

Settee
Conservation
- which one?

MEMORANDUM

To: Lorraine Gilligan, Director
Coe Hall
From: Mary Zaremski, HSA
Re: Conservation Reports
Date: Aug. 30, 2002

Attached for your files at Coe Hall is a copy of the conservation treatment report and photographs for COE.1999.1 a settee.

Thank you.

COE.1999.1
GREYDIE

CUSHION
MAR 2001





CE 1006.1
CUSHION
BEFORE
MAY 2001



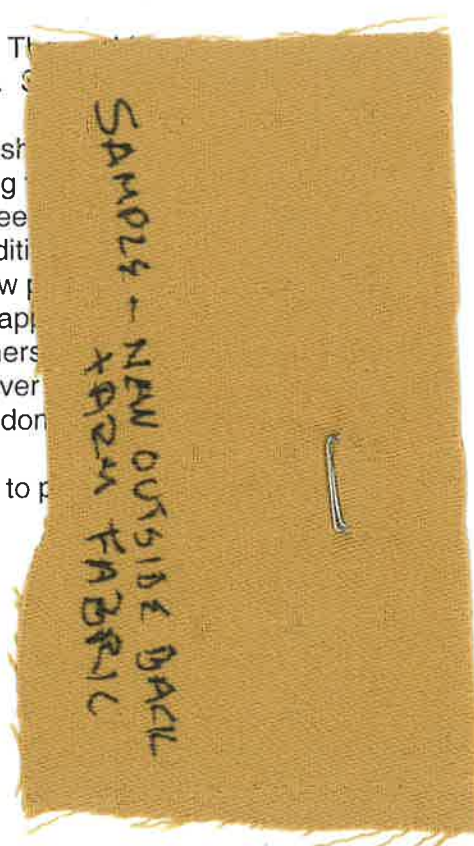
CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT

Accession #: COE 1999.1
Examiner: Deborah Trupin

Item: Settee
Examination date: 7/23/96

TREATMENT PERFORMED:

1. The settee was photographed before treatment.
2. Outside of cushion cover was vacuumed.
3. Cushion was removed from cushion cover; samples of stitching threads were left on the cover and put in the file.
4. The partial lining was removed from the top of the cushion cover. Some of the more distorting repairs were also removed. Samples of the repair threads were placed in the file. A sketch was made (attached) documenting removed repairs and extent of loss on the cushion cover top.
5. Inside of cushion cover was vacuumed.
6. Because of dirt and discoloration, cushion cover was tested for possible contact cleaning. Because the amount of soil and discoloration removed in the test did not outweigh the risks of loss or damage from the handling required for the cleaning, it was decided not to contact clean the cover.
7. A 100% cotton, light weight khaki green fabric was selected as the lining. It was washed, ironed and stretched on a frame.
8. The prepared fabric was positioned behind the cushion cover top. The cover was stitched to the lining with DMC cotton embroidery floss. It was done in an overall grid as well as around losses.
9. The frame was removed and the cushion inserted into the lined cushion cover.
10. The cushion cover was stitched closed with thin linen thread, using the same thread from the previous stitching. The cushion was replaced on the settee.
11. The condition of the settee upholstery was reevaluated. The condition of the outside back and arm fabrics was worse than remembered. A new plan to cover the outside back and arm with new fabrics was written and approved.
12. A cotton / polyester fabric (Spotlight "Gold Dust" from Calico Corners) was selected as the new outside back and arm fabric. It was washed, placed over the outside arm and back fabric, and stitched in place. Stitching was done along the trim, where the original fabric retained strength.
13. A custom dust cover of washed Tyvek® was made for the settee, to protect from needlepoint from dust and light.
14. The settee was photographed after treatment.





