

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date about 1865-1870

Primary Maker Mrs. Seth Griswold

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Medium Machine- and hand-stitched cotton, with brass hooks and eyes, and

baleen boning

Description Woman's three-piece day dress, consisting of a bodice (a), skirt (b),

and overskirt (c). The fabric of all three pieces is a lightweight cotton, white,

printed with small repeating pattern of a lavender globe-like design over a black

bar and scroll. The bodice is styled with a high, round neckline, dropped

shoulderline, and plain coat sleeves. The waist is slightly high, measuring six

inches at the side, under the armscye. The dress fabric is gathered into the

waistband at the center front and center back. The neckline, armscye seams,

and waistline edge are piped. The bodice closes at center front with brass hooks

and eyes in the lining; the printed cotton fashion fabric has no closing

mechanism. The bodice lining of white twill-woven cotton is stitched separate

from the fashion fabric, except at the armscye seams. It is cut with a wide

neckline, which is edged with narrow machine lace. The lining is fitted with two

five-inch darts on either side of the front opening, and an 8 3/4-inch-long dart at

the center back. The darts are boned. A length of white cotton tape over twelve

inches long (one end is torn) is tacked to the back of the bodice at the waistline;

its purpose is unclear. The skirt is cartridge-pleated into a replacement muslin

waistband. The hem is 5 1/2 inches deep. Part of the bottom edge of the skirt is

finished with white cotton tape. The overskirt, consisting of four petal-shaped

panels, is gathered into a waistband of self-fabric. The bottom edge is finished

with a 3 1/2-inch gathered ruffle. The panels at the back of the overskirt are

longer than those in front.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (bodice length x width across shoulders): 17 x

21in. (43.2 x 53.3cm) Skirt (skirt length): 43 1/2in. (110.5cm) Hem (hem

circumference): 156in. (396.2cm)