

**J. FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGNS**

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

R. PINNEY TAVERN

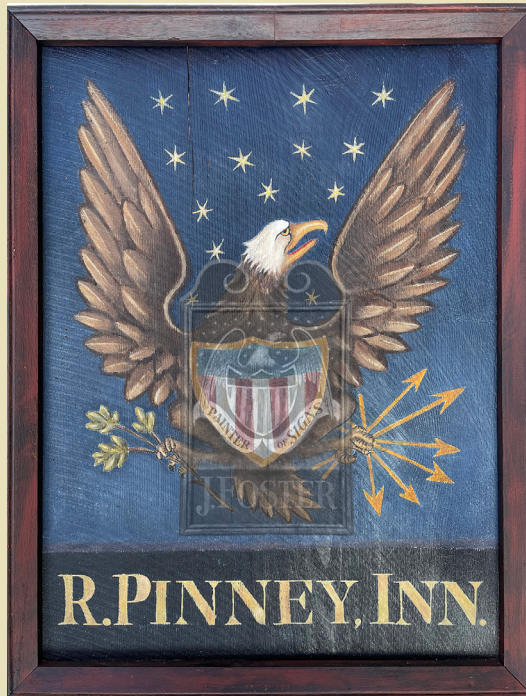
The Rueben Pinney Tavern, a Federal-style brick building built in 1828, was located in Barkhamsted, (Litchfield County) Connecticut. It was originally the home of Marquis Moore, a physician, and son of Apollous Moore. The house was later given by Moore to his daughter Nancy (1798-1889), who married Captain Rueben Pinney (for whom the tavern was named).

This was one of many famous taverns in the town of Riverton and did quite a brisk business. According to notes written in 1914 by E. L. Barnes: “there was no restriction of the liquor traffic in those days and to speak of a country tavern without a lively bar would be a misnomer...Aunt Nancy Pinney had a high reputation as a cook and her table was much enjoyed.”

There were likely more eagle-themed inns and taverns than any other type in America, especially after the Revolutionary War when the eagle became the most popular image for inn signs, and when Congress adopted the bald eagle for use on the Great Seal of the U. S. Many early signs featuring lions had on their reverse side an image of an eagle. Rather than paint new signs, innkeepers simply turned the sign around, sometimes out of fear of retaliation by patriots who often shot at signs with lions representing King George III of England.

According to historian Douglas Roberts, Reuben Pinney was tending bar when some militiamen came in for a drink. House rules said no loaded weapons were allowed in the tavern. The militiamen thereby “unloaded” on the sign.

Source: *Susan P. Schoelwer, Executive Director, Historic Preservation and Collections, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, and Barkhamsted Historical Society.*



This sign was painted on reclaimed-wood using water-soluble oils. Vintage moulding used for framing. The reverse side treated with sealing oils. The size is 20" wide by 26" 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.