

Basic Detail Report



Title Great Chair

Date 1670-1700

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Black ash, oak

Basic Detail Report

Description Black ash, turned, armchair with a board seat in the seventeenth-

century style. The back of the chair is constructed of two thick posts; between

the posts are two rails (top rail replaced) over three spindles (each side spindle

is replaced). Each post and each spindle is joined to a horizontal rail that is

located above the height of the seat. The posts are joined at an angle to the rail;

they are slanted backward. Below the rail are the cylindrical back legs of the

chair, each formed by a vertical cylindrical post. Each side of the chair has two

rails, one each that extends forward the post and the rail to the vertical front leg

posts. Above the trapezoidal seat, each front leg supports the arms, or rails, and

has a ball-shaped handhold at the top. Each front leg is cylindrical and extends

down to form a plain foot. The seat is constructed of a board that fits inside the

front, side, and back seat rails. The front of the chair has two stretchers,

separated by two spindles, below the seat. Each side of the chair has two turned

stretchers. Turned Decoration. Each post on the back of the chair has a small

round knob over a compressed ball at the top, and a wide ovoid turning at the

bottom. The top rail on the back of the chair (replaced) is turned with ring and

cylindrical forms. The horizontal rail at the bottom of the back of the chair is

turned with a narrow cylindrical section in the center, flanked by a wider

cylinder that ends in a turned disc. The spindles on the back and front, and rails

on each side, are turned with an ovoid form with a recessed ring in the center,

flanked by gradually tapered sections. Each front leg is turned with a

compressed ball-shaped handhold at the top (damaged) and a shallow

compressed ball above the height of the seat. Each seat rail is turned with a long

Basic Detail Report

cylindrical section in the center which is flanked by an ovoid form. Each piece of the armchair has fine single or double incised lines circling the turned forms.

Condition: The top rail on the back of the seat is replaced. Each side spindle on the back of the chair is replaced. The center spindle was broken and repaired.

Each handhold is well worn; each has suffered some areas of loss. Design and

Construction Details: The horizontal rails at the top back of the armchair are

tenoned into the posts; the top rail is also pinned. Each spindle (two are

replaced) is tenoned into the rails above and below. Each post is tenoned and

pinned down into the rail at the bottom of the back; the back legs are tenoned

and pinned into this same rail from below. The two rails at each side of the chair

are tenoned and pinned into the posts and rail at the back and into the front

legs. The seat rails are each tenoned through the back and front legs

respectively. The trapezoidal seat is constructed of a single board that slides

into grooves in the interior surface of each seat rail. The stretchers are tenoned

in to the lower legs. The spindles at the front of the chair are tenoned into the

stretchers above and below.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 41 3/4 x 25 x 24

1/4in. (106 x 63.5 x 61.6cm)