

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT:
HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**

HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



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1984

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FOREWORD

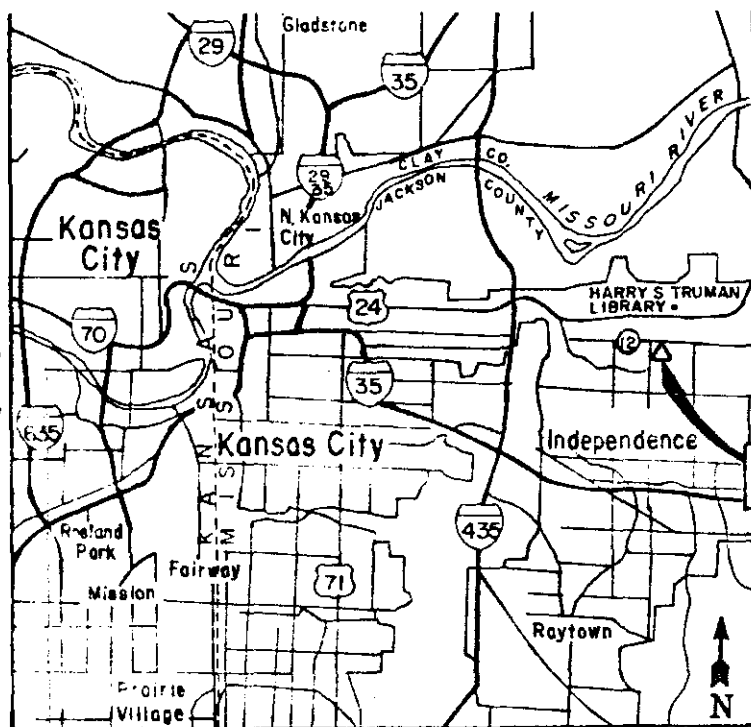
This study represents the first in-depth historical analysis of the home of Harry S and Bess Wallace Truman. The following History and Significance section of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site Historic Structures Report is the result of over three months of research and interviews in Independence, Missouri, and two days in Washington, D.C. Intensive research began in June and the compilation commenced in August, 1983. A three-hour interview with the Trumans' daughter, Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel, took place in the living room of the home on November 17, 1983.

All historical photographs were obtained from the Harry S. Truman Library. They represent a good cross section of the Truman Library's photographic archival collection on the national historic site. Unfortunately, there are few interior views which predate 1953.

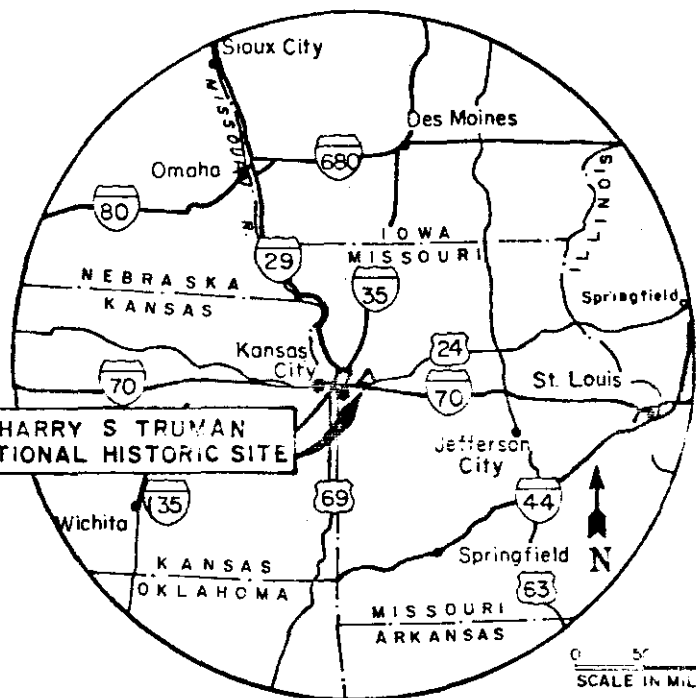
A note on style: The period after the middle initial in Mr. Truman's name is not used by the National Park Service because the enabling legislation, Public Law 98-32, did not include it. Many local (Independence) organizations and published sources, however, do use the period. In this study, National Park Service policy is followed and the period is used only when it appears in direct quotations or in an official title, i.e. Harry S. Truman Library.

Finally, as an Independence native who feels a deep commitment to the Truman legacy, I would like to thank the many people who were interviewed and consulted on this project. A special word of thanks goes to Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel, Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Miss Sue Gentry, and Mrs. Pauline S. Fowler; Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist and Mrs. Elizabeth Safly of the Truman Library; and Norm Reigle and Tom Richter of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site. My appreciation is also extended to those in the Midwest Regional Office who had faith in my abilities and granted me the privilege of compiling this study, in particular, Randall R. Pope, John Kawamoto, and Andy Ketterson. Last, but far from the bottom of my list, are my co-workers who provided me much technical support--Jill M. York, Lee B. Jameson, Francis O. Krupka, Thomas L. Hensley, Alan W. O'Bright, Michael D. Lee, and Lettie A. Hansen. All of these individuals helped to make this challenge a true labor of love.

