

Basic Detail Report

Title Sampler

Date 1834

Primary Maker Harriet Newell Johnson

Medium Embroidery; silk threads and untwisted floss on a plain-woven, undyed

linen ground Stand: glass, wood, brass

Description Framed sampler inside a reproduction firescreen. The sampler (.a) is worked in dark medium and light green, red, pink and white silk threads on a plain-woven undyed linen ground, using cross stitch and other stitches. The sampler is squareish. It is laid out with six rows of four alphabets plus the numbers one to seven, over two columns of four lines of verse, over a wreath containing the inscription "Harriet Johnson Aged 12" flanked by five lines of verse honoring each of the embroiderers parents. Various lines of alphabet are separated by horizontal lines. The top and sides of the sampler have an arched vine and bud border. The bottom of the sampler has a horizontal border of strawberries on a vine. A thin, straight line of green silk thread is located at each side of the sampler The sampler possibly has a selvedge on the left and right sides, with a double-turned hem at the top and bottom edges. The embroidered wreath is stitched through a second layer of fabric backing that is located only behind the wreath. The sampler is nailed at all four sides to a wooden backboard. The sampler is inside a wooden frame (.b), behind a piece of old glass. The frame is screwed with brass brackets to a stand (.c), consisting of a vertical pole over a bulbous turning and three cabriole legs. A pineapple-shaped

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finial is located at the top of the pole. Letters and Numbers: There are four alphabets plus an additional script "N" at the lower left corner. The letters are lowercase block in alphabet one, uppercase block in alphabets two and four, and uppercase script in alphabet three. The letters J and U are present in all alphabets. All lower case letters with descenders, such as the letter 'y', are placed so the descender does not extend below the baseline. Stitches: All of the alphabets, texts and borders are worked in cross stitch over two; the signature is worked in cross stitch over one. The wreath is worked in untwisted, or crinkled, silk thread in a satin stitch. Condition: The sampler has moderate to severe fading. The ground has yellowed significantly, and has a dark stain in the upper center section. The frame and stand are reproductions.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of ground (by sight)): 16 3/4 x 17 1/4in. (42.5 x 43.8cm) Component (height of stand): 65 1/2in. (166.4cm) Component (height x width of frame): 19 5/8 x 19 1/8in. (49.8 x 48.6cm)