New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Bureau of Historic Sites – Peebles Island, P.O. Box 219, Waterford, New York 12188

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Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

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9. The frame was removed and the cushion inserted into the lined cushion cover.
10. The cushion cover was stitched closed with thin linen thread, using the holes left from the previous stitching. The cushion was replaced on the settee.
11. The condition of the settee upholstery was reevaluated. The condition of the outside back and arm fabrics was worse than remembered. A new proposal, to cover the outside back and arm with new fabrics was written and approved.
12. A cotton / polyester fabric (Spotlight "Gold Dust" from Calico Corners) was selected as the new outside back and arm fabric. It was washed, placed over the existing outside arm and back fabric, and stitched in place. Stitching was done just above the trim, where the original fabric retained strength.
13. A custom dust cover of washed Tyvek® was made for the settee, to protect the needlepoint from dust and light.
14. The settee was photographed after treatment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CARE:

The needlework on the settee cushion is now stabilized, but still fragile. The rest of the needlework is also fragile.

Display the settee in low light levels. To further protect it from damage, when the house is closed for extended periods, keep the Tyvek® cover in place. (The Tyvek® was selected for its lack of friction and opacity; the proper back outside of the cover is marked for ease in replacement.)

With the cover in place, the upholstery of the settee should need minimal housecleaning. It may be vacuumed very gently, with a low suction vacuum cleaner with an upholstery brush, about once per year.

Date: July 25, 2002

Signature: 
Deborah Lee Trupin
Textile Conservator



COE.1999.1 -- _____ = splits



COE.1999.1 --- = repairs removed



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TEXTILE LAB CONSERVATION TREATMENT LOG

Accession #: COE 1999.1
Examiner: Deborah Trupin

Item: Settee
Examination date: 7/23/96

Mo/Day/Yr	Cons/Tech	Hours	Treatment/Comments
3/22/01	DLT	1.75	Vacuum seat cushion cover (top and sides)
3/23/01	DLT	2.5	Finish vacuuming seat cushion (top and sides). Begin documentation of construction, slits & old repairs. Begin to remove needlepoint cover from cushion.
3/26/01	DLT	.75	Vacuum seat cushion bottom; continue to remove cover from cushion.
3/27	DLT	1.5	Complete removal from cushion. Begin to remove old partial lining from back of cushion top.
3/28	DLT	4.75	Complete removal of old partial lining from back of cushion top. Document (on computer) splits and repairs removed.
3/29	DLT	2.5	Vacuum inside of cushion cover. Document.
4/5/01	DLT	1.0	Test pH, colorfastness for possible suction/contact cleaning. Decide against cleaning, pH not low enough.
11/23/01	DLT	.75	Prepare for lining -- fabric, temp. frame selection.
11/27/01	AL	4.25	Prep lining fabric
12/04/01	AL	4.5	Begin to line cushion top
12/11/01	AL	5.0	Continue to line cushion top.
1/15/02	AL	3.5	" " " " "
1/22/02	AL	3.5	" " " " "
1/29/02	AL	2.5	" " " " "
2/19/02	AL	3.5	" " " " "
2/26/02	AL	4.0	" " " " "
3/5/02	AL	4.5	" " " " "
3/12/02	AL	4.0	" " " " "
3/19/02	AL	4.5	" " " " "
4/2/02	AL	3.0	" " " " "
4/9/02	AL	4.0	" " " " "
4/16/02	AL	5.0	Complete lining " "
4/23/02	AL/DLT	6.0	Insert cushion in cover; begin to stitch cushion closed.
4/30/02	AL	5.0	Continue to " " "
5/7/02	DLT	1.5	Develop additional treatment proposal for outside back & arms.
5/14/02	AL/PS	5.0	Complete stitching cushion closed. Shop for fabric for Outside back and arms.
6/4/02	PS/RP/DLT	5.0	Begin to stitch outside back / arm fabric.
6/11/02	PS	4.0	Continue to stitch outside back / arm fabric.
6/12/02	RP	4.0	Continue to stitch outside back / arm fabric.
6/17/02	RP	5.0	Continue to stitch outside back / arm fabric.
6/18/02	PS	5.0	" " " " " " " "
6/19/02	RP	4.0	" " " " " " " "
6/25/02	PS/RC	3.0	Complete stitching " " " " ; Photograph.

RC = Rich Clauss, BHS Photographer; AL = Ann Langhauser, BHS Textile Lab Volunteer; RP = Ruth Potter, BHS Conservation Assistant; PS = Pat Sweeney, BHS Textile Lab Volunteer; DLT = Deborah Trupin, BHS Textile Conservator.

