In September 1895, Whistler and his wife, Beatrix, traveled from London to Lyme Regis, on the southern English coast, hoping that the resort town’s air would improve her failing health. There he painted images of local residents and shop fronts. This painting was one of these “Notes,” a series of small pictures that Whistler felt resonated with a particular tone or color. In this intimate view of a barbershop’s facade, with the barber’s daughter standing at the doorway in a red pinafore, Whistler suggests that aesthetic potential lies in everyday places.

Dimensions
Sight: 4 7/8 × 8 1/4 in. (12.4 × 21 cm) Frame: 11 3/8 × 14 7/8 × 1 1/2 in. (28.9 × 37.8 × 3.8 cm)