CHAPTER ELEVEN

"MODERNIZATION":

MADGE WALLACE'S HOUSE BECOMES THE TRUMANS' HOME

* Modernization, 1953

* Interior Decorating: Robert Nickell, Painter and Wallpaperer

* Carpentry by C.E. Anderson

  --BOOKSHELVES

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Modernization, 1953

Until December 1952, Madge Wallace was the mistress of 219 North Delaware and changes and improvements could only be approved through her. Not many changes took place during the presidential period when the house stood empty more than two-thirds of each year. Because the home belonged to Mrs. Wallace, the Trumans refrained from making any substantial changes because Madge Wallace was "a woman who didn't like things to change much."[1]

Beginning in late January 1953, the Trumans, principally Mrs. Bess Truman, were faced with the task of fitting their own personal possessions and furniture into the existing decor. They kept some things and threw others out.[2] They also began a long series of needed repairs. Mr. Truman wrote about this process, which the family called "modernizing," in Mr. Citizen:

> Sometimes it pops and cracks as it keeps settling, and we have had to prop it up with steel beams. ...We have a large back yard and a front lawn, and the green reminds us of the farm. Two years after our return from Washington [sic], we made necessary repairs to the interior of the house and did some modernizing.[3]

Bess Truman did not make changes without first consulting her husband. According to Margaret Truman, the former

President,

> agreed with everything she wanted done. I mean, when, when she wanted to put down wall-to-wall carpeting, he agreed that was a good idea; when she wanted to change the upholstery on a chair or a sofa, why, she would ask him, she wouldn't just do it. And he would agree with her usually. Hardly ever disagreed with her if you must know. But my mother had very good taste and I don't think Dad wanted to disagree with her.[4]

Interior Decorating: Robert Nickell, Painter and Wallpaperer

Only six days after the Trumans returned to Independence on January 21, 1953, they began the process of "modernizing" and renovating the Gates/Wallace house into their own retirement home. By the end of 1952, every room on the first and second floors had already been wallpapered, and some of the wood baseboards on the second floor had been painted. Mrs. Truman took charge of the interior decorating. She wanted each room of the old home redone to suit her own tastes. Therefore, the wallpaper patterns and paint colors were changed to meet the approval of the home's new mistress, Bess Wallace Truman.

Some immediate alterations which were accomplished around the time of the Trumans' homecoming involved establishing separate upstairs dressing rooms. The President put his personal possessions in the small, north bedroom while Bess

Truman used her daughter's childhood room for her dressing room. The volume of clothing which they had accumulated over 18 years in Washington had to be fitted into a house which had scant closet storage space. While storage space was constructed in the attic in 1954, the single closet in Mrs. Truman's new dressing room was immediately supplemented by closets topped with cabinets against the room's east wall.[5]

Wall-to-wall carpeting throughout the first floor, excluding the kitchen, was also installed. Individual Persian or oriental rugs and some carpeting installed during the presidential era had previously blanketed the wooden floors. The carpeting which had covered the central hall was removed in favor of the gray, tight-looped, residential carpeting seen today.[6]

Mrs. Truman did not have to look far to find an interior decorator. Robert "Bob" Nickell, an Independence painter and wallpaperer, had previously done similar jobs for May and Natalie Wallace, Mrs. Truman's sisters-in-law. They recommended Nickell be given the job.

Nickell was indeed given the job to redecorate the home's interior in stages over the next twenty years, from 1953 to 1973. He worked in every room on the first floor except the living room and all but the bathroom on the second. An account

of Nickell's work was obtained from a number of five-year diaries in which he regularly recorded the dates and hours spent on each job. Of all the rooms in which he worked, only the kitchen was repapered more than once. It was done three times (1954, 1963, and 1971). Except for the kitchen, once a room was painted and/or papered by Nickell, however, it stayed the same up to the present day.[7]

Nickell began working at 219 North Delaware on January 27, 1953, in the storage room above the kitchen, Madge Wallace's former sitting room. In five days, the old wallpaper was steamed off, the woodwork repainted, and new paper hung. On February 3 through 5, he repainted the woodwork in the large, front (west) bedroom.[8] He did not wallpaper it, recalling,

> This was the only room that I did not paper.... I painted the trim only. I really did not like to paint the trim in that room because those wide baseboards were walnut. But someone had already painted it, so I had to repaint it. There was a very heavy bed in that room. I well remember that it was hard for one person to move.[9]

On April 28, 1953, Nickell painted the interior of the rear porches, and, on May 2, he painted the porch floor.

