

Basic Detail Report



Title Man's Uniform Coat

Date about 1825

Primary Maker Elias Ingraham

Medium Hand-stitched wool, white metal buttons, metallic braid, and cotton cord trim

Description Red wool broadcloth tail coat, with high standing collar. Each side of the coat front is decorated with eight short rows of brownish cord couched with

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black thread; at each end of the cording is stitched a large silver-tone metal ball

button. The slightly curved sleeves are set smoothly into the armscye. The

sleeves end in a cuff, open along the back seam, and decorated with cording in a

similar manner to the coat front, but without buttons. The collar is edged with

flat metallic gold braid. The coat closes in front with brass hooks and eyes. This

may not be the original closure. The ball buttons are early replacements of what

were probably originally flat brass shank buttons; there are buttonholes worked

within the decorative cording on the proper left side of the coat; these are too

small to use with the large ball buttons. (It was not uncommon for militia

companies to sell uniforms; the militia company which purchased the garments

would change them according to their taste and so the ball buttons were

probably added five or ten years after the coat was first made.) The back of the

coat is seamed at center back and to either side of the center back with a curved

seam extending from the armscye to the waist. At this point, the side back seam

meets a pleat extending the length of the tail. The pleat is pressed closed for its

entire length, and stitched closed at the bottom. There is a faux-pocket flap

mounted above each tail, with four of the non-functioning ball buttons stitched

directly below the flap. The fabric of the tails are turned back at the bottom

corners and stitched down; a diamond-shaped patch of the red broadcloth,

edged with gold braid, is stitched over the turned-back corners where they meet

in the lower center of the tail. The front and the tails of the coat are lined with

red wool broadcloth. A functional pocket is located in the proper left tail,

accessed from the inside. The broadcloth is so heavily fulled that seam finishes

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are largely unnecessary. The back seams are trimmed closely and left raw, as are the bottom edges of the tails, the sleeve cuff openings, and the lining at the back of the neck. The sleeves are lined with plain-woven white cotton, now yellowed.

The coat appears to be domestically made, as there is little effort at tailoring.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (center back length x breast circumference): 32 x 38in. (81.3 x 96.5cm) Other (sleeve length): 27in. (68.6cm)