

Dennis & Holly Violette tunic and skirt collection from the Madawaska Weavers

MCC-00409

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
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Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Dennis & Holly Violette tunic and skirt collection from the Madawaska Weavers.

Creator/Collector: Violette, Dennis & Holly

Collection number: MCC-00409

Shelf list number: AX-409

Dates: 1974

Extent: 1 box (.35 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Dennis and Holly Violette on October 29, 2013 and bought at the Madawaska Weavers in 1974.

Language: Not applicable.

Conservation notes: The tunic and skirt were wrapped in tissue paper for protection.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

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Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Historical note: *Madawaska Weavers* or *Les Tisserands du Madawaska* was a textile industry and clothing trade catering mostly to women. The owners were Fernande and Rolande Gervais, daughters of the shop founder A. J. Gervais. In 1976, the business had been opened for 35 years and remained open till the 1980s. The building which housed Madawaska Weavers was located on the corner of Bridge Street and Main Street in Saint-Leonard, New Brunswick, Canada. Over 20 people were hand-crafting handsome original designs into wool warp which was imported

from Australia, and the mohair from Scotland. An equal number of employees worked in their own homes, between Edmundston and Grand Falls, New Brunswick, on old-fashioned looms owned and supplied by Madawaska Weavers and loaned to them as long as they work on original patterns also supplied by the St. Leonard firm. These out-of-shop weavers worked on identical looms to those inside the A. J. Gervais headquarters building. Items sold, neckties, scarves, place mats, skirts, hats, and ponchos were designed in-house by Rolande Gervais. Fernande Gervais would supervise the office staff and the retail salesroom. All products were manufactured on hand looms made by Nilus Leclerc, Inc. of l'Isle Station in the province of Quebec. The products were sold in fine retail shops across Canada.

Scope and content: This collection consists of a woman's suit, tunic and skirt, woven by hand by the Madawaska Weavers in St. Leonard, New Brunswick. The pullover multicolored tunic is size small with $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. The skirt, size 8, is lined with black silk and brown in color. It is pleated at the waist with 2 multicolored front pockets, and a zipper in the back. The colors on the tunic and skirt are brown, gold, orange, yellow, and green.

Inventory:

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|--------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Item 1 | woman's tunic size small with Madawaska Weaver's tag |
| Item 2 | woman's skirt size 8 with Madawaska Weaver's tag |