

Quilts shine in playhouse setting

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Be suspect if the crib quilt you see has a pattern that is as large as a full-size quilt. "Most of the crib quilts (like Knole Cottage) were scaled down."

The patterns are the same, just smaller. The size, more conducive to displaying in today's more modest-sized apartments and condos, is one reason why the small quilts often cost more than large ones of comparable quality.

One of the rarest of the small quilts, "Delectable Mountains," is displayed in the front hall of Knole Cottage.

"This," said Silber, "is the earliest roller-printed quilt we know of. Certainly, it is one of the earliest I have ever seen."

Describing it as a "saw tooth variation," she said it is usually considered a favorite (pattern) of religious people. This one, from New England, was made between 1820 and 1840.

THE NAME, "Delectable Moun-

tains," she said, was taken from John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress."

The "Variable Star" quilt, 42-by-42 inches which hangs over the living room fireplace in the cottage, is unusual because of the very old chintz, the green which stayed fast and interesting optics of the pattern. The stars appear and disappear.

That the green border stayed green, even though the quilt is circa 1840, makes it especially rare. Greens usually turned khaki color, Silber said, adding that even earlier, however, someone in Europe had discovered a green that stayed fast.

The "Star of Bethlehem" quilt in the bedroom is a very early quilt with the large star in shades of pink, green and yellow.

Silber said, "soft pastel prints are so rare we have not been able to trace them and they may have been brought over from England or France."

On the desk in the living room is a small "Baby Block" quilt, Victorian in look, circa 1890. It is a stunning exam-

ple of a popular pattern scaled down for a child. The tiny blocks are intricately done, set off by the traditional embroidery and braid along the edge.

On the dining room table there's a

variation of the "Log Cabin" pattern in red, white and blue — from Ohio, Silber said.

Dozens will be conducting tours of Knole Cottage throughout the show.

Time to nominate artists

Nominations are open for the Michigan Foundation for the Arts' 1994 Michigan arts and patrons awards. Deadline for nominations is Nov. 1.

The awards are given annually to five artists in different fields in recognition of outstanding achievement in their field.

For nominating forms and information, write to Michigan Foundation for the Arts, 1200 Sixth, Detroit 48226.

mazoo poet Conrad Hilberry, Troy sculptor Glen Michaels, Detroit actor/director Von H. Washington and Grand Rapids' New World String Quartet.

Each recipient received a check for \$2,500.

Those receiving this year's Patron of the Arts Awards for outstanding service to the state in support of the arts were former governor William G. Milliken and Birmingham art gallery owner Peggy DeSalte.

Earlier this year, the foundation honored Detroit artist John Hegarty, Kala-



Crib quilt, displayed on the dining room table, is from Ohio, made about 1850, shows a strong architectural feeling. It is red, white and blue; same as the Ohio flag.



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