

Basic Detail Report

Title Sign for Caulkins's Inn

Date probably about 1790s

Primary Maker Dr. Daniel Caulkins

Medium Paint on pine board, gold leaf

Description Images: On both sides, landscape scene with tree on left, rising sun

on right, possibly underlying versions of the same composition. Construction:

Single board, grain oriented vertically, hand-sawn at top only to create

decorative pediment profile; no skirt and no structural frame. Applied moldings,

mitered at corners, are nailed to the outer edges of board on the sides and

bottom, and across the faces of both sides at the top. Surface: The 1769 date

and the lettering are executed in gold leaf, using a stencil. The 1839 date is

yellow, as is the trim on the black frame and an earlier version of the lettering.

The ground layer seems to be gray; the sun may originally have been gilded, as

were the stars arcing overhead. Side 1 is heavily weathered, with 25-30% paint

loss. The tree and sun are well raised above the background, with evidence of

repainting guided by the raised outlines. The extent of wear suggests that the

sign hung outdoors for many years, consistent with the inn's long operation by

the same family. Side 2 had been obscured by a layer of black, possibly spray,

paint.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width including hardware): 43 1/4 x 28

1/2in. (109.9 x 72.4cm) Other (height x width for sign only): 43 1/4 x 28in. (109.9 x

71.1cm)