



## CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

**Bid Number:**  
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

**Date:** October 24, 2025

**Contact:**

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**Object:**

Red Cross apron (Dewolf)

**Object ID:**

2024.09.09.05

**Description:**

A Red Cross Nurse's apron from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, likely used during World War 2, as indicated by its short length.\* The apron shows evidence of being remade; stitching holes on the proper right side suggest there was originally a pocket on the front of the apron, and additional seams on the front waistband show where the bib front has been tucked to the back. This apron would have had ties at the waistband and the top of the bib, which were likely cut off, as evidenced by fragments and seams on the bib. The Red Cross and "D" initial patches on the waistband were attached after the bib was folded down.

\*Note: Aprons from WWI tend to be full-length as the required uniform skirt was hemmed at the ankles. Fashion trends of the 30s and 40s shifted hemlines higher to just below the knee. Therefore, nurses' aprons are shorter in accordance with the changed length of the uniform skirt/dress.

**Measurements:**

Length- 15"  
Waist- 27 ¾"

**Category:**

Textile  
Clothing/Protective Wear/Apron  
Uniform/Occupational Uniform  
Clothing Sex: Female

**Location:**

Box 12  
Display Case 102  
Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection  
George Hail Free Library

**Condition Analysis:**

Overall in good condition with yellowing and acidification throughout. There are scattered dark brown stains and areas of discoloration throughout, typical of age and usage. Additionally, there is extensive creasing throughout, leading to areas of embrittlement.

**Recommended Treatments:**

This piece would benefit from aqueous cleaning with a reduction bleach to correct the pH. Caution would need to be taken prior to bleaching to ensure that the red dye on patches does not bleed. The apron should be dried on a mannequin/dressing form to reduce creasing.