

Basic Detail Report

Title Man's Uniform Chapeau Bras

Date 1861-1865

Primary Maker General Alfred Howe Terry

Medium Hand-stitched fur-finished silk, grosgrain ribbon, silk ribbon, gold lace, gold boullion trim and tassel, and a black ostrich feather plume

Description United States Army officer's dress chapeau bras made of hand-stitched, fur-finished silk. The hat is lined in crimson silk satin, and this lining is stamped in gilt with the maker's label (see Marks). The hat has an embossed leather sweatband, hand-stitched to the crown of the hat. On the exterior is a 1 1/2-inch-wide grosgrain ribbon, either black and gold or black and white, that extends from the brim at an angle up to the edge of the "leaf" (the portion of the brim that has been folded up toward the crown of the hat). The purpose of the grosgrain ribbon is to reinforce each leaf where black silk ribbon ties attach to the edge of each leaf, to keep them fastened up against the crown. On the proper right side of the hat, attached to the leaf, is a piece of the same black silk grosgrain ribbon that is gathered up into a five-inch-diameter "rosette" (a circular cockade) used for decoration. Over the rosette, extending diagonally back toward the rear of the hat, is a gold lace side piece edged with alternating bands of gold boullion trim. At the bottom of the side piece, a gilt United States Army staff officer's button is attached. The side piece is attached to the hat by means of threads fastened from the button to the side of the hat and by two loops of black thread run through two holes at the middle of the cockade. At the

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top of the side piece is a gilt metal scroll which is embossed "E PLURIBUS

UNUM". It was typical for an officer's side piece to have an eagle affixed under

the scroll; this hat appears to be missing its eagle. The crest of the hat is adorned

with a black ostrich plume, and a gold boullion tassel is attached at the back of

the hat. There is slight evidence on the front leaf, where the fur finish is abraded

away, that a front tassel was also attached, but that matching front tassel is now

missing.