

# Basic Detail Report



**Title** Queen Blanche Relieving the Captive Prisoners

**Date** 1811

**Primary Maker** Mary Savage

**Medium Embroidery:** silk threads, metallic threads, chenille yarn, velvet, sequins and gouache on a plain-woven, cream-colored silk ground; plain-woven linen

**Frame:** wood, glass, gold and black paint

**Description** Needlework picture consisting of gold, cream, blue-green, light blue, red and white silk thread, blue-green, medium green, and brown chenille, untwisted silk floss, green velvet, gold metallic thread, sequins, and gouache on a plain-woven, cream-colored silk ground; the picture is labeled "MARY SAVAGE

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AD 1811" and "QUEEN BLANCHE RELIEVING THE PRISONERS". The picture shows

a woman in an empire-style dress, with an outstretched right arm, and a stick in her lowered left hand. To her right is a young woman. Toward the left side of the picture are three kneeling figures, a man, a woman and a child. These five figures are located on a porch or courtyard in front of a tall brick or stone building. The building has three windows, each of them with bars; a man is facing out of the closest window. In the middle distance, behind the courtyard, are three men, each wearing a cape and holding a spear. To the right of the picture is a cliff with trees and plants at the top. In the far background is a body of water; a ship is in the water and a castle is on the shore. The needlework picture is behind glass that is painted black at the edges; the title is painted in gold at the bottom center. The gilded wooden frame (original) consists of one deeply curved molding. Each edge of the silk ground is sewn to a strip of linen, which is in turn nailed or tacked to a wooden stretcher. The foreground is not embroidered, but consists of a panel of green velvet sewn to the ground.

Stitches: The primary stitch on the needlework picture is satin stitch; it also includes encroaching satin, couching and french knots. Condition: The silk thread is faded moderately, and a number of threads are breaking and lifting from the surface. The sheer silk overlay that makes up the dresses of Queen Blanche and the adult female prisoner is shattering. The black and gold paint used on the reverse of the glass is flaking severely; portions of the inscription in gold paint have been repainted at a later date. The backing on the stretcher and frame has been removed, leaving the back protected only by an old and very

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brittle paper board. The stretcher is not joined to the frame but is held in place with modern brackets.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of frame): 28 3/4 x 28 3/4in. (73 x 73cm)