

Basic Detail Report



Title Wedding Dress

Date 5 June 1878

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Primary Maker Christina Pettit

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

buttons inlaid with brass and abalone, non-ferrous metal boning, brass hooks

and eyes, and wool hem tape

Description Woman's dress of dark eggplant purple silk, consisting of a bodice

(a) and skirt (b). The cuirass bodice is fitted smoothly over the hips. The center

front has been altered by inserting a pleated panel of self-fabric. The bodice

opens at center front and is fastened with fourteen pique (inlaid tortoiseshell)

buttons with a design of a bird and long-stemmed flower. The neckline is high

and round, with a one-inch standing band collar. The shoulderline is slightly

dropped. The sleeves have an overlapped and piped self-fabric cuff-like

decoration and pleated self-fabric ruffle around the wrists. Two buttons with

pipled faux buttonholes decorate the "cuffs." The back of the bodice extends into

two short and broad tails, with fanned pleats set in the seams. Brown twill-

woven cotton lines the original bodice; the newer inset front panel is lined with

dark brown twill-woven cotton. The fabric of the skirt front is gathered in broad

vertical sections. The bottom of the skirt is flounced, with pleated fans of self-

fabric every seven inches. The back panel of the skirt is draped up, emphasizing

back fullness. The silhouette of the skirt is smoothly fitted in front and full in

back. It is lined with purple-brown polished cotton; there are tapes within

casings across the back of the skirt lining, to control the fullness of the skirt

behind the knees. The skirt closes at center back with brass hooks and eyes.

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Dimensions Bodice (bodice center back length x width across shoulders): 28 1/2

x 16 1/2in. (72.4 x 41.9cm) Skirt (center front length): 41in. (104.1cm) Skirt

(center back length): 47in. (119.4cm) Hem (skirt hem circumference): 93 1/2in.

(237.5cm)