

Basic Detail Report

Title Whitework Quilt

Date 1820-1840

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 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)