

Basic Detail Report

Title Wedding Dress

Date about 1880

Primary Maker Dr. Julia Emily Skinner

Medium Bodice (a): Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk, cotton, and

horsehair, with shell buttons, cotton wadding, and baleen boning. Skirt (b):

Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with a metal hook and eye.

Cape (c): Machine-stitched and hand-stitched wool, silk, and cotton, with a metal hook and eye.

Description Woman's dress of brown silk, consisting of a bodice (a) and skirt (b), with a shoulder cape (c) of brown wool. The cuirass bodice is long, extending over the hips. It has a high, round neckline, which is finished with piping. The center front opening fastens with fourteen dark shell buttons, carved with a grid design. The tight sleeves are cut with an upper and lower seam and are fitted smoothly into the armhole. The wrist openings of the sleeves are decorated with a band of ruffled self-fabric flanked on each side by a knife-pleated ruffle; it is 3 1/4 inches wide. The bodice is swathed around the hips with contrasting fabric printed with a faux warp-print design of roses in black on a tan background, the effect looking like leopard fur. A long extension of this fabric hangs from the center back of the bodice in loops and tails. The bodice is lined with glazed brown cotton; all of the seams except for the curved side back seams are boned. It is wadded with cotton throughout the body for warmth. A folded and pleated pad of horsehair fabric is stitched at the center back hipline. The skirt is

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decorated with vertical rows of knife pleats, and ruched self-fabric. The bottom edge is encircled by knife pleats. The center back, which is plain, is cartridge-pleated into the waistband. The fashion fabric begins on the front and sides of the skirt about four inches below the waistband; above this, only the brown twill-woven lining fabric appears. There is an in-seam pocket on the proper right side. The waistband fastens at center back with a large hook and eye. The shoulder cape is wool of a similar brown color, trimmed around the neck with a box-pleated ruffle of wide, brown silk ribbon. The ribbon hangs in a long, loopy bow at center front, over the hook and eye closure. Seventeen closely spaced rows of topstitching create a border design around the edge of the cape, which is lined with brown silk. The neck edge is lined with brown cotton.

Dimensions Bodice (center back length x width across shoulders): 26 1/2 x 14 1/4in. (67.3 x 36.2cm) Other (bodice sash length): 28 1/2in. (72.4cm) Skirt (center front length x hem circumference): 36 1/2 x 91in. (92.7 x 231.1cm) Other (skirt center back length): 37in. (94cm) Other (skirt waist circumference): 27in. (68.6 cm) Component (cape center front length): 13 1/2in. (34.3cm) Other (cape center back length): 19in. (48.3cm)