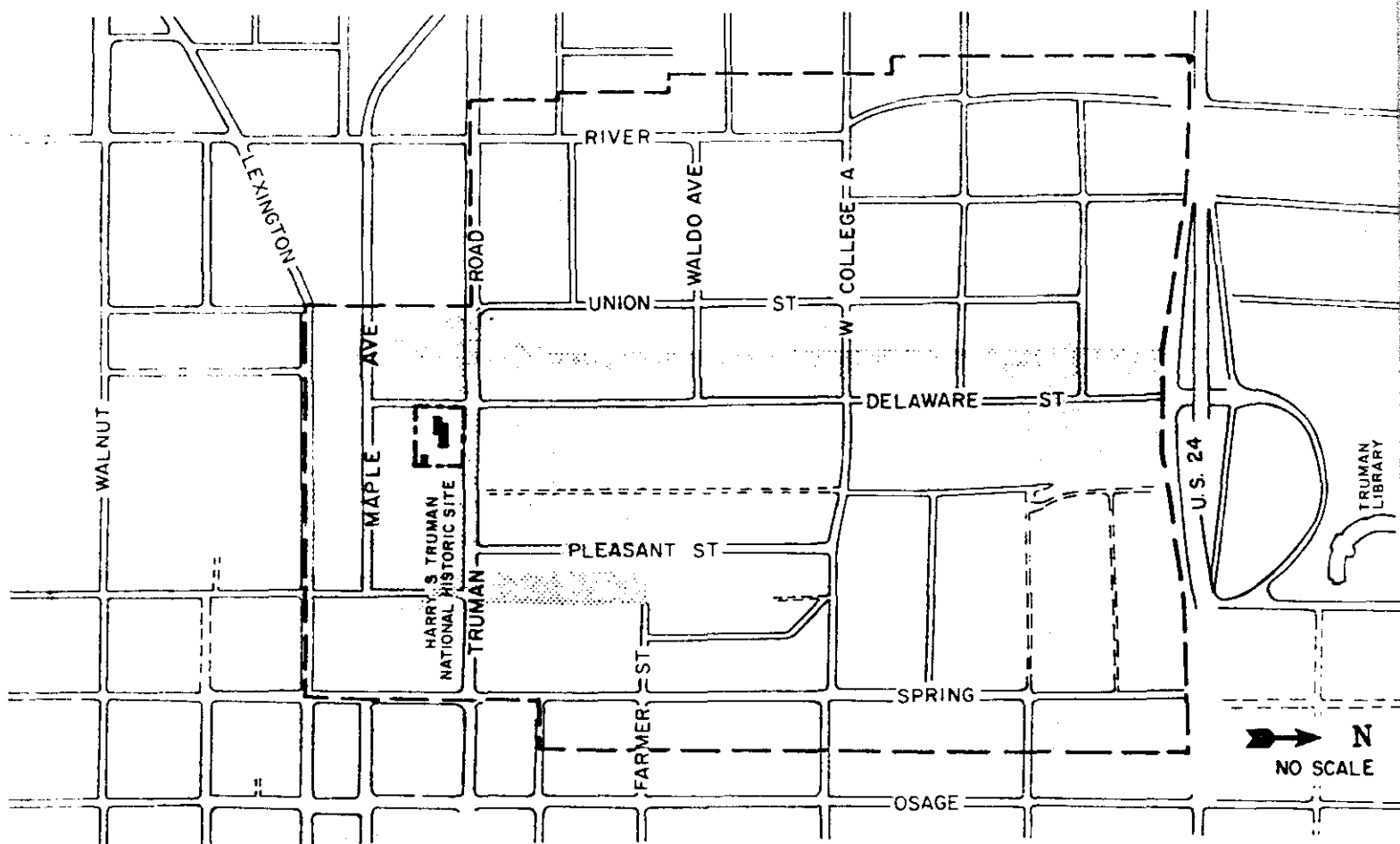
Ron Cockrell
Research Historian



SCALE IN MILES
VICINITY MAP



LOCATION MAP



- - - - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BOUNDARY HARRY S. TRUMAN HISTORIC DISTR. (National Register)
 - - - - HARRY S. TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT (City of Independence)

EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING and BOUNDARY MAP
HARRY S. TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
 JACKSON COUNTY, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

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CHAPTER ONE

EARLY HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE

Early History of Independence

On December 15, 1826, five years after the admission of Missouri into the Union, the organization of Jackson County was authorized by the Missouri General Assembly. Three commissioners were appointed to select a place for the county seat. They chose a centrally-located 160-acre tract three miles south of the Missouri River which they called "Independence." The new Jackson County Court soon approved the site in the spring of 1827, and the sale of town lots began in July of the same year.

As the county seat, Independence began to grow into an important economic center for western Missouri. Its proximity to the Missouri River, which served as the county's northern border before its great bend northward, allowed the town to receive supplies from the river boats via wagon trains. Overland commerce from St. Louis passed through Independence as well and continued on to the west and southwest. The small Missouri town was a natural commercial center for the growing trade with Mexico. As early as 1827, Independence was the westernmost U.S. settlement for the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail.

In the winter of 1830-31, five elders of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints arrived in the tiny settlement to convert the Indians living to the immediate west of Missouri. In the summer of 1831, church founder Joseph Smith, Jr., arrived in Independence where he revealed to his followers that Jackson County was the "Promised Land" or new headquarters for the faith. He called Independence, the "City of Zion." Smith's followers, commonly referred to as Mormons, soon began to pour into Independence to establish their own religious community. Mainly from New York and Ohio, the Mormons antagonized many of the townspeople. Many saw the influx of the religious zealots as a threat to their own interests. The Mormon belief that Jackson County represented a promised land given by God distressed the early settlers. Anti-Mormon residents initiated a campaign to drive the Mormons out of Independence and Jackson County. In November 1833, Joseph Smith and his Mormon Church were violently expelled.

During this time of turmoil, Independence merchants were reaping the benefits of being in the center of the outfitting business for fur traders and the mule- and ox-drawn wagon trains bound for Santa Fe. In the 1840s, the town outfitted immigrant groups bound for Oregon. A wide array of basic supplies and luxury goods flowed into Independence. In May 1846, historian Francis Parkman observed:

Being at leisure one day I rode over to Independence. The Town was crowded. A multitude of shops had sprung up to furnish the emigrants and Santa Fe traders with necessities for their journey; and there was an incessant hammering and banging from a dozen blacksmiths' sheds, where the heavy wagons were being repaired, and the horses and oxen shod. The streets were thronged with men, horses, and mules.¹

Independence and Jackson County were economically dependent on the westward migration. By 1848, most of the 12,000 settlers living in Oregon had begun their journey in Independence. Upon the discovery of gold in California, many of the prospectors of the 1849 gold rush also swept through Independence. The small town was the starting place of the three principal trails of the 19th century American westward movement--Santa Fe, Oregon, and California.

