



**J. FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGNS**

*Handcrafted signs
in the style of
18th & 19th
century artisans.*

PUBLIC INN & STABLE

Being one of the many long-standing traditions brought to the colonies from England, early American taverns were plentiful and vital to both local citizenry and travelers, to whom were served alcoholic drink, food and overnight accommodations. A variety of names were given to these establishments including tavern, ordinary, punch or ale house, victualing house, dram house, tippling house, grog shop, inn and public house (often-times spelled “publick”).

The earliest colonies in New England were usually fishing villages or farming communities on the more fertile land along the rivers. Because whaling played such an important part of the economy in New England, imagery of whalers with a horn and other representations of men who earned their livelihood on the sea were numerous. This sign was inspired by New England weather-vanes, although in this case an angel replaces the more common whaler generally seen on these types of signboards.

Public houses were an integral part of colonial community life and hosted a variety of official functions, including meetings of the courts. They also filled a special economic niche, for women and the poor, many of whom turned to tavern-keeping to earn a living. But taverns also became the subject of much critical commentary (by clergy, and several of the country’s founder fathers including Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin) for their growing reputation as places of intemperance and idleness. –Source: *Tavern Signs of America*, by Helene Smith



This sign was painted on reclaimed wood using water-soluble oils. Old tobacco sticks used for framing. The reverse side treated with sealing oils. The size is 28" wide by 13" high. Please message for pricing.

Note: the photo contains a watermark for artwork rights protection. To receive an image of the sign minus the watermark, please message us.