

Basic Detail Report



Title Sign for Blatchly's Inn

Date 1788

Primary Maker Moses Blatchly Jr.

Medium Paint on pine board, unidentified hardwood frame, iron hardware

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Description Images: both sides have two layers of imagery: on side 1, an

allegorical female figure of Justice, over a fully-rigged sailing vessel; on side 2,

an American flag, over a standing figure of a sailor leaning on an anchor, framed

by panels of drapery. Construction: Single board, with single, molded, horizontal

rails and turned posts. Board is set vertically and hand-sawn at top and bottom

to create decorative pediment and skirt profiles. Board passes through full-

width mortise cut through each rail and is held by nails. The rails are tenoned

through the turned posts and secured at each joint by one pin. An original half-

round applique is added at top of the pediment. Surface: Early twentieth-

century restoration included complete overpainting of the allegorical figure on

side 1, using heavy, opaque, shiny paints on both figure and lettering.

Repainting confused the sign by making simultaneously visible text from both

eighteenth-century layers. Posts and rails were painted a bright turquoise blue,

with a blue and red border added to the signboard.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width including hardware): 39 x 27in.

(99.1 x 68.6cm) Other (height x width of sign only): 35 1/4 x 23 3/4in. (89.5 x 60.3

cm)