

Basic Detail Report



Title Stool

Date 1789-1797

Primary Maker George Washington

Medium Beech, twill woven linen, black silk binding, horsehair

Description Beech stool in the neoclassical style, with a upholstered concave seat, four crossed legs, and hairy-paw feet. The seat is rectangular and concave, or bowed down along each of the long sides. It is upholstered in a squared profile with red twill woven linen that originally had black silk binding at each edge. Below each long side of the seat are two legs. The legs are in the curule form; each leg curves down and toward the center of that side of the chair, crosses the opposite leg, then curves down to form a small hairy-paw foot. Each

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surface of each leg has a raised border and a recessed area in the center. The

joint where the two legs join consists of a circle with an applied round medallion

(now missing). The two joints are connected by a medial stretcher that is turned

with cylinder, ring and baluster forms. The legs and stretcher are painted grey.

Condition: The medallions applied to the joint where the legs cross are missing.

All of the feet are damaged. The upholstery is original, but badly worn or missing

on the edges and sides, and stained on the top. The black silk binding is missing

in most areas and the undercover is visible through the red twill linen. The

upholstery is covered with a fine black conservation mesh. The chair legs are

painted with a later lead white paint which is flaking significantly. Below the

white paint are the following layers: varnish, white paint, black paint, varnish,

and a gray-green gesso applied directly to the wood. At the same time the legs

were painted black, each foot was glazed green with metallic flecks. Design and

Construction Details: Stool Frame: The seat is constructed of a rectangular

frame; the short sides of the seat are tenoned into each end of the long sides.

The seat frame is supported on a tenon at the top of each leg. Each side of the

frame has a single leg that is continuous, extending from the frame to the floor.

The other leg on that side curves down to the center of the continuous leg, then

resumes on the opposite side. The paw feet are carved out of a laminated block;

the laminated portions are glued and nailed onto the bottom of each leg (now

damaged). The medial stretcher is tenoned into the lower legs. Upholstery. The

seat is upholstered in red twill woven linen with a black silk binding at each

edge. The red linen is applied over a tightly-woven linen undercover, a loosely-

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woven linen undercover, horsehair, and woven webbing. The linen undercover

and woven webbing are tacked directly to the seat frame. There is no sackcloth.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): 18 x 21 3/8 x 18

1/4in. (45.7 x 54.3 x 46.4cm)