Jimmy Carter National Historical Park
Museum and Visitors Center
Plains High School was built in 1921. Although it was always known as Plains High School, it also served as the elementary school. President Jimmy Carter attended this school from the 1st to the 11th grade. Students only went to school for 11 years in the 1930’s.
When you visit the museum inside Plains High School, you will see the Principal’s office, the auditorium, and and a classroom as it looked when Jimmy Carter attended school.

You will learn about his favorite teacher; Miss Julia Coleman. She would tell her students every day; “Study hard, one of you might be President one day.”
In the Principal’s office you will see displays of books, photos, scrapbooks, a handbell, and a wooden paddle. Miss Julia would ring the bell to let students and teachers know that it was time to start the school day. The wooden paddle was used by the principal to discipline students when they misbehaved.
When you walk through the Principal’s office and Historic classroom you will also learn about school life in the 1930’s and 1940’s.
You will learn that schools in the 1930’s were segregated. Segregation means that white students and African American students could not go to the same school. The African American students did not have equal opportunities. The Wards Chapel school for African American students did not have the same supplies or space needed for a quality education like Plains High School.
As you continue to explore the museum, you will see photos, artifacts, and information about Jimmy Carter’s life, how he became President of the United States and how he helps millions of people around the world.
You will learn about his family and other special people in his life.
A LOCAL COMMUNITY

The making of a president began here. In this close-knit community, Jimmy Carter discovered the importance of family, faith, and hard work. He came to recognize the painful effects of segregation and to believe its time was over. Carter’s desire to create positive change in his community pushed him into politics. As a school board member, state senator, and governor, he fought for better education, racial equality, and government reform. In turn, his community supported his political rise. A grassroots campaign launched here in Plains—propelled Jimmy Carter to the highest office in the nation.
You will learn about his hometown of Plains, Georgia and how his friends helped with his presidential campaign.
You will learn about President Carter’s policies to save energy and protect the environment.
You will learn about the important accomplishments President Carter made when he served as our President.
You will learn about Mrs. Rosalynn Carter and her job as First Lady of the United States.
You will learn about the Carter Center and other programs that President and Mrs. Carter work with to help people live better lives around the world.
You will see the bronze addition of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to President Carter in 2002 for his humanitarian work.
During your visit, you can also design a campaign button, cast a vote in the voting booth, and sit at a replica of President Carter’s desk in the Oval Office.
Today you have virtually explored the museum at the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park. You have learned about President Carter’s life, leadership, and humanitarian service to nations around the world.

Thank You for your service President Carter!
Now it’s Time to ..... Show what You Know !!
Jimmy Carter is not in this photo, but this is what his second-grade classroom would have looked like.

Would you have wanted to be a student in this classroom? Why or why not?

This is the schedule that the second-grade students at Plains High School followed each day.

How is your school day different from a student in the 1930’s? How is it the same?
You learned that President Carter set policies to save energy and protect the environment.

How can you help save energy and protect our environment?
Jimmy Carter made many important decisions when he served as our President. If you were President, what decisions would you make to help the people in our country?
During the museum tour you learned about segregation and Wards Chapel School. The photos below were taken at each of the schools.

Wards Chapel

Plains High School

How do you think the education was different for the students in these two classrooms?
Miss Julia kept scrapbooks about her students.

Can you find Jimmy Carter in these photos?
Thank you for joining us today at the Jimmy Cater National Historical Park Museum!