On March 8, 1849, the Missouri General Assembly granted Independence a home-rule charter. On July 18, 1849, William McCoy was elected the town's first mayor. Even before McCoy took office, the decline of Independence loomed. Other settlements on the western border of the county, Westport Landing and Wayne City Landing (both later incorporated into Kansas City) ended Independence's trade monopoly.

The issue of slavery and the Civil War combined to decimate Independence. Culturally and politically, the town

was Southern. Missouri's admission to the Union as a slave state saw many counties in the central section of the state split into North-South factions, and Jackson County was no exception. When the national political balance between slave and non-slave states was upset with the 1854 passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the peace in Jackson County was broken. The law provided that the citizens of these new territories themselves would decide the issue of becoming a free or slaveholding state. The subsequent "Border War" which erupted between Missouri and the Kansas territory in 1855 involved bloody clashes in Jackson County. In a prelude to the Civil War, Kansas Jayhawkers (pro-Federal) and Southern guerillas led by William C. Quantrill and others began a series of brutal raids across the state line. The pillaging and terrorism caused the Independence outfitting trade irreparable harm. It all but collapsed as the Civil War began in 1861.

Missouri did not follow her sister slave states and secede from the Union. In Jackson County, Kansas City was confidently pro-Union while Independence was solidly pro-South. To keep the county under Union control, Independence was made a Federal post on June 7, 1862. On August 11, 1862, Confederate troops and guerillas invaded the town and drove the Union soldiers out. The Southern sympathizers who supported Quantrill's guerillas were punished on August 25, 1863, when U.S. Brigadier

General Thomas A. Ewing issued the infamous Order Number 11. The military directive punished innocent and guilty alike. It demanded that all inhabitants of Jackson, Cass, Bates, and part of Vernon counties in Missouri leave their homes within 15 days. Rural residents who swore allegiance to the United States were settled in Federal areas of control. Those who refused were driven out. Federal troops then burned the abandoned properties and crops to ensure that rebel sympathizers did not use them to aid the guerillas.

When Jackson Countians were allowed to return to their homes, most found only charred remains. The area around Independence was so barren that it was commonly called "the Burnt District." The second Battle of Independence in October 1864 caused further destruction when the town was ravaged for two days. The defeat of Confederate forces in the Battle of Westport (October 23, 1864) effectively ended the war in the trans-Mississippi west region.

The emotional scars of the Civil War took generations to heal. Economically and politically, Independence never fully recovered. The pre-war boom was gone forever. It was Kansas City that emerged as the county's new crossroads where the railroads and new industries located. Real political power and control shifted to the west, although Independence remained the

de jure county seat. The post-war renaissance nevertheless saw Independence residents determined to rebuild and promote their town.²

Early History of Independence

¹Bernd Foerster, Independence, Missouri (Independence, Mo.: Independence Press, 1978), p. 16.

²The majority of this section was taken in passim from the above-cited source.

CHAPTER TWO

HISTORY OF LOTS 2 AND 3 OF JAMES F. MOORE'S ADDITION

History of Lots 2 and 3 of James F. Moore's Addition

According to the early laws of Missouri, section 16 of each county township was set aside as school or seminary land held in trust by the state for the benefit of schools and the state university system. Proceeds from the sale of these parcels went exclusively to benefit education. Jackson County organizers, however, set aside almost half of each township as school land hoping to focus all development in specified areas before expansion was permitted.¹ With the founding of Independence in 1827, an 80-acre tract of seminary land adjacent to the town was soon authorized for sale by the Missouri General Assembly. On December 12, 1831, the state approved the sale of a portion of this land, described as the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 49, Range 32. It was sold to Jones Hoy Flournoy for \$160.²

The Flournoy family already possessed extensive property in Jackson County. Jones H. Flournoy was a county judge, justice of the peace, and a preacher.³ Within a week of his purchase of the seminary land, he began selling off parcels of it. In January 1833, Flournoy sold 6.98 acres to Azariah Holcomb, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, for \$70.⁴ This transaction was significant because near this property, south of Lexington Road (a half-mile south

of the Truman home), was the Temple Lot, the land designated by Joseph Smith as sacred to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In November 1833, Holcomb, like all his fellow church members, were violently driven from Jackson County and warned never to return under threat of death. Most Latter Day Saints were never compensated for their confiscated property.⁵

On July 12, 1836, Flournoy sold 42.18 acres, including the property which is now the Truman home, to Cornelius Davy for \$2,000.⁶ Davy, born in Ireland, was an Independence merchant.⁷ Three years later, on August 3, 1839, Davy sold this property, roughly 40 acres and a portion of Town Lot 38, to Independence merchant James F. Moore for \$5,000.⁸

What caused James F. Moore to leave Independence and return to his native Shelby County, Kentucky, is not known. Moore, like many other businessmen, left Independence during this period of economic uncertainty. The 1837 recession hit Jackson County hard as the panic saw many businesses fail. Many settlers decided to return to more stable regions like Kentucky and Tennessee.⁹ In Kentucky, on March 27, 1840, James F. Moore granted power of attorney to Benjamin F. Hickman to go to Jackson County and either sell or lease his 135 acres adjacent to Independence as well as his property in town.¹⁰

Hickman was unsuccessful in selling Moore's property. Six years elapsed when, on August 15, 1846, Moore again issued to Hickman his power of attorney with explicit instructions to sell all his property in Jackson County.¹¹ With the incorporation of Independence slated for the end of the decade, Hickman guaranteed his client increased profits by arranging the platting of a large segment of Moore's property. On September 29, 1847, "James F. Moore's Addition" was platted and entered in the Jackson County Recorder's Office.¹² Soon after the 1849 town incorporation, Moore's addition was included in Independence.

Hickman's plan for platting Moore's property and selling it off lot by lot worked. The land was attractive to buyers because it was within easy walking distance from Independence Square and because it was adjacent to one of the earliest roads built in the county. (This road is in the approximate location of what is known today as "Truman Road."¹³) On August 28, 1848, Benjamin F. Hickman, acting on behalf of James F. Moore, sold Lots 2 through 6, 8, and 16 through 18 of Moore's addition to William B. Hay. The price of the nine lots was \$800 or a little more than \$88 per lot.¹⁴ The Truman home was later built on Lots 2 and 3.

