

Basic Detail Report

Title Close Stool

Date 1840-1870

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Pine, maple, black, red, green, and gold paint, iron hardware

Description Painted clothes stool armchair in the Windsor style, with a rounded

tablet-top crest rail, a plank seat with a lidded opening in the center over a

square chamber, and turned arm supports and legs. The back of the chair is

formed by a solid tablet-top crest rail atop six slender spindles and two plain,

turned posts. The crest rail is bowed back in the center, and has curved upper

corners and a shaped lower edge consisting of a horizontal section in the center

flanked by a raised half circle and a horizontal section at the side. The arms are

scrolled, or bowed down in the center, with a downward scrolled handhold.

Each arm is supported by a slender spindle and a turned arm support just

behind the handhold. The seat is square with rounded corners and has a circular

opening in the center, with a disc-shaped lid that fits in the opening. Below the

seat are four straight legs, each with a rectangular block at the top over a

swelled ankle and foot. The legs are raked slightly, or tilted out from top to

bottom. Each leg forms a the corner of the chamber below the seat that would

have contained a chamber pot or pan. The back of the chamber has a wooden

knob at the top and pivots open on two iron hinges at the bottom. Each side of

the chair has a single plain, turned stretcher. Painted Decoration. The chair is

painted with black and red paint on the spindles and posts, seat, chamber and

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upper legs to imitate grained wood. The crest rail has a stenciled design of fruit

and birds in the center flanked by a basket weave pattern then a design of

meandering vines and leaves. Each spindle, post and arm support has gold-

painted bands. The top of the seat is outlined with a gold line. Condition: The

paint is worn and flaking on the spindles, arms, top and front of the seat, all four

sides of the chamber, and the legs. The bottom of the chamber has probably

been replaced. The lower edges of the front and sides of the chamber have each

been repaired. Design and Construction Details: The crest rail is supported on a

tenon at the top of each spindle and post. The back of each arm is screwed into

the post; the front of each arm is supported on a tenon at the top of the spindle

and the top of the arm support. The spindles are tenoned down into the seat,

while the posts and arm supports are each tenoned down through the seat. The

circular opening in the seat has rounded edges. The lid is constructed of a single

round piece of wood with canted top sides and cylindrical lower sides. Two

cylindrical holes are drilled into the top of the lid; the holes do not extend

completely through the lid. The seat is supported on a tenon at the top of each

leg. The front and each side of the chamber are constructed of thin boards that

slide into vertical grooves on the sides of the rectangular block at the top half of

each leg. The back of the chamber has a rail that slides into horizontal grooves

on the interior sides of the back legs. The door is constructed of a board that

swings open on hinges that are joined to this rail. The interior sides of the back

legs are rabbeted to accommodate the door when closed. The bottom of the

chamber is constructed of a two boards board that are held in place with nails

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through the bottom edge of the boards that form the sides of the chamber. The

stretchers are tenoned into the lower legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 40 1/8 x 22 3/8

x 21 5/8in. (101.9 x 56.8 x 54.9cm)