



441 Freedom Parkway NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov>

Carter Family Papers: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Carter, Jimmy, 1924-

Title: Carter Family Papers

Dates: 1940-1976

Quantity: 207 linear feet, 6 linear inches, (58 linear feet, 7 linear inches open for research), 140 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

National Archives Identifier: 592907

Scope and Content:

The records in this collection document Jimmy Carter's early political career in the Georgia State Senate, his term as Governor from 1970-1974; and his membership on the West Georgia Planning Commission. In addition, the collection contains material from the 1970 gubernatorial campaign, gubernatorial trips to South America and Europe, the 1976 presidential campaign, Rosalynn Carter's gubernatorial papers, and Carter's pre-presidential speech files. The files consist of correspondence, form letters, memoranda, studies, recommendations, position papers, notes, speeches, drafts, press releases, news clippings, itineraries, newsletters, pamphlets, polling data, photographs, schedules, vote statistics, advertisement flyers, appointment books, and publications.

Creator Information: Carter, Jimmy and Rosalynn

The Carter Family Papers were transferred to the library by President and Mrs. Carter. These documents and memorabilia were collected over a twenty-five year period.

[Biographical information](#) on key office personnel is located at the end of the finding aid.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor's deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc.). Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material:

Related materials in this repository: Office of the First Lady; Pre-Presidential Papers; 1976 Campaign Collection

Related materials in other repository: Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, Plains Georgia; Georgia State Archives, Morrow Georgia

Separated material: Audio visual materials

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Jimmy Carter, Rosalynn Carter

Organizations: Georgia Lions Club; Georgia Department of Industry and Trade; West Central Georgia Planning and Development Commission; Governor's Commission to Improve Education

Subjects: Education, mental health, foreign policy, environment, government reorganization, local government, campaign strategy, presidential campaigns

Places: Georgia

Types of Material: Correspondence, memoranda, reports, invitations, press releases, speeches, newspaper clippings, publications, photographs, and schedules

Administrative Information:

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Jimmy Carter signed January 31, 1981.

Processing information: The collection was opened in November 2005. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Carter Family Papers are divided into nine series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
<u>Governor Carter's Personal Working Files</u>	647520
<u>Jimmy Carter's Gubernatorial Campaign Files</u>	647745
<u>Governor and Mrs. Carter's Foreign Trip Files</u>	650542
<u>Jimmy Carter's Presidential Campaign Files</u>	650632
<u>Jimmy Carter's State Senate Files</u>	653198
<u>Jimmy Carter's Speech Files</u>	891295
<u>Governor Jimmy Carter's Press Office Files</u>	1741400
<u>Rosalynn Carter's Gubernatorial Correspondence Files</u>	3578269
<u>Rosalynn Carter's Special Projects and Events Files</u>	3668799

Detailed Description of the Collection

Governor Carter's Personal Working Files

Scope and Content: Containers 1-8. This series was opened in November 2005. This series includes correspondence, handwritten notes, memorandums, speeches, press clippings, meeting minutes, and reports. The correspondence is primarily between Governor Jimmy Carter and his department heads relating to sensitive issues such as reorganization of the state government and key personnel issues. Also included is correspondence between Governor Carter and his top political advisors such as Charles Kirbo and Hamilton Jordan. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Jimmy Carter's Gubernatorial Campaign Files

Scope and Content: Containers 9-25. This series was opened in November 2005. This series includes correspondence, handwritten contact lists and notes, memorandums, telephone logs, supply forms, and news clippings. Much of the correspondence is related to the campaign's effort in seeking support and contributions from affluent Atlanta residents. This series also contains material related to advertising, platform issues, mailing lists, and fundraising events. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Governor and Mrs. Carter's Foreign Trip Files

Scope and Content: Containers 26-30. This series was opened in November 2005. This series includes background trip information, correspondence, itineraries, tourist pamphlets, and numerous photographs detailing their trips to South America and Europe. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Jimmy Carter's Presidential Campaign Files

Scope and Content: Containers 31-49. This series was opened in November 2005. This series includes debate briefing books, correspondence, memoranda relating to political strategies, campaign schedules, detailed itineraries, interview transcripts, news releases, network news transcripts, position papers, and speeches. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Jimmy Carter's State Senate Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 50-61. This series was opened in November 2005. This series includes correspondence and reports relating to rural development and education issues in Georgia; and papers from the West Central Georgia Planning and Development Commission and the Governor's Commission to Improve Education. Also included are Senate resolutions, amendments to Senate bills, and correspondence regarding Senate case work. In addition, this series includes a small amount of correspondence and reports related to Jimmy Carter's tenure as a Georgia Lion's Club District Governor. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Jimmy Carter's Speech Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 62-67. This series was opened in November 2005. This series consists of addresses, remarks, handwritten notes, speech drafts, and speeches. Jimmy Carter wrote and delivered the majority of these speeches before and during his state Senate term and gubernatorial period. The series also contains a few speeches from the 1976 presidential campaign. Arranged chronologically.

