

Basic Detail Report



Title Wedding Dress

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Date 9 September 1884

Primary Maker Fannie Abigail Tibbals

Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with wool hem

tape, faux pearl buttons, and unidentified boning

Description Woman's wedding dress of ecru ribbed silk. The bodice is

constructed with a low, square neckline edged with a ruffle of needlerun net

lace. The center front opening fastens with thirteen faux pearl buttons. The

three-quarter-length sleeves are tight and end in turned-back lace flounces. The

sleeve fabric is gathered at the elbow into the seam along the back of the arm to

provide ease. The bodice, which extends to the hips and is pointed at center

front, is fitted with two ten-inch-long darts on each side of the front. The back is

sewn in six panels to create a close fit. The front darts and side seams are boned.

The bodice is lined with twill-woven cream-colored cotton. Dress shields of

knitted cotton are mounted inside the underarm seams. The skirt (which is

constructed separately from the bodice) is sewn over the back of the bodice in

decorative pleats creating a bustle effect, while the front of the skirt remains

separate from the bodice. The skirt is open along the side seams for the top

seven inches. The front of the skirt is stitched to a waistband which extends

beyond this front panel and is long enough to fasten around the waist. The front

panel of the skirt is constructed of tiers of needlerun net lace. Side panels of the

ribbed silk are pleated up into the side seams, creating a draped pannier effect

reminiscent of eighteenth-century fashion. A pleated ruffle encircles the bottom

of the skirt, and wool hem tape finishes the bottom edge. The skirt is lined with

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plain-woven cotton; the bottom 5 1/4 inches are additionally lined with stiff,

plain-woven cotton or linen. Elastic tapes inside the back of the skirt control the

skirt's fullness, keeping it smooth and narrow in front and full in the back.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (front length x width across shoulders): 51 x 14 1

/2in. (129.5 x 36.8cm) Other (waist circumference): 22in. (55.9cm) Hem (hem

circumference): 107in. (271.8cm)