Mr. Truman's first floor library was transformed into its present appearance from June 4 to 8, 1953. Nickell "had to take the shelves to the basement and give them three coats of

paint. While they were drying I painted the walls and trim of the study."[10]

For two weeks in 1954, from March 8 through 19, Nickell decorated the kitchen and pantry in light green. According to Nickell, "I had to remove the old paper, patch the cracks, paint all the cabinets two coats and paper the walls. I also painted the pantry and it is pretty large."[11]

In April 1954, Nickell worked in Madge Wallace's former first floor bedroom and bathroom painting and wallpapering. The work was designed to transform the room into a guest bedroom.[12]

The next project was Margaret Truman's northwest corner bedroom. In 1946, it was described by New York Magazine:

> ...Margaret's second-floor bedroom is bright and modern. The floor is white, the hooked rugs scattered over it are cheerful. The blue wallpaper's pattern is dainty, a sprig of a flower.[13]

From November 22 through 29, 1954, Nickell used paint and wallpaper personally approved by Margaret Truman to redecorate her bedroom.[14] Collier's reported in 1955:

> ...her pleasant second floor bedroom... has a new,

> personally chosen color scheme: mauve pink cotton carpet to match the ceiling, soft blue woodwork to match the flowered wallpaper.[15]

On November 30 through December 6, 1954, the Trumans' bedroom was painted and papered.[16] The selection of the blue color scheme most likely prompted the selection of the present blue porcelain washbasin to replace the former white marble sink.

The first floor parlor/music room was transformed into its present appearance from February 27 to March 8, 1956. The old vertical striped wallpaper was removed in favor of the present paper pattern.[17]

Four years later, Nickell returned to work for the Trumans. From April 14 through 19, 1960, he painted and wallpapered the childhood bedroom of Margaret Truman.[18]

A pictorial essay on the Trumans in an August 1944 issue of Life revealed that the "dining room has maroon wallpaper."[19] This color scheme was changed in 1960 when Nickell renovated the room with the assistance of a friend, Bob Dyer. From August 29 through September 3, 1960, Nickell and Dyer

> ...removed the old paper, patched all the cracks, and sanded and sized the walls. We hung felt paper

> on the ceiling. Felt paper is real heavy and is 36 inches wide. We used it on plaster that had a tendency to crack. We butt[ed] the edges and gave it two coats of interior latex paint. Then we hung the paper on the walls.[20]

In 1963, Nickell again papered the Trumans' kitchen and pantry, but did not do any painting. He worked alone on May 16 and 17, 1963, but was joined by Bob Dyer on May 20.[21] The kitchen was again redone in 1971. While his wife usually took the initiative on the interior decoration of the home, this marked an occasion when the former President's opinion was sought. On Saturday, November 13, 1971, Nickell went to the house with wallpaper sample books to show the couple. Mrs. Truman sent Nickell into the library where Mr. Truman was reading in order for her husband to select the new wallpaper pattern. The red and white pattern presently seen in the kitchen is what he chose. Mrs. Truman then selected the shade of green for the trim. Nickell began painting the pantry and trim on November 17, and completed the papering on November 23, 1971. He was paid $271.09 for the job.[22]

Carpentry by C.E. Anderson: BOOKSHELVES

Charles E. Anderson was another local craftsman who was recommended to the Trumans. An accomplished carpenter, C.E.

Anderson signed the first contract with Harry S Truman on February 9, 1954, to construct bookshelves in the President's first floor study. Since January 1953, the room was filled with boxes of books which Mr. Truman could not easily get into to find a particular volume. He needed plenty of bookshelves to accommodate his personal library. The contract with Anderson was for $505.56 and, as with all successive agreements, included materials and labor. Electrical and heating work were not covered by this contract.[23]

The bookshelves extended from the floor to the ceiling and covered the east and south walls, and a portion of the west wall. The President requested that the shelves be made from pine which would soon after be painted by Robert Nickell. For the planks to hold the weight of the books, Anderson planned to use vertical grain pine. The local lumber company ordered a railroad boxcar load of clear, white pine and Anderson sorted through the shipment selecting the best planks for his project. Mr. Truman came down to the lumberyard and personally thanked the lumberyard owners for their assistance.[24]

REMODELING THE ATTIC

Anderson completed the bookshelves in time to begin

another project on a much larger scale, remodeling the attic. The Trumans had the attic packed full of trunks and boxes of their belongings from Washington on top of items dating to the Gates occupancy. Gifts from heads of state, which are now on display at the Truman Library, were stored there, including a large Persian rug from the Government of Iran and crates of the silver tableware from the U.S.S. Missouri. The priceless treasures were at the mercy of the dusty, drafty, and damp environment of the attic. The Trumans wanted a "dust tight and more secure" place to store their possessions. They were afraid another fire might destroy the treasures if nothing were done.

