

Gees Bend Alabama

The following information is from www.quiltsofgeesbend.com

*Several years ago, while living in Saint Augustine Florida, I came across this place (and it quilting group) in a published book, **The Quilts of Gees Bend**. I was reminded recently of this same group by a poster at the library; one that featured these ladies of south-central Alabama, in several small towns around Selma.*

In addition to their “works” of art, the book features biography on the quilting group – its techniques, traditions, and trademarks of quilting as what is called “a domestic responsibility for women”. How this particular group gained national notoriety, I do not know; yet, what is obvious is that a small town of a small group has made a big impression in the age-old art of quilting. One might say that Gees Bend has added its own piece to the patchwork of the American folk art and culture.

On the Web site, more than 30 women are featured – with several evidently related by name. Their technique of quilting considers that only one person however is responsible for doing her own “top” – or the face of the quilt that appears on the bed. As for the other pieces of a quilt, several women may complete the batting and assembly of the balance of pieces. The technique and tradition dates back some six generations according to the source.

This last year (2008), the quilting group was commissioned by A&T (communication) in celebration of Black History Month. Other recognition has come from the U.S. Postal Service and New York's Whitney Museum. Visit the Web site to learn more...

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