CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE TWILIGHT YEARS

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The Secret Service Returns

The Trumans were without Secret Service protection from the moment Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated President of the United States on January 20, 1953. The Trumans faced no serious threats, although the wrought iron picket fence was retained to separate the house from the general public. In the aftermath of the November 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy, however, Secret Service protection resumed for the Trumans on December 16, 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 89-186. The law extended lifetime Secret Service protection to former presidents, their widows, and minor children. President Truman immediately announced "he would accept the courtesy offered to him but that he had not been bothered much in the past 13 years since he left the White House."[1]

Secret Service agents returned to Independence immediately to guard Harry and Bess Truman. When the operatives asked permission to reestablish a command post or erect a guardhouse on the grounds, Mrs. Truman refused.[2] Margaret Truman recalled, "...they were told, "No!" Not under any circumstances. They were told by my mother that she would not have that in the backyard, and that was it."[3]

The Trumans did, however, allow some electronic surveillance systems installed on the grounds "provided there were no modifications of a substantial nature to either the residence or surrounding property."[4]

The agents insisted that Mike Westwood, the Independence policeman assigned by the mayor to protect the Trumans since their return from Washington, be relieved of his duty at the home. They refused to allow him to stay at the home with the Secret Service now in charge. Westwood recalled:

> The Secret Service took complete charge and just took over the house.... They started immediately installing telephones and such, all of which... annoyed Mr. Truman.[5]

It was Mrs. Truman, however, who was vehemently against the reintroduction of the Secret Service. She believed that the protection was unnecessary and an infringement upon the couple's cherished privacy. She wanted the Secret Service to leave her and her husband alone.[6]

The former President reviewed the legislation. Within the bill's provisions was a clause which left Secret Service protection to the discretion of a former president. He ordered the Secret Service out.

Through the personal intervention of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Trumans were coaxed into permitting Secret Service agents to be stationed at the Truman Library to protect President Truman during his regular working hours there.[7]

The "Truman Protective Division" came into existence in February 1966 with two agents assigned to the Truman Library. In July, Mr. Truman requested temporary surveillance of his residence following an incident with a former mental patient.[8] During these months of contact with the Trumans, the agents gained their trust and confidence.[9] Surveillance of 219 North Delaware was soon expanded to day duty. In May 1967, the detail at the Truman Library was permanently established in an office and able to offer 24-hour protection for the Trumans.[10] By this time, permission to use the west side of the barn/ garage had again been granted.

In September 1967, a panic alarm system was installed at the Truman Library and residence. Three small transmitters the size of cigarette packs were given to the Trumans to place in various rooms inside the house. A receiver was installed in the barn and at the Truman Library security office. Whenever the Trumans pushed the button on one of the transmitters, a signal was sent to the two receivers which sounded a warbling tone to alert the agents. The receiver at the Truman Library

was connected to the private line between the security office and the Kansas City field office of the Secret Service. The alarm system became operational at 4 p.m., September 9, 1967, while the telephone monitor went on line at 9:30 a.m., September 11, 1967.[11]

In early August 1969, closed circuit television surveillance was installed for the Truman home. The camera, atop the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints' Center Stake Building southwest of the home on North Delaware, was "capable of Pan and Tilt operation, Zoom Lens operation, and is remote controled [sic] and monitored from the Command Post, located in the Truman Library."[12]

Command Post at 224 North Delaware Street

In the fall of 1970, the Secret Service requested the General Services Administration (GSA) to lease a brick house at 224 North Delaware for use as a command post. The property was occupied beginning November 15, 1970.[13] The new command post served as a 24-hour visual surveillance center capable of providing "immediate response to emergency situations."[14]

In September 1971, a low-level light lens was installed in

the closed circuit television system. This enabled the agents in the command post across North Delaware Street to survey the Trumans' home at night.[15] Because of this close surveillance by the Secret Service, the Trumans allowed their doorbell, which rang at the front gate, to be disconnected. All visitors would first have to consult the agents.[16]

