Basic Detail Report



Title Sign of the Pine Tree

Basic Detail Report

Date 1768

Primary Maker Joseph Read III

Medium Paint on pine board, iron hardware

Description Images: on both sides: a round disc, centered in pediment, over stylized pine tree, centered on board; no underlying layers. Construction: Single board, fielded on both sides, set vertically into grooves of the joined frame. Horizontal rails have integral pediment and skirt (e.g., vertical extensions, which are hand-sawn to create decorative profiles). The frame construction is conceptually flawed. The vertical stiles are tenoned through the top and bottom rails, thus reversing the nearly universal practice of horizontal rails tenoned into stiles (see fig. 16). Consequently, the entire weight of panel, stiles, and bottom rail rests on the wooden pins that secure the vertical tenons into the rails. Straps from the hanging hardware reinforced the top joint, but the lower joints required reinforcement at a later date. Surface: This sign displays only one layer of paint on each side. Its original color scheme featured yellow suns, bright green trees, yellow suns, and white lettering set off by a barn-red background. Laboratory examination revealed that the pigment used for the trees was a copper-based verdigris, which has oxidized to black or brown, leaving traces of green only in tiny surface fissures. The absence of any repainting suggests that this sign was probably in use for only a short period.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width including hardware): 49 3/8 x 23in. (125.4 x 58.4cm) Other (height x width of sign only): 42 x 23in. (106.7 x 58.4 cm)