



**J. FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGNS**

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

LIBERTY/ SIGN OF THE PINE TREE

This represents a variation of an 18th century sign, the “Pine Tree” tavern, owned by innkeeper Joseph Reed III, born in Lisbon, Connecticut in 1709. Reed became an extensive landholder with at least eight tracts located along the Quinebaug River northeast of Norwich.

After the Revolution, “American-themed” imagery began to appear on contemporary inn signs mainly after 1782. During the early Colonial period, coins and currency may have played a role in the circulation of such imagery, but by the early nineteenth century, eagles—typically clutching olive branches and arrow clusters—were virtually everywhere.

The images in the sign may have been intended as a political message; the yellow sun above a pine tree being a veiled reference to the Sons of Liberty, a resistance organization which had adopted as its symbol the Liberty Tree.

The pine tree was familiar to Colonial New Englanders, made famous by the pine-tree shilling, minted in Boston from 1667 to 1682. It was authorized by the Massachusetts Bay General Court in 1652. Three decades later, the British Crown revoked the Massachusetts Charter. One of the “grievances” cited was minting money with the pine tree struck on coins in place of a sovereign’s portrait, thereby viewed as defiance to British authority. The sign dates to a period of around 1768, which coincides with passage of the Townsend Acts which ignited a new wave of colonial resistance. *—Adapted from Lions, Eagles & Bulls, Early American Tavern & Inn Signs, from the Connecticut Historical Society.*



My reproduction of the original sign.



This sign was painted on a reclaimed panel board using water-soluble oils. The reverse side treated with sealing oils. The size is 8-1/2" wide by 21" 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.