In early 1972, a lengthy list of new equipment was shipped to Independence. A request that an additional camera be added to enhance security was made by the Truman Protective Division in March 1972. The camera would cover the area of the rear gate, noting that "it is the wishes [sic] of Former President and Mrs. Truman that the rear gate be left permanently open." The problem of fire because of the dated electrical system was also discussed:

> The addition of smoke and fire detectors have become critical due to the age of the Truman home. The wiring in the home is also quite old increasing the chance of fire. TSD [Technical Security Division] has agreed that the smoke and fire detectors are necessary. In order to run the alarms to the Truman Division Command Post another twenty-four pair telephone cable will be required from the Truman garage to the Truman Command Post.[17]

The cost for all the electronic security systems installed at the home by 1974 was estimated to be around $23,200.[18]

Although the Trumans' initial contact with the Secret Service was chilly, a warm relationship soon developed. According to Margaret Truman,

> They didn't mind the Secret Service. They got along with them very well and knew all of them by name and at Christmas they invited them all in for a drink and some cake and coffee or whatever. They were kind of like family.[19]

Additional panic transmitters were ordered and placed on the window sills in the more frequented rooms. The devices were inadvertently used on at least one occasion when one of the Trumans' grandsons, William Wallace Daniel, activated one of the transmitters which brought agents storming into the front and rear entrances of the home.[20]

Until Mr. Truman's death on December 26, 1972, twelve Secret Service agents and special government police officers were assigned to the Truman Protective Division. Protection for his widow consisted of four agents and four special policemen. The agents always accompanied the Trumans whenever they left their home, but never stayed overnight inside the residence. Only when Mrs. Truman's health began to fail and she was restricted to a wheelchair were agents allowed to spend the night. Robert Lockwood, Special Agent in Charge from 1973 to 1982, stated "...we didn't go in until she'd retired for the night.... We had to move slowly to get permission to stay in

the house at all."[21]

At the time of Bess Truman's death, a $20,000 surveillance system was on order for installation at 219 North Delaware. The order was cancelled as agents worked to dismantle the existing equipment and remove it from the house and command post.[22] Within a few weeks of the funeral, the last Secret Service agent had gone. On December 1, 1982, the lease on the command post at 224 North Delaware expired and the activity of the Secret Service's Truman Protective Division ended.[23]

The Man From Independence Dies, December 26, 1972

Following 22 days in the hospital, Harry S Truman died at the age of 88 on December 26, 1972. The cause of death was listed as "organic failures causing a collapse of the cardiovascular system." Following the simple state funeral, the first in American history to take place totally outside Washington, D.C., the 33rd President of the United States was laid to rest in the courtyard of the Truman Library.[24]

A color photograph of military guards and the flag at half-mast at 219 North Delaware reveals the appearance of the Truman home on December 27, 1972 (See Figure 50).

FIGURE 50

Truman Library Photo Archives, 73-1392

Truman Funeral

December 27, 1972

219 North Delaware the day following the President's death. The flag is at half-staff, and military guards and a simple rope fence separates the home from passersby.

Source: Kansas City Star.

An inventory of the former President's estate was filed in Jackson County Probate Court on March 1, 1973. The appraised value of the estate was $747,682. It did not list jointly-held property with Bess Truman, but did include personal furniture, household items, and wearing apparel valued at $1,200, and personal property valued at $20,000. The bulk of his estate was left to his wife.[25] In accordance with the July 1953 deed granting sole ownership of 219 North Delaware to Harry and Bess Truman, the right of survivorship clause automatically transferred full ownership rights of the home to Bess Truman.[26]

Bess Truman Lives Alone at 219 North Delaware, 1973-1982

Following the death of Harry S Truman, his widow turned down her daughter's offer to come to New York City and live with her. She refused, citing her desire to remain in Independence and the familiar family home. As she told a neighbor, "I was born here and hope to die here."[27]

Bess Truman was afflicted with a number of serious illnesses over the next decade. Her chronic malady was the arthritis which forced her in the mid-1970s to give up the bedroom she had occupied since 1904 and move into the first

floor bedroom. There, in her last years, the twin beds were removed in favor of a rented hospital bed. The former First Lady had a hired companion (Mrs. Valerie LaMere) to take care of running the household and a small staff of nurses. Mrs. Truman was in and out of Kansas City's Research Hospital for illnesses like high blood pressure, a broken hip, pneumonia, and a mild stroke on September 26, 1981. From each hospitalization, she rallied and recovered. During the long recuperation periods at her home, she was able to get around through the use of a wheelchair.[28]

As if frozen in time, rooms were left in the manner they appeared in late 1972. Common touches, like Harry Truman's coat, hat, and cane left near the rear foyer door and his suits still in the closet in their dry cleaning packaging, were left undisturbed.