William B. Hay, 38, was born in Virginia and came to

Independence via Arkansas. He, too, was a merchant,¹⁵ but one who was constantly in debt. Hay owed his creditors nearly \$9,000. With his indebtedness worsening, Hay became desperate. On July 11, 1849, he granted full power of attorney to the law firm of Samuel H. Woodson, William Chrisman, and Abraham Comingo to do everything possible to erase his debts, including liquidating his property.¹⁶ Hay's selection of the law firm of Woodson, Chrisman, and Comingo was a dubious choice. Samuel H. Woodson had acquired local renown for his special skill: clearing up titles to properties expropriated from the Latter Day Saints, people whom he especially detested.¹⁷

In 1849 or 1850, Hay's business failed. The 1850 United States Census of Jackson County reveals that Hay, his wife Emma, and two sons, had lost their home. The Hay family was living in the home of lawyer Richard Reese.¹⁸

On August 19, 1850, Jackson County Clerk Samuel A. Lucas issued a writ of fieri facias against William B. Hay to compensate Hays' creditors. The writ authorized Sheriff George W. Buchanan to advertise Hay's property in a local newspaper 20 days in advance of selling it at public auction on the steps of the county courthouse. On September 11, 1850, Lots 2 and 3 of Moore's addition were sold to the highest bidder, Independence Mayor Jonathan R. Palmer, at \$120 and \$100 respectively.

Because it was sold to the highest bidder, the bids the sheriff received were most likely low and unrepresentative of the property's true value. Palmer also purchased Lots 4 and 5, at \$120 and \$122 respectively.¹⁹

The difference in price between Lots 2 (\$120) and 3 (\$100) is revealing. That Hay lost his home and property in Moore's Addition is also significant. Although the location of the Hay house is not known, it is possible that a house was built on Lot 2 and 3 as well as a barn on Lot 2 which accounts for the increased value of the lot. Hay purchased the property in August 1848 for \$88 per lot. Despite the low sheriff's sale price, the increase in only two years (from \$88 to \$100 and \$120) is striking and suggests that the property was indeed improved.

That a house and barn could have been built on Lots 2 and 3 is probable because the land adjoined a major east-west road (known as Tanyard, now Truman, Road in Independence) which was in use as early as 1831. Its close proximity to Independence Square made it especially appealing for home-building. Because sawmills were present in the area, it was probably constructed from cut lumber. In relationship to the road, the roof line of the house probably had an east-west orientation.²⁰

The property's new owner, Jonathan R. Palmer, was a lawyer and the incumbent mayor of the town.²⁰ Palmer, like Hay, was also afflicted by debts. Three weeks later, on October 2, 1850, Palmer mortgaged all his property to John B. Slaughter for a \$6,000 bond payable after January 1, 1851.²¹ Slaughter, a merchant and Palmer's successor as mayor,²² received legal title to Lots 2 through 5 of Moore's addition when Palmer defaulted on the bond.

John B. Slaughter, his wife Margretta, and family probably fled Independence during the bloody "Border War" between the pro-slave Quantrill's Missouri guerillas and the anti-slave Kansas Jayhawkers. From their new home in St. Louis, the Slaughters sold their four lots in Moore's addition to James T. Thornton and Francis P. Hord on February 2, 1857, for \$500, an average of \$125 per lot.²³

In 1858, Delaware Street was extended from its origin in McCauley's addition south into Moore's addition as James T. Thornton, of "Turner and Thornton Bankers," signed a quitclaim deed to the City of Independence for one dollar. Thornton relinquished "So much of the West side of Lot Number three in Said Moore's Addition . . . as lies in Delaware Street as extended from Said McCauley's addition through Said Moore's Addition to Said Rock Street"²⁴ (now Maple Avenue). As North

Delaware's width was 49.50 feet, equal portions taken from Lots 3 and 4 would indicate that 24.75 feet was taken from each lot.

On November 29, 1859, James T. and Mary H. Thornton deeded Lots 2 and 3 to Peter Gastel for \$350, or an average of \$175 per lot.²⁵ The Thorntons were among the many Independence citizens who left. In March 1862, James T. Thornton granted a relative his power of attorney from Henry County, Kentucky.²⁶ Another power of attorney granted in September cited "the late firm of Turner & Thornton Bankers."²⁷

Indebtedness seemed to plague the property as it once again changed hands a year later. Peter and Sally Gastel were in debt to George D. English and Company of St. Louis for four promissory notes totalling \$2,069.35. Unable to pay off the notes by the requisite date of November 20, 1860, the Gastels entered into a three-party trustee's deed. Acting as the middle-man between the Gastels and the St. Louis-based George D. English and Company was Independence lawyer William Chrisman--the same William Chrisman of the Woodson-Chrisman-Comingo firm that liquidated the same property for debt-plagued William B. Hay in 1850. Chrisman paid the Gastels one dollar for Lots 2 and 3 to hold in trust for one year, or until November 20, 1861, at which time if the debt went unpaid, Chrisman was authorized to sell Lots 2 and 3 at public auction.²⁸

The Gastels' inability to satisfy the loan and regain their property was sealed by events of American history. The local economy, already damaged by the Border War, all but collapsed as the Civil War began. Missouri's wavering loyalty to the Union cause was only too apparent in pro-Confederate Independence, a Federally-occupied city during the war and the scene of two battles.

The Civil War and the occupation prevented William Chrisman from fulfilling the provisions of the 1860 trustee's deed to proceed with the public sale of Lots 2 and 3. Many homes were appropriated by soldiers. A December 22, 1863, letter from former Mayor (1858) W. L. Bone describes the situation in an area of town which could possibly have been Moore's addition:

Dear Friend:

Your letter of 29th October was received a few days ago, and I now send you a reply. Your house still stands--not burnt--not many houses have been burnt in the city, but all more or less [are] injured by rough treatment. An Irishman is now in your house--treats it tollerably well--pay [sic] no rent.

