HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT:

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Ron Cockrell, Research Historian
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
Omaha, Nebraska

1984

RECOMMENDED:

Norman J Reigle

Superintendent, Harry S Truman NHS

2/28/84

Date

APPROVED:

Charles H. Odegaard

Regional Director, Midwest Region

3/27/84

Date

FOREWORD

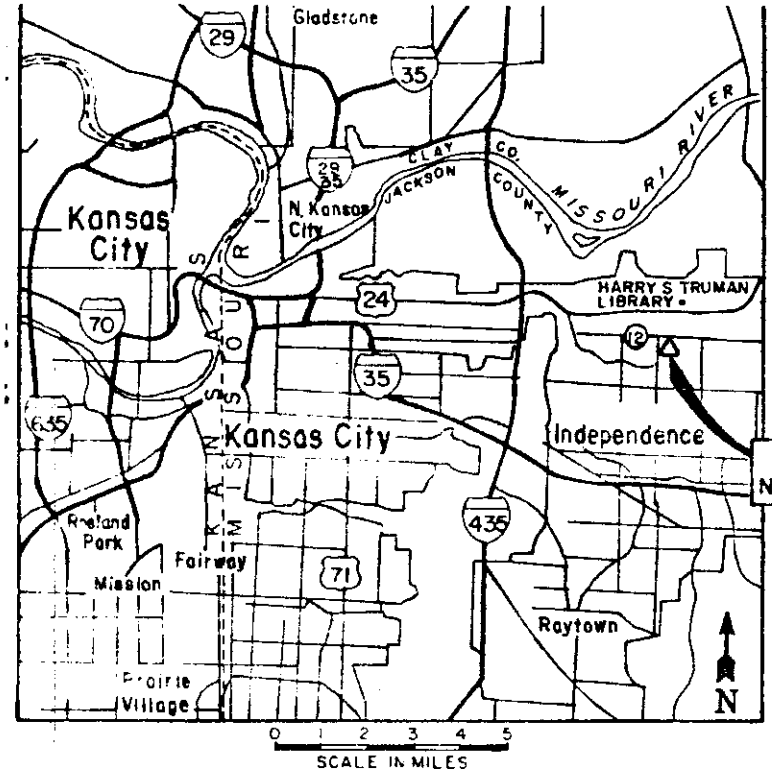
This study represents the first in-depth historical analysis of the home of Harry S and Bess Wallace Truman. The following History and Significance section of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site Historic Structures Report is the result of over three months of research and interviews in Independence, Missouri, and two days in Washington, D.C. Intensive research began in June and the compilation commenced in August, 1983. A three-hour interview with the Trumans' daughter, Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel, took place in the living room of the home on November 17, 1983.

All historical photographs were obtained from the Harry S. Truman Library. They represent a good cross section of the Truman Library's photographic archival collection on the national historic site. Unfortunately, there are few interior views which predate 1953.

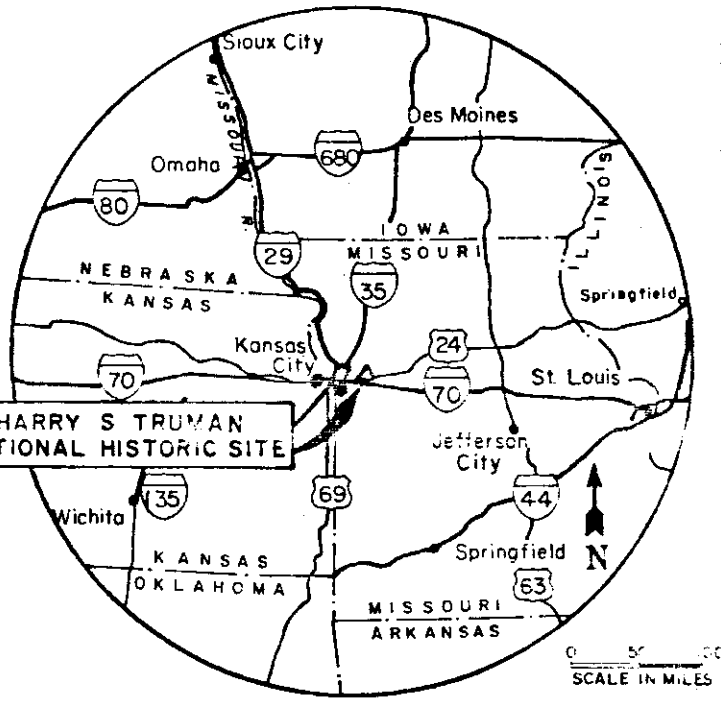
A note on style: The period after the middle initial in Mr. Truman's name is not used by the National Park Service because the enabling legislation, Public Law 98-32, did not include it. Many local (Independence) organizations and published sources, however, do use the period. In this study, National Park Service policy is followed and the period is used only when it appears in direct quotations or in an official title, i.e. Harry S. Truman Library.

