

Donation of the Month

Colonial Revival Dining Room Chair
2001.10.59
Museum Purchase



With the introduction of the car and its wide use by families for vacation trips across America, many areas began publishing booklets, brochures, postcards and other trinkets these travelers could pick up at tourist stops. In Northwest Arkansas the Ozark Playground Association began the “Land of a Million Smiles” and

produced several booklets, brochures and postcards showing the beauty of the area. With all this publicity Rogers needed a large, new, centrally located hotel to house all these visitors. Starting in January 1920 the community began talking about the need for a new hotel; and by March of 1923 the community was campaigning for a new modern hotel.

In 1928 G.F. Hentchell of Springfield, Missouri was contracted to build the grand hotel. The land on which it stands was given to S.A. Lane, a promoter for the construction, by the citizens of Rogers. The hotel was to be built of fireproof construction at a cost of \$250,000, including five stories, two towers, shops below and its own water source. The style of building is decidedly Spanish with cream-colored brick and red tile roof. The Albert Pick Company of Chicago was used to furnish the interior. The Albert Pick Co. along with their partner the L. Barth & Son Company, supplied restaurants and hotels with every piece of silver, china or furniture needed. Both companies are better known for their silver pieces, however, a 1911 L. Barth & Son Co. catalog states "everything at one place". This chair purchased through the contract with the Albert Pick Co. provided seating in the Hotel dining room. Images within the Museum's collection show this chair in the room through the 1950s.

The chair is an example of the William and Mary style of Colonial Revival furniture. The William and Mary style includes the turned legs sitting on ball shaped feet, as well as the split banisters on the chair back. Revival furniture became popular in the 1870s with the celebration of the Centennial. Each revival style including Colonial, Spanish and Federal was inspired by a period during America's early history, and often complimented the architectural revival style of the home. Until the turn of the century many of the styles were opulent and tied in with the Victorian period. With renewed studies of the historical periods the styles relaxed and became more true to the era. By the 1920s it became fashionable to restore historic homes and furnish them with revival furniture. It also became popular to build new while making it look old. It's within this framework the Hotel was built in the Spanish Revival style and furnished in revival style furniture.

Rogers Historical Museum files

"The Colonial Revival Home: A Short Overview", Vintage Designs, featured on:
<http://www.vintagedesigns.com/id/colrev/20thcent/sem/>