

Basic Detail Report



Title Wedding Dress

Date 1883

Primary Maker Mary Warner Pierpont

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Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with baleen

boning, ferrous metal hooks and eyes, cotton or linen lace, wool tape, tagua nut

button, and thread-covered wooden (probably) buttons

Description Woman's two-piece dress, consisting of a bodice (a) and skirt (b), of

chocolate brown silk with brown velvet. The basque bodice extends to the the

hips and dips at center front. It is fitted with two long vertical darts on either

side of the center front opening, which is covered with a velvet plastron. The

opening fastens with fifteen buttons which are covered with light brown

crocheted thread. (One button has been replaced with a tagua nut button.) The

neckline of the bodice is high and round, finished with a one-inch-wide band

collar of the velvet. The shoulderline is at the natural height, and the sleeves are

long and tight. Brown velvet turn-back cuffs are edged on the inside with ecru

bobbin-type lace. This lace also appears inside the collar. (The lace may not be

original to the dress.) The center back and curved side back seams of the bodice

open into box pleats below the waistline. The back of the bodice is longer than

the front, extending into a wide, squared-off skirt. The bottom edge of the

bodice is piped. Brown twill-woven cotton is used for lining the bodice body; the

brown silk dress fabric lines the back extension. The front seams are all boned.

Dress shields are mounted inside the lower armscye. The dress is draped

asymmetrically across the front; this drapery is fitted closely to the body. A

velvet panel edges the proper left side of the drapery, and on the right, the

brown silk is pulled up in pleats along the side. The fabric of the back the skirt is

deeply box-pleated to accommodate a bustle. Extending from underneath the

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drapery is a layer of the brown silk finished with long, curved points. The bottom of the skirt is circumscribed by a six-inch pleated flounce, with every fifth pleat pulled up to create a fan effect. The bottom of the skirt is edged with brown wool tape. The lining is brown plain-woven cotton, with an extra layer of brown glazed twill-woven cotton around the hem. The waistband is made of the plain brown cotton; it closes with two hooks and eyes.

Dimensions Bodice (center back length x width across shoulders): 25 1/2 x 15in.

(64.8 x 38.1cm) Bodice (center front length): 21in. (53.3cm) Skirt (center front

length x waist circumference): 37 1/2 x 28in. (95.3 x 71.1cm)