

Basic Detail Report



Title Chemise, Nightgown, and Drawers Set

Date 1865

Primary Maker Mary Jerusha Bulkeley

Medium Chemise: Machine-stitched and hand-stitched cotton. Nightgown:

Machine-stitched and hand-stitched cotton, with mother of pearl buttons.

Drawers: Machine-stitched cotton, with shell button.

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Description Chemise: Woman's white cotton chemise, with the front and back

panels gathered into a narrow band, forming the wide and round neckline. This

band is edged with whitework embroidery. The neckline band is also

embellished with whitework embroidery. A triangular bib extends from the

neckline band for about 7 1/2 inches down the center front. It is constructed of

alternating vertical bands of gathered self-fabric and whitework. It is edged with

the same scalloped whitework which surrounds the neckline. The sleeves are

short (about 5 1/2 inches) and are set in with raglan seams. The top of the sleeve

is constructed of alternating bands of gathered self-fabric and whitework, like

the bib extension. The underarm area is reinforced with a lining. The bottom of

the chemise is decorated with five narrow tucks. The hem is 7/8 inch wide.

Nightgown: Woman's white cotton nightgown, with a yoke decorated in front

with alternating vertical rows of ruched cotton (of a finer weight than the rest of

the garment) and whitework insertion. The back yoke is plain. The neckline is

high and round and finished with a narrow band collar edged with eyelet

embroidery. The original opening of the nightgown extended the entire length of

the center front and fastened with mother of pearl buttons, but the lower half

has been sewn closed. The button placket of the opening is made with the

whitework embroidery, edged on each side with scalloped eyelet, worked with a

spoked circle design matching that used on the other whitework. The sleeves

are cut with an upper and lower seam like a coat sleeve and are gathered at the

top of the armscye. The top of the sleeve is decorated below the elbow with a

panel of alternating ruching and whitework insertion, like the yoke. The wrist

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edge is trimmed with matching eyelet. The hem is hand-stitched and is 2 1/2

inches deep. Drawers: Woman's white cotton split drawers. The legs are set

smoothly into the 3 7/8-inch-wide waist yoke, which is V-shaped at center front.

The legs are trimmed with vertical bands of ruched fabric alternating with bands

of whitework embroidery, headed by a horizontal band of scalloped whitework.

Another horizontal band of whitework and scalloped whitework edging trims

the bottom of the legs. This entire trimming is 5 1/2 inches wide.

Dimensions Component (chemise length x width across top): 37 x 24 3/4in. (94 x

62.9cm) Other (chemise width across bottom): 35in. (88.9cm) Component

(drawers length x width across waist): 31 x 16 1/2in. (78.7 x 41.9cm) Component

(nightgown center back length x width across shoulders): 52 1/2 x 18 1/4in.

(133.4 x 46.4cm)