

## SAVE MY SEAT

# A New York chair gets an old-school treatment

BY KELLY FRUSH



**T**his antique original New York chair had seen better days when it came into Frank B. Rhodes' furniture shop in Chestertown, Md. It now has a new lease on life with help from upholsterer Bob Sederquest.


The New York-style armchair, circa 1795-1810, was designed in the style of New York City cabinetmakers Slover and Taylor. The chair itself is made of mahogany, and the pine and mahogany seat frame has vertical corner blocks of pine.

Sederquest took on the task of transforming one man's trash into a treasure. He used all traditional methods to revive the chair—no modern practices are used for antique pieces in the shop. He built up the seat frame by wrapping canvas around weaker points in the wood and securing it with hide glue. Sederquest then affixed webbing, burlap and horsehair.

He sewed the edge roll by hand, added more horsehair and then muslin, sewing the hair onto the fabric. Tacks were substituted for staples and a damask fabric was used to finish the upholstery.

"Bob's done a lot of research on antique pieces over the years," says Rhonda Gover, a woodworker at the shop. "He's had a lot of experience in it."

About 35 years of experience, that is. Shop owner Frank Rhodes says that Sederquest has done upholstery work for him since 1985.

"He'll be retiring in a couple years," Rhodes says, "but we don't plan to let him go easily." 



Top: A damask fabric and some handiwork transformed this piece into a prize. Left and middle: Bob Sederquest of Frank B. Rhodes furniture shop in Chestertown, Md., built up weak points in the seat frame using canvas and hide glue. Above: Sederquest has been doing upholstery work for about 35 years and only uses traditional methods for antique pieces.

Do you have a project you'd like us to feature in Save My Seat? Send details of your project, along with before-and-after pictures in the form of print photos or electronic images (tif, eps, or jpeg of 300 dpi or greater) to Chris Tschida, Editor, *Upholstery Journal*, 1801 County Road B West, Roseville, MN 55113, or e-mail them to [cptschida@ifai.com](mailto:cptschida@ifai.com). All images become the property of *Upholstery Journal* and cannot be returned.

**Project:** New York chair, circa 1795-1810

**Upholsterer:** Bob Sederquest, Frank B. Rhodes Furniture Restoration, Chestertown, Md.