Total Time: 118.75 hours

Conservator's Signature: 



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~~Orin Lehman~~
~~Commissioner~~

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

CONSERVATION EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Item: Settee, upholstered in needlepoint. Located in Gallery
Maker/Artist/School/Date: needlepoint, 17/18th c. English;
frame later(?)
Examiner: Deborah Trupin Date of Exam: 7/23/96

NOTE: This settee was examined on-site at Coe Hall. The report that follows addresses primarily the needlepoint showcover and secondarily the upholstery materials. Some comments on the wood frame will be made in the furniture lab's report of the July 1996 survey.

DESCRIPTION:

Dimensions: 44" (112 cm) high x 74" (186 cm) wide
x 26" (66 cm) deep.

Fiber: identified by microscopy? NO, by visual estimate
needlepoint: wool and silk.
ground fabric: linen warp and weft.
outside back and arms: silk warp; cotton weft.
trim: cotton ground warp; silk supplementary pattern warp;
cotton weft.

Yarn: needlepoint: Z spun, singles, - wool and silk.
ground fabric: Z spun, singles - warp and weft.
trim: Z spun, S ply (2) used 2 ends together - warp.

Yarns per inch: ground fabric: 18 x 16
trim: 36 x 12

Fabric structure: ground fabric: 1/1 plain weave, with warps and
wefts paired and spaced (i.e. 2 ends are
close together, followed by a space).

Applied decoration: "Gros" and "petit" point embroidery (tent and
cross stitch); woven tape trim around edges of
needlepoint and perimeter of cushion.

Other materials: Wood settee frame; various upholstery materials (see
below).

Reaction to H2O *; H2O & detergent *; perchlorethylene *
pH *

* Not tested during on-site exam.

Infested? NO Fumigated? NO

Coe Hall -- Settee upholstered in needlepoint -- Located in Galle

CONSTRUCTION:

This settee is upholstered with pieces of needlepoint. (Slides 1 and 2) Much of the needlepoint consists of floral and vegetal motifs, but the center of the inside back features a framed scene of four soldiers approaching three women. The needlepoint of the cushion shows many birds among the foliage. The various pieces of needlepoint may be originally from the same piece of work, but it is not clear if this was originally made to be used on a settee, or, if it was, if this is its first use on a settee. It is also possible that the soldiers and women scene and the section with birds predate some of the other pieces. It may be possible to come closer to a decision about this during the course of conservation treatment. Similarly, it is hoped that more detailed study will be able to give a more secure provenance and date to the needlepoint used.

The needlepoint pieces are used as the showcover for the settee. They are nailed into the frame. To cover the tacking edges, a 1" wide woven tape is glued over these edges. The outside back and outside arms of the settee are covered with a (originally?) green damask and plain weave striped fabric.

Because only the needlepoint was examined in detail, the upholstery layers will just be summarized:

Seat (top to bottom):

1. Cushion {needlepoint, undercover (cotton, vis. est.), filling that feels like down or feathers}, trimmed with the same tape as the rest of the settee. A row of 1" brass rings is stitched at c. 3" intervals to the front edge of the bottom of the cushion. These were used to secure the cushion to the blue rep fabric of the deck, to which a similar row of rings was attached.
2. Deck {cotton (vis. est.) rep fabric -- resembles a tapestry texture, front section; needlepoint along the front rail; cotton (vis. est.) sateen, back section.}
3. Padding {hair or cotton (not seen)}
4. Springs (shallow, not counted)
5. Sackcloth (not seen) (There could also be a layer of sackcloth between 3. Padding and 4. Springs.)
6. Webbing (not counted or seen)
7. Dust cover

Arms (inside to outside):

1. Needlepoint
2. Padding (skim coat of cotton)
3. Undercover (not seen)
4. Padding (hair? -- not seen)
5. Sackcloth (not seen)
6. Padding (skim coat of cotton)
7. Silk/cotton damask/plain weave stripe.

