

Basic Detail Report

Title Stays

Date about 1805

Primary Maker Abigail Arthur

Medium Hand-stitched cotton, with baleen boning

Description Buff yellow cotton (possibly "nankeen") stays for a very large woman. The stays are short-waisted (seven inches at the side, under the arm), and finished around the bottom edge with tabs like eighteenth-century stays.

The center back ends in a broad point. The stays close at center front with a spiral lacing. The stays are lightly boned across the back and sides; they are unboned in front, except on either side of the eyelets of the opening edges.

Large, semicircular cups are set into the front for breast support. The cups have drawstrings along the top and bottom edges. The stays have 1 1/4-inch-wide shoulder straps, which are stitched beside the breast cups in front, and laced in the back. The stays are patched with matching fabric in areas along the bottom, especially at the notches of the tabs.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (center back length x width): 15 x 50 1/2in. (38.1 x 128.3cm)