

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1800-1811

Primary Maker Ebenezer Williams

Medium Various woods, yellow, green, blue and white paint

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Description Painted side chair in the Windsor style, with a square-back, bamboo

turned posts, legs, and stretchers, and a plank seat. The back of the chair is

formed by two horizontal rails, or bows, between two four-part bamboo-turned

posts. Below the bottom bow are seven slender spindles. Between the two bows

are the top of three spindles that extend up from below. The spindles and posts

are slanted back; the spindles are joined to the seat in a semi-circular

arrangement. The pine plank seat is square with rounded edges and the sides of

the seat are chamfered, or cut at an angle. The plank has a saucered seat, or a

concave top surface, with a flat section at the back where the posts and spindles

join the seat. The seat is supported by four three-part bamboo turned oak legs.

Each side of the chair has a two-part bamboo-turned stretcher that joins the

lower legs. A three-part bamboo turned medial stretcher joins the two side

stretchers. The side chair is painted with multiple thick layers of paint (flaking):

white over two shades of blue, possibly a dark green, two shades of yellow, and

a dark stain or finish on the wood. Condition: The paint is flaking badly,

revealing multiple layers of paint history. Design and Construction Details: The

bows are tenoned into the upper posts. The center spindle, and the second

spindle to either side are tenoned up through both bows. The remaining

spindles are tenoned into the lower bow. The posts are tenoned down through

the plank seat. The spindles are tenoned down into the spindle platform. The

seat is constructed of a solid plank of wood and supported on a tenon 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

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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): 39 9/16 x 20 1/2

x 18in. (100.5 x 52.1 x 45.7cm)