple side chair in the Empire, or late neoclassical, style,

with a turned crest rail, front legs, and stretchers, a carved seat, and a

trapezoidal cane seat. The back of the chair is formed by a turned crest rail atop

two stiles. Below the crest rail is a carved slat between the stiles, carved with a

central flower flanked by leaves and a fleur de lis. The crest rail and slat are

bowed back slightly in the center. Above the seat, each stile is curved back and

has flat front and side surfaces over a band of four turned rings just above the

seat. Below the seat, each stile forms a cylindrical back leg over a tapered foot.

Each side seat rail is bowed down in the center and has a scrolled front that

corresponds to the circular scroll of the horizontal front seat rail. Each front leg

supports the front seat rail, is straight, and is raked slightly out from top to

bottom. The leg is turned with a ring over a tapered center section, a tapered

ankle, and a small ball foot. The center tapered section has a notch in the center

where it tapers abruptly. The front of the chair has a single stretcher turned with

tapered ring forms that connect the two front legs. Each side of the chair has

two plain, turned stretchers. The back of the chair has a single plain, turned

stretcher. The side chair is not painted, revealing the figured grain of the maple

that forms the frame. Condition: The joints where the back seat rail joins the

stiles, and where the stretchers meet the front legs are loose. Some joints have

been re-glued, where the seat rails meet the stiles and front legs; remnants of

glue have dripped down the top of the legs. The frame is probably refinished,

and the cane seat is replaced. Design and Construction Details: The crest rail is

joined to each stile with a lap joint at the top back of the crest rail; this joint is

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secured with a nail or screw through the back that is concealed with filler. The

slat is tenoned into the upper stiles. The back seat rail is tenoned into the front

of each stile; the back seat rail extends forward past the front of each stile.

Below the back seat rail is a plain, turned support that is tenoned into each stile.

The side seat rails are tenoned into the back seat rail and into the front seat rail.

Each seat rail has a facing that is nailed to the exterior side. The side seat rail

facings are bowed down in the center and have a scrolled front that correspond

to the semi-circular scroll of the front seat rail facing. The front seat rail is

supported on a tenon at the top of each front leg. The stretchers are tenoned

into the legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 33 15/16 x 17 11

/16 x 19 3/16in. (86.2 x 44.9 x 48.7cm)