

Basic Detail Report

Title Sign for the Vernon Hotel

Date 1834

Primary Maker William Rice

Medium Paint on pine board and moldings, smalt, glass flakes, flocking, gold leaf, iron hardware

Description Images: On both sides, in central panel, eagle perched on shield-like cartouche displaying the arms of Connecticut, with stars arcing in sky overhead; on side border panels, ornamental scrolls and drapery with fringe and tassels.

Both sides are similar but not identical. No underlying imagery. Text: On both sides, in name banner on top border panel, "VERNON" over "MANCHESTER"; in name banner on bottom border panel, "HOTEL." On side 2 only, above name band, "1834". Construction: Two boards, grain oriented vertically, set within channeled moldings. The ends of the side moldings are cut to the shape of the inside contour of the top and bottom moldings, so that the top and bottom moldings can slide over the ends as the large signboard expands and contracts across the grain with changes in humidity (see fig. 18 for detail of this construction on another Rice sign). Four additional boards, sawn at their outer edges to create an elaborate decorative profile, are attached to the outside of the moldings. The top and bottom barge boards abut the molding and are held in place by a few large, toed-in nails. Because the side moldings must move with the central panel as it expands and contracts, the side barge boards are secured to the moldings by long screws set in metal tabs in the long hanging brackets.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width including hardware): 81 x 63 3

/8in. (205.7 x 161cm) Other (height x width of sign only): 75 1/4 x 63 3/8in. (191.1

x 161cm)