



Rug

Date

1900-1910

Primary Maker

Navajo

Medium

Wool and pigment

Description

The creation of Navajo rugs shifted to a commercial enterprise in the late 19th century. In Navajo culture the swastika alluded to the whirling log from the Night Chant sandpainting. By the early 19th century commercial concerns had largely detached it from its original symbolic importance and instead weavers used it as an aesthetically pleasing design piece. It is interesting to note that this rug's swastikas go in both directions. No

information regarding a 'proper' direction for the whirling log's hooks to be oriented could be found, but research suggests that presenting the designs in two directions implies the detachment of the symbol from its original religious meaning. It is interesting to note that the colors used in this rug are characteristic of those used at the Hubbell Trading post in Ganado. Hubbell's most important innovation in dictating Navajo designs was the Hubbell Cross, a plain Greek cross. Four of these crosses are seen on this rug. Also, the whirling logs and strong border point to influence of the style developed at Crystal Trading Post.

Dimensions

82 × 56 5/8 in. (208.3 × 143.8 cm)