The contract for remodeling the attic was signed by Mr. Truman on March 1, 1954, for a sum of $2,967.20. It included all material and labor, and outlined a six-phase approach.

The first phase was the application of one-by four-inch furring strips from the attic floor up to the ceiling rafters. This was in preparation to phase two which was the installation of 5/16-inch "Arrowhead" insulation board to cover the rafters, and to enclose the stairwell entrance to the attic. The insulation board had a special fire retardant effect because "they [the Trumans] were concerned about fire." The white insulation board considerably lightened the attic area and covered the

rafters which were charred black by an earlier fire.[25]

Phase three involved nailing down the old wooden floorboards and applying one-eighth inch thick Masonite Temprtile [brand trademark] flooring throughout the attic.

The installation of closet storage space was phase four. Three separate closets with sliding doors were constructed, two along the north wall and one along the east wall. The closets were designed to hold loose-hanging clothes or clothing bags with storage areas above and below.

Steps leading from the lower to upper attic floor level was phase five, while the last phase included enclosing the south chimney with cement asbestos board.

Most of the construction material was brought in through the west attic dormer window. To strengthen the roof before it was enclosed by insulation board, one-by four-inch timbers were installed to act as brace reinforcements. Work was completed and the final payment was received on April 12, 1954.[26]

Before work on the March 1 contract was completed, another was signed on April 5, 1954. This agreement with Mr. Truman involved removing the rotted, double-sash dormer windows and

replacing them with 30-by 77-inch louvered windows with translucent glass. Fiberglass screens were also added to these windows. This contract, which was paid in full on April 12, was for $262.84.[27]

Repair work on the colored glass attic windows was also discussed at this time. The rare 40-pound weight metal flashing in the windows is the original flashing from 1885. Because of other priorities, the work was not done to restore the windows.[28]

Yet another contract for minor repairs in the attic and in various other rooms was dated April 9, 1954. Temprtile flooring was applied to the attic stair landing and storage shelves were built. A library window was replaced and new screens were installed there. One Kitchenmaid cabinet was installed in the kitchen. Minor repairs on the interior kitchen stairs leading from the second floor were also done. Another project involved renovating the second floor bathroom and patching the existing plastic floor tile. The total sum of this agreement was $539.64, and was paid in full on April 15, 1954.[29]

A new agreement dated October 22, 1954, provided for "purchase and installation of storm doors and windows on the house and the hand rail for the attic." Cost for the project

came to $339.59. Four storm sashes were installed on the windows of the library and parlor, and two in the living room. Two combination storm doors measuring 2 1/2 x 8 x 6 1/2 feet with aluminum screen inserts were installed on the front entrance doors.

Under the October 1954 contract, a five-foot birch handrail was fastened with two wall brackets atop the attic stairs.[30] The need for a handrail was recognized following an accident in the home which occurred several months earlier. On May 3, 1954, George P. Wallace was helping his brother-in-law carry a heavy liquor service chest up to the attic. Under the supervision of Mrs. Truman, the President went first up the steep, narrow steps with George Wallace taking up the rear. Nearing the top of the steps, the big chest slipped from the President's grip and crashed down the stairs, chasing George Wallace to the bottom where it pinned his legs against the wall. Wallace was taken to the hospital where it was found that he had suffered a fracture above the left ankle.[31]

SHORING-UP THE MAIN FLOOR

One of the chief provisions of a contract with Anderson signed November 24, 1954, involved supporting the floors in the

parlor, living room, and dining room. The work was most noticeably required in the parlor due to the heavy weight of Margaret Truman's piano which had made the floor sag. Two steel column jacks were placed at the front corners of the hearth and a six-inch steel beam ran the length of the floor joist span. A cement support beam was placed in the foundation wall.

The same procedure was done for the living and dining rooms, with the furnace ductwork from the hall and kitchen moved to avoid the support beam.

