

**The original documents are located in Box C1, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 8/16/1974 (2)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *ds*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

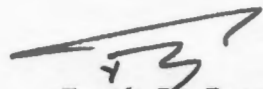
*Bob / what is  
safe  
Let's keep what  
we have presently.*

MEMORANDUM

August 16, 1974

TO: Mr. Robert T. Hartmann  
SUBJECT: Desks

The attached information concerning certain desks pertaining to the White House might be of interest to you.

  
Frank K. Pagnotta

Attachment

FRP:cjg

*8/17 - asked Mr. Pagnotta what the history is of the desk he is sitting at now. No history - just a Kitterager desk. mm*

## CARVED OAK DESK

Often called the "Hayes" desk or "Resolute" desk, this desk was used continually by every President from its arrival in the White House in 1878 until 1963.

It was made from the timbers of the British ship H. M. S. Resolute and was a gift to the White House from Her Majesty Queen Victoria of England during the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Throughout the latter part of the 19th century, the desk was located in the President's office and study on the second floor of the mansion. It continued to be used there by 20th century Presidents until after the 1952 renovation of the White House. At that time it was placed in the Broadcast Room on the ground floor of the residence and was used there by President Eisenhower during his television and radio broadcasts to the nation. It stayed in the Broadcast Room until 1961 when President Kennedy selected it for his Oval Office in the West Wing where it remained until the end of his administration.

The desk is currently on loan to the Smithsonian Institution subject to recall by the White House at any time.

Measurements: height-32 1/2", length-72", width-48"

MAHOGANY DESK

~~One of the most  
historic desks  
in the White House  
Collection~~


This desk is one of the most historic desks in the White House Collection.

Made in Boston in 1903, the desk was placed in the West Wing office of President Theodore Roosevelt after the construction of the wing in 1903. The desk was also used there by Presidents William H. Taft, Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. Later in the 20th century it was also used by President Harry S. Truman and President Dwight D. Eisenhower and temporarily by Presidents Herbert Hoover, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. President Richard Nixon used the desk in his office in the Executive Office Building throughout his term.

Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Johnson signed their names in the center drawer of the desk and Presidents Truman and Eisenhower also placed their initials in the drawer.

A duplicate of this desk, in White House storage, was made in 1929-1930 after the fire in the West Wing in 1929 damaged the desk mentioned above.

Measurements: height-30", length-90", width-53 1/2"



## DESK IN WEST WING OVAL OFFICE

This desk is on loan from the United States Capitol. It was built in 1858 by the United States Senate for the Vice Presidential ceremonial room in the Capitol building. It was used in that room from 1858-1965. President Grant's Vice President, Henry Wilson, fell ill in this room and died on the couch next to the desk in 1875. From its use by Vice President Wilson it took the name "Wilson desk."

In 1969, President Nixon requested the desk for use in the Presidential office in the West Wing. He had used the desk while serving as Vice President.

Measurements: height-31", length-80 3/4", width-58 1/4"

## MAHOGANY DESK

This pedestal desk, made in 1952, was a gift to the White House from John McShain, the general contractor of the White House during the Truman Renovation.

During the administrations of Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, it was located in the second floor corridor of the White House. Since 1969, it has been in San Clemente.

Measurements: height-30", length-72", depth-36"

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 28, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The attached memorandum was returned from the President's outbox with the following notation:

-- Let's keep what we have presently.

cc: Al Haig