

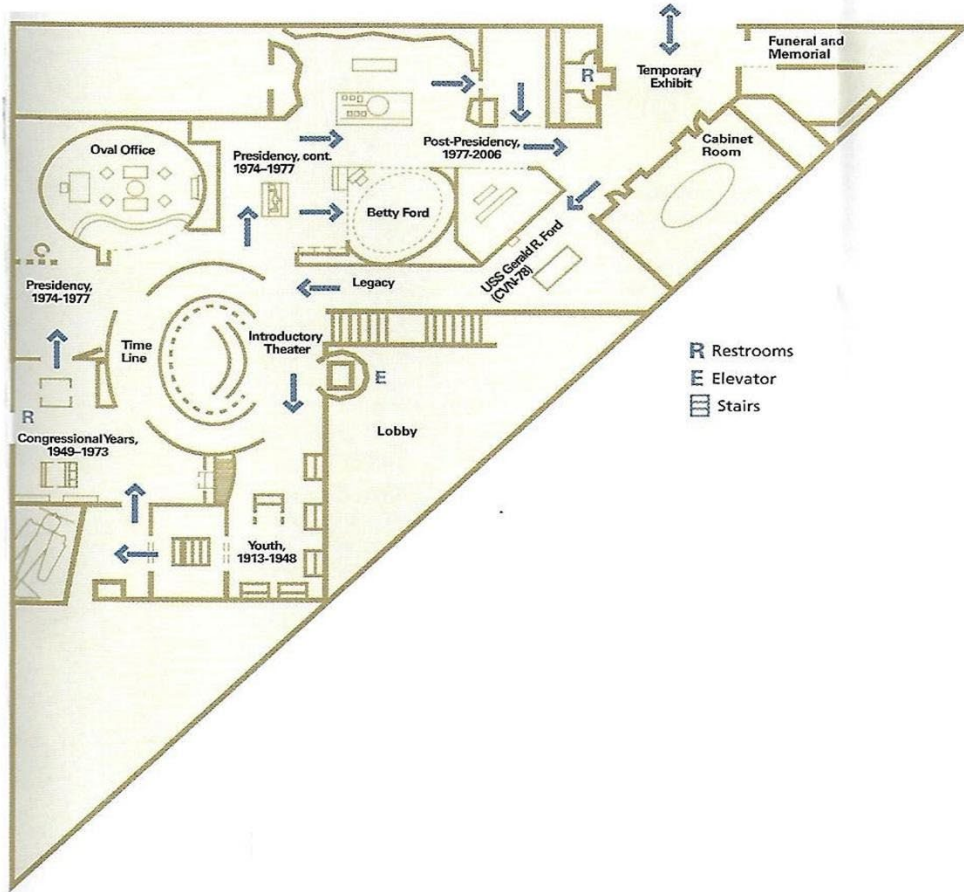


Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Docent Gallery Highlights

Contents:

Exhibit Map	.....	2
Youth, 1913-1948	.....	3
Congressional Years, 1949-1973	.....	5
Presidency, 1974-1977	.....	7
Post Presidency, 1977-2006	.....	10
Betty Ford	.....	12
USS <i>Gerald R Ford</i>	.....	12
Tribute Gallery	.....	14
White House	.....	15
Cabinet Room	.....	16
Oval Office	.....	17



Youth, 1913-1948

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – **(Childhood)** Scouts, Football, Meeting Leslie King Senior, Most Popular **(College Years)** Friendly Competitors, University of Michigan vs Georgia Tech, Longtime Friends
- Video – **(Childhood)** Scouts and early life **(Navy)** Life on the USS *Monterey*

Childhood Highlights:

