



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harry S Truman
National Historic Site

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Harry S Truman NHS News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Truman Home to Get New Roof

The Truman Home, centerpiece of Harry S Truman National Historic Site, is getting a new roof. The roof is in need of replacement to prevent water leakage into the structure. Asphalt shingles currently on the roof will be removed and replaced with new shingles, hand cut to match the historic two-tab appearance. The home was last shingled in 1990. The project will take three to four weeks, depending upon weather conditions.

Work on the roofing project is being completed by National Park Service employees from the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC), which is located in Frederick, Maryland. The HPTC is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the historic structures of the National Park Service and its partners, demonstrating outstanding leadership in preservation education and skills and crafts development.

The roofing project is part of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative, introduced in May, 2007 by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. The initiative is a nine year plan to improve facilities and services in the National Park Service for the 100th anniversary of the agency in 2016. One of the main goals of the initiative is stewardship of natural and cultural resources in our National Parks, including rehabilitation, restoration and maintenance of treasured cultural resources such as the Truman Home.

Home of our thirty-third president, the Victorian mansion was built around 1867 by George Porterfield Gates, Bess Wallace Truman's grandfather. Mr. Truman moved into the home when he married Bess in 1919. The Truman's daughter Margaret was born in the house in 1924 and, with the exception of time spent in Washington, D.C. during Mr. Truman's term in the U.S. Senate and his presidency, Mr. and Mrs. Truman lived there for the remainder of their lives. The home became part of the National Park System in 1983.

Regularly scheduled tours of the Truman Home will be offered throughout the roofing project. For more information about tours and interpretive programs at Harry S Truman National Historic Site, please call the visitor center at 816-254-9929 or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/hstr.

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