



CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

Bid Number:
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

Date: October 24, 2025

Contact:

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Object: Warren Artillery Militia Uniform
Object ID: 2024.10.22.03

Description:

A man's uniform tailcoat worn by a member of the Warren Artillery Militia (also known as the Federal Blues). The coat consists of a dark blue wool body and sleeves, with red wool cuffs, collar, and tail lining, adorned with flat-woven gold braid and white piping. The front of the tailcoat is secured by ten large brass buttons stamped with "WA". Smaller versions can be found on the sleeve cuffs (six), collar (two present, two missing), epaulet loops (two), and tail (eight). There is one remaining epaulet, made from red wool, board, and three sizes of red twisted cording, attached to the proper left shoulder of the uniform. Detailing on the cuffs are replicated along the exterior of the tail, which is tacked back to reveal the red lining underneath. The interior of the coat was once heavily lined. There is evidence of a silk lining covering and an underlayer of quilted/padded cotton panels, which provided warmth.

Militia tailcoats like this were popular after the Napoleonic Wars, combining earlier features of Revolutionary War uniforms, such as the turned tails, with the newer introduction of the stand collar. Note: Based on construction elements, this uniform likely dates to between 1820 and 1840.

Measurements:

Bust- 40"
Shoulder width-17"
Length (front top collar to hem)- 20 ½"
Length (back top collar to hem)- 40"
Sleeve- 20 ½"
Collar circumference- 17 ¾"

Category:

Textile
Clothing/Dress/Costume Details
Article of Clothing/Dress/Costume
Jacket
Clothing Sex: Male

Location:

Display Case 9
Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection
George Hail Free Library

Condition Analysis:

Overall, poor condition. This uniform displays extensive insect damage with desiccation and embrittlement of the wool fibers. There are numerous tears and areas of loss, particularly on the interior of the tail. There are several areas of staining and discoloration, typical of historic usage, especially along the sleeve cuffs and the edge of the tails. The lining layers are tearing and pieces are actively falling off. Some of the buttons exhibit signs of corrosion, and the metallic braid is slightly discolored from oxidation.

Recommended Treatments:

The tailcoat should be vacuumed thoroughly to remove soiling and frozen for insect abatement. Large tears should be stabilized with stitched support. The lining needs to be carefully assessed as to repair, or removal based on curatorial needs and level of insect damage. Buttons should be cleaned and wrapped with a corrosion-resistant film. The metal braiding can be cleaned lightly with a soot sponge to remove oxidation and brighten its appearance.