

Basic Detail Report



Title Whitework Quilt

Date 1820-1840

Primary Maker Sisson family

Medium Machine-woven and hand-woven white and undyed cotton, hand-stitched machine-spun cotton thread, woven cotton tape

Description Whitework quilt consisting of a white cotton top and backing that have been hand-stitched together in an elaborate quilted pattern in the Empire, or late neoclassical, style. The design elements in the pattern have been filled with stuffing and cording, a technique known as trapunto. The quilted pattern includes of five rows of five quilted designs, alternating between a large flower, a

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cornucopia with flowers, a bunch of grapes, or feathers. These are in a field of

evenly spaced, raised 7/8-inch circles, over a background of closely-spaced,

quilted zig-zag lines. A border on each side of the quilt consists of a curved vine

with leaves emerging from a row of raised circles at the edge. The top and

bottom of the quilt each consist of three panels of cotton that are joined at a

seam. The plain-woven white cotton backing is coarse. The cotton thread is

probably machine-spun. The edges are finished with white woven cotton tape.

Condition: The top has significant brown discoloration, with less than ten areas

of dark brown spots; the browning may be the result of a prior cleaning.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (approximate height x width): 90 x 90in. (228.6 x

228.6cm)