



4240 Old Cave Spring Rd.
Roanoke, VA 24018
540.400.7157

Restoration Report

Date: November 2007

Client Name: Lutheran Services

Object Description: Oak Library Table circa 1920's
Quarter sawn Oak top and sides. The legs are cylindrical columns with quarter sawn oak veneer. The columns resemble Ionic style columns without fluting. The legs are attached to a mortised platform with a 1 inch diameter steel rod through the leg and nut to secure. The platform fits into a tenon on 2 sides of each corner. The sides have an Ogee shape with the bottom of the apron beaded.

Table History: The table was the property of The Lutheran Children's Home of the South, Inc. in Roanoke, VA. The Home was started in 1888 and was in operation until 1989. In 1924 five additional buildings were constructed for the home and dedicated in 1926. The library table was located in the Administration Building which was one of the new buildings. There is no information on its builder or actual date of construction.

The table stayed in the possession of Lutheran Services after the home closed. In 2007 this company was asked to restore the piece so that it could be used in a room dedicated to the archives of the Lutheran Children's Home for the Alumnae use.

Dimensions: 30" tall
36" wide
71" long

Materials

Primary wood:	Oak
Veneer:	Oak on the legs
Finish:	Varnish
Hardware:	N/A
Attachments:	N/A

Object Condition

General Condition

Good Moisture content was 12% upon inspection. The table has massive legs bolted to 4 plinths that are tennoned to the weakest part of the apron. That mortised portion of the apron has sustained sever damage on all 4 corners. The solid oak top is cupped. The finish has deteriorated and is almost non-existent. The wood has achieved a lovely dark oak patina over the last 80 years. Upon cleaning, much of the patina was found to be 80 years of accumulated dirt. The table had been worked on previously. The apron/leg damage was addressed with nails, screws, and PVA glue.

Structural Condition

Fair The table top is cupped. The massive legs are bolted to a corner plinth which is attached by way of mortise and tennon construction. The place of attachment is at the thinnest and weakest portion of the apron. Therefore, the apron is damaged with missing wood at each tennon. There have been numerous screws and nail applied to the table as previous remedies.



Leg and Plinth



Plinth corner position

The wood has expanded and contracted over the years. The result is gaps at most joints.



Typical corner and apron condition

The legs are in excellent condition with the exception of gaps in the decorative molding.



Coatings Condition

Fair. The varnish finish is thin and needs additional coats.

Adhesive Condition

Good. Hot hide glue of the period was used. All interior glue blocks are intact. The plinths all need re-gluing.

Treatment Response

Cleaning Protocol

The table and legs were cleaned with Murphy's Oil Soap and water to clean off water soluble dirt; then with mineral spirits to clean off grease soluble dirt. The table cleaned easily.



Repairs Performed

1. The decorative molding on each leg was clamped to close the gaps. Where the gaps would not close, veneer was glued into the gaps and colored to match.



Wood Veneer gap filling

2. The plinths were repaired first. Screws and nails were removed and old glue was removed from the plinth mortise and tennons. They were glued back in place with hot hide glue.



Plinth repair

3. The corner joint gaps were pulled together as much as possible with hot hide glue.



4. Missing wood on the piece was replaced with new White Oak scarf joints using hide glue. The new wood was shaped and colored to match the piece.



New White Oak scarf joint repair



Shaped repair

5. The sides of the table where the plinths are joined by way of mortise and tennon are serpentine. The result is that the plinth is tennoned at the thinnest part of the side. The result was the breaking of the side at the joint.



Using hide glue would not fill the gaps of missing wood at these breaks and would not have been strong enough to sustain the repair.

In accordance with AIC standards for historical items:

- I could not remove existing wood to make a flat surface to add new wood.
- The repair has to be reversible.
- I have to avoid adding anything not original to the piece.

I chose to use hide glue for reversibility and epoxy wood filler for structural strength. Hide glue was applied to mating surfaces and allowed to cure. Epoxy wood fill/glue was then applied on top of the hide glue mating surfaces. The mating surfaces were then joined and clamped.



Epoxy wood filler/glue applied on top of hide glue and mating ends clamped

Finishing Protocol

1. The table was scuff sanded with 220 grit sand paper to accept color. The deep scratches from 80 years of use were left as historical distressing. The natural aged color of the oak was enhanced and equalized with a mixture of linseed oil, dark walnut stain, and varnish.



Finishing Process



Finished Table

Respectfully submitted by
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