The Stegall Brick house [Note: Richard W. Stegall bought Moore's addition Lots 13 and 14 in 1847], near ours, is now occupied by an old man who cut up some 10 to 15 hogs in the parlor room last Sunday. That is a fair sample of how dwelling houses are treated in town.

A number of good business houses on the square are now occupied as horse-stables by the Kansas 11th. You ask me if you could not recover damages for the damage done your property? I doubt it. If property is used by a command as a necessity [sic] and it is damaged, then the government will pay for it, I believe; but when it is torn to pieces by private soliders without orders, I do not think the government will pay for it.

W. L. Bone²⁹

With the conclusion of the Civil War, bitterness toward the Union and the influx of the "carpetbaggers" did not bypass the town. Independence had suffered great deprivations during the war. With the beginning of Reconstruction, opportunists prospered. Lawyers, the real estate agents of this era, made their fortunes in questionable land deals. Independence barristers were no exception.³⁰

In 1866, William Chrisman invoked the 1860 Gastel Trustee Deed and proceeded with the public sale. Advertising Lots 2 and 3 in the Independence Sentinel 20 days before the sale, the property was auctioned at the courthouse door on August 25, 1866. According to the September 26, 1866, warranty deed, the highest bidder was James G. English who paid \$425 for the two lots, an average of \$212.50 per lot. No mention is made of any of the proceeds going to the George D. English and Company of St. Louis, the holder of the Gastels' 1860 promissory notes.

The deed mysteriously omits James G. English's county of

residence. Another curiosity is the Jackson County Recorder who accepted the transaction on January 26, 1867, was "A. [Abraham] Comingo," Chrisman's pre-war law partner.³¹ Even more curious is a power of attorney granted on September 15, 1866, from New Haven County, Connecticut, by James G. and Mary E. English to Samuel E. Sawyer and William Chrisman to sell Lots 2 and 3 in James F. Moore's Addition. The document was acknowledged by County Recorder A. Comingo on June 21, 1867.³²

On that same day, A. Comingo duly recorded another land transaction for his friend, William Chrisman. The previous day, Chrisman, with the English's power of attorney, sold Lots 2 and 3 to George P. Gates (the grandfather of Bess Wallace Truman) of Jackson County. Gates, a recent settler from Illinois, paid \$700, or an average of \$350 per lot.³³ This steep price in the lean post-war days adds to the point that there probably was a house or other structures on the property.

Perhaps Gates sensed or was told that something about his property deed was not right. On July 1, 1867, Gates paid Preston Roberts one dollar to sign a quitclaim deed to Lots 2 and 3.³⁴ Gates's act was a shrewd business move. Preston Roberts, who lived at the end of Delaware on the south side of Rock Street (now Maple Avenue), was a prominent, wealthy citizen. Roberts was a banker and a former local U. S. Mail

contractor.³⁵ Gates must have reasoned that any potential challenge to his title would be discouraged by Preston Roberts's solid reputation.

¹Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984. Mrs. Fowler, an Independence historian and retired archivist for the Jackson County Historical Society, donated her time to the National Park Service to conduct an exhaustive land title search of Jackson County's original records. The legal transactions in this chapter are the result of Mrs. Fowler's research.

²Copy of Patent, State of Missouri, to Jones H. Flourney, May 29, 1833, Deed Book (microfilm) 264, Page 526, No. 52543, Certificate No. 82.

³Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984.

⁴Warranty Deed, Flourney to Holcomb, January 15, 1833, Land Deed Book B, Page 150.

⁵Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984.

⁶Warranty Deed, Flourney to Davy, July 12, 1836, Land Deed Book D, Page 446.

⁷United States Census, Jackson County, Missouri, 1850.

⁸Warranty Deed, Davy to Moore, August 3, 1839, Land Deed Book F, Page 464.

⁹Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984.

¹⁰Power of Attorney, Moore to Hickman, March 27, 1840, Land Deed Book G, Page 573.

¹¹Ibid., August 15, 1846, Land Deed Book L, Page 422.

¹²"James F. Moore's Addition," November 30, 1847, Plat Book 1, Jackson County Recorder's Office.

¹³Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984.

¹⁴Warranty Deed, Moore by Attorney to Hay, August 28,

1848, Land Deed Book N, Page 337.

¹⁵United States Census, Jackson County, Missouri, 1850.

¹⁶Power of Attorney, Hay to Woodson, Chrisman, and Comingo, July 11, 1849, Land Deed Book O, Page 296.

¹⁷Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984.

¹⁸United States Census, Jackson County, Missouri, 1850.

¹⁹Sheriff's Warranty Deed, September 17, 1850, Land Deed Book R, Pages 17-22.

²⁰Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984. According to Mrs. Fowler, Palmer was mayor from June to December of 1850.

²¹Bond, Jonathan R. Palmer, October 2, 1850, Land Deed Book P, Page 557.

²²United States Census, Jackson County, Missouri, 1850; and Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984. According to Mrs. Fowler, Slaughter served only one month as mayor, January 1851.

²³Warranty Deed, Slaughter to Thornton and Hord, February 2, 1857, Land Deed Book Z, Page 527.

²⁴Quitclaim Deed, Thornton to City of Independence, May 14, 1858, Land Deed Book 29, Page 316.

²⁵Warranty Deed, Thornton to Gastel, November 29, 1859, Land Deed Book 33, Page 470.

²⁶Power of Attorney, Thornton to Thornton, March 23, 1862, Land Deed Book 38, Page 183.

²⁷Power of Attorney, Turner and Thornton to Roberts, September 19, 1862, Land Deed Book 38, Page 215.

²⁸Trustee's Deed, Gastel, Chrisman, and English and Company, November 24, 1860, Land Deed Book 36, Page 229.

²⁹Personal Files of Pauline S. Fowler, copied from a letter in the Jackson County Historical Society Archives.

³⁰Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984.

³¹Trustee's Warranty Deed, Chrisman to English,

September 26, 1866, Land Deed Book 51, Page 25.

³²Power of Attorney, English to Sawyer and Chrisman, September 15, 1866, Land Deed Book 52, Page 209.