[Governor Jimmy Carter's Press Office Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 68-101. This series was opened in November 2005. This series consists of newspaper clippings, news briefings, and press releases compiled during Jimmy Carter's gubernatorial term in office. Some of these clippings include background reports, memorandums, correspondence, publications, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Rosalynn Carter's Gubernatorial Correspondence Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 102-120. This series was opened in November 2005. This series consists of correspondence such as invitations, thank you notes, requests for Rosalynn Carter's attendance at events; and requests for mansion tours and receptions. Also included are birthday greetings, recipe requests, and personal requests from friends and relatives. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Rosalynn Carter's Special Projects and Events Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 121-140. This series was opened in November 2005. This series contains correspondence, memorandums, governor mansion brochures, newspaper clippings, invitations, guest registers, and address lists. The material relates to Rosalynn Carter's role as First Lady of Georgia. A great deal of material reflects her work with mental health issues and frequent visits to various mental health facilities. The series also contains Christmas cards and lists, holiday event information, Governor's conference agendas; and material on citizens exchange programs, and the ARTRAIN project. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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Last modified: November 2013

Biographical Information

Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter (James Earl Carter, Jr.), thirty-ninth president of the United States, was born October 1, 1924, in the small farming town of Plains, Georgia, and grew up in the nearby community of Archery. His father, James Earl Carter, Sr., was a farmer and businessman; his mother, Lillian Gordy Carter, a registered nurse.

He was educated in the public school of Plains, attended Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a B.S. degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. In the Navy he became a submariner, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and rising to the rank of lieutenant. Chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, he was assigned to Schenectady, New York, where he took graduate work at Union College in reactor technology and nuclear physics, and served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of the *Seawolf*, the second nuclear submarine.

On July 7, 1946, he married Rosalynn Smith of Plains. When his father died in 1953, he resigned his naval commission and returned with his family to Georgia. He took over the Carter farms, and he and Rosalynn operated Carter's Warehouse, a general-purpose seed and farm supply company in Plains. He quickly became a leader of the community, serving on county boards supervising education, the hospital authority, and the library. In 1962 he won election to the Georgia Senate. He lost his first gubernatorial campaign in 1966, but won the next election, becoming Georgia's 76th governor on January 12, 1971. He was the Democratic National Committee campaign chairman for the 1974 congressional and gubernatorial elections.

On December 12, 1974, he announced his candidacy for president of the United States. He won his party's nomination on the first ballot at the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and was elected president on November 2, 1976.

Jimmy Carter served as president from January 20, 1977 to January 20, 1981. Significant foreign policy accomplishments of his administration included the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He championed human rights throughout the world. On the domestic side, the administration's achievements included a comprehensive energy program conducted by a new Department of Energy; deregulation in energy, transportation, communications, and finance; major educational programs under a new Department of Education; and major environmental protection legislation, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Mr. Carter is the author of twenty-seven books. On December 10, 2002, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2002 to Mr. Carter "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

Rosalynn Carter

Rosalynn Smith Carter was born in Plains, Georgia, August 18, 1927 to Edgar and Allie Smith. She graduated from Georgia Southwestern College, 1946. She married Jimmy Carter July 7, 1946. Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter has worked for more than three decades to improve the quality of life for people around the world. Today, she is an advocate for mental health, caregiving, early childhood immunization, human rights, and conflict resolution through her work at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The center is a private, nonprofit institution founded by former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter in 1982.

A full partner with the president in all the center's activities, the former first lady is a member of The Carter Center Board of Trustees. She created and chairs The Carter Center's Mental Health Task Force, an advisory body of experts, consumers, and advocates promoting positive change in the mental health field. Each year, she hosts the Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, bringing together leaders of the nation's mental health organizations to address critical issues. Mrs. Carter emerged as a driving force for mental health when, during the Carter administration, she became active honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, which resulted in passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980.

She served on the Policy Advisory Board of The Atlanta Project (TAP), a program of The Carter Center addressing the social ills associated with poverty and quality of life citywide, from the program's inception in 1991 until its transfer to Georgia State University in 1999. In 1988, she convened with three other former first ladies to partake in the "Women and the Constitution" conference at the Carter Center to assess the document's impact on women.

Outside the center, Mrs. Carter is president of the board of directors for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Care giving (RCI) at Georgia Southwestern State University, which was established in her honor on the campus of her alma mater in Americus, Georgia. Through research, education, and training, the RCI promotes the mental health and well-being of individuals, families, and professional caregivers; delineates effective care giving practices; builds public awareness of care giving needs; and advances public and social policies that enhance caring communities. She has written five books.

Mrs. Carter has received many honors, among them the Volunteer of the Decade Award from the National Mental Health Association; the Award of Merit for Support of the Equal Rights Amendment from the National Organization for Women; the Notre Dame Award for International Service; the Eleanor Roosevelt Living World Award from Peace Links; the Kiwanis World Service Medal from Kiwanis International Foundation; the Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service; the Georgia Woman of the Year Award from the Georgia Commission on Women; the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the Institute of Medicine; the United States Surgeon General's Medallion; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. In 2001 she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.