In the decade Bess Truman lived there alone, the Truman home changed little. There were some changes, however. Mrs. Truman did finally order the completion of the last phase of the home's 20 year-long "modernization" program. With her husband gone, the "noise and mess" she always feared might disturb him no longer mattered. The interior decorator she had used since 1953, Robert Nickell, did his last job at the Truman home only three months following the President's death. He

began work on March 29, 1973, repainting the trim in the first floor guest bedroom. He did not wallpaper it. The room, which over the course of time had housed the ailing Gates grandparents, Mrs. Madge Wallace, and her own husband in their last years, was prepared in the spring of 1973 for the inevitable time when she, too, would have to use it.

The move downstairs came in the mid to late 1970s. Margaret Truman recalled:

> Mother stayed up there for a long time, and I finally persuaded her. Mr. Lockwood [Robert Lockwood, head of the Secret Service Detail] was absolutely frantic because she would go upstairs at night and he could just see her falling all the way down the stairs. She was using a cane and so he and I finally talked her into moving down here, and I told her, I said, "I will be sure of one thing, if Mr. Lockwood will do it. He and the Secret Service men will change the beds for you so you have your own bed." So, she did and that far bed [nearest the east wall] was her bed.
>
> The beds upstairs [in the Trumans' bedroom] belong to my, with my suite of furniture that I had when I was a child.[29]

After his work in the first floor bedroom, Nickell immediately began preparations to wallpaper the front foyer and central hall, stairway, and second floor central hall. Mrs. Truman wanted the new wallpaper to finish the modernization effort. To start the project, Nickell purchased felt for the

ceilings at the Certainteed Roofing Company of Kansas City on March 28, 1973. He recalled:

> For awhile we bought the felt paper from a roofing company in Kansas City, Mo., since it was usually used for the base of asphalt shingles. We used the one pound grade of felt. We used this felt on all the ceilings that we decorated, except the kitchen and pantry and in Mr. Truman's study.[30]

Nickell began the wallpapering project on March 30, 1973, and worked alone until April 11 when he called in an assistant, Troy Owings, to help him with the cumbersome scaffolding. The entranceway halls, stairway, and second floor central hall work was the longest and hardest job Nickell ever did at the Truman home. He remembered:

> The last job was the biggest and most difficult. I was 20 years older. The high ceilings and stair-well were more difficult to decorate and this was the most expensive paper that I put on for Mrs. Truman. Due to the scaffolding for the stair-well, I had to have some help and a friend, Troy Owings, helped me on this job.[31]

Before the job was finished, Nickell ran out of paper for the hall. On April 16, he went to the Imperial Wallpaper Company in Independence to purchase four more rolls of the expensive paper. The next day, April 17, 1973, the project was completed. Mrs. Truman paid Nickell by check for $1,188.96.[32]

Robert Sanders and Exterior Carpentry Repairs

In addition to painting the house since 1953, Robert Sanders did all the necessary exterior carpentry work on the house and barn. This work mainly involved replacing rotted wood. In the 1960s, the south side porch was shored-up by Sanders and a front step was replaced. This work was charged to the GSA through the Truman Library.[33] In 1974 or 1975, the front steps were replaced. The stairs, which were not original, had rotted because they were set wrong. Instead of sloping downward to allow the water to run off, they sloped inward, thus retaining water and accelerating deterioration. The steps were replaced with one-and one quarter-inch thick boards with one riser and two to three threads.