³³Warranty Deed, English by Attorney to Gates, June 20, 1867, Land Deed Book 52, Page 210.

³⁴Quitclaim Deed, Roberts to Gates, July 1, 1867, Land Deed Book 52, Page 273.

³⁵Mrs. Pauline Fowler, conversation, February 9, 1984; and United States Census, Jackson County, Missouri, 1860. The 1886 Atlas of the Environs of Kansas City in Jackson County, Missouri reveals that P. Roberts owned three houses on Lots 6, 17, and 18.

CHAPTER THREE

THE GATES FAMILY MOVES TO INDEPENDENCE

- * The Gates Family Moves to Independence
- * Early Fires
- * Building the Gates Mansion, 1885

The Gates Family Moves to Independence

Among those who came to Independence following General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse was a young lawyer, Edward Payson Gates. Born in Lunenburg, Essex County, Vermont, on March 5, 1845, Edward P. Gates had lived with his family in a town near Moline, Illinois, called Port Byron. There his family, most notably his elder brother, George Porterfield Gates (grandfather of Bess Wallace Truman), was engaged in lumbering. In 1866, Edward Gates left his family behind to go west in search of new lands and new opportunities. He stopped in Independence, Missouri, where he found a post-war frontier town rapidly rebuilding itself. In subsequent letters to his relatives in Illinois, Gates described his new home as a "land of milk and honey" and encouraged them to move to Missouri.¹

George Porterfield Gates, born April 2, 1835, was eighteen when he and his father, George Washington Gates, and two brothers, Edward and G. Walter Gates, moved from Lunenburg to Port Byron. George P. Gates had worked seven years in the lumber business when he married Elizabeth Emery in 1860. Elizabeth Emery Gates, born in 1841 in England, emigrated to the United States when she was seven following an epidemic which killed most of her family. George and Elizabeth Gates

had three daughters, Margaret ("Madge", born 1862; mother of Bess Wallace Truman), Maud (1864), and Myra (1866), when the letters from Edward P. Gates arrived. The decision was soon made to make the move to Missouri.²

George P. Gates, his family, and his father moved to Independence in 1866. Among their possessions was a valuable family heirloom, a grandfather clock (still extant) made in England in 1732. George P. Gates found work almost immediately with a mill busy turning out cut lumber to keep pace with the post-war building boom. Among Gates's earliest projects was sawing lumber for the Hannibal Bridge. Completed in 1869, it was the first railroad bridge to span the Missouri River.³

The Gates family may have settled first on a farm 3.5 miles southwest of Independence Square. Owned by George Washington Gates, the 77-acre farm became part of the city's Gates Park addition.⁴ Ownership of the farm made George W. Gates a respected member of the community. As early as 1867, he served a one-year term as one of three judges (an administrative post) on the Jackson County Court, the position his great-granddaughter's husband, Harry S Truman, would hold 55 years later.⁵

George P. Gates was not the first owner of Lots 2 and 3 in

James F. Moore's addition, the property more familiarly known as 219 North Delaware.

In all the land deeds (See Chapter Two), mention is made only of the land parcels. Family tradition dictates that George P. Gates built the first house on the property after he purchased it in 1867. However, as discussed in the previous chapter, a house or others structures were probably built on the property by William B. Hay as early as 1848 to 1850. If any part of these early structures, whether it be the east kitchen wing or the carriage house/barn, was incorporated into the present Truman home is not known. These early structures could have been destroyed in the Civil War. It is also possible that Gates improved on the 1848-50 house by building additions to accommodate his large family. Because physical evidence of an extant pre-Civil war structure has not been determined, references to the pre-1885 Gates house will hereinafter be cited with the year 1867.

A two-story rectangular structure with a small rear addition appears in an 1868 Bird's Eye View Map of the City of Independence (See map and closeup view in Appendix). The Gates house changed between 1867 and the construction of the main structure in 1885. The change was due to a fire or fires which destroyed a portion of the house.

George and Elizabeth Gates and their three daughters who were born in Illinois lived in the 1867 house. Two sons, G. Walter Gates (1868) and Frank E. Gates (1871) were probably both born there, as were two daughters Tillie and Bessie who died in their infancy.⁶

George P. Gates purchased two additional lots in Moore's addition in 1868. On November 2, 1868, Gates bought Lots 1 and 12 from Frederick F. Yeager for \$800. Yeager retained a vendors lien against the property until the note and interest were paid. A notarized postscript on May 23, 1870, stated that the payment was satisfied and the lien cancelled.⁷ Lot 1 is the property where the family planted a garden (the present location of the two Wallace brothers' homes), while Lot 12 is directly south on the same block.

In 1866, the year the Gates came to Independence, Peter Waggoner purchased a grist mill at Spring and Pacific Streets from John A. Overfelt and began a family milling business. In 1874, he and his son, William H. Waggoner, began an ambitious building project near the original mill. Construction was completed by 1883 when a new investor and business partner was invited to join the Waggoner Mill, George Porterfield Gates. The business was incorporated under the title "Waggoner-Gates

Milling Company" and it soon emerged as the town's leading industry. The Waggoner-Gates Milling Company was nationally recognized for its leading product known as "Queen of the Pantry" flour. The soft, wheat flour was popular for use in biscuits, bread, and other baking goods.⁸

Early Fires

Like any 19th century community where the principal building material is wood, Independence residents were on a constant vigil against fire. When a city waterworks was established in the mid-1880s and water mains were laid throughout the city, fire hydrants were also installed [See "Water" section in Chapter 14]. In order to reduce the potential for fire, the Independence Board of Aldermen declared a mandatory, citywide fire inspection. The February 18, 1884, ordinance stated:

It shall be the duty of the Fire Warden to make a thorough inspection twice a year beginning on the first day's [sic] of March and November of each year of all the fireplaces, flues and stove pipes within the limits of the City of Independence, and to see that the same are arranged and constructed in accordance with [the law].⁹

A family tale about an early fire in the 1867 Gates house does not include a date, cause, or extent of damage, but some

details have survived. To save her most treasured possessions, young Myra Gates (born in 1866) put on her theatre hat and coat and escaped the burning home. Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace recalled:

