Los Corralitos
1780 Spanish Colonial

The women of New Spain wore tea length skirts of cotton, linen or wool gathered at the waist and made bell shaped by petticoats.

Shirts were a separate piece from the skirt and were not generally of the same fabric. The sleeves were either billowy and gathered at the wrists or cap style.

A mantilla (wrap) was often worn about the shoulders and could be pulled up over the head to protect the wearer from the elements.

Shoes were of a simple slipper style and were either completely flat or had a low square heel.

Bright colors were commonly used especially primary colors and green.
The style of the eighteenth-century vaquero is very different from that of your typical cowboy. Their shirts were button-less, billowy and worn tucked in a wide cloth belt. Vest and jackets were short not quite reaching the waist.

Some men were still wearing tight fitted short pants which reached just below the knee with long stockings or high boots, though many working men quickly gave up this style for wide legged canvas or leather pants. These were well fitted at the waist and hips and were often worn with chaps.

The sarape was essential to the vaquero, serving as a cloak blanket and saddle blanket. They were hand woven and utilized bright colors and intricate designs.
Women’s dresses in this period are defined by a fitted bodice. Several necklines existed and some sleeves were billowy. A woman on the frontier would have worn these practical versions. Colors varied and many frontier dresses were made from homespun cotton or wool and dyed by hand. Simple shawls were in fashion. A frontier woman would not have left the house without a bonnet and aprons were usually always worn. Dresses at a place like El Capote would be simple with very little embellishments. Shoes soft sided ankle boots.
El Capote
1830 Republic of Texas

In the 1830s men's wear on the frontier was simple. Drop front, canvas pants held in place with bracers (canvas suspenders with button holes instead of clasps) were practical and durable. These pants would have been worn loose or tucked into a pair of high soft boots with a rounded toe. The boots were very similar to modern English riding boots. The popular hat of the time had a round brim and was generally made out of felt with a shallow, round crown. Vest were worn for warmth in cooler seasons.
Hewig Hill
1850s Antebellum

The occupants of Hedwig Hill were relatively prosperous, however living on the frontier would of made it difficult and impracticable to function in the high fashion of the 1850s. Lengths were slightly longer than in 1830 and bodices were closely fitted with sleeve that were narrow or short. A middle length jacket or shawl was worn for warmth. Bonnets protected women from sunburn.
The fashion of the 1850s included pants worn loosely tucked into knee high boots. Shirts generally had a round collar, which was worn standing with a scarf around the neck worn as a tie. The tie was worn tucked into the vest which was of a contrasting material to the pants. The coat was long, reaching the mid thigh or knees, and was not worn indoors. Work clothes
By the 1870s hoop had given way to cage bustles. These were not at all practical for a frontier woman to wear everyday and were likely only worn at a very formal occasion. Dresses were slim. Shoes took on a square toe. Most silhouettes featured a fitted bodice, plain sleeves and high, round necklines. Sunbonnets and hats were worn and there were hundreds of variations. Aprons would have been worn to protect dress fabric. Bib aprons became popular.
By the 1870s, men on the frontier had begun to dress more like our idea of a cowboy. Bracers or button suspenders were still a necessity. Pants were worn loose and were made of a durable natural material such as canvas, denim, cotton or wool. Vests were often worn, though they rarely matched the trousers. The boots began to look more like modern working cowboy boots and had very low heels. The average cowboy might have worn a kerchief, a large square of cloth ties around his neck, the forbearer to our modern bandanna. The crown of hats became deep but did not have the set creases that cowboy hats do today. They were more accurately slouch hats which the owner would simply allow to form its own shape or would shape to his liking.
In the 1880s the bustle became less pronounced and women began to favor the bustle pad over the cage style. Skirts became even more fitted in the front and bustles were smaller, allowing the women of the frontier to once again wear the fashion. Bodices were fitted and sleeves were long and tight. Dresses would have been made of practical materials with embellishments of contrasting fabric and piping. Shoes were low heeled slipper and Victorian ankle boots. The more well off lady would have worn a cameo or other simple jewelry. Frontier women would have worn simple working dresses most of the time.
Matador Office, las Escarbadas, Matador Half Dugout
1880s Mid Victorian

The business men in the 1880s wore plain or pinstriped pants held in place by button suspenders, a vest and tie. The vest was often patterned and in a color that complemented their pants. The tie was a thin bow tie with the tails hanging down. Footwear was a round toed cowboy boot with a low heel.
The working cowboys of the time traded in the bow ties for kerchiefs and sported less elaborate vests.
Bairfield Schoolhouse, Harrell House, Spur Granary, Box and Strip, 80 John and U Lazy S 1890-1910
Shirts become collared and the three piece suit is introduced. Cowboys would have worn study canvas pants, boots and hat. Many different styles and shapes of hats are documented. Button up shirts and belts were worn.
The bustle had vanished by the end of the 1890s, and a new, slim silhouette took its place. There was an increased simplicity of style. Fewer petticoats were worn, and skirts were clearing the floor. From the 1890s on, there appeared a fondness for light colors, with white taking an important role. By 1906 the mode of light, airy cotton fabrics for shirtwaists and dresses had become the rage all over America. It was 1909 before the railroad reached Lubbock, and even so, side by side could be found the frontier lady in calico wrapper still struggling to keep her family clothed and the city dweller with store-bought garments or those made by a dressmaker.
The suit of choice for city dwellers was a tailored suit, either a single or double breasted with matching vest and pants and a bow tie. Thin neckties would also be worn. Working clothes were similar to the 1890s blue jeans and denim overalls are worn also.
Blacksmith ship, depot, sheep hospital, train and spudder
1915-1930 Post WWI

Womens fashion sees drastic change in silhouette and waist lines. Tats were fitted, shoes were heeled and slightly pointed. Buttons and ties replace frills.
Blacksmith ship, depot, sheep hospital, train and spudder
1915-1930 Post WWI

Clothing was simple. Pants are sturdy slacks or blue jeans. Shirts were typical long-sleeved button ups. Overalls were popular.
Pitchfork cookhouse
1950s, Post WWII

Tea length dresses. Pants. Shirt and skirts.
Pitchfork cookhouse
1950s, Post WWII

Men had more clothes. T-shirts, coveralls, slacks, jeans. Suits for events.