

Basic Detail Report

Title Side Chair

Date 1780-1800

Primary Maker Daniel Sumner

Medium Cherry, maple, hair cloth

Description Cherry side chair in the Chippendale, or rococo, style, with an arched crest rail, a cross slat-back, straight front legs, and a removable upholstered slip seat. The back of the chair is formed by an arched crest rail atop two stiles. The crest rail is arched in the center, with a small spur on the underside center of the arch; at each end of the crest rail there is an upward-pointed spur over a rounded ear. Below the crest rail, there are two horizontal cross slats that extend between the stiles. Above the seat, each stile is slanted backward. Below the seat, each stile forms a back leg that is slanted toward the center back of the chair. The seat is trapezoidal, with a removable slip seat upholstered with black striped horsehair fabric. The slip seat sits just inside four plain seat rails at the top of the legs. The front legs are straight and extend from the height of the seat down to a plain foot. An open, semi-circular knee bracket is located at the top of each front leg, where the leg joins the front seat rail. All four sides of the chair have a plain, rectangular stretcher. Condition: Corner blocks have been added to interior corners of the frame. The back of the right foot is replaced. The frame is refinished, and a reproduction slip seat has been made. The original slip seat is in poor condition, but it has all its original materials. The horsehair fabric cover of the original slip seat is split at several

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locations, and is well worn along the front edge. The linen undercover and

stuffing are visible below the cover. Design and Construction Details: Design. A

narrow rail at the top of the back seat rail has a triple-bead molded front edge.

The top edge of the front and side seat rails, the top of each leg, the exterior

corner of each front leg, and the top exterior edge of the back and side

stretchers all have molding consisting of an ovolo flanked by a fillet. Chair

Frame: The crest rail is supported on a tenon at the top of each stile. Each slat is

tenoned into the stiles. A narrow rail is nailed down on top of the back seat rail

and overhangs it slightly. Each seat rail is tenoned and pinned into the top of the

legs. The interior top edge of the front and side seat rails, and the top of each

leg, each have a rabbet to support the slip seat. Each interior front corner of the

frame has a triangular corner block screwed on (later additions). The knee

brackets are nailed to the underside of the front seat rail and to the side of each

front leg. Each stretcher is tenoned and pinned into the legs. Upholstered Slip

Seats. The chair is accompanied by two slip seats, one original, and one

reproduction made to match the original. The original slip seat consists of a

black striped horsehair fabric cover, over a linen undercover, marsh grass

stuffing, sackcloth, cut canvas webbing, and a wooden frame. The horsehair

fabric is nailed to the underside of the frame with small, iron nails. The

reproduction slip seat consists of a black striped hair fabric cover, over an

undercover, stuffing, sackcloth, webbing, and a trapezoidal frame. The hair

fabric is tacked to the underside of the frame.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 37 1/2 x 20 7/16

x 19in. (95.3 x 51.9 x 48.3cm)