

Basic Detail Report



Title Candlewick Bed Covering

Date early 19th century

Primary Maker Polly Atkins

Medium Embroidery; cotton yarn (two-ply) and cotton thread on a compound-weave cotton ground

Description Candlewick bed covering, consisting of a single layer of compound-weave cotton decorated with embroidered two-ply cotton yarn; the bed covering is embroidered with the initials "PA" at the top center. The bed covering is T shaped, with square cut-outs at each lower corner to

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accommodate the corners of a bed. The candlewick decoration consists of a

basket of flowers in the center below a crescent moon and stars, a pair of

Federal eagles, and the initials "P" and "A". This is surrounded by a wide border

of fruit, leaves and flowers on an undulating vine. At the sides and bottom of the

quilt are additional concentric borders of a scalloped border of stars, additional

Federal eagles, and a border of six-pointed flowers and crossing lines to create a

geometric design. Each side and the bottom edges of the bed covering have a

knotted net edging with fringe. The compound-woven cotton ground is

constructed of four panels of fabric that are hand-stitched together. All four

edges of the ground have a double-turned hem. The candlewick design is

formed with many stitches, including outline, running, rope, french knots,

roumanian, satin, fern, and buttonhole. The stitches that form the initials are a

different character than the rest, and may be a later addition. Condition: The

ground has slight staining across the top. Otherwise, the ground and stitches are

in excellent condition.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 97 1/2 x 97in. (247.7 x 246.4cm)