Reinforcement was also required in the furnace area where the foundation wall opens to permit the exit of heating ducts. An adjustable steel column jack was placed between the ducts and rested upon a concrete footing dug below the floor level.[32]

REMODELING THE BASEMENT

Additional provisions of the November 24, 1954, contract involved major alterations to the basement to "make the utility room better and more presentable." The old ceiling material was removed and "Nu-Wood Ceiling Tile" [brand trademark] was installed in the area under the kitchen which served as a

utility/washroom. This area extends 26 feet west from the inside of the east foundation wall. The basement stairway was removed and a new staircase was installed using the old railing.

The old cement floor in the utility area was also excavated. Originally, this area was elevated four inches from the remainder of the basement. To permit increased headroom and repair the plumbing, the floor had to be removed. An additional four inches was excavated for the base of the new concrete floor. Before it was poured, a plumber installed new drainage pipes and the lead pipe which carried oil from the oil storage tank to the furnace was removed. The new four-inch thick floor was then poured by Independence contractor T.G. Wasem, and finished by trowels to a smooth finish. Two bases were built to hold a washing machine and a deep freezer.[33]

Crumbled stucco from the outside foundation walls was patched or replaced and cracks were filled with cement grout. On the inside walls, all loose plaster was removed in the utility area and redone as was the area in the stairwell. All loose paint in the area was scraped free, whitewashed, and finished with two coats of white waterproof cement paint.[34]

MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS

Other minor repair work under the November 24, 1954, contract included the installation of a bronze weather strip around the east kitchen door and a fourth louvered attic window was installed. The price tag for the contract totalled $4,520.67.[35]

A supplemental contract was negotiated and signed on January 8, 1955. It provided for extra materials and labor incurred on projects under the previous contract as well as new additional repairs. A new drainage plumbing trench was dug and the floor tiling repaired. A new lock and minor repair work was also accomplished on the rear basement door. A masonite floor was placed in the closet of Margaret Truman's northwest bedroom as well as new weatherstripping on the windows and sash cords. Cracks in the wooden fireplace mantels were glued and the hearth areas cleaned. Tiles around the hearth were also replaced or relaid.[36]

This is the most likely time when the pictorial tile sequence around the fireplace hearth in the parlor/music room was repaired. Anderson recalled that one key tile was broken on the left side of the hearth. Local tile experts were consulted, but most were unable to handle the intricate job of

mending the pictorial tile. After many inquiries, one local tile craftsman from Italy was found. He came to the house and repaired the tile by glueing it, holding the tile in a clamp, touching it up with paint, and then reglazing it with a small torch.[37] The tile sequence is original as is the one in the living room where the green floor tiles had also been broken. In the later room, the shade of green tile could not be found. Bess Truman decided that a row of black tiles be installed to replace the broken tiles.[38]

Extensive rescreening was done in April and May 1955, in preparation for work by the painters. Cost for the work came to $375.09, mostly for various sizes of aluminum screen wire.[39] The work was completed before the filming of the "Person To Person" television interview later in the month.

A minor contract on October 22, 1955, provided for the hanging of support rods for draperies in the "South bedroom,"[40] while a March 9, 1955, agreement was to repair the garage/barn floors and "clean out" bird nests on the house.[41] Work Anderson accomplished in 1956 included installing the weathervane on the garage, repairing the basement door,[42] repairing the weathervane,[43] and replacing a broken glass louver in an attic window.[44]

Anderson's last contract with the Trumans came on December 5, 1956, for the removal of the washer base in the basement, repair of two windows, weatherstripping two doors, and repairing the latch on the two front entrance doors.[45]

Sometime during his work period at the Truman home from 1953 to 1956, Anderson removed 18 plinths from the tops of window and doors inside the large, front (west) bedroom. He did this at the request of Mrs. Truman who felt that the plinths were too cumbersome to wallpaper around, and also because it complemented her "modernization" project.[46]

THE REJECTED DRIVEWAY JOB, 1956

In the spring of 1956, Mr. Truman was looking for a contractor to rebuild the driveway leading from Truman Road to the barn. Since the days of the Gateses, the old driveway had been nothing more than gravel spread over a layer of base rock. Mr. Truman wanted a smooth, paved driveway to eliminate potholes and dust.

