

Basic Detail Report



Title Sampler

Date 1837

Primary Maker Catharine Sheldon

Medium Embroidery; silk thread on a plain-woven linsey-woolsey ground

Description Sampler worked in brick red, salmon, cream, pink, and medium brown silk threads on a plain-woven, green, linsey-woolsey ground in cross stitches. The sampler is squarish, oriented vertically. It is laid out with seven rows of three alphabets and the numbers 1 through 10, over two inscriptions.

The first inscription is "Catharine Sheldon wrought this sampler in the 11th/ year

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of her age and in the 61st year of the Independence/ of the United States of

America. Hartford August 31st". The second inscription is a religious verse,

"Jesus permit thy gracious name to stand/ As the first efforts of an infants hand/

And while her fingers oer this canvass move/ Engage her tender heart to seek thy

love". There are strawberry and vine designs at the end of the first alphabet and

at the end of the numbers. Certain lines of alphabets, numbers, and text are

separated by various meandering borders, including a greek key border as well

as a strawberry and vine design border. The sampler has a four-sided border.

The sampler has a 2/8-inch double-turned hem on the top, bottom, and right

side edges, and a selvedge at the left edge. The sampler is not framed. Letters

and Numbers: There are three alphabets and the numbers 1-10. The letters are

uppercase block in alphabet 1, lowercase block in alphabet 2, and uppercase

script in alphabet 3. The letter J is present in the first and second alphabets; the

letter U is present in all alphabets. The letter A is repeated twice in the first

alphabet. All lowercase letters with descenders, such as the letter 'g', are placed

so the descender does not extend below the baseline. Stitches: The principal

stitch on the sampler is cross stitch over two threads. It is also worked in cross

stitch over one thread. Condition: The sampler has several small holes. It has

minimal fading. The sampler is not framed.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of ground): 11 1/4 x 10 5/8in.

(28.6 x 27cm)