

Basic Detail Report



Title Side Chair

Date 1789-1795

Primary Maker Elijah Tracy

Medium Yellow poplar, maple, other woods

Description Side chair in the Windsor style, with a hook-type crest rail, a fan-back, a plank seat, and turned stiles, legs, and stretchers. The fan-back consists

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of a crest rail supported by nine spindles; the spindles are arranged close

together at the bottom then separate further up the back of the chair. The hook-

type crest rail has a shaped upper edge, consisting of an arch in the center

flanked by rounded ear with a flat top. The two side spindles, or posts, are

turned with ring and baluster forms. The center spindles are slender and

swelled; each has a bulge in the lower half and is tapered up to the top. The

spindles are slanted back and joined to the seat in a semi-circular arrangement.

The poplar plank seat has contoured sides, front and a contoured upper surface

with a flat section at the back where the spindles join the seat. Below the seat

are four turned legs that are raked, or slanted out from top to bottom; each leg

is turned with wide baluster and ring forms over a tapered ankle and foot. Each

side of the chair has a stretcher with an ovoid turning in the center flanked by

tapered sections. Between the chairs is a single medial stretcher with the same

turnings. Condition: The top of the plank seat has some light scratches and

some partial dark circular stains. The chair is refinished. Design and

Construction Details: The posts and center spindle are tenoned and pinned into

the crest rail; the remaining spindles are just tenoned up into the crest rail. The

posts are tenoned down through the seat at the sides of the spindle platform; a

wooden pin is inserted through the back corner of the seat to secure this joint.

The spindles are tenoned down into the spindle platform. A narrow groove

outlines the back edge of the spindle platform. The seat is constructed of a solid

plank of wood and supported on a tenon at the top of each leg. The side

stretchers are tenoned into the lower legs. The medial stretcher is tenoned into

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the side stretchers. All the tenons are inserted at an angle, where necessary, to

give the proper slant to the bow and each of the spindles and legs. A faint groove

circles each lower leg to mark the placement of the stretchers.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width x depth): $38 \frac{3}{16}$ x $18 \frac{3}{4}$

x $18 \frac{11}{16}$ in. (97 x 47.6 x 47.5cm)