Stop 7: Harry's Teachers

The school that you see sits on the site of Harry's high school. The original school burned in a fire in 1939. Truman once said of teachers "they were the salt of the earth. They gave us our high ideals, and they hardly ever received more than forty dollars a month for it." Harry truly respected his teachers and he could not remember ever having a bad one. Of course, he did have a few favorites. One of them was his history teacher, Miss Phelps. When Harry was in school his history lessons consisted of single paragraphs that summed up the great events in history. This was not enough for Harry so on his own he would study historic events more intensely as well as the lives of the people that made history. This involved a lot of reading, which Harry loved to do anyway.

Truman's High School Library & Reading Room

President Truman owed his love of reading to two people, his mother who taught him that it was important and to Miss Tillie Brown. Miss Brown was Harry's English teacher. She taught Harry how to enjoy reading and this made him want to read even more. As much as Harry loved school there were subjects that he had trouble with. The first of these was spelling. Harry, even as an adult, was a bad speller. Two other subjects that Harry had problems with were Latin and math.

Activity 7)
Answer the following questions:
1. What is your favorite school subject?

2. Which school subject do you have the most difficulty with?

Harry would study these subjects two days a week with his cousins, Nellie and Ethel Noland as well as his childhood sweetheart, Bess Wallace. From here go down Maple and turn Right on Delaware street, stop in front of the yellow and green house.

Stop 8: The Nolands

The yellow and green house that you see here was home to two of Harry's best friends, his cousins Ethel and Nellie Noland. Mr. Truman once said that as a boy he was always afraid of girls that were his age or older. The exception to that rule were the Noland girls. Harry spent a lot of time here playing with his cousins. Truman said that he would go to parties with his cousin Ethel and "learn how to be polite from her". His cousin Nellie was a whiz at languages and would help Harry with his Latin. Harry was not the only one at these after school Latin classes. A young girl by the name of Bess Wallace would also be there to get help with her Latin.