

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1803-1807

Primary Maker Ebenezer Tracy Jr.

Medium Chestnut, 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

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 chestnut 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. Between the stretcher is a single

medial stretcher, also with the same turnings. The armchair has a dark brown

finish. Condition: The lower legs are worn and scratched; white paint has

adhered to both lower front legs. The chair is refinished; portions of an old finish

remain on the spindle platform and sides of the plank seat. 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 three spindles have a through tenon at the top. The bow is supported

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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 back of 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): 35 9/16 x 24 3/16 x 21 11/16in. (90.3 x 61.4 x 55.1cm)