

Basic Detail Report

Title Woman's Cloak

Date 1770-1800

Primary Maker Deborah Champion

Medium Hand-stitched wool broadcloth, with silk lining and wool "shag"

trimming

Description Red wool broadcloth cloak (called a "cardinal") with red wool shag trimming around the front edge and around the slits for the arms. The body of the cloak is pieced into a semicircle and pleated into a narrow band at the neck.

The hood is attached to the neckband. The back of the hood is arranged in

radiating pleats meeting in the center. The inside of the hood is lined with red

silk. On either side of the cloak body are slits for the wearer's arms. These were

originally bound with the silk lining fabric (now mostly worn off). The shag

trimming around the front edge is pieced about nine inches below the proper

left neck edge; the shag nap is in the opposite direction from the shag below it.

In other areas where the shag is pieced, the nap runs in the same direction. The

hook and eye at the neck edge is not original. The broadcloth was dyed in the

piece, as areas where it has been abraded show white. The fabric is so heavily

fulled that very little seam allowance is needed, as it does not fray. This cloak

belonged to Deborah Champion (1753-1845), daughter of Colonel Henry

Champion. Tradition states that she wore the cloak while delivering payroll

Basic Detail Report

across British lines during the American revolution. At the request of her father, she left home in New London, Connecticut, and made the delivery in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length including hood x hem width): 55 x 150in. (139.7 x 381cm)