Finally, as an Independence native who feels a deep commitment to the Truman legacy, I would like to thank the many people who were interviewed and consulted on this project. A special word of thanks goes to Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel, Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Miss Sue Gentry, and Mrs. Pauline S. Fowler; Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist and Mrs. Elizabeth Safly of the Truman Library; and Norm Reigle and Tom Richter of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site. My appreciation is also extended to those in the Midwest Regional Office who had faith in my abilities and granted me the privilege of compiling this study, in particular, Randall R. Pope, John Kawamoto, and Andy Ketterson. Last, but far from the bottom of my list, are my co-workers who provided me much technical support--Jill M. York, Lee B. Jameson, Francis O. Krupka, Thomas L. Hensley, Alan W. O'Bright, Michael D. Lee, and Lettie A. Hansen. All of these individuals helped to make this challenge a true labor of love.

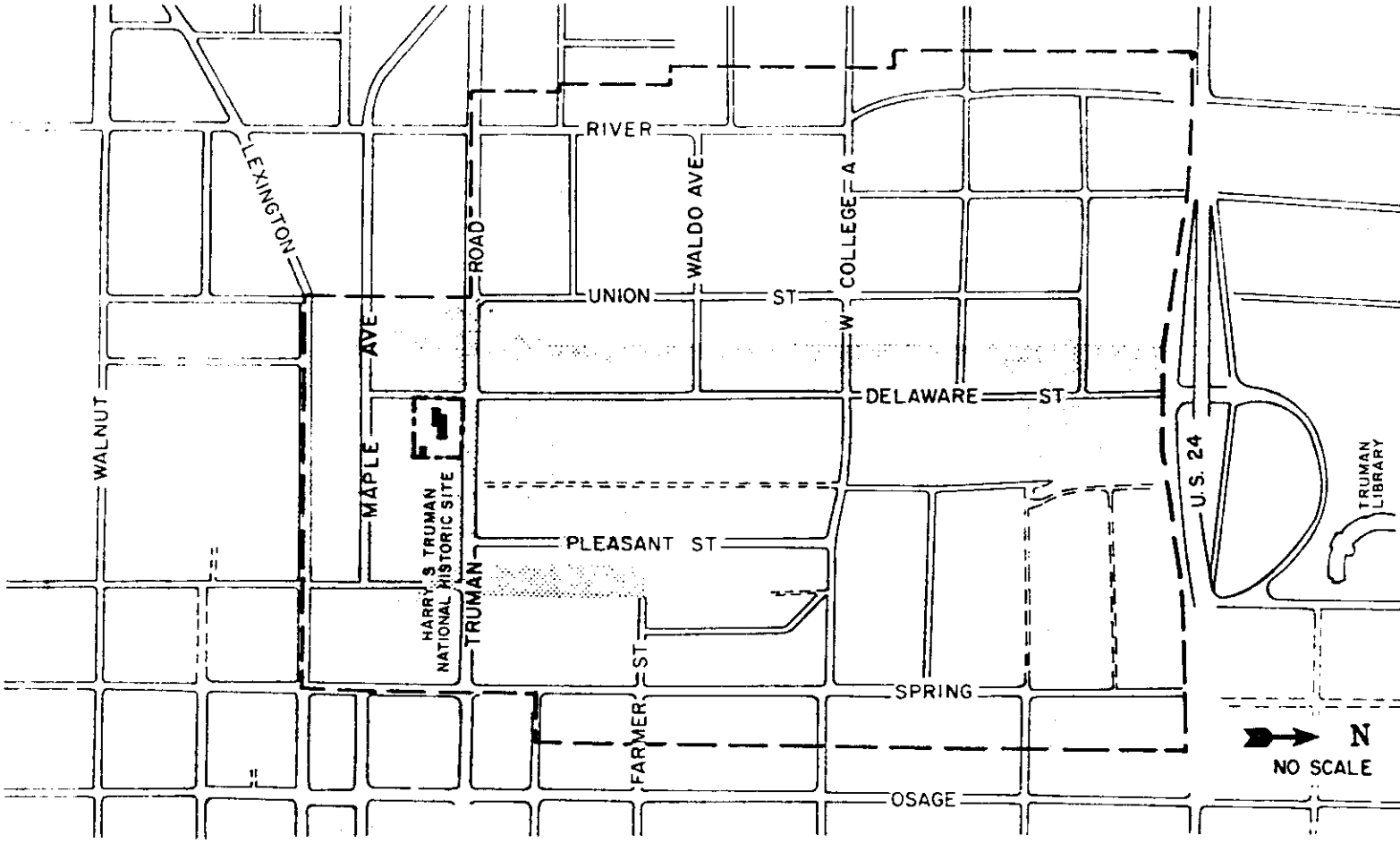
Ron Cockrell
Research Historian



VICINITY MAP



LOCATION MAP



— - — NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BOUNDARY HARRY S. TRUMAN HISTORIC DISTR. (National Register)

