

J. Fred Johnson Desk Restoration Project

By Don Sanderson – Restoration & Custom Woodwork

Preserving History. Honoring Craftsmanship.

Desk Overview



Dimensions:

- ❖ Top: $\sim 4\text{ft} \times \sim 6\text{ft} \times \sim 2\text{in}$
- ❖ Pedestals (2): $\sim 3.5\text{ft} \times \sim 3.5\text{ft} \times \sim 30\text{in}$

Hardware:

- ❖ Fittings: **brass/brass plated**
- ❖ Hinged riser arms for internal shelf
- ❖ Support: iron rod through pedestal with adjustment nuts

Restoration Goals:

- ❖ Preserve authenticity of craftsmanship
- ❖ Stabilize structure and trim
- ❖ Offer tiered restoration approaches to suit condition and preference



Option 1: Preservation Cleaning and Stain Removal

Scope

- ❖ Gentle, targeted cleaning to remove residues & surface stains from all exterior surfaces
- ❖ Maintain patina, dents, and marks as history
- ❖ Touchup any gaps in finish
- ❖ Hand rubbed hard wax to all external surfaces
- ❖ Structural Work
 - ❖ Trim:
 - ❖ Remove old glue
 - ❖ Clean/reapply trim and corbels with NOS brads and filler
 - ❖ Straighten pedestal bar

Option 2: Surface Refinement

Scope

- ❖ Remove existing finish from top & pedestals
- ❖ Reapply clearcoat for grain/color preservation
- ❖ Hand rubbed hard wax to all external surfaces
- ❖ Structural Work
 - ❖ Trim:
 - ❖ Remove old glue
 - ❖ Clean/reapply trim and corbels with NOS brads and filler
 - ❖ Straighten pedestal bar

Option 3: Full Restoration

Scope

- ❖ Strip to bare wood
- ❖ Re-stain using period-authentic stains/dyes
- ❖ Clearcoat for aged match or new finish
- ❖ Hand rubbed hard wax to all external surfaces
- ❖ Structural Work
 - ❖ Trim:
 - ❖ Remove old glue
 - ❖ Clean/reapply trim and corbels with NOS brads and filler
 - ❖ Straighten pedestal bar

Optional Add-On: Period-Appropriate Casters

Option A –Vintage Antique 2" Ball Casters

- ❖ Antique brass finish, compact ball-style swivel
- ❖ Low-profile elegance, blends with Arts & Crafts lines
- ❖ Rated to 300 pounds



Option B –Solid Brass Caster Wheels

- ❖ Solid brass with vintage patina
- ❖ Matches 1930s brass hardware and trim
- ❖ Rated to 330 pounds



Client Notes Below

Shared Restoration Elements

- ❖ Trim removed, cleaned, and reapplied with NOS brads and filler
- ❖ Pedestal stabilizing bar straightened & reinserted
- ❖ Hand rubbed hard wax to all external surfaces
- ❖ Optional restoration photo log for provenance



Thank You!

Preserving history, one piece at a time.