- Leslie Lynch King Jr was born on July 14, 1913 in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Mother: Dorothy Gardner King; Father: Leslie Lynch King Sr.
- Dorothy takes Junior and moves to Grand Rapids, Michigan to live with her parents, shortly after Junior's birth. Dorothy and Leslie divorced within the year.
- Dorothy marries Gerald R. Ford Sr. in 1917.
- At 12 years old Junior joins the Boy Scouts. He is the only president to become an Eagle Scout, he achieved the rank in 1927.
- At 16, Gerald R. Ford Jr. met his birth father. This meeting is a benchmark in Ford's childhood.
- Ford attended South High School. This was an inner city school.
- Gerald R. Ford Sr. owned the Ford Paint and Varnish Company in Grand Rapids, Junior worked for his stepfather earning money for a car. Ford also worked summers at Ramona Park and lunches during the school year at a restaurant near South High School.
- In high school Ford was voted Most Popular Senior in the city of Grand Rapids. He was on the Honor Roll. He ran for class president, but lost. He was very athletic. He wrestled, was the center in football, and participated in track and field. Ford was an All-Star Athlete.

College Year Highlights:

- Gerald R. Ford Jr. attended the University of Michigan. He began in the fall of 1931.
- Ford's high school principal Arthur Krause introduced Ford to Harry Kipke, U of M's football coach.
- Ford joined Delta Kappa Epsilon as a freshman.
- Ford was an All Star Center at Michigan. His number was 48. It has since been retired by the university.
- Willis Ward was Ford's football roommate. In 1934, Michigan was set to play Georgia Tech. Due to the Jim Crow Laws of the era, Geo. Tech asked Michigan to bench their African American player. Ford did not feel this was fair. Although he played the game without Ward, Ford strongly disagreed with the leadership on the matter.
- After graduating in 1935, Ford was approached by the Green Bay Packers, Chicago Bears and Detroit Lions to consider a professional career. He declined.
- Ford chose to attend Yale and applied to study law. While waiting for acceptance into the program he coached boxing and football.
- In the summer of 1936 Ford served as a Ranger at Yellowstone.
- In 1940, Ford campaigned for Wendell Willkie, starting an interest in politics.
- He was accepted into Yale Law. Ford graduated in 1941.

- After graduation, he moved back to Grand Rapids and opened a small law practice with Philip A. Buchen. The office was located in the Michigan Trust Building (Ottawa and Pearl St.).

Joining the Navy:

- While at Yale, Ford was a member of the America First, a group of students who signed a petition to enforce the 1939 Neutrality Act. However, he enlisted in the Navy in 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- He served on the light aircraft carrier USS *Monterey*, which participated in many major operations in the South Pacific. Ford came within inches of being swept overboard during a typhoon in the Philippine Sea in December 1944.
- It was during his time on the USS *Monterey*, Ford began to question the isolationist approach the US took during World War II and began to think strongly about a career in politics.
- Ford was achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was discharged in February 1946.
- Returning from the war, Ford became a partner in local law firm Butterfield, Keeney and Amberg.

Congressional Years, 1949-1973

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – **(Warren Commission)** Jack Ruby Interrogation, Lingering Impressions
(Congress) Checking in with Grand Rapids, Foreign Travels
(Minority Leader) Managing the Republicans, Building a Majority
- Video – **(Childhood)** Scouts and early life
(Navy) Life on the USS *Monterey*
(Watergate) The Burglary at the Watergate Complex

Family Life Highlights:

- Betty Bloomer was born on April 8, 1918
- Mother: Hortense Neahr; Father: William Stephenson Bloomer, Sr.
- In her early years Betty Bloomer enjoyed modeling, dancing (under Martha Graham) and working as a fashion coordinator at Herpolsheimer's Department Store.
- In 1942 Betty married high school friend Bill Warren. They divorced in 1947.
- On October 15, 1948, Gerald and Betty were married at Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The couple has four children: Michael Gerald, born March 14, 1950; John Gardner, born March 16, 1952; Steven Meigs, born May 19, 1956; and Susan Elizabeth, born July 6, 1957.

