

Basic Detail Report



Title Armchair

Date 1805-1820

Primary Maker Reverend Thomas Robbins

Medium Maple, ash, rush

Basic Detail Report

Description Black-painted tall armchair in the Empire, or late neoclassical, style,

with a slat back, turned front legs and spindles, and a rush seat. The back of the

chair is formed by three plain, turned tails, over three vertical medallion

spindles, over three plain, turned tails, all between two stiles each with a small

finial at the top. The three spindles consist of a vertical rectangle in the center

with canted corners, and a tapered section above and below. Above the seat,

each cylindrical stile curves backward. Below the seat, each stile forms a

cylindrical leg that curves back slightly. Each arm is bowed outward at the

center, and extends three quarters of the depth of the seat. Each arm ends in a

cylindrical handhold, that is supported by a baluster-shaped arm support that is

joined to the side seat rail. Centered below each arm are three slender, baluster-

and-ring turned spindles, over a curved rail that joins the arm support and the

stile. Each front leg has a block on top that supports the front corners of the

trapezoidal rush seat. The rush seat sits just inside seat rail facings that cover

the front and sides of the rush. Each front leg is tapered slightly, with a recessed

ring at the top and the ankle. The front of the armchair has three plain, turned

stretchers that are bowed back in the center. Each side of the armchair has two

plain, turned stretchers joining the legs. The back of the chair has a single plain,

turned stretcher. Painted Decoration. The armchair frame is painted black

overall with gilded lines accentuating the stiles, spindles, front legs and front

stretchers. The front of each arm support has an elongated floral design. The

front of the front seat rail facing has an abstract design of gold leaves. The rush

seat is painted with a thin layer of yellow paint) Condition: The black and gold

Basic Detail Report

paint is worn off the top of each arm, the front seat rail facing, and the front

stretchers. The upper stiles, front legs, and arm supports are well worn and

scratched. The paint on the rush seat has flaked off and accumulated dirt over

the entire surface of the seat. Nails have been added to reinforce the joints

where the back seat rail meets the stiles, and where the left arm support meets

the side seat rail. Design and Construction Details: The six turned rails that form

the back of the chair are tenoned into the stiles. The spindles are tenoned into

the rail above and below. The back of each arm is tenoned into the stile; the

front is supported on a tenon at the top of the arm support. The bottom of each

arm support is screwed into the side seat rail and extends down about one inch

below the side seat rail. The rail below each arm is tenoned into the arm support

and stile; the spindles are tenoned into the arm above the into the rail below.

The seat rails are tenoned into the stiles at the back, and into a block that is

supported by a tenon at the top of each front leg. The seat rails are probably

bladellike, with a rounded outer edge and a tapered inner edge. The side and

front seat rail facings are nailed over the rush and into the seat rails. Each

stretcher is tenoned into the lower legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 44 1/4 x 23 1/4

x 20 1/16in. (112.4 x 59.1 x 51cm)