Now the back of this house was burned at one time. Auntie Myra was trying to save her opera hat and coat, and she went out with them on! ...they [the Gates's] said there was a fire and it burned off part of the old house. There's places in the attic where you can see where the fire was.¹⁰

Evidence of fire damage in the attic of both the 1867 and 1885 structures is apparent. Extensive charred areas can be seen in the rafters over the 1867 kitchen wing. Fire damage is especially concentrated in the area of exposed rafter beams around the trapdoor to the roof in the 1885 section. Plaster-board which was installed over these rafters during the 1950s probably hides further fire-damaged areas. These fires most likely predate the Truman occupancy, and possibly the twentieth century. Workmen who were in the attic during the presidential period recall seeing fire debris still covering the floor, but they were certain the fire(s) had occurred long before the 1940s.¹¹

Records at the Independence Fire Department do not reveal any incident of fire at 219 North Delaware because such information was first recorded in the early 1930s.¹²

A fire of unknown time and origin caused minor damage in the southwest corner of the barn/carriage house and in the basement. The charred evidence is visible.

Building the Gates Mansion, 1885

George P. Gates made his fortune from "Queen of the Pantry" flour and the thriving success of the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company. As one of the town's leading businessmen, Gates was an organizer and member of the first Board of Directors of the Bank of Independence. He was also an active church member, an elder in the Presbyterian Church.¹³

Although most of his children were grown, George P. Gates wanted to construct a sizeable addition onto his home at 219 North Delaware. He wanted a residence which not only would reflect his prominent standing in the community, but one which would serve as a comfortable retirement home for himself and his wife.

Gates turned to the town's most successful builder and architect, James W. Adams (born February 25, 1828, in Fauquier County, Virginia)¹⁴ to draw the construction documents. A

January 2, 1886, article in The (Independence) Sentinel described the "Building Boom" which took place in the town during the previous year. In the article, James W. Adams is listed first as the primary builder and architect. Among his achievements is a two and one-half story mansion for George P. Gates. The structure comprised "Fourteen rooms, water and gas" systems. The house was the most expensive residence built in Independence in 1885 at \$8,000. An engraving, or lithograph, of the Gates mansion was also printed¹⁵ (See article and engraving, Figures 1 and 2).

The architectural style of the 1885 house conformed mostly to the prevalent Victorian style, in sharp contrast to the austere, utilitarian appearance of the 1867 house. The Gates mansion became one of the town's landmarks. One resident remarked that the Gates house "was the only one in town I ever heard referred to as a mansion."¹⁶

The 1885 addition was built onto the west end of the 1867 structure, which then became the kitchen wing. Nothing is known about how the two structures were connected or where one house begins from the other. (The data will be developed during the structural investigation of the house.) A family explanation for the curious elevation of the second floor bedrooms from the central hallway is that the house was indeed

H. R. MILLS,
BOOKSELLER, -- STATIONER,
 --AND DEALER IN--
SCHOOL SUPPLIES, WALL PAPER, BORDERS, CEILING DECORATIONS,
PICTURE FRAMES, ART MATERIALS, ETC.,
SOUTHWEST COR. SQUARE, -- -- INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

It is with pleasure that I avail myself of the opportunity offered through this number of the "Sentinel" to express my gratitude to the good people of Independence and vicinity for the liberal patronage received from them previous to the Holidays, and I sincerely wish them all a happy New Year, and trust that friendly business relations may continue. While I feel still covetous for more patronage, and in this connection would respectfully announce that early in the season I shall be able to show to my customers what there is nice in

WALL PAPER, FRIEZES AND CEILING DECORATIONS.

and hereby cordially invite inspection when the time comes to purchase. School Books, Slates, Inks, Etc., are now in order, and will be sold at low prices. Children who call to make purchases will receive prompt attention.

Respectfully,

H. R. MILLS.

evidence of the diligence and proficiency of the pupils and the faithful work of the teachers.

The second term begins Monday, January 4.

WOODLAND COLLEGE.

From an unpretentious academy, Woodland College has within the past two years come briskly to the front as one of the leading educational institutions of Missouri. Under the direction of Prof. A. Bryant and Higginson it has been made a financial success, and its announcements are looked forward to with flattering interest. Since it passed into the possession of its present owner, Prof. G. S. Bryant, some extensive improvements have been made, and the capacity of the building almost doubled. Last year it had a most encouraging patronage; this year the attendance is still larger and by next year other additions will have to be made to accommodate those seeking a diploma bearing the "indenture" of Woodland College. The college is well supplied in the way of apparatus. It has all the appurtenances of laboratory and recitation room, also a splendid six inch telescope of great power. The curriculum is about the same as that of other institutions of like character. The college, a place of which appears on page seven, is in the center of a beautiful grove of native woodland, and is most pleasantly located.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Is a flourishing Parochial school under the auspices and management of the Sisters of St. Mary. They have a large and comfortable building; the curriculum is fully up to the age, and the instruction close and practical.

THE REAL ESTATE BOOM.

During the year just passed there were many important transfers of real estate within and around the city. The most noted of these were the purchases by the Winner Investment Co. of a large tract of land just west of the city, extending from Blue to Independence avenues. This tract comprising 180 acres, has been laid out in lots, and the streets are being graded with a view to marketing the lots.

WOODLAND PLACE.

Another notable purchase was a ten acre tract, by a local syndicate. This beautiful property lies between Woodland College and Blue Avenue. A plat of it is shown on page six.

Another syndicate purchased property west of Woodland, and dividing it into streets and lots, named it

WALDO PLACE.

Mr. J. B. Forbis also sub-divided a small tract lying along western limits of the city and north of and fronting on Blue Avenue.

OTT AND ROBERT'S ADDITION.

Messrs. Chris. Ott, Jr., and Matt. Roberts, two energetic young men not to be behind, purchased a tract or about thirty-three acres, lying just south of the Missouri Pacific Railway Depot, and divided it up into one hundred and twelve very desirable lots.

