

**Town Hall Chair Inventory Report**  
**May 2010**  
*Prepared by Mark Smith*

At the Town Hall Clean-Up volunteer day last spring (May 15, 2010) I was a man in search of a project, I had a good look at the Town Hall's chair collection, artifacts that I had always admired for their simple style and rugged durability--it was a little love affair with these handsome workhorses as I started sorting and counting.

There are three major types of chair in the Hall and the Library, for purpose of identification I gave each type a number designation. A table at the end summarizes the totals.

1. Type #1 has a decorated top with three humps, it is a medium large chair and, in my view, quite handsome with simple yet elegant engravings and turned post. This type also constitutes the largest number: 63 in good condition, 23 in serviceable yet broken condition and 22 unserviceable. Forty three of these chairs are at the Town Hall while 23 are at the Library, one is restored, at the Library, to superb condition-- Total in this group 108.



*Photo by Barbara Felitti*

**Type 1 - "Three Hump" Chair**

2. The second type has a more plain back with only one hump and carving that go around the entire back, also with turned post similar to the first. Currently there are 19 in good condition, 11 in serviceable condition and 12 unserviceable. Seventeen are at the Town Hall while 2 are at the Library. There are a total of 42 in this group.



*Photo by Barbara Felitti*

**Type 2 - "One Hump" Chair**

3. The third group is a more mixed group of round top and smaller chairs, quite elegant but overwhelmed and somewhat forgotten in the midst of the bigger chairs and the scale of the town hall. Only 3 are in good condition, 7 are serviceable while 8 are unserviceable. There are 18 in this group.



*Photo by Barbara Felitti*

**Type 3 – Mixed Group Chair  
Summary of Chair Types and Condition**

Chair Type	Good Condition	Serviceable <sup>1</sup>	Unserviceable/ Broken	TOTAL
#1 "Three Hump"	63	23	22	108 <sup>2</sup>
#2 "One Hump"	19	11	12	42 <sup>3</sup>
#3 Mixed Group	3	7	8	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>168</b>

<sup>1</sup> "Serviceable" chairs are currently broken but are repairable.

<sup>2</sup> Currently, 23 of these chairs are at the Huntington Town Library.

<sup>3</sup> Currently, 2 of these chairs are at the Huntington Town Library.

**Conclusions:**

My guess is that types #1 and #2 were made by commercial local chair makers about 1910 for public and town hall type service, it would certainly be interesting to research these chairs to determine when they were made, by whom and what use they were intended for. Also I would like to know the general status of these artifacts as antiques along with their monetary value, the results might surprise us.

My guess is that type #3 migrated to the Town Hall from another setting, perhaps a school or a Library. It seems that these chairs were also mass produced in a commercial setting, but one less demanding than the tough town hall environment.

I would like to see an organized effort made to repair and refinish these chairs, they impress me as basic to the hall as the stage and the wonderful Henry painting--we could start to lose these irreplaceable collections unless an intervention is made. This project could be the subject of a local fund raiser in which folks adopt a chair or perhaps a grant or other outside the town funding. This project could also support local artisans who would do the extensive work that these collections need. I also suggest that the chairs in the Library begin their trek back to the town hall their true and only home; as the Library finds replacements.