Congressional Career Highlights:

- With encouragement from his stepfather, the county GOP chairman at the time, Ford decided to challenge the isolationist incumbent Bartel Jonkman for the Republican nomination in 1948.
- A month after his marriage, Ford was elected to his first of what would become 13 consecutive terms representing the Grand Rapids area in the U.S. House of Representatives (1949 - 1972).
- Ford was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee during his second term. While serving on the committee he learned how the federal government functioned and how to identify wasteful spending.
- In 1952, Ford served on the Defense Appropriations Committee and in 1953 took a trip overseas to see Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam and Korea. In 1963, he was selected to hold the senior republican seat on the committee.
- President Johnson appointed Ford to serve on the Warren Commission. The Warren Commission was tasked with investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
- In 1965, Gerald Ford was elected House Minority Leader, unseating incumbent Charlie Halleck. Ford's ambition was to be Speaker of the House, but the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew changed this.

Watergate Highlights:

- When Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned from office due to Income Tax Evasion, President Nixon used the 25th Amendment to nominate Congressman Gerald Ford for Vice President.
- The 25th Amendment was ratified in 1967 in reaction to President Kennedy's assassination. The Amendment allows the President to nominate a candidate for the Vice Presidency. That candidate must then be confirmed by both Chambers of Congress.

- The United States Senate voted 92 to 3 to confirm Ford on November 27, 1973. On December 6, 1973, the House confirmed Ford by a vote of 387 to 35. Ford became Vice President later that day.
- Watergate was unfolding as Ford became Vice President. At the beginning of the investigation Ford stood with President Nixon. On Thursday, August 1, 1974, Chief of Staff Alexander Haig contacted Ford to tell him that "smoking gun" evidence had been found. This evidence was an Oval Office tape-recording of Nixon discussing a plan to impede the FBI's investigation by falsely claiming the break-in was a CIA operation.
- Nixon announced his intent to resign on August 8, 1974. At 11:35 a.m. on August 9th he delivered his letter of resignation to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. At noon on August 9th Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States.

Presidency, 1974-1977

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – **(Pardoning Nixon)** A Nation Responds, Ford Testifies Before Congress
(Economic Challenge) Deregulation & Competition, Energy Strategy, The Veto
(Oval Office) Mayaguez Ship Wheel, Wilson Desk, Decorative Paintings, Model of Space Shuttle Enterprise, West Door, Secret Doors, Wall Fixtures
(Elections Primary & National) The Primary Race, The General Election (Bicentennial) Wagon Train Pilgrimage, American Freedom Train, Independence Day
- Interactives – **(White House Model)** Room Tours
(Foreign Policy Table) Civil War in Angola, NATO Summit, First G8 Summit, Helsinki Final Act, Apollo Soyuz Test Project, *SS Mayaguez* Captured, Vietnam War Ends, Egypt and Israel Cease Fire, SALT talks, Crisis in Cyprus, Project Azorian

First 31 Days:

- August 12, 1974 – Ford addresses a joint session of Congress. During this address he lays out his plans as President. President Ford states, “I do not want a honeymoon with you. I want a good marriage.” He also declares his first priority is to bring inflation under control, declaring it “public enemy number one.” President Ford cautions that “a government big enough to give you everything you want, is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.”
- August 14, 1974 – Ford manages the Crisis in Cyprus. A Greek-sponsored coup on the island led to a Turkish invasion and the threat of war between two of America's NATO allies and culminated in the collapse of the Greek military junta and the de facto partition of Cyprus. Ford and his Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and various advisers assisted in partially defusing the crisis.
- August 16, 1974 – Ford hosts a State Dinner for King Hussein and Queen Alia of Jordan. Some 120 guests, mostly longtime friends of the Fords from Congress and elsewhere in government, were invited for the dinner and the dancing afterward. Entertainment at dinner was provided by the Air Force Strolling Strings ensemble. The Howard Devron Orchestra provided music for the after-dinner dancing in the East Room.
- August 19, 1974 – Ford announces his plan to grant clemency to draft dodgers at the National Convention of Veterans of a Foreign War.
- August 20, 1974 – Under the 25th Amendment Ford appoints Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President. Ford also considered George Herbert Walker Bush and Donald Rumsfeld for the position. In the end, Ford believed Rockefeller would bring executive expertise to the administration and broaden the ticket's appeal if they ran in 1976.

