

Basic Detail Report

Title Dress Bodice

Date about 1883

Primary Maker Wadsworth family

Medium Machine-stitched cotton, with machine-made silk lace, machine-made cotton lace, and shell buttons

Description Woman's dress bodice of pale pink cotton sateen printed with sprays of carnations in darker shades of pink, with green foliage. The bodice has a high, round neckline with a 1 1/8-inch-wide standing band collar edged along the inside with a ruffle of machine-made, bobbin-type lace. The lace is swirled into a rosette at the front edge of the proper left side of the collar. The center front opening fastens with seventeen shell buttons. The bodice extends below the hips and is straight across the front, while the back is rounded and made very full by pleats set into the seams below waist level so that it can fit over the skirt bustle. The narrow, two-piece sleeves are set smoothly into the armhole, which is at the natural shoulder height. The wrist openings have ruffles of machine-made silk lace, which may not be original to the bodice. The bodice is fitted with two long darts on each side of the front (the two darts closest to the center have been taken out), while the back is constructed of six pattern pieces to achieve a close fit. The seam allowances are unfinished. The bodice is lined with cream-colored (or very pale pink) twill-woven cotton.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (center back length x width between shoulders): 29 1/2 x 14 3/4in. (74.9 x 37.5cm)