

Basic Detail Report



Title Mourning Dress

Date about 1863

Primary Maker Jane Holcomb

Medium Hand-stitched silk and cotton, with brass hooks and eyes, unidentified boning (probably baleen), velvet ribbon and wool tape

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Description Black silk dress for second mourning with bell sleeves which have

three bands of pleated ruching at the top, and a wide band of black velvet

ribbon around the bell. The inside of the sleeve "bell" is lined with white silk and

the opening edge is trimmed on the inside with box-pleated white silk ribbon.

The bodice front is pleated into the slightly dipped center front, and fanned out

to the dropped shoulderline. The center back of the bodice is also pleated into

the waistline, with the fullness released across the back. The neckline is high

and round. The dress closes at center front with brass hooks and eyes. The

neckline, armscye seams, and waistline edge are piped. The bodice is lined with

brown glazed cotton; the darts in the lining, center front opening edges, and

side seams are boned (the boning is missing from the left opening edge). The

fullness of the skirt is controlled by layered box pleats at the waistline. The skirt

has two tiers of flounces. The first is headed by a two-inch-wide gathered band,

and finishes the wide band of black velvet ribbon. The lower flounce is nineteen

inches wide, and is finished at the bottom with another band of the black velvet

ribbon. The base skirt is finished around the hem with black wool tape. The skirt

is fully lined with beige plain-woven cotton.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (center back length x width across shoulders):

62 x 17in. (157.5 x 43.2cm) Hem (circumference): 171in. (434.3cm)