When the front steps were replaced, the rotted balusters on the north side of the front porch were also replaced with new spindles. The old balusters were examined closely and the new ones were selected to match the originals.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Truman emphasized that she wanted the carpentry repairs to the exterior to be "the most economical possible."[34] She relied on the advice of Robert Sanders and Robert Lockwood, Chief of the Secret Service Truman Protective Division. According to Lockwood,

> In the period since 1973, the house and property changed very little. Mrs. Truman's health was failing and she didn't want to spend the money to make the needed repairs around the house. She didn't want to spend the money on the repairs because she knew she wasn't long for this world.[35]

Other repairs in the mid-1970s were minor, and included replacing the linoleum in the kitchen and guttering over the south kitchen door due to squirrels eating the facia out.[36]

Repointing the Chimney

Shortly after Christmas 1981, both Sanders and Lockwood noticed a slight tilt in the home's main chimney. The men investigated and learned that the central chimney, which juts out from the roof more than seven feet, was indeed leaning to the west about one and one quarter inches. They feared that if the problem were not corrected immediately, the heavy brick tower would fall down onto the front facade of the house.

The men decided not to worry Mrs. Truman with the problem because of her extremely frail health. Sanders called Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel in New York and explained that several bricks at the bottom of the chimney were missing and that the chimney was in danger of collapsing. Mrs. Daniel agreed that the emergency repair work be done.

Work began immediately and in one day four workers dismantled the chimney, making sure they retained the same bricks to replace on the same facade of the structure. During the repointing process, Sanders checked the job three separate times to make sure that the appearance of the chimney remained the same as before. He was aware of the necessity to maintain the integrity of the historic structure, having done similar work at other area historic sites. In March 1982, the repointed chimney was repainted with a sealer coat, then a coat of exterior latex white paint.[37]

Foundation/Latticework Repair

In 1982, during a time when Mrs. Truman was in the hospital, Sanders conducted some minor repairs on the foundation. Some areas on the north foundation wall were cracked or crumbling. The house was separated from the foundation below the windows of the library, and raised up slightly while the deteriorated wall was repaired. At the same time, on the north side porch, the squared porch skirt latticework was replaced. It, also, was matched to the existing latticework. Rotted wooden boards on the porch decking were replaced as well.[38]

Bicentennial Sign

The marker which stands near the flagpole on the lawn's northwest corner was installed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Independence in late April 1976. The black aluminum sign features raised white lettering. Made available through Federal funds at $350 each, the sign is one of many placed at historic places throughout Independence.[39]

The sign reads:

TRUMAN HOUSE

Built about 1867 by George Porterfield Gates, a mill owner. President Harry S. Truman and his wife, Bess Wallace Truman, granddaughter of Gates, made this their home from the time of their marriage in 1919. The "Summer White House" from 1945 to 1953.

Bess Wallace Truman Dies, October 18, 1982

Bess Truman's final hospitalization occurred for three weeks in September 1982 for treatment of an intestinal ulcer. Although she was weakened, the ulcer did not contribute to her death. The nation's oldest former First Lady died in her first floor bedroom at 3:50 a.m., October 18, 1982, of congestive heart failure caused by an accumulation of chest fluids. She

was rushed to Kansas City's Research Hospital where she was pronounced dead at 4:38 a.m.[40] Following a simple, private funeral service, Bess Wallace Truman was buried beside her husband in the Truman Library courtyard.

Secret Service agents dismantled their security systems and abandoned their command post a short time after the funeral. The executors of Bess Wallace Truman's estate, United Missouri Bank of Kansas City, hired a security guard to watch the property. Details of her will were revealed which showed that Mrs. Truman had donated 219 North Delaware to "The United States of America to be held and operated by it under the direction of the Archivist of The United States in conjunction with the Harry S. Truman Library."[41]

Three stipulations within the will placed restrictions on the future operation of the house. It stated that the public not be allowed to go above the first floor during the lifetime of her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel. A second provision "recommends" that Mrs. Daniel be permitted to live in the home "one week of each calendar year during her lifetime" because of her activities with the Truman Library and Truman Library Institute. The third requirement, contained in a May 5, 1978, codicil, states that Mrs. Daniel approve in writing "the manner in which my residence is used."[42]

National Recognition for the Truman Home

On February 23, 1972, 219 North Delaware was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.[43] At the request of the Trumans, no ceremony was held and no designation marker was erected. Following the death of Mr. Truman, the city of Independence, with the full support of his widow,[44] established the Harry S. Truman Heritage District, or more commonly known as the Harry S. Truman Historic District. The boundaries of the district encompassed 12 blocks centering on the Truman home and the immediate North Delaware Street neighborhood.

