

Basic Detail Report



Title Sign of the Black Horse

Date about 1771

Primary Maker Ambrose Kirtland

Medium Paint on pine board, possibly oak, iron hardware

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Description Images on both sides: profile of riderless black horse, centered on

board; white ground; no underlying images. Construction notes: Single board;

double, molded horizontal rails; turned posts. Board is set vertically and hand-

sawn at top and bottom to create decorative pediment and skirt profiles; board

is held by nails between paired, molded rails. Each rail is tenoned into the

turned posts and secured by two pins at each joint. Surface notes: The figure of

the horse is slightly elevated, but no defining knife cuts are visible, indicating

that the relief results from weathering of the background. The lettering, in

contrast, is flush with the surface, suggesting that it was added after the

background had been substantially weathered. The crowded placement of the

lettering also supports the theory that it is a later insertion. The horse appears to

have been laid out from a template, while the lettering is painted within scribed

guidelines; the "I" in "Entertainment" is, anomalously, a capital with a dot above

it.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width including hardware): 30 1/4 x 29

3/4in. (76.8 x 75.6cm) Other (height x width of sign only): 47 x 28 3/4in. (119.4 x

73cm)