

Basic Detail Report

Title Signature Quilt

Date 1848

Primary Maker Ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Society of

Voluntown, Connecticut

Medium Hand-stitched, plain-woven cotton; ink

Description Pieced signature quilt in a Chimneysweep pattern. The T-shaped quilt consists of a pieced top of plain-woven cotton, batting, and a white plain-woven cotton backing; the three layers are joined by a hand-stitched quilting pattern. The colored cotton fabrics that form the pattern are printed or woven with pink, light brown, cream, red, and blue in a geometric or floral pattern. The Chimneysweep blocks are on point and separated by sashing of pink and white fabric. Inside each X-shaped block is a signature and town name hand-written in black ink; the signatures are probably written by only one or two hands. The center of the quilt has a hexagonal white block with the hand-written inscription "Presented to/ Mrs. Sophia Blake/ to whom this token of regard/ is respectfully dedicated by the Ladies/ of the Methodist Episcopal Church & Society/ Voluntown,/ Conn./ From much loved friends, when'er we part,/ A pensive sadness fills the heart;/ Past scenes the fancy [unknown] o'er/ And sighs to think they are no more/ Griswold July 4th/ AD 1848". The quilting pattern consists of lines that follow the geometric shapes of the Chimneysweep pattern. The quilt is edged in pink and white cotton; the backing is plain-woven cotton. The quilt is almost square, with two curved cut-outs at each bottom corner to

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accommodate bed posts on a bed frame. Condition: The top of the quilt has accumulated a moderate amount of dirt in a large spot near the center, at the bottom corners, along the right side. The inscriptions are legible but the inks have bled. The backing has scattered, moderate stains and tears.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length x width): 93 x 93 1/2in. (236.2 x 237.5cm)