

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date 1863-1865, with later alteration

Primary Maker Unknown

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Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with silk thread-covered wooden buttons, unidentified boning (probably baleen), and wool hem tape

Description Woman's two-piece day dress consisting of a bodice (.a) and skirt (.b), made of blue silk with a thin, darker blue horizontal woven stripe. The bodice is styled with a high, round neck, finished with a 1/2-inch-wide band collar. The bodice closes at center front with eight domed wooden buttons covered with black and white silk thread in a star pattern. The fit is achieved with two five-inch darts on either side of the front opening. The waist is slightly high, measuring six inches at the side, under the armhole seam. The coat sleeves are plain, but embellished inside the wrist with a pleated ruffle of white silk ribbon. The sleeves are lined with white silk. The bodice is lined with white glazed cotton, and the darts, side seams, and center back are boned. Most of the bodice is machine-sewn. The skirt appears to have been altered later in the decade to make it narrower and flatter in front, as was the fashion. Some of the skirt seams are hand-stitched and some are machine-stitched; all of the seams show old stitch lines, so it is clear that the skirt was taken apart and remade. The skirt is stitched to a self-fabric waistband, lined with white cotton; it is flat in front and gathered at center back. It opens to left of the center front. Gored panels on the sides add width at the bottom of the skirt, but keep the top narrower. The skirt side panels are pieced near the top, and old stitch marks are again evident. There is an in-seam pocket on the right side. The hem is lined with tan cotton for 5 3/8 inches; the bottom edge is bound with light blue wool tape.

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Dimensions Hem (circumference): 118in. (299.7cm) Skirt (length): 40 3/4in. (103.5

cm) Bodice (length x shoulder width): 15 1/2 x 16 3/4in. (39.4 x 42.5cm)