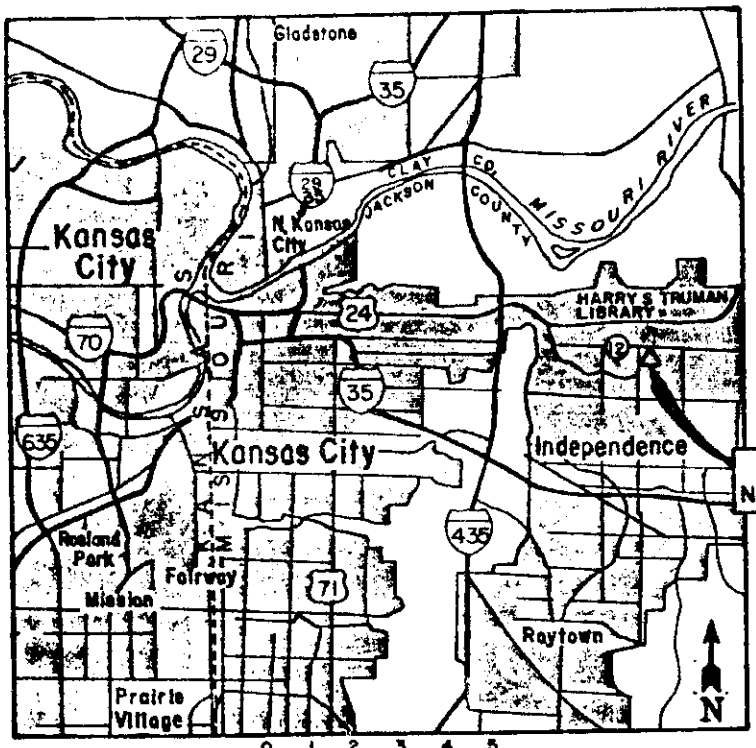
The historic district ordinance includes restrictions from construction or demolition of structures to tree and shrub plantings and removals[45] (See Appendix). The preservation ordinance was drafted "to protect President Truman's home and neighborhood from inappropriate development and to promote the area as a stable, single-family environment."[46] Churches within the district, however, are exempt from compliance with the ordinance.

One of the first physical changes the city undertook in the Truman Heritage District was the 1976 renovation of

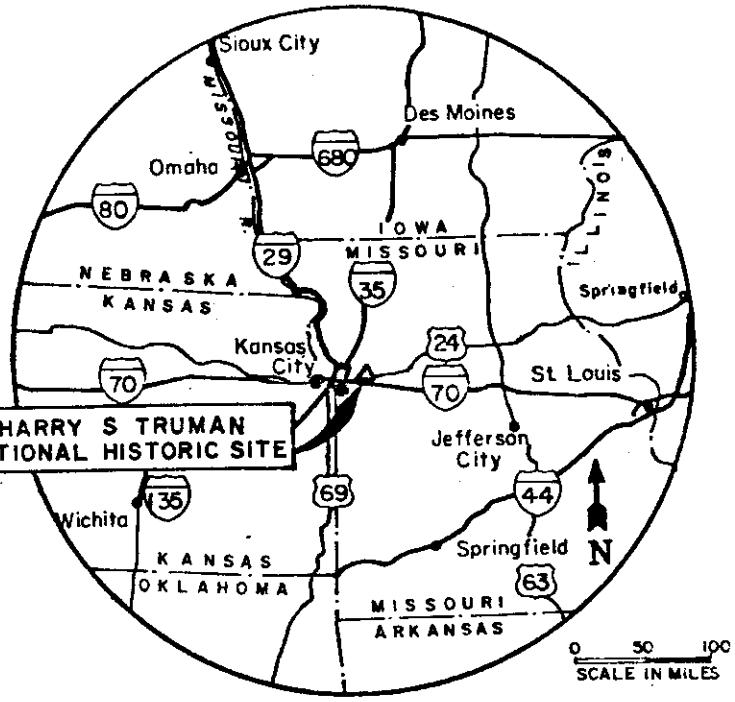
sidewalks and curbing in front of the Truman home. The project was designed by the heritage commission to return the street to its appearance in the 1940s. The city council financed the initial $4,101 purchase for cut limestone curbing from a Topeka, Kansas, limestone company. Two types of hexagonal blocks similar to ones used in the original sidewalk were relocated to the home from other similar city sidewalks. The work, completed in late April 1976, was the first phase of a three year plan to restore the sidewalks and curbing in the 12-block area to the presidential period.[47]