Coe Hall -- Settee upholstered in needlepoint -- Located in Galle

Back (inside to outside):

1. Needlepoint
2. Padding (skim coat of cotton)
3. Undercover (not seen)
4. Padding (hair? -- not seen)
5. Sackcloth (sized cotton or linen)
6. Padding (skim coat of cotton)
7. Silk/cotton damask/plain weave stripe.

There is no label on this piece, but it does have a connection to the settee in the den. The trims used on both settees are nearly identical, but the trim on this (gallery) settee has a tassel fringe (woven with the trim, not a separate layer) around the bottom perimeter. The upholstery materials and techniques are very similar (as far as can be seen) on all three settees (dining room, den and gallery). The gallery settee, unlike the other two, is not supposed to have a Coe family history.

CONDITION/PREVIOUS TREATMENT:

Overall the condition of the settee is good. The shape of the upholstery remains good and all upholstery layers remain secure. There is a some sagging of the springs and a corresponding depression of the fabric surface of the deck.

Condition of the needlepoint showcover however, is only fair/poor. The needlepoint's condition varies from section to section. Condition is best at the inside arms, less good on the inside back and worst on the cushion. There are no significant losses to needlepoint and no tears in the ground fabric on the inside arms. The inside back has scattered areas of needlepoint yarn loss, but few losses or tear in the ground fabric. (Slide 3)

The cushion has many areas of loss in the needlepoint, with numerous areas of splits with small losses in the ground fabric. (Slide 4) These splits and losses are worst in the center proper right (Slide 6), below the middle two soldiers and almost as bad at the center proper left, below the proper left-most woman. (Slide 5)

The trim is in fair condition. It is securely attached all over and the tassels remain, for the most part, securely attached. The trim has varying degrees of color/fiber loss in the supplementary warps. Most of the supplementary warps (non-pile) have lost all of their silk, and hence, all of their color.

The fabric used for the outside back and arms is in fair/poor condition. It is significantly faded, indicating serious fabric and fiber damage from light exposure. (Slide 7) The fabric is tearing at the proper left outside arm. (Slide 8)

Coe Hall -- Settee upholstered in needlepoint -- Located in Galle

There are no significant stains visible in the ambient light. There is a considerable amount of overall particulate soil; soil is worst on horizontal surfaces, such as the cushion. There is also an accumulation of plant material tucked in between the back of the cushion and the inside back; the location makes one fear the presence of rodents, although no feces were seen.

Coe Hall -- Settee upholstered in needlepoint -- Located in Galle

Color loss in the needlepoint varies from location to location. Color loss is worst in the center of the inside back panel.

There has been some restoration/repair done in the needlepoint, especially in the light blue yarns. Some areas of the cushion have repairs that stitch the needlepoint cover to the cushion undercover.

PROPOSED TREATMENT:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Vacuum all exposed surfaces with low suction to remove surface soils. | 8 hours |
| 2. Remove needlepoint cover from cushion, including removing repairs fastening cover to cushion. | 6 hours |
| 3. Secure losses in needlepoint cushion cover by patching and sewing. | 20 hours |
| 4. Restitch needlepoint cover around cushion. | 4 hours. |

PROGNOSIS:

Good. A thorough vacuuming will remove the accumulated particulate soils. The losses and splits in the ground fabric of the needlepoint cushion cover are considered serious enough to merit the removal of the cover from the cushion. Once the cover is separate, it will be possible to have access to the back of the piece, in order to place and stitch fabric patches to provide support for the splitting ground fabric. Note that no "restoration" or replacement of needlepoint yarns is proposed as part of this step.

Although the silk and cotton fabric used for the outside back and outside arms is weakened and discolored, it is not considered to be in such poor condition that replacement is absolutely necessary at this point. Thus, no treatment has been suggested for these fabrics. If Coe Hall desires, these fabrics could be treated in the same way as the damask fabrics on the dining room and den settees.

I have read the above condition report, treatment proposal and prognosis and agree in principle with the suggested treatment.

signature / title

date

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NOTES/COMMENTS: _____

Send - give me a call ... (4 hour phone message)

Thanks -

Deborah T.