

Basic Detail Report

Title Dress

Date 1860-1865

Primary Maker Unknown

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

Description Woman's day dress (.a) of brown, white, and black plaid silk. The bodice is styled with a high, round neckline, dropped shoulderline, and round waist. Around the front and back of the bodice, over the shoulders, is a trimming of brown silk fringe headed by brown velvet ribbon. The bodice closes at center front with brass hooks and eyes; six brown, velvet-covered, non-functioning buttons decorate the left side of the opening edge. The coat sleeves are embellished with brown silk fringe in a diagonal near the wrist opening. The neckline, armhole seams, and waist edge are piped. The bodice is fitted with two 5 1/4-inch-long darts on either side of the opening; the darts are boned. The bodice lining is brown glazed cotton. The skirt is cartridge-pleated to a narrow, tan twill-woven cotton waistband, and then stitched all around the bottom edge of the bodice. It is lined with brown glazed cotton. There is an in-seam pocket on the right side. The bottom edge is bound with wool tape. This dress has been altered from a mid-1850s dress. The sleeves are pieced from a bell sleeve, and a remnant of fabric (.b) still with the dress was once a narrow shawl-like decoration across the bodice (see 1998.135.0 for an example of this type of

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decoration)--the old stitch marks are visible on the bodice. The gathered waist is more typical of 1850s construction than 1860s, at which time box pleats predominated.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length x width across shoulders): 59 x 19 1/2in.
(149.9 x 49.5cm)