— — HARRY S. TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT (City of Independence)

EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING and BOUNDARY MAP

HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

JACKSON COUNTY, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

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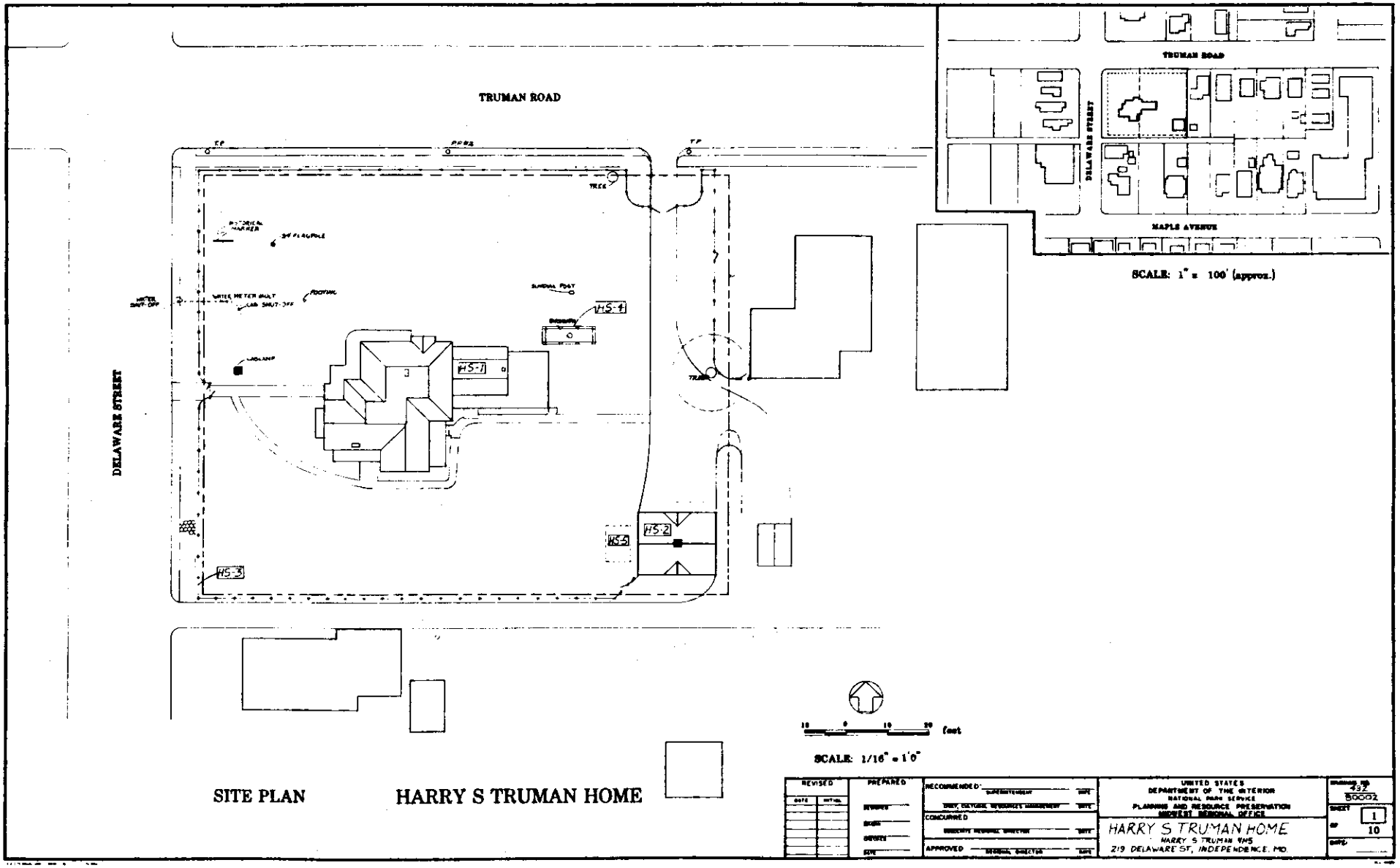

SITE PLAN

HARRY S TRUMAN HOME

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