

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1784-1812

Primary Maker Noah Seymour

Medium Cherry, rush

Basic Detail Report

Description Cherry side chair in the William and Mary, or early baroque, style,

with a solid crest rail, a bannister back, turned stiles, bannisters, legs, and

stretchers, and a rush seat. The back of the chair is formed by a crest rail at the

top between two turned stiles; each stile has a ball-shaped finial at the top. The

top center of the crest rail is shaped with a raised half circle; this has an arched

spur, a deep circular opening, and a pointed spur to each side. Below the crest

rail are four cone-and-reel turned banisters, which attach at the bottom to the

stay rail. The banisters are turned and split; the rounded side of each banister

faces the front of the chair. The lower edge of the stay rail is shaped with a cyma

curve, or S-curve, and reverse cyma curve, flanked by a raised quarter-circle.

Above the seat, each stile is turned with a cone-and-reel form. Below the seat,

each stile forms a straight back leg with a backward-slanting foot. Each front leg

is turned with three cylindrical sections, each separated by a turned baluster,

over a conical foot. Each front leg has a rounded top that extends slightly higher

than the rush seat, which is trapezoidal in shape. The front of the chair has a

stretcher turned with a double-ball form. Each side has a stretcher turned with a

double-baluster form. The back has a stretcher turned with a tapered form.

Condition: Two medium-size spots of black tar have dripped onto the rush seat.

The frame is refinished, and the rush is replaced. Design and Construction

Details: The crest rail has a rectangular tenon at each side that extends into the

block near the top of each stile; each of these joints is secured with a wooden

pin through the back. The top front and back edges of the crest rail are slightly

chamfered. Each banister is constructed of a split spindle, and each is tenoned

Basic Detail Report

into the crest rail at the top and into the stay rail at the bottom. The stay rail has

a tenon at each side that extends into the stile. Each seat rail is probably

bladelike, with a rounded outer edge and a tapered inner edge. The seat rails

and stretchers have round tenons that extend into the front or back legs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 43 1/4 x 18 7/16

x 15 3/8in. (109.9 x 46.8 x 39.1cm)