

Basic Detail Report

Title Sampler

Date about 1815-1830

Primary Maker Harriet Merrill

Medium Embroidery; silk threads on a plain-woven, undyed linen ground

Description Unfinished sampler worked in black, dark blue, pink, yellow, and light green (bright) silk threads on a plain-woven linen ground in cross (over two threads) and long arm cross [Katherine - please confirm that these are not herringbone] stitches. The sampler is rectangular, oriented horizontally. It is laid out with four rows of three alphabets and the numbers 1 through 8, over an inscription. The inscription is "Take fast hold of instruction/ keep her for she is thy life". Certain lines of alphabets, numbers, and text are separated by various narrow meandering borders. There is a four-sided border. The sampler is unfinished. The sampler has a 2/8 to 5/16-inch double-turned hem on all four edges. The sampler is not framed. Letters and Numbers: There are three alphabets and the numbers 1-8. 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. 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 long arm cross [confirm that these are not herringbone]. Condition: The sampler has minimal fading. The sampler is unfinished. It is not framed.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of ground): 12 x 17 1/4in. (30.5 x 43.8cm)