- September 8, 1974 – Ford issues Proclamation 4311 – Granting Pardon to Richard Nixon. *Now, Therefore, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States, pursuant to the pardon power conferred upon me by Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, have granted and by these presents do grant a full, free, and absolute pardon unto Richard Nixon for all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 20, 1969 through August 9, 1974.* – section from Proclamation 4311

Presidency Highlights:

- Ford survived two separate assassination attempts during two separate visits to California in 1975. The first took place in Sacramento on September 5th, when Charles Manson follower Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme pointed a Colt .45-caliber handgun at Ford. Fromme was stopped by a Secret Service agent, no shot was fired. On September 22nd, Sara Jane Moore pointed a .38-caliber revolver at Ford and shot as he left the St. Francis Hotel in downtown San Francisco. Moore’s first shot missed and a retired Marine grabbed the gun and deflected her second shot.

Economy Highlights:

- President Ford considered the veto to be “the single most powerful weapon at my disposal to force Congress to recognize fiscal restraint and keep the economy on track.”
- President Ford worked with Congress to create a bipartisan stimulus spending bill that included key tax cuts while utilizing cautious economic policy.
- The deregulatory wave of the 1970s began under the Ford Administration. During his short time in office, he appointed pro-deregulation commissioners and convinced Congress to partially deregulate railroads and oil and gas.
- The city of New York asked Congress for funds to bail them out of bankruptcy. Ford refused to bail out the city. By 1980, the city had righted its financial situation and was fiscally solid.
- Whip Inflation Now (WIN) was a 1974 attempt to spur a grassroots movement to combat inflation in the US. It encouraged personal savings and disciplined spending habits in combination with public measures. The program was not a success.

Foreign Policy:

- SALT Talks – November 1974 Ford met with Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. The meeting was arranged during the Nixon administration, Ford honored the commitment. This meeting set the framework for a new 10-year Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) which was signed by President Carter in 1979.
- Vietnam War – Although The Paris Peace Accords, which declared a cease fire across North and South Vietnam, should have ended the conflict they did not. By 1974 both North and South Vietnam had violated the agreement and in 1975 the North accelerated its invasion of South Vietnam. President Ford knowing that Vietnam would fall to the North, began the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon via the US Embassy. He would later say this was the lowest point of his presidency.
- Ford also evacuated 120,000 Vietnamese before the fall of Saigon. Many refugees were brought to the United States for relocation or in other allied nations. Operation Babylift helped rescue children and babies. They were put up for adoption in the US and other nations.

- SS Mayaguez – The US merchant ship the SS *Mayaguez* was fired upon, boarded and overtaken by a Cambodian vessel on May 12, 1975. President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger saw this as a violation of international law and ordered a Marine rescue of the crew. The President authorized airstrikes on Cambodian patrol boats and limited bombings on the Cambodian mainland. By May 14, 1975, the SS *Mayaguez* was back under US control.
- As president Ford chose to continue détente relations with communist nations. Détente was a policy created in the mid-1960s to help ease Cold War tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Examples of détente relations:

Apollo Soyuz Project – The Soviet Union and the United States docked space capsules together. This partnership paved the way for the International Space Station.

Helsinki Accords – Although some urged Ford not to attend the Accords, he did so out of the spirit of détente. The 35 nation conference's focus was on security and cooperation in Europe. All 35 nations attending signed the Accords. The three main takeaways from the talk included: respect for sovereign nations, lowering barriers to economic, cultural and scientific cooperation, and recognition of human rights.

- President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger worked to resolve Middle East tensions by continuing “shuttle diplomacy” started in the Nixon administration. This style of diplomacy led to the Sinai Accords.

