Basic Detail Report



Title Sign of General Wolfe

Date about 1768

Primary Maker General Israel Putnam

Medium Paint on pine board

Description Images on both sides: full-length profile portrait of General James

Wolfe, in red military uniform, with right hand upraised and index finger pointing

forward, centered on board; green background below horizon line; no underlying images. Construction: Single board, raised and fielded on both sides, one side with a wider bevel. Surface: This sign displays only one paint layer on each side; side two is more weathered. Several details of the uniform and sword-belt are raised above the surface plane, with opinions differing on whether this effect is the result of partial relief carving or of preferential weathering, which wore away the thinly painted white areas more quickly than more heavily coated, colored areas. Mylar tracings reveal that the two portrait figures are identical, pointing to the use of a template. Letters are partially raised or recessed and may have been carved; they appear to have been applied free-hand. The background, applied after the figure was painted, displays broad, undulating brush-strokes.

Dimensions Other (height x width of sign only): 30 x 24 1/4in. (76.2 x 61.6cm)

Other (overall, including hardware, height x width): 40 1/4 × 28 1/4in. (102.2 × 71.8cm)