

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1970-1990

Primary Maker The Hitchcock Chair Co., Ltd.

Medium Wood, rush, black, red and gold paint

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Description Reproduction painted side chair in the Empire, or late neoclassical

style, with a roll top, turned front legs and stretchers, and a trapezoidal rush

seat. The back of the chair is formed by a turned, roll-top crest rail atop two

stiles. The crest rail consists of a center section that has a front and back

rectangular surface that curves to meet at the top and bottom edges; this is

flanked by a series of ring turnings. Below the crest rail are two horizontal slats

between the stiles; the top slat is taller, while the lower slat is slender and

rectangular. The crest rail and slats 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 front leg has a block on top that

supports the front corners of the trapezoidal rush seat. The rush seat sits just

inside four seat rail facings that cover all four sides of the rush. 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. Each front leg is straight,

but raked, or slanted, slightly out from top to bottom. Each front leg is turned

with eighteen rings over a tapered ankle and small ball foot. The front of the

chair has a single stretcher turned with ring and tapered forms that connects 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. Painted Decoration. The chair

frame is painted black with fine streaks of red to imitate graining, and gold

stenciled decoration on the crest rail, slat, stiles, and front seat rail facing. The

crest rail has an abstract stenciled design of an oval sunburst. The slat has a gold

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stenciled design of fruit, including grapes, slanked by leaves and a geometric

border. The upper front of each stile has a gold stenciled decoration of a

downward pointing arrow. The front seat rail facing has an abstract design of

flowers and leaves. A thin gold line outlines the crest rail, front of the upper

stiles, the lower slat, and the front seat rail facing. Gold bands circle some of the

turned rings on the stiles, front seat rail facing, legs and front stretcher.

Condition: The black paint is worn and scratched on the top edges of the side

seat rails, the lower front and back legs, and the front stretcher. Design and

Construction Details: The crest rail is joined to each stile with a lap joint at the

top back of the stile and crest rail; this joint is secured with a screw through the

back that is concealed with filler or a wooden plug. Each slat is tenoned into the

upper stiles. There are two screws, concealed with a wooden plug, through the

joint where the upper slat meets the stiles. The seat is constructed of four

hidden seat rails that are tenoned into the stiles at the back and into a block at

each front corner of the seat. The blocks at the front of the seat are supported

on a tenon at the top of the front legs. The rush is woven around this frame. The

seat rail facings are nailed in place over the hidden seat rails on all four sides of

the seat. The stretchers are tenoned into the legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 33 7/8 x 17 3/4

x 18 1/16 in. (86 x 45.1 x 45.9 cm)