The Old Church, Hackney, London

John Varley

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Description

John Varley (1778-1842)
The Old Church, Hackney, London

Watercolour over pencil heightened with touches of bodycolour
27.8 by 37.7 cm., 10 ¾ by 14 ¾ in.

Provenance:
With Spink, London;
Anonymous sale, Sotheby's, 11th July 1990, lot 97;
By descent until 2018

This depicts the sixteenth century church of St Augustine which was demolished in 1798 to make way for a new church on the site dedicated to St John. The large funerary monument to the left survives. Varley was born in a house adjoining Hackney churchyard in 1778. Another version of this watercolour, dated 1830, is in the British Museum (see Lindsay Stainton, British Landscape Watercolours 1600-1860, 1985, no.110, pl.83).

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