

UNUSUAL, UNFINISHED, AND UNDOCUMENTED U.S. FENCING BAYONET

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This undocumented U.S. fencing bayonet appears to have been intended for use with the .69 caliber U.S. M1840 flintlock and M1842 percussion muskets.

This most unusual example is based on the M1835 socket bayonet. Fencing bayonets based on the M1816 bayonet (Type I) and the M1855 bayonet (Type II) have been documented, but not a fencing bayonet based on the M1835 bayonet.

This example was never completed, in that the box receptacle to secure the baleen blade was never attached to the blade stub and the rough tool marks not polished out. The original “U.S.” ricasso mark and face flute are still partially visible after machining the blade stub to accept the fencing blade receptacle. The brass screw is spurious. It is quite old, but is not the knurled type typically documented with 19th Century U.S. fencing bayonets.

Similar dovetailing was used on the Type I Fencing Bayonet used with the .69 caliber U.S. M1816 flintlock musket.

The workmanship on this undocumented example is quite good, suggesting that it was likely altered at one of the Government arsenals. Perhaps this was a prototype of a design that was not adopted and the alteration never completed.

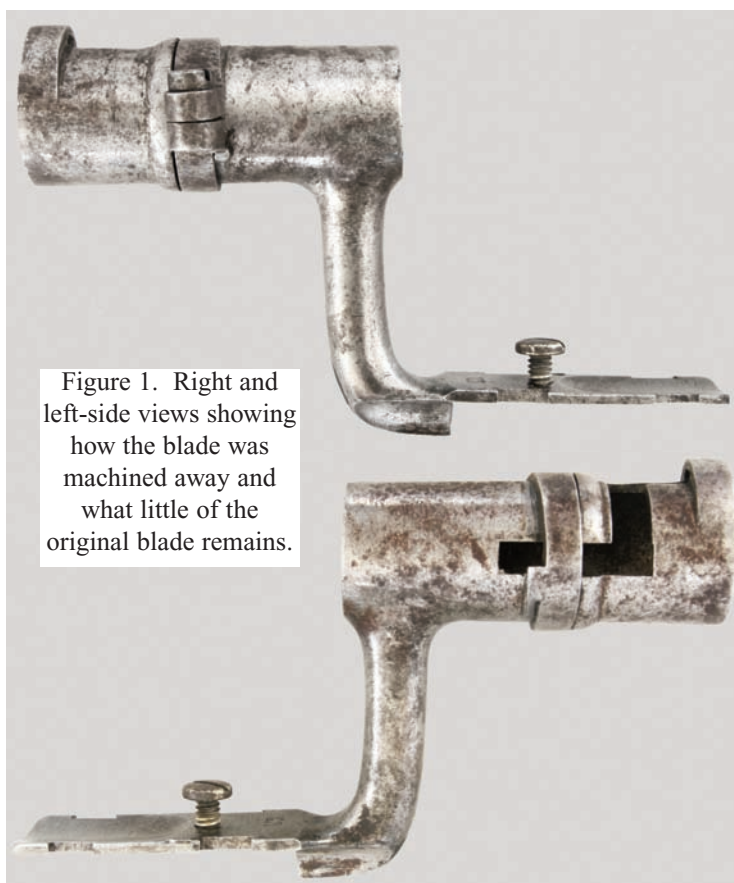


Figure 1. Right and left-side views showing how the blade was machined away and what little of the original blade remains.

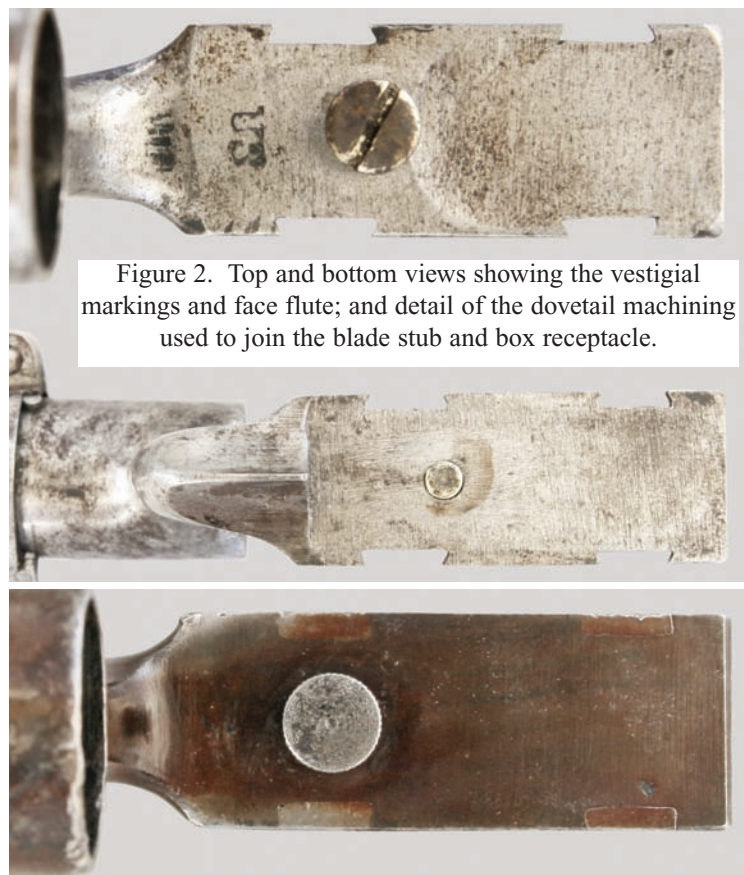


Figure 2. Top and bottom views showing the vestigial markings and face flute; and detail of the dovetail machining used to join the blade stub and box receptacle.

Figure 3. Top view of a Type I Fencing Bayonet showing the dovetail joint between the blade stub and box receptacle.