Basic 1870's Ladies Attire

Hats and Bonnets
Women's hats could be used for work, socializing or as part of a formal ensemble. Hats for outdoor work tended to be made out of straw for summer with low crowns and broad brims and made of felt or buchram covered in fabrics for cooler weather.

Work Style Dress
Simple cotton style dress used for domestic duties. It is plain with little ornamentation so that it can be easily laundered.

Collars and ties
Collars came in several styles in the 1870s. Generally a white fabric collar was sewn or pinned into the existing collar of the dress to cut down on wear on the dress and soiling on the lining. Other forms of ornamentation such as ties and other forms of jewelry can be added.

Corset
A corset is necessary to achieve a period silhouette, even in a work dress garment. The form-fitting styles of the period look rather "without?" the proper foundation garments.

Chemise, Drawers and Petticoats
These are the foundation of the foundation garments. A Chemise works in connection with the corset for bust support and protects you from the corset. The drawers are a vital piece of modesty and the petticoats help to fill out the dress while adding cover for the legs.

Aprons
Aprons can be worn for decoration but were more commonly found to protect the clothing from wear and staining. They came in several different styles and sometimes found made out of old clothes.

Shoes and Boots
Everyday women's footwear came in a variety of choices from lace-up to button. Toes still remained square with flat broad heels and soles.
Putting it into perspective: Historical Dressing Sequence for the 1860s or how time period undergarments worked
Ladies Underclothing - Petticoats, Corset Covers and Corset Cover Petticoat Combinations

Ladies' Combinaison Petticoat and Corset-Cover, with Removable Train and Bodice:

Ladies' Petticoat, with Adjustable Train:

Ladies' Flannel Petticoat: 9 sizes.
Waist none, 50 to 56 inches.
Any size, 50 cents.

Ladies' Under-Skirt: 9 sizes.
Waist none, 30 to 36 inches.
Any size, 50 cts.

Issued July 1878:
Ladies' Silk, Horse Petticoat: 9 sizes.
Waist none, 30 to 36 ins. Any size, 25 cts.
Ladies Underclothing-
Bustles and Hoops
Ladies Shoes and Boots