In an effort to get the contract for the work, C.E. Anderson got an estimate from a Kansas City concrete contractor. Anderson and the contractor agreed that the job

should be done like a professional road project. They proposed removing the base rock and relaying it on both the driveway and alley. The alley would be 10-foot wide concrete from the barn to the city sidewalk. With a wire mesh base, the concrete on both the driveway and alley would be four inches thick. The edges of the driveway would be eight inches thick with a reinforcing rod. The degree of slant would divert water away from the Wallace residences to the east and carry it down Truman Road.

The estimate from the concrete contractor came to $4,000. Because of the high cost, Mr. Truman did not accept Anderson's bid. He chose a bid from a new Independence contractor who offered to do the job for less than a third of Anderson's bid. The work, which was probably done in the summer of 1956, resulted in regrading the gravel drive and paving the area with two inches of asphalt. Although a concrete square was laid before the barn, the asphalt drives have been redone a number of times because of the substandard base of the roadbed.[47]

Modernization, 1953

[1]Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, June 22, 1983.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Harry S Truman, Mr. Citizen (New York: Popular

Library, 1960), p. 58. Note: This information came from the 1960 edition, not the first edition printed in 1953.

[4]"Smithsonian World: Transcript of Margaret Truman's Tour of the Truman Home in Independence, Missouri, and Interview with David McCullough on November 19, 1983," typewritten transcript, p. 59.

Interior Decorating: Robert Nickell, Painter and Wallpaperer

[5]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 22.

[6]Ibid., pp. 14; 36.

[7]Robert Nickell, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 29, 1983. Nickell said that no other wallpaperer ever worked at the Truman home except when Robert Sanders hired a paperer to do the second floor bathroom in the 1960s.

[8]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1953-57, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.

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

[10]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1953-57, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo. Work for June 4-5, and 8, 1953, recorded in the diary is not detailed to include the scope of work.

A 1946 New York Magazine article described this room as follows: "There is also a small modern room on the first floor--a study just off one of the two big front parlors. It's to this room, with its off-white rug and low blond furniture, that Margaret sometimes retreats when the family is entertaining guests in the front parlor and she can't get at the piano there." See Bess Furman, "Margaret Truman, Career Girl," New York Magazine (September 8, 1946), p. 45, folder-Truman, Harry S July-Sept. 1946, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[11]Ibid., and, Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

[12]Ibid. Referring to the modernization effort, a Collier's article in 1955 reported, "Her mother's downstairs suite has been converted to a guest bedroom and bath, retaining the Victorian theme in furnishings, flowered ivory wallpaper and cheery draperies." See Helen Worden Erskine, "Truman In Retirement," Collier's (February 4, 1955) p. 21, folder-Truman,

Harry S Jan.-March 1955, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[13]Bess Furman, "Margaret Truman, Career Girl," New York Magazine (September 8, 1946), p. 45, folder-Truman, Harry S July-Sept. 1946, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[14]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1953-57, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo. Previous work for October 15, 18-19, 1954, is listed, but the nature of the work is not known. (Possibly Mr. Truman's dressing room?).

[15]Helen Worden Erskine, "Truman In Retirement," Collier's (February 4, 1955), p. 21, folder-Truman, Harry S Jan.-March 1955, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[16]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1953-57 personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.; and, Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

[17]Although Nickell, from the perspective of 1983, stated he believed the work for this time involved Mr. Truman's library, it is more likely that it involved the parlor/music room. First, C.E. Anderson stated that Nickell painted the new bookshelves soon after they were erected--not three years later. Second, the long time period scheduled for the work, plus steaming off the old wallpaper six hours, suggests a larger room than the library was done. Third, as Nickell could not account for when he worked on the parlor/music room, this is the most likely time. According to the May 1955 "Person To Person" film, the room still showed its vertical striped wallpaper. Thus, the current wallpaper could very well have been put up in 1956.

[18]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1958-1962, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.; and, Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

[19]"Truman of Missouri: A Vice-Presidential Candidate Comes Home To His Relatives and Friends in Independence," Life (August 21, 1944), p. 77, folder-Truman, Harry S July-Sept. 1944, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

[20]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1958-1962, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.; and, Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

[21]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1963-67, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.; and, Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

[22]Robert Nickell, Five Year Diary 1968-1972, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo. The check was signed by both Harry and Bess Truman. Nickell kept the checks from the last few jobs he did at the home and has them mounted on a special plaque. Interview, June 29, 1983, Independence, Mo.

