



19th Century Antique

A Statuary white marble chimneypiece from the William IV period, circa 1830s, featuring a central tablet depicting Cupid, who symbolizes desire and affection, and Psyche, the goddess of the soul. The story is said to denote the soul's purification and elevation through love. This tablet composition is flanked by corner blocks, each showing one of the nine Roman Muses, goddesses of arts and sciences. The left appears to show Euterpe, the muse of music, while the right might show Calliope, the muse of epic poetry, or possibly Erato, the muse of lyric and erotic poetry. The inclusion of these reinforces the Romantic era's reverence for classical mythology and artistic inspiration. A reeded frieze stretches between the tablet and the corner blocks, the wide jambs are simply carved, and a thin reeded shelf tops the piece.

Dimensions

Height 52in (132cm) width 74¾in (189.8cm)

Internal height 40½in (103cm) width 41¾in (104.8cm)

Footblock to footblock 62¾in (159.5cm)

Shelf depth 9½in (25cm)

Reference

N239