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Jimmy Carter's reputation as a humanitarian is strengthened through his work at the ever-growing Carter Center near Downtown Atlanta.

THE CARTER CENTER

Carters refused to let defeat stand as legacy

By Shirley L. Smith
STAFF WRITER

After Jimmy Carter's painful defeat in the 1980 presidential race, historians were ready to close the book on him. But Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, in the prime of their lives, would not hear of it.

Not content with going into retirement and just writing their memoirs, they started a new chapter that could be titled: "The Legacy of the Carter Center."

Mr. Carter, determined not to build a library/museum like the "lifeless memorials" of his predecessors, conceived the idea for a center where people could resolve conflicts peacefully.

Although opinions may differ on Mr. Carter's contributions during his presidency from 1977 to 1981, several presidential scholars agree that his work at the center is unprecedented.

"It's going to encourage future presidents to take more seriously their on-going public service obligations," said Dr. Loch Johnson of the University of Georgia.

The center's success has surprised even Mr. Carter. "I never dreamed that the Carter Center would be so expansive in its operations or successful in its projects," he said.

The center is unique because it doesn't try to duplicate what others are

doing, it maintains objectivity in politics and its projects aren't done just for academic purposes, Mr. Carter said.

Having an active former president at its helm also helps. Mr. Carter spends about 10 days a month there and uses his influence to undertake such projects as freeing political prisoners and fighting hunger and disease in developing countries.

The center's accomplishments include:

- ▶ Monitoring democratic elections in Panama, Nicaragua, Zambia, Haiti, Guyana and other countries.

- ▶ Helping increase the immunization rate of the world's children from 20 to 80 percent over the past five years.

- ▶ Helping 150,000 families in Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, and Tanzania increase food production by conducting agricultural training programs.

- ▶ Helping prevent River Blindness, a disease caused by flies, by distributing the drug Mectizan to 26 African nations.

- ▶ Helping prevent Guinea Worm disease by distributing water filters and holding ongoing preventive programs. The debilitating disease, which affects 3 million people annually, is transmitted through water contaminated by worm larvae.

- ▶ Carter tries to fill vacuums in peace quest

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Jimmy Carter, as seen by artist Octavio Ocampo, is a combination of American symbols, from the tall ships that comprise his right hand to the Empire State building, White House and U.S. Capitol that help shape his torso, in this portrait on display at the Carter Library and Museum.

Carter's likeness portrays his complexity

Jimmy Carter is a complex man — just ask Octavio Ocampo, a Mexican artist whose portrait of the former president mystifies onlookers at the Carter museum.

From a distance, the oil canvas painting appears to be an uncanny resemblance of Mr. Carter, but a closer look reveals that it is actually an assimilation of objects shaped into Mr. Carter's features.

For example, a series of trucks coming out of a peanut warehouse depicts Mr. Carter's fingers and forearm, while a collage of state flags forms his head and the U.S. Seal forms his right eye. His body is depicted by several historic buildings, such as the nation's Capitol, and his

shoulder is a nuclear power plant. The portrait, given to Mr. Carter by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, is among about 4,000 gifts that were given to the family by various heads of state and are on rotating display at the Carter museum.

Each gift is unique, like the evening purse given to Mrs. Carter by King Hassan II of Morocco. The purse is made with rubies, diamonds, green onyx and 7½ pounds of gold.

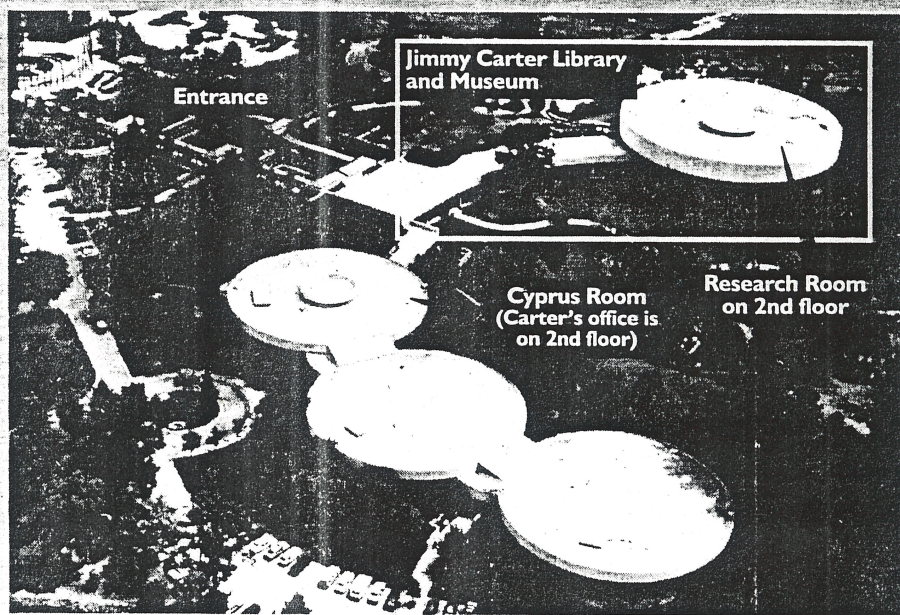
Amy, the Carters' daughter, was also a recipient of gifts. One of the more notable was an ebony-decorated elephant sculpture, embedded with silver. It was given to her, along

with a real baby elephant, by the ambassador of Sri Lanka, Neville Kanakarathne. The live elephant is housed at the National Zoo.

The exchange of gifts between heads of state on official visits is a long-held tradition, said Don Schewe, director of the Carter Library and Museum. He added that the federal government does not provide any funds for the president to buy such gifts, so upholding the tradition can be costly for presidents.

