



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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Pre-Construction Work Begins at Harry S Truman National Historic Site

The Truman Home, centerpiece of Harry S Truman National Historic Site, is undergoing some needed improvements. In preparation for later installation of a new Heating, Ventilation and Cooling system, fire suppression system and plaster stabilization, conservation work has begun on the historic wallpaper in two locations in the home.

Thomas M. Edmondson, of Heugh-Edmondson Conservation Services, LLC, of Kansas City, is doing the wallpaper conservation work in the former president's home. He will remove, repair, clean, and reinstall the historic wallpaper in the dining room and an upstairs bedroom, which have been compromised by underlying plaster failure. Visitors to the Truman Home will see the progress of the wallpaper removal in the dining room during the course of regularly scheduled interpretive tours. Tom is a Fellow of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).

The entire construction and conservation project is part of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative, introduced in May, 2007 by then 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 as the wallpaper work is progressing. 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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