

The original documents are located in Box C9, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 12/27/1974” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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12/27/74

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

From the President:

To:

Don R.

Date:

Time

a.m.

p.m.

Retty likes present
desk + si do 2.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1974

*Mr. President -
As per your
request -
Tom R*

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
FROM: THE OFFICE OF THE CURATOR *ML*

Rex Scouten has asked us to send you the attached photographs of desks which could be used in the Oval Office of the President.

Unfortunately, we only have polaroid photographs of two of the desks. One is in the EOB office used by President Nixon and the other is in San Clemente.

We would appreciate the return of the photographs after you have completed your use of them.

MAHOGANY DESK

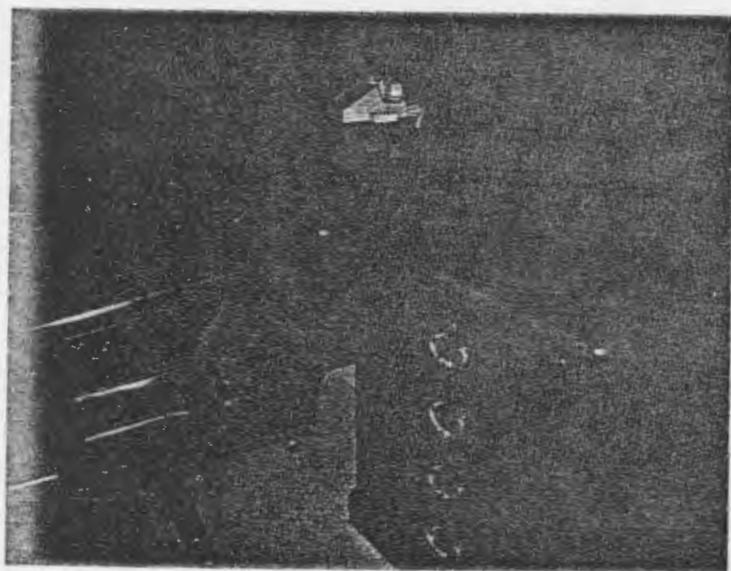
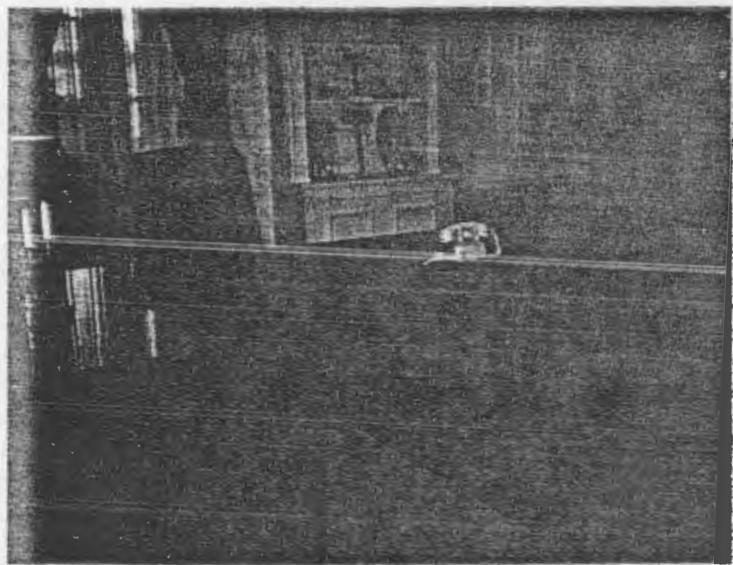
This desk is one of the most historic desks in the White House Collection.

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.

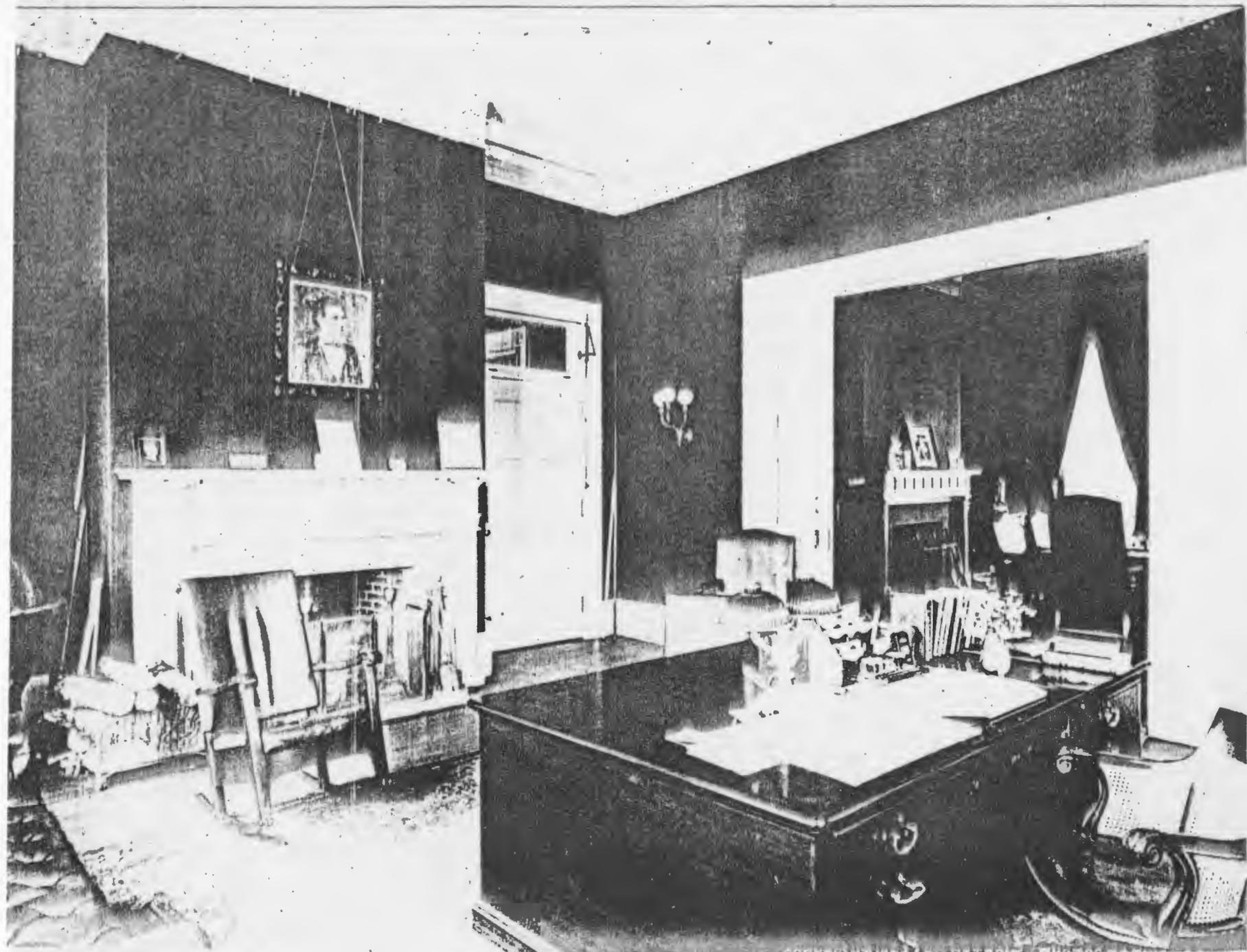
Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Johnson signed their names in the center drawer of the desk and Presidents Truman and Eisenhower also placed their initials in the drawer.

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"



Original photos returned to Curator 5/16/75



original photo returned to Curator 5/16/75

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"