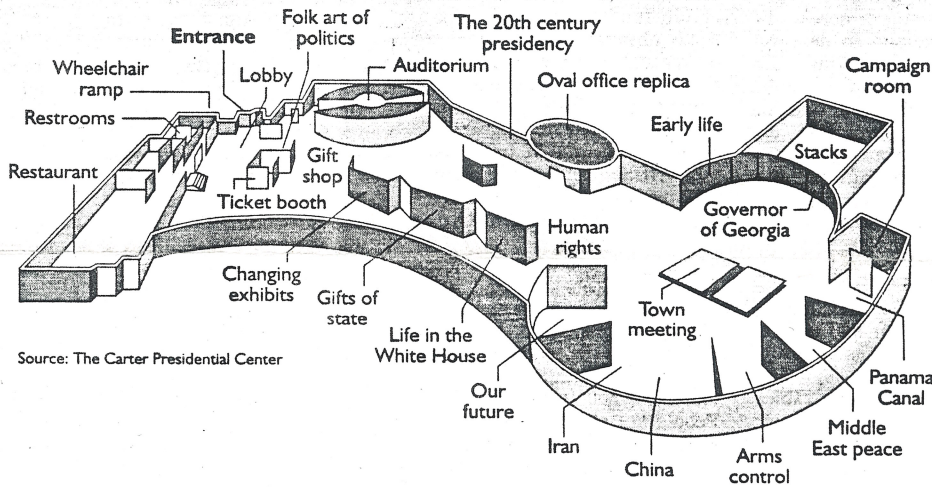
Although these gifts may be enticing, the law prohibits the president and his family from keeping any gift valued at more than \$50, Mr. Schewe said.

A birds-eye view of sprawling Atlanta complex



FRANK NIEMEIR / Staff

A closer look at what's inside the museum



Source: The Carter Presidential Center

PAIGE BRADDOCK / Staff

A look at the presidential complex

- ▶ **Cost:** \$27 million in private donations
- ▶ **Components:** Carter Center, a non-profit foundation; Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, run by National Archives
- ▶ **Coming this fall:** Chapel and 450-seat auditorium

The Carter Center at a glance

- ▶ **Administration:** Mr. Carter chairs the board of trustees. Executive director is John Hardman. Emory University's board of trustees oversees many programs.
- ▶ **Future:** To merge with Emory in next few years
- ▶ **Mission:** Bring people together in a non-partisan environment to promote peace; protect and advance human rights; and foster democracy and development worldwide
- ▶ **Founded:** 1982 at Emory; moved in 1986
- ▶ **Size:** 50,000 square feet
- ▶ **Budget:** \$25 million, including about \$3 million to start up The Atlanta Project
- ▶ **Programs:** Two dozen, and four non-profit organizations: The Carter Center of Emory University (humanitarian, conflict resolution programs); The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation (promotes human rights); Global 2000 Inc. (improving health, agriculture in developing countries); and The Task Force For Child Survival and Development (facilitates child survival efforts in developing countries).
- ▶ **Public access:** Closed, except for special events
- ▶ **Features:** Offices and conference rooms, including the 275-seat Cyprus Room, named after the country, and the 75-seat Zaban Room, named for Erwin Zaban, a center founder
- ▶ **Funding:** Private foundations and corporations including:

Carnegie, Ford and Rockefeller foundations; and Coca-Cola, Georgia Power, Home Depot and IBM. A few of the 40,000 individual contributors are Joan Kroc, widow of Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's Restaurants; the Yoshida family, founder of YKK, which specializes in making zippers; and Dean Day Smith, whose first husband founded Days Inn

A look at the Library and Museum

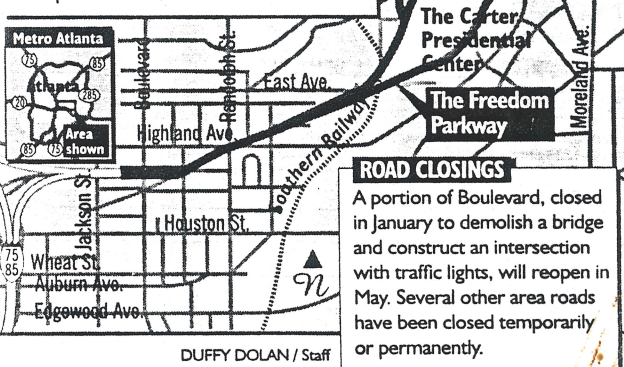
- ▶ **Mission:** To provide a place for research on Carter presidential documents, including: Camp David Accords, Salt II Treaty, normalization of U.S. relations with China, Panama Canal Treaty and evolution of national energy policy
- ▶ **Founded:** Oct. 1, 1986
- ▶ **Size:** 70,000 square feet
- ▶ **Budget:** \$1,020,000 from visitors, federal government

FEATURES

- ▶ **Museum:** Two theaters, which show a 30-minute film on the presidency; a replica of Carter's oval office; replica of White House formal dinner setting; 20 duplicates of first ladies' gowns; and more than 1 million photos
- ▶ **Research Facility:** 27 million pages of papers; 5,000 reference books, films, video and audio tapes
- ▶ **Access:** Museum is open to the public for self-guided tours Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4:45 p.m. The research facility can be used from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- ▶ **Admission:** Seniors, \$1.50; adults \$2.50; children under 16 free

The Freedom Parkway

Work on the \$13.3 million Freedom Parkway, intended to improve access to the center from Downtown, is 25 percent completed. The entire project is slated for completion in fall 1994.



ROAD CLOSINGS
A portion of Boulevard, closed in January to demolish a bridge and construct an intersection with traffic lights, will reopen in May. Several other area roads have been closed temporarily or permanently.

DUFFY DOLAN / Staff