1976 The Convention and Bicentennial:

- The United States celebrated its bicentennial in 1976. The bicentennial helped to restore American moral. The year was filled with fireworks, parades, speeches – the nation was covered in red, white and blue.
- Ronald Reagan, a conservative Washington outsider, challenged Gerald Ford for the republican nomination in 1976. The battle between Reagan and Ford was fierce, going into the convention both men stood a good chance to win the nomination. It came down to the vote on the floor, Ford won by 110 ballots.
- Election 1976 – Although President Ford began the economic recovery and regained trust in the government, he still trailed Jimmy Carter in the polls for the 1976 Presidential Election. Carter like Reagan, was a Washington outsider and appealed to many simply on those grounds. Ford also had the cloud of the Pardon weighing over him. Ford and Carter squared off in three televised debates and campaigned long and hard across the nation against each other. Betty Ford stumped for her husband by using a CB radio. Betty used the handle “First Momma.” In the end, Carter won the election, receiving 50.1% of the popular vote and 297 electoral votes compared with 48.0% and 240 electoral votes for Ford.

Post Presidency, 1977-2006

Multi-media:

- Video – **(Post Presidency)** Accolades and Honors
(Funeral & Tributes) Eulogies of President Ford

Citizenship by Example:

- In their post-White House years President and Mrs. Ford received many awards. These included:
 - Yonatan Netanyahu Memorial Medal (1977) presented to President Ford.
 - The CARE World Leader Award (1995) presented to President Ford.
 - Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana (1996) presented to President Ford.
 - Congressional Gold Medal (1998) presented jointly to President and Mrs. Ford.
 - Presidential Medal of Freedom (1999) presented to President Ford.
 - Profiles in Courage Award (2001) presented to President Ford.
- Ford brought the same work ethic he had in the White House to his retirement. He served on boards, lectured and campaigned for many charitable organizations.
- Annually the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation presents the “Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service.” Recent recipients include:
 - 2018 Award Recipient: John W. Warner
 - 2017 Award Recipient: Jimmy Carter
 - 2016 Award Recipient: George H.W. Bush
 - 2015 Award Recipients: Carl Levin and John Dingell
 - 2014 Award Recipient: John O. Marsh, Jr.

The Funeral and Tributes:

Gerald R. Ford

Gerald R. Ford passed away on December 26, 2006 at 93 years old. At the time of his death he was the longest-lived president in American history, a record he held until George H. W. Bush surpassed him on November 25, 2017.

- Palm Desert, California
 - On December 29, 2006 President Ford’s funeral services began in Palm Desert, California at St. Margaret’s Church. His family accompanied him on Air Force One to Washington, D.C.
- Washington, D.C.
 - On December 30, 2006, Ford became the 11th U.S. President to lay in state in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. A state funeral and memorial services was held at the National Cathedral on January 2, 2007. On the way to Grand Rapids, Air Force One flew over the University of Michigan and dipped its wing.

- Grand Rapids, Michigan

On January 2, the former President's remains lay in repose in the museum's lobby where an estimated 67,000 mourners, stood in line to pay their respects to Ford. Several of President and Mrs. Ford's children and grandchildren came to the museum that night and greeted mourners. On January 3rd at Grace Episcopal Church the final funeral service was held. Family and friends interred Ford's remains on the grounds of the Ford Presidential Museum.

Betty Ford

Betty Ford passed away on July 8, 2011 at 93 years old.

- Palm Desert, California

On July 12, 2011, Betty Ford's funeral services began in Palm Desert, California at St. Margaret's Church. The next day her remains were flown to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

- Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mrs. Ford lay in repose for 24 hours in the lobby of the Ford Museum. On July 14, a second service was held at Grace Episcopal Church. After the service, she was buried next to President Ford on the museum grounds.

Betty Ford

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – Spokesperson for Women’s Rights, A Candid First Lady

Betty Ford Highlights:

