

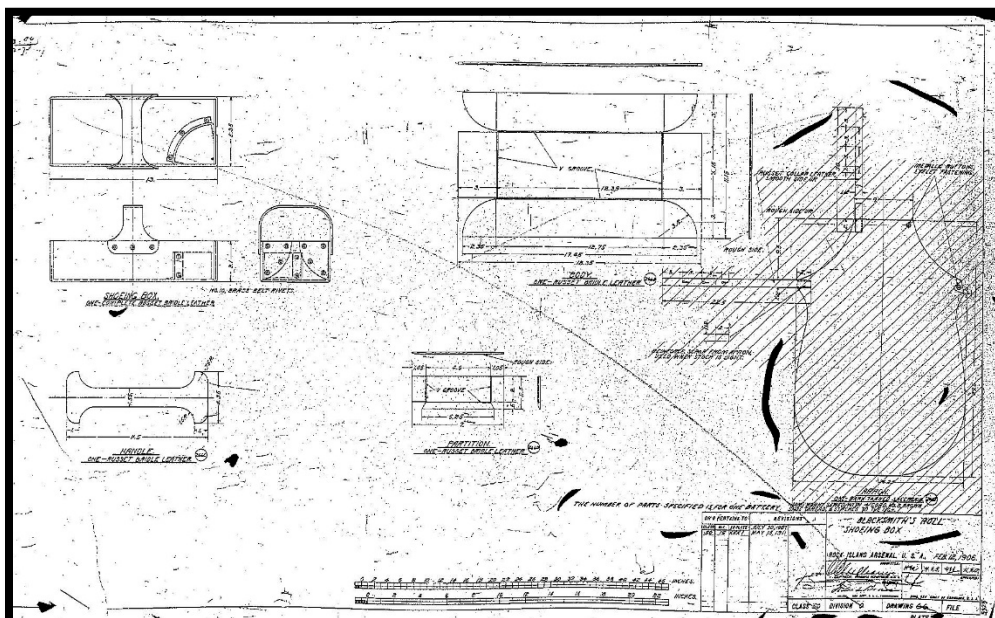
Shoeing Box



The Rock Island Arsenal Museum has two shoeing boxes in its collection. One was manufactured in 1917 (below) and the other in 1918 (above). Both were inspected by "T.C.C.," Thomas C. Carroll, one of the leather inspectors at Rock Island Arsenal.



The shoeing box carried tools used by a farrier, horseshoer, or blacksmith to shoe horses in the field. Its use can be traced in available references as far back as the Civil War. During the Civil War, the shoeing box was a wooden box with a loose lid. The earliest mention of a shoeing box made of leather is 1873. The shoeing box was an open, rectangular box made of heavy sole leather. Integral to its design was a convenient, basket-type carrying handle. The partition across one corner formed a cup for horseshoe nails. The tools it carried were a shoeing hammer, a pritchel, a 16-inch shoeing rasp, 2 shoeing knives, 1 toe knife, 1 shoeing pinchers, 1 clinching iron, and 1 nail punch. It was used by the cavalry and the artillery branches, because they both used horses for transportation. Tools for shoeing animals were issued by both the Ordnance Department and the Quartermaster Department. The box itself was a product of the Ordnance Department and manufactured at Rock Island Arsenal.



Rock Island Arsenal Blueprint for Blacksmith's Roll and Shoeing Box dated February 12, 1906.