



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MH) Maggie Holtzberg, ()

Accession Numbers:

MH-05-07-FN

- - -D

- - -CS

- - -M

Fieldnotes

Audio recordings

Photographic documentation

Additional materials

Initial Contact: _____ Contact Date: 6/30/2005

Related Accession Numbers: - - - - -

Individual/Group/Event: Sisters & Stitches Joined by the Cloth exhibition at the Piano Factory

Address: Gallery at the Piano Factory 791 Tremont Street

City: Boston

Zip: 02120

County: Suffolk

Phone: Daytime: [REDACTED]

Evening: _____

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Website: _____

Contact person: Naomi Henry

Title: _____

Location of Interview: Gallery at the Piano Factory

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

County: _____

Special Needs (including translation): _____

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): Quilts made by black women in the New England area

Traditions noted for follow-up: _____

Other Possible Contacts: Hattie Jackson-Talley, L'Merchie Frazier, Annette Rowell, Christle Rawlins-Jackson, Michelle Howard-Harne

Summary Description: Went to catch the Sisters & Stitches Joined by the Cloth exhibition on its last day in the gallery at the Piano Factory. Met quilter Naomi Henry, whose work is in the show and who is a founding member and past president of the quilting guild, Sisters & Stitches Joined by the Cloth. Henry says the guild, established in 1997, is the only organized Afro-American group in New England. The guild was asked to demonstrate at the MFA during the exhibition of the Gees Bend quilts of Alabama.

"The problem with the quilting thing is that most people don't consider it an art. I started about 30 years ago, taking some classes. I consider two women my mentors. My mother knitted, crocheted, and tatted, but she didn't quilt." Naomi is retired from federal government work.

"I find fabric - my nose will tell me. . . I like quilting because I love playing with fabric.

When asked what she thought of the Gee's Bend quilts she said, "I thought they were incredible. It's very hard to quilt through corduroy and denim."