

Basic Detail Report

Title Armchair

Date 1800-1815

Primary Maker Simeon Goodrich

Medium Mahogany, horsehair cloth, brass nails

Description Mahogany armchair in the Federal, or early neoclassical, style, with a flat crest rail, three banisters, tapered front legs, and horsehair over-the-rails upholstery. The back of the chair is formed by a straight crest rail atop two stiles; the stiles are raked, or angled together slightly, from top to bottom. Three vertical banisters are evenly spaced below the crest rail. Each banister is pierced and carved; the center of each banister splits in half and widens to a patera, or ribbed oval. The banisters are joined at the bottom to a rectangular stay rail. Above the seat, each stile is slanted backwards. Below the seat, each stile forms a backward-curving leg that slants toward the center back of the chair. Each arm is straight and extends forward from the stile about two-thirds of the depth of the chair. The arm is supported at the front by a curved arm support that slopes down and forward to the side rail, just behind the front leg. The seat is trapezoidal, with black horsehair over-the-rails upholstery (replaced) that is held in place with a swagged line of brass nails (replaced) on the front and side seat rails. The tapered front legs extend from the height of the seat down to the foot. The back and sides of the chair each have a stretcher connecting the lower portion of the legs. A medial stretcher (replaced) connects the two side stretchers. Condition: The front legs are lightly scratched and worn. The medial

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stretcher is replaced. The upholstery and brass nails are replaced. Design and

Construction Details: Design. The top and bottom of each banister widens

slightly to a semi-circular form. The upper portion of the stile is only about half

the width of the back leg; the stile changes width just above the seat. The

horizontal and vertical elements of the back of the armchair, excluding the

banisters, are outlined with cock beading. The front and outer side of each front

leg is molded with two wide recessed flutes, with a thin line of cock beading to

each side. Chair Frame. The crest rail is supported by a tenon at the top of each

stile. Above the seat, the back of each stile is rounded. Each banister is tenoned

into the crest rail above and into the stay rail below. The stay rail is tenoned into

the stiles; the back of the stay rail is rounded. The back of each arm is screwed

into the stile. The front of each arm is supported on a tenon at the top of the arm

support. Each arm support is screwed into the side seat rail; the screws are

inserted through the interior of the seat rails. Each seat rail is tenoned into the

stiles and into the top of the legs. A diagonal brace reinforces each front interior

corner of the seat frame; this may be dovetailed into the front and side

stretchers. Each side stretcher and the back stretcher are tenoned into the lower

portion of the legs. The medial stretcher is dovetailed to the side stretchers.

Upholstery (replaced). The armchair is upholstered with over-the-rails black

horsehair. The upholstery is held in place with a row of swagged brass nails

along the front and side seat rails; the nails follow the original nailing pattern.

Below the horsehair is stuffing, sackcloth, and canvas webbing that is tacked

directly to the top of the seat rails. The horsehair is wrapped around the bottom

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of the front and side seat rails and is held in place with small nails.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 35 5/8 x 21 1/2

x 19in. (90.5 x 54.6 x 48.3cm)