In an effort to preserve the historic character of a rapidly-changing neighborhood, the city council on January 2, 1979, approved legislation which more than tripled the size of the Harry S. Truman Heritage District. While the church exemption clause remained, the boundaries expanded from six to twenty-two blocks and created a corridor along North Delaware Street stretching from the Truman home to U.S. Highway 24, near the presidential library[48] (See Figure 51). [In early 1984, the city amended the boundaries to include only the Delaware Street corridor.]

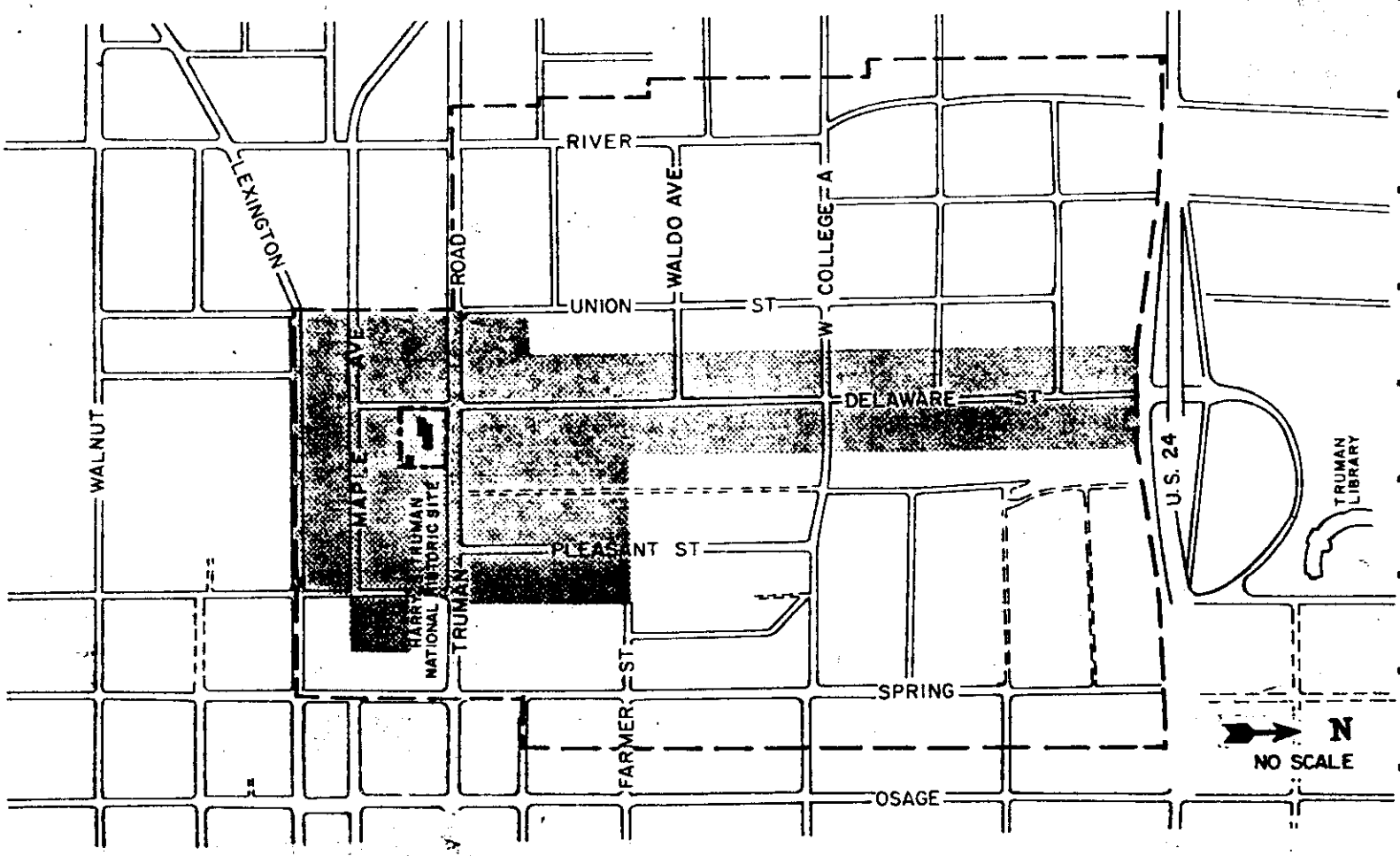
In 1980, the Independence Junior Service League initiated the first Truman Heritage Tour as part of the annual Truman Week activities. The walking tour, based on the paths of Mr.



