

Basic Detail Report

Title Graduation Dress

Date 1886-1888

Primary Maker Ellie Munger Lines

Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched cotton, with thread-covered bone buttons and a brass hook and eye

Description Woman's graduation dress, consisting of a bodice (.a) and skirt (.b), made of machine-embroidered white cotton. The embroidery pattern, worked in white, is an overall pattern of a bouquet of three flowers with tassel-like drops hanging from each flower. The bodice has a high, round neckline with a 1 7/8-inch-high standing band collar of self-fabric with a scalloped edge around the top. The collar is lined with a separate, fine, white cotton band collar. The long, tight sleeves are constructed of three pattern pieces, with the underarm piece being made of plain, unembroidered cotton. The sleeves end in turned-back cuffs of self-fabric with scalloped edges. The center front opening fastens with thirteen thread-covered buttons. The bodice is fitted with one 9 1/2-inch-long dart on each side of the front opening, while the back is constructed with a center back, four side back, and two side seams to achieve a close fit. The back panels are actually cut as one piece; the seams open up below the waistline, allowing the fabric to fan out in pleats. The fabric is pleated horizontally into the outer side back seams, near the bottom, to create extra fullness over a bustle. The bottom edge of the bodice is scalloped. The bodice is not lined. The embroidery of the skirt fabric begins thirteen inches below the waistband. The

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skirt is only slightly gathered across the front and is closely gathered across the back. The opening is to the left of the center back; it extends about 10 1/2 inches and fastens with a hook and eye at the waistband. The bottom edge of the skirt is scalloped. There is no lining. Some extra fabric came with this dress, suggesting that it was homemade.

Dimensions Bodice (center back length x width between shoulders): 23 1/4 x

12in. (59.1 x 30.5cm) Skirt (center back length x hem circumference): 39 1/2 x 140

1/4in. (100.3 x 356.2cm)