Carpentry by C.E. Anderson: BOOKSHELVES

[23]Agreement, Charles E. Anderson, Contractor, and Harry S Truman, Owner, February 9, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

[24]C.E. Anderson, Interview at Harry S. Truman Library, June 20, 1983.

REMODELING THE ATTIC

[25]Agreement, C.E. Anderson, Contractor, and Harry S Truman, Owner, March 1, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.; and Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983. Anderson said he and his fellow workers had to contend with cleaning up some of the old fire debris as well as moving the priceless treasures from place to place while working in the attic.

[26]Ibid.

[27]Agreement, C.E. Anderson, Contractor, and Harry S Truman, Owner, April 5, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

[28]C.E. Anderson, Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983. Anderson said the windows and the flashing "appears just as deteriorated now as it did in the Fifties."

[29]List of projects, time and materials, April 9, 1954, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.; and, Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983. The plastic tile floor in the bathroom dated shortly before 1940, and Anderson had to patch it because whoever originally installed it, "did a poor job." The present ceramic tile and carpeting was done after Anderson's work there in the 1950s.

[30]Agreement, C.E. Anderson and H.S. Truman, October 22, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

[31]"Trumans Find Getting Ready For Vacation Is Troublesome," Examiner (May 4, 1954), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence. Mrs. Wallace said her husband's leg never did regain its proper size and that he limped for the rest of his life.

SHORING-UP THE MAIN FLOOR

[32]Agreement, C.E. Anderson, Contractor, and Harry S Truman, Owner, November 24, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

REMODELING THE BASEMENT

[33]Ibid., Statement receipt, T.G. Wasem, Contractor, to C.E. Anderson, December 13, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. Cost for pouring and finishing the concrete floor was $90.00. One ton of Mason Sand, two and one-third cubic yards of regular sand, and 4.8 tons of rock were used to lay the base of the floor. See statement receipt, N.C. Rumble Sand and Material Company, Independence, Mo., to C.E. Anderson, December 31, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

[34]Ibid. A plasterer and a laborer were hired to wall-in the basement stairwell and repoint the exterior foundation. They worked a total of 26 hours at a cost of $189.25. See Statement receipt, E. Brown and Sons Lathing and Plastering, Independence, Mo., to C.E. Anderson, January 3, 1955, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS

[35]Ibid. Clearview Louver Window Corporation of Kansas City supplied the 30 by 74 1/2-inch louver window and screen units for the attic. The fourth unit, delivered and installed for $68.07, on November 20, was also installed for $10. It was shipped from Dallas. See Statement receipt, Clearview Louver Window Corporation, November 8, 1954, to C.E. Anderson, Builder, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

[36]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, January 8, 1955, personal papers of C.E. Anderson; and, Statement receipt, Slater Tile and Mantel Company, Kansas City, to C.E. Anderson, January 8, 1955. For repairing two mantels and hearths, the bill was $161.11.

[37]Charles E. Anderson, Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983.

[38]Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 43.

[39]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, May 6, 1955, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. An invoice from Bunting Hardware Company in Independence dated May 4, 1955, shows the following purchases: 8 feet of 24 inch wire, 14 feet of 28 inch wire, and 6 feet of 42 inch wire. An invoice dated April 21, 1955, shows the following purchases: 11 feet of 30 inch wire, 33 feet of 36 inch wire, and 66 feet of 42 inch wire.

[40]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, October 2, 1955, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. The amount for this work was $2.50.

[41]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, March 9, 1954, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. The amount for this work was $32.50

[42]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, January 9, 1956, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. The amount for this work was $5.25.

[43]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, April 30, 1956, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. The amount for the work was $19.50, which included a "cover folding screen, move and replace a pew in church for the wedding" of Margaret Truman Daniel.

[44]Ibid. The amount for the work was $5.30.

[45]Agreement, C.E. Anderson to Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Truman, December 5, 1956, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. The amount for the work was $66.90.

[46]Charles E. Anderson, Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983. Anderson saved the 18 plinths and presented them to the National Park Service on this date.

THE REJECTED DRIVEWAY JOB, 1956

[47]Charles E. Anderson, Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983. Anderson said that Truman "took the lower bid because of the price." See also, Free Estimate, Braden and

Evans, Concrete Contracting, Kansas City, for Charles E. Anderson, April 21, 1956, personal papers of C.E. Anderson, Holden, Mo.

According to Margaret Truman, the bricks lining the gravel driveway were removed when it was paved. See Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 25.