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

MWRO | 492

Truman's famous morning walks, featured ten private homes and three public buildings.[49]

Following the death of Mrs. Truman on October 18, 1982, the dictates of her will (See Appendix) left the property to "The United States of America to be held and operated by it under the direction of the Archivist of The United States in conjunction with the Harry S. Truman Library." On December 8, 1982, Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, acting under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, signed Designation Order No. 3088 declaring 219 North Delaware the "Harry S Truman National Historic Site." On December 17, 1982, a cooperative agreement was signed between the Executor of the Estate of Bess Wallace Truman, the General Services Administration (representing the Archivist of The United States and the Truman Library), and the Department of the Interior to provide protection for the property. The National Park Service had taken possession of 219 North Delaware five days previously, on December 12, 1982, making it the twenty-seventh presidential site in the National Park System.

The Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Mo., was authorized by Public Law 98-32 (97 Statute 193) signed by President Ronald W. Reagan on May 23, 1983. Its purpose is to "preserve and interpret for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations the former home of Harry S Truman, thirty-third President of the United States"[50] (See Appendix).

The Secret Service Returns

[1]"Truman Quick to Get Guard," Kansas City Star (December 17, 1965), folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1965, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[2]"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93--1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[3]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 53.

[4]"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93--1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[5]Robert W. Phillips, "Truman Trips Recalled By Personal Aide," Kansas City Star (October 1, 1973), p. 1, folder-Westwood, Mike, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[6]Ray Zumwault, U.S. Secret Service, Interview, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 11, 1983.

[7]Robert W. Phillips, "Truman Trips Recalled By Personal Aide," p. 1.

[8]"Truman Protective Division," The Service Star, U.S. Secret Service, Department of the Treasury (Sept.-Oct. 1971), p. 12.

[9]Ray Zumwault, U.S. Secret Service, Interview, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 11, 1983.

[10]"Truman Protective Division," The Service Star, p. 12.

[11]Security Specialist [deleted] to Special Agent in Charge Wong, September 12, 1967, Technical Security Division, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1967.

[12]Security Specialist [deleted] to Special Agent in Charge Wong, August 7, 1969, Technical Security Division, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1969.

Command Post at 224 North Delaware Street

[13]"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93-1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[14]"Truman Protective Division," The Service Star, p. 12.

[15]Notes from a classified memo dated September 16-17, 1971, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1971.

[16]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 33.

[17]Special Agent in Charge Paul A. Burns, Truman Protective Division to A.D. Hill, Protective Forces, memo, May 3, 1972, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1972. The recommendations were made as a result of a technical security survey conducted on March 27, 1972, of the Truman home.

[18]"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[19]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 51.

[20]Ibid., pp. 51-2.

[21]Joe Henderson, "Secret Service Ends Vigil at Truman Home," Kansas City Star (December 1, 1982), p. 3A, folder-Truman Home-Historic Site, 1982-1983, National Park Service, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[22]Ray Zumwault, U.S. Secret Service, Interview, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 11, 1983.

