

Basic Detail Report

Title Framed Architectural Tile

Date mid 18th century

Medium Tile .a: Hand-pressed tin-glazed earthenware with cobalt blue decoration. Frame .b: Wood, iron nails, and an iron staple.

Description Square, tin-glazed earthenware framed tile with a hand-painted cobalt blue decoration, in at least three different shades of blue. The central decoration on the tile (.a) shows a whale, or other fantastical marine animal, in the water. Its tail is curled up out of the water to the right, and its head rears up out of the water to the left. The majority of the tile is left plain, however, each corner is decorated with a symmetrical decoration of two curled lines. There are two blemishes in the surface of the tile, one above the whale's head and one above its tail. The back of the tile is covered irregularly in cement. The tile is housed in a square, wooden frame (.b). The frame consists of a flat plane that surrounds a deep curve down to the tile. The tile is held loosely to the frame by five iron nails. An iron staple at the top edge of the frame serves as a hook to enable the frame to be hung on a wall. The tile has crazing and overall grime on the top surface. There are at least five chips in the top edges of the tile, which are obscured by the frame.

Dimensions Component (height x width of tile): 4 7/8 x 4 7/8in. (12.4 x 12.4cm)

Frame (height x width): 7 1/8 x 7 3/8in. (18.1 x 18.7cm)