

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date 1860-1865

Primary Maker Unknown

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Medium Hand-stitched silk and cotton, with silk fringe and velvet-covered

buttons and velvet ribbon, wool hem tape, unidentified boning (probably

baleen), and brass hooks and eyes

Description Woman's day dress (.a) of brown, white, and black plaid silk. The

bodice is styled with a high, round neckline, dropped shoulderline, and round

waist. Around the front and back of the bodice, over the shoulders, is a trimming

of brown silk fringe headed by brown velvet ribbon. The bodice closes at center

front with brass hooks and eyes; six brown, velvet-covered, non-functioning

buttons decorate the left side of the opening edge. The coat sleeves are

embellished with brown silk fringe in a diagonal near the wrist opening. The

neckline, armscye seams, and waist edge are piped. The bodice is fitted with two

5 1/4-inch-long darts on either side of the opening; the darts are boned. The

bodice lining is brown glazed cotton. The skirt is cartridge-pleated to a narrow,

tan twill-woven cotton waistband, and then stitched all around the bottom edge

of the bodice. It is lined with brown glazed cotton. There is an in-seam pocket on

the right side. The bottom edge is bound with wool tape. This dress has been

altered from a mid-1850s dress. The sleeves are pieced from a bell sleeve, and a

remnant of fabric (.b) still with the dress was once a narrow shawl-like

decoration across the bodice (see 1998.135.0 for an example of this type of

decoration)--the old stitch marks are visible on the bodice. The gathered waist is

more typical of 1850s construction than 1860s, at which time box pleats

predominated.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length x width across shoulders): 59 x 19 1/2in.

(149.9 x 49.5cm)