- Betty Ford was an involved, outspoken First Lady who championed many causes.
- During a *60 Minute* interview with Morley Safer she touched on many taboo topics. They included: drug use, premarital sex and abortion.
- Her causes included the support for the arts, Americans with Disabilities, and the Equal Rights Amendment.
- **Equal Rights Amendment** - The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex; it seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in terms of divorce, property, employment, and other matters. Betty lobbied hard for its passage in 1977.
- **Breast Cancer Awareness** - Weeks after Betty Ford became First Lady, she was diagnosed with malignant breast cancer during a routine exam. Ford underwent a mastectomy, and her openness about her illness raised visibility for a disease that Americans had previously been reluctant to discuss.
- **Drug and Alcohol Abuse** - Since the early 1960s, Betty Ford had been taking opioid analgesics for pain from a pinched nerve. In 1978, the Ford family staged an intervention, and forced Betty to confront her addition to alcohol and pain pills. She entered Long Beach Naval Hospital for drug and alcohol rehabilitation. The experience in drug rehab had a profound effect on Betty. She also realized there was no recovery facility specifically established to help women with the unique problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse. In 1982, Betty helped establish the Betty Ford Center.

Accolades:

- University of Michigan Honorary Law Degree (1976)
- Parson’s Award (1976)
- Presidential Medal of Freedom (1991)
- Woodrow Wilson Award (2003)
- Gerald R. Ford Distinguished Service Medal (2005)

USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN78)

Highlights:

- The USS *Gerald R. Ford* represents a new class of nuclear-powered supercarriers.
- Construction took 12 years. Over 3,000 ship builders labored to create the carrier. It was constructed on a dry dock at the Newport News Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia.
- Notable upgrades include an electromagnetic catapult launches aircraft with greater precision and two newly-designed reactors and has 250 percent more electrical capacity than previous carriers.

Tribute Gallery

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – Early Carriers, Carriers at War, The Supercarriers

This hall features the many awards and speeches that honor President Ford. Features include the following list of artifacts and speeches from former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other former presidents.

White House

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – West Wing, The Residence, East Wing, The Grounds

Highlights:

- George Washington selected the location for the White House.
- John Adams was the first president to live in it.
- James Hoban was the architect who designed the White House. He rebuilt it after it burned in 1814.
- There are 6 levels, 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms and 28 fireplaces.

Cabinet Room

Multi-media:

- Video – History of the room with former Secretary Carla Hills

Highlights:

- The Cabinet Room is the meeting room for the cabinet secretaries and advisors serving the President of the United States. The Cabinet Room is located in the West Wing of the White House, adjoining the Oval Office, and looks out upon the White House Rose Garden.
- Portraits along the west wall are chosen by an incumbent president. The large elliptical mahogany table was a gift from President Richard Nixon in 1970. The president's chair is centered on the table on the east side of the room. The back of the president's chair is two inches taller than those of the cabinet secretaries. Engraved brass plates with the names of the cabinet positions are attached to the back of the chairs. The president's simply says "THE PRESIDENT." The chairs are purchased by the cabinet members, who may keep the chair as a souvenir after they leave office.

The Ford Administration:

- Secretary of State - Henry A. Kissinger (Cont.)
- Secretary of the Treasury - William E. Simon (Cont.)
- Secretary of Defense - James R. Schlesinger (Cont.); Donald H. Rumsfeld, 1975
- Attorney General - William B. Saxbe (Cont.); Edward H. Levi, 1975
- Secretary of the Interior - Rogers C. B. Morton (Cont.); Stanley K. Hathaway, 1975; Thomas S. Kleppe, 1975
- Secretary of Agriculture - Earl L. Butz (Cont.); John Knebel, 1976
- Secretary of Commerce - Frederick B. Dent (Cont.); Rogers C. B. Morton, 1975; Elliot L. Richardson, 1976
- Secretary of Labor - Peter J. Brennan (Cont.); John T. Dunlop, 1975; William J. Usery, Jr., 1976
- Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare - Caspar W. Weinberger (Cont.); F. David Mathews, 1975
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development - James T. Lynn (Cont.); Carla A. Hills, 1975
- Secretary of Transportation - Claude S. Brinegar (Cont.); William T. Coleman, Jr., 1975

The Oval Office

Multi-media:

- Dig Deeper – Mayaguez Ship Wheel, Wilson Desk, Decorative Paintings, Model of the Spaceship Enterprise, West Door, Secret Doors, Wall Fixtures

The Oval Office serves as the official office of the President of the United States. George Washington selected the shape because it dramatized the importance of the office and the space could be used for receptions.