



JACKSON FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGN PAINTER & MAKER
*Hand-crafted signs in the style of
18th and 19th century artisans*

J. Anderson, Blacksmith

James Anderson was born in Gloucester County, Va, in 1740. Between March 1761 and June 1767, Anderson purchased the southern half of lot 19 in Williamsburg. This was located on the corner of Francis, and what is now Botetourt Street. Anderson probably built his forges and smith shop on this lot.

In 1777, Anderson rented his blacksmith shop, tools, and workmen to the government for public use. He superintended the work himself, having at this time five apprentices and several other employees.

Anderson performed all kinds of smiths' work during the Revolutionary War. He repaired surgical instruments, firearms, mounted cannon on carriages and manufactured many articles.

In 1780 his shops were moved to Richmond, and in 1781 his shops and tools were destroyed. He returned to Williamsburg, evidently blacksmithing again until his death in 1798.

This piece is my representation of sign styles for a tradesman of that period. The wrought iron weathervane is believed to have been created by Anderson in 1770, and a replica can be seen above the Courthouse on Duke of Gloucester Street. The original is on display in the Bruton Parish Episcopal Church Gift Shop in Williamsburg.

As with the other products on this page, this sign is for sale. Please email or call for details.

