

PART III - THE FUTURE

A Vision

The following statements reflect the vision for the future of Harry S Truman National Historic Site:

- Management of Harry S Truman NHS, including the homes in Independence and Grandview and their associated cultural landscapes, preserves and interprets the life of Harry S Truman and the importance of community in shaping the man who was the 33rd President of the United States.
- The park seeks to enrich interpretive and educational opportunities, improve visitor orientation and services, and further its basic mission of preservation and interpretation through collaboration with the surrounding neighborhood and cooperating organizations.
- The National Park Service works through a network of park partners and outreach initiatives to preserve the resources and tell the stories associated with Truman to the public.
- Visitor use, resource protection, and park operations at both units are guided by an established management framework based on research and visitors have the opportunity to experience the site in a manner that creates an understanding and appreciation of the significance of the site in the life of Truman.

The Plan

Management Areas

National Park Service policy acknowledges that parks serve many different needs and often contain a variety of resources. As a result, general management plans identify management areas within a park, and then prescribe the particular resource management actions, visitor use, and/or development that would be appropriate to each management area. The planning team identified three types of management areas important for the future management of Harry S Truman National Historic Site: a Historic Interpretation Area, an Administrative Area, and a Multi-Purpose Area.

Historic Interpretation Area

In this management area, the structures and cultural landscapes will be maintained in a manner emphasizing the retention of historic fabric and character-defining features associated with the period of historical significance. Archeological remains of structures associated with Harry S Truman will be stabilized and protected from deterioration.

Development will be limited to small, sensitively designed interpretive displays. "Ghost structures," "foundation outlines," or other sensitive approximations of known historic structures would be appropriate in this area, as well.



Visitors may participate in ranger-led tours through structures in this area. Visitor use of the grounds within this area would be limited to educational or interpretive activities that help visitors understand Harry S Truman.

At the Independence Unit, this area includes the Truman home and surrounding grounds, and the grounds surrounding the Wallace homes and the Noland home.

At the Grandview Unit, this area includes the grounds surrounding the Farm Home and other buildings.

Administrative Area

In this management area, structures will be maintained in a manner consistent with their period of historical significance, and will be used for purposes of park administration. Appropriate uses of structures could be for government quarters, offices, support areas, storage, etc.

Access routes required to provide maintenance or emergency access to structures is appropriate within the administrative area.

At the Independence Unit, this area includes the Wallace homes (actual structures, but not the surrounding grounds).

At the Grandview Unit, this area will include the footprint of the reconstructed historic lane leading from Blue Ridge Blvd. to the farm home.

Multi-Purpose Area

In this area, structures will be maintained in a manner consistent with their period of historical significance, and might be used for a combination of administrative purposes and/or visitor use. Appropriate uses of structures in this area include all those items listed under the Administrative Area, in addition to visitor support facilities (restrooms, information desks, etc.). Also, interpretive exhibits may be developed within these structures.

In the Multi-Purpose Area, visitors may enjoy the public areas of the buildings on their own, without need of a staff-leader.

At the Independence Unit, this area includes the Noland home (interior of the structure), but not the surrounding grounds.

At the Grandview Unit, this area includes the actual structures (not surrounding grounds) that can be historically tied to Truman; that is, the farmhouse, garage, chicken coop, and any other building that research determines to be related in a like way.

Cultural Resources

The general treatment approach that will be followed for park resources will be rehabilitation. *Rehabilitation is defined as the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic architectural and cultural values.* At Harry S Truman NHS, rehabilitation allows for establishing visitor and administrative facilities and programs while placing a priority on cultural resource preservation. The exception to this approach is the Truman home on Delaware Street, which is to be preserved as it was during the residence of Harry and Bess Truman. *Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic structure, landscape, or object.* Work may include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally focuses on the ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work.

Preservation Partnerships

The National Park Service will be a strong advocate for the historic resources associated with Harry S Truman. The National Park Service will work in partnership with others to preserve historic resources, promote awareness of NPS resources and related resources in the area, and further the common goals of the Service and the community, while making fully available the recreational and educational resources of the area to the public.

Additionally, the National Park Service will commit to working with local communities, other agencies, and the private sector to provide for and enhance financial, educational, recreational, and operational benefits to the national historic site and the community.

The National Park Service can advance its core mission of preservation by actively seeking opportunities in the area of neighborhood preservation. Some possible strategies include developing educational opportunities utilizing the Truman National Historic Landmark District and related sites, presenting tours highlighting the history of the district, producing curriculum based programs for students, and producing publications for distribution through local tourism organizations.

The NPS role in working to preserve the neighborhood also will expand beyond additional educational developments. The NPS will provide technical assistance, within available resources, and will partner with others to develop options such as a revolving fund for historic preservation and/or to create preservation easements or restrictive covenants to facilitate historic preservation. A comprehensive set of alternative protection and preservation strategies will be developed in cooperation with the community and appropriate agencies.