[23]Henderson, "Secret Service Ends Vigil at Truman Home," p. 3A. Under the lease agreement, the Secret Service pledged to compensate the owners of 224 North Delaware to convert the four rooms into individual offices, and assume the first $5,000 worth of maintenance each year. They also agreed to pay the owners for returning the rooms and fixtures to their former state.

The Man From Independence Dies, December 26, 1972

[24]"The World of Harry Truman," Time (January 8, 1973), pp. 15-18; and, "Truman Dies At 88," Kansas City Star (December 26, 1972), p. 1.

[25]"Wills of the Month: Truman Library Receives Former President's Papers," Trusts and Estates (May 1973), pp. 374-5; 401, folder-Harry S. Truman Will, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The will, written in 1959, was 22 pages long with two codicils.

[26]Missouri Warranty Deed, Frank G. and Natalie O. Wallace to Harry S and Elizabeth (Bess) Truman, July 25, 1953, Land Book 1034, Page 631, No. 609418, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

Bess Truman Lives Alone at 219 North Delaware, 1973-1982

[27]"Bess Truman: A Life Portrait; Phase V: Living Alone," Examiner (October 18, 1982), p. 6B, HSTL.

[28]Ibid., and, "Doctor Says Her Heart 'Began to Fibrillate'," p. 1; 5.

[29]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 59.

[30]Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

[31]Ibid., and, Robert Nickell, Diary 1973, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.

[32]Ibid., and, Interview, June 29, 1983, Independence, Mo. Another minor interior decoration alteration was done in 1982. Roger T. Sermon, an Independence interior decorator, was phoned by Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel during a period in 1982 when her mother was incapacitated. At Mrs. Daniels' instruction, Sermon replaced curtains and window coverings in the large upstairs front, or west, bedroom. According to Sermon, the replacements were "done very closely to what was there before." Telephone conversation, Sermon and Anderson Interior Decorators, 10815 Winner Road, July 22, 1983.

Robert Sanders and Exterior Carpentry Repairs

[33]Robert Lockwood, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 1, 1983; and, Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983. According to the 1974 House Committee on Government Operations Report, "Expenditures of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," the total cost for shoring-up the south porch, replacing the front steps, and painting the fence cost the GSA $1,250.

[34]Robert Lockwood, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 1, 1983.

[35]Ibid.

[36]Ibid. Lockwood said that an aluminum screen cover was installed to keep the squirrels out of the gutter.

Repointing the Chimney

[37]Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983.

Foundation/Latticework Repair

[38]Ibid. Sanders said he had seen historic photographs of the house and was aware that the latticework was not original.

Bicentennial Sign

[39]"Bicentennial Signs Placed," Examiner (April 23, 1976), p. 1B, folder-Truman, Harry S 1976, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. While not in place at this date, the Truman sign was scheduled to be erected by the end of the month.

Bess Wallace Truman Dies, October 18, 1982

[40]Bob Burgdorfer, "Bess Truman Is Dead At the Age of 97" and "Doctor Says Her Heart 'Began to Fibrillate'," Examiner (October 18, 1982), p. 1, HSTL.

[41]"Last Will and Testament of Bess Wallace Truman," December 21, 1974. See Appendix.

[42]Ibid.

National Recognition for the Truman Home

[43]Cultural Resources Management Division Files, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska.

[44]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 56.

[45]An Ordinance Establishing the Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Ordinance No. 5445, January 2, 1979, City of Independence, Mo.

[46]Harry S. Truman Historic District, Independence, Missouri," pamphlet, Independence Heritage Commission, City of Independence, Mo.

[47]Bob Lynn, "District To Revive Memories: Truman Heritage Gets Emphasis In Independence," Kansas City Star (February 19, 1976), p. 4E, folder-Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[48]Ibid., "Heritage District Size Expanded," Kansas City Times (January 3, 1979), p. 4B.

[49]Rich Hood, "Take A Stroll With Harry and Experience a City's Pride," Jackson County Star, supplement to the Kansas City Star (May 6, 1981), p. 3, folder-Truman Heritage Tour, 1981, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[50]"Briefing Statement, Harry S Truman National Historic Site," National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resources Management, file-L58 General HSTR, Omaha, Ne.