Visitor Use



Visitors will be encouraged to fully explore the story of Truman through access to both National Park Service facilities and related sites, such as the Truman Library and Museum. Access to park facilities will be controlled so as to maximize resource preservation. Improvements to visitor orientation and circulation will be implemented in such a manner that they do not detract from the historic character of the area or negatively impact local residents or businesses.

Improvements to facilities or additional visitor amenities will be sited/located so as not to impact the cultural landscape.

The National Park Service will expand the options available to visitors, which might include more ranger-led programs, expanded exhibits, and collaborative programming with partners. Increased opportunities for self discovery of the sites and the stories directly associated with Truman also will be provided. Examples of such opportunities might include development of additional self-guided walking tour publications or a tour on tape. Visitor programs will go beyond park boundaries and encompass both NPS facilities and those in the surrounding area. An example of such a collaborative effort might be a combined ticketing program for Truman-related sites, including the Truman library.

Visitation will be managed to protect resources and minimize impacts on the Independence and Grandview communities. A day-of-visit ticket system, operated from the Truman Home Visitor Center/Ticket Center and/or an alternative location in downtown Independence, will be used for visitors wanting a guided tour of the Truman home. Tours will be limited to eight visitors per tour for maximum protection of resources (furnishings and historic materials), for fire safety, and to ensure quality interpretation. Tours are provided daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Truman home has traditionally been closed on Mondays from Labor Day to Memorial Day in order to provide time for the staff to perform essential preservation maintenance and extensive cleaning of the furnishings and rooms. Public access to additional floors of the Truman home will be restricted due to a provision in Bess Truman's will, inadequate egress and safety concerns, and structural problems.

Visitors will walk from a visitor facility to the Truman Farm in order to tour the grounds and to take advantage of interpretation programs. If visitors are elderly and/or in some way unable to walk, they will be provided transportation in park-provided conveyances, such as golf carts. Tours of the Truman Farmhouse will be limited to six visitors per tour for maximum protection of resources (furnishings and historic materials), for fire safety, and to ensure quality interpretation. Tours will be provided when sufficient staff is available. Access to the grounds of the Truman farm will be available daily during daylight hours.

In accordance with federal laws and National Park Service guidelines, every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that facilities and services are accessible to and usable by all people, including those with impaired mobility. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services may be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonably be made accessible. Measures to improve access to historic structures will be pursued only when they will not require the removal of historic fabric and will not adversely affect the significant qualities of the landscape.



Visitor Orientation

The NPS will seek to improve identification of Harry S Truman National Historic Site facilities and routes between facilities as well as signs within each unit. The NPS, in cooperation with others, will develop a wayfinding system, incorporating and linking both park units and other tourism attractions. This system could include common design elements such as wayside exhibits, information kiosks, and directional signs. The NPS will work with local communities and others to ensure that adequate parking is available without adversely impacting local residents and businesses.

Through cooperation with others, directional signs from major highways to both units will be improved in order to provide ease of access to each unit and between each unit.

Management of Truman Farm

The Grandview Unit will retain its current character and existing historic structures and features will be rehabilitated and interpreted. Some previously existing historic features such as fence lines, plantings, or outbuildings could be reconstructed. Alterations will occur only to the extent necessary to best convey the significance of the farm period in the life of Truman. Interpretation efforts, to be guided by a long-range interpretation plan, might include interior and exterior exhibits. Present non-historic features will be removed.

The parcel of land located to the south of the current Grandview Unit boundary will be acquired, (pending Congressional action and the availability of funds), in order to provide both a buffer for the unit and a visitor center/support services facility through the rehabilitation of the existing restaurant building.

The area consists of a road right-of-way, a narrow strip of private land adjacent to the road (and recently isolated by development), and a parcel of land containing a former restaurant. All three parcels were part of the original Truman farm. The historic and natural integrity of all three parcels has been disturbed by development activities. However, the land still has great potential to enhance visitor use and resource protection at the park, both directly and indirectly.

The addition will provide unique possibilities for addressing park needs. As previously mentioned, the parcels were part of the original Truman farmstead. Though disturbed by development, addition of the parcels will increase the total acreage of the historic farm that is protected through public ownership.

Acquisition of the parcels will allow the NPS to provide development necessary to support visitor use without having to make intrusive modifications to the existing unit, which still retains a notable degree of historic integrity. The former restaurant may be easily converted to a visitor contact facility, with restrooms, drinking fountains, and possibly a sales area. Visitors could walk or be transported safely between this building and the Farm Home. The other parcels could easily



accommodate parking necessary for staff and visitors. A small maintenance storage structure also could be constructed on one parcel. Topography on the parcels may allow for built facilities to be screened from the Truman Farm Home, thereby helping to heighten the visitor experience. Remaining portions of the parcels could be restored to green space.

Even if no NPS developments were to occur on the parcels, the property will provide an important buffer to existing development. It also will help prevent further encroachment of private development on the unit.