The drift during the year has shown confidence in our city's future by old and young, and we think it well placed.

The business of the year has been good. Only one failure in this year of failures was recorded, and this is a remarkable record. As a general thing our business men are shrewd and careful, and their success has been simply the "Reward of Merit"—while one failure has been reported, several new establishments have come into favor, and are driving on to success.

PARKS, ETC.

Several years ago, the SENTINEL, discussing the subject of Boulevard and Parks, predicted that the building of the former would locate the latter. Its prediction is having fulfillment in the improvement of

BENTON PARK.

a beautiful tract of land lying between the two avenues and most admirably adapted by nature and location for this purpose. Through the center flows Sugar Creek, the banks of which are lined with sugar maple and other forest trees. Two noble, never failing, mineral springs of the purest water flow from the rocky side of the creek. At one point nature has shaped a commodious amphitheatre,

and bestowed upon it the most wonderful acoustic qualities. The voice of one talking in an ordinary tone can be heard distinctly three hundred feet away. But we have not room for a full description here. The property belongs to the heirs of the late N. B. Stone, and is being improved by Col. Jno. T. Crisp, who has already established a deer park, and stocked it with a beautiful herd of this graceful animal. Several drives have been laid out, and the work of improvement will be continued through the year. A further notice of Benton Park will be given in a subsequent number.

THE BUILDING BOOM.

While 1885 was not exactly a field year in building, still there was a little done in that line. Mr. Jas. M. Adams reports as follows:

Ott school, (see engraving) 2-story brick with basement, \$20,000.

Thos. Tidwell, residence, two stories high, frame, five rooms, \$2,000.

A. T. Slack, (see engraving) 2½-story mansion, ten rooms, water and gas, \$7,000.

Geo. P. Gates, 2½-story mansion, fourteen rooms, gas and water, (see engraving) \$8,000.

Will Hughes, 2-story frame dwelling, nine rooms, \$3,000.

W. A. Cunningham, 2-story mansion, thirteen rooms, gas and water, \$5,000.

Besides these Mr. Adams has done a large business in repairs, etc., which he estimates at \$3,000—making a total of \$48,000.

MR. T. H. SMITH

reports as follows:

J. P. Alexander, twelve-room frame, two stories high, all modern improvements, \$8,500.

Wallace Gregg, frame cottage, five rooms, \$1,500.

J. W. Clements, 7-room dwelling, frame, two stories, \$1,800.

Dr. John Bryant, Jr., 2½-story brick mansion, eleven rooms, gas and water, \$5,000.

Valle & Williamson, brick business house, \$3,200.

Wirt & Wait, brick business house, \$2,100.

G. M. Nichol, brick business house, two-story, \$2,350.

M. R. Wright, brick business house, two stories, \$2,950.

Wm. Chisman, greenhouse, \$800. Repairing, etc., and addition to his own house, in all amounting to an aggregate of \$4,785. A total of \$36,785.

Wm. Grover reports the building of the South side school house \$10,000, and a two-story frame dwelling for Mrs. Woods for \$3,500. Total, \$13,500.

Below we give a list of houses with the price attached, erected in this city by Mr. Chris Yetter:

Thos. Herson, business house, \$3,200.

Antone Blau, business house, \$3,500.

John S. Barnhill, dwelling house, \$3,100.

Simon Stohl, business house, \$2,700.

J. W. Nichol, dwelling house, \$2,000.

Chas. R. Cryser, dwelling, \$1,300.

Dan Ballard, dwelling, \$2,000.

Antone Bundachu, dwelling, \$2,900.

J. W. Nichol, blacksmith shop, \$500.

John Larkin, Jr., business house, \$1,600.

Mike Tierney, dwelling, \$1,500.

Addition to A. W. Jones' dwelling, \$4,000.

Repairs on J. A. Gwin's dwelling, \$800.

Repairs on Cramm's store house, \$900.

Repairs on Dr. Brown's dwelling house, \$800.

Total \$27,800

Besides the above, Mr. Yetter has built quite a number of houses in other parts of the county, the whole aggregating about \$40,000.

Besides the above contractor's list quite a number of dwellings have been erected by other parties, among which we mention Prof. Lutz's and Mr. Riggin's, in Waldo Place, and Messrs. M. S. Pittman and A. Reece, in Woodland Place, all of them very attractive and cozy houses.

Wanted.

A clerkship in any respectable business. No experience in this line, but learn quick, good recommendations, office, accountant and as to religion, Occupation more an object than religion.

C. Drom
Independence

FIGURE 2



RESIDENCE OF OLD P. GATES.

(Harry S. Truman Library and Jackson County Historical Society)

built at different times.¹⁷

That the 1867 wing is not accurately portrayed in the 1886 Sentinel engraving can be understood if one realizes that the artist's sole concentration was on the newer 1885 structure, to emphasize the achievement of the architect and builder. There are several additional differences in the lithograph which do not reflect the appearance of 219 North Delaware in the earliest-known photographs (circa 1900). Most notably, the decorative grillwork traversing the rooftop was gone by 1900. The rounded corner of the front porch is also not portrayed, nor is the balustrade. Finally, the artist depicts a simple, diamond-shaped porch latticework, a feature far different from the elaborate millwork skirting that was in place at the turn of the century.

A number of sales receipts for merchandise and construction work are extant from the 1885-86 period. Two estimates from the Independence Plumbing Company and the Independence Gas and Coke Company for the installation of an internal water and gas system reveal many characteristics. A 40-gallon galvanized iron boiler was used to heat the family's water. Heated and unheated water was carried through lead pipes to the bathroom where there was a planished copper bathtub "with Chain, Plug and Combination Bath Cock (with

sprinkler and... all complete)" as well as a water closet and washstand. The 1885 estimates included six washstands to be located as follows throughout the house:

Corner Stand in room over library	32.00
Corner Stand in room over Dining	37.00
Square Stand in lower Bed room	71.00
Square Stand in North Bed room	39.00
Corner Stand in Room over Family	36.50
Square Stand in Room over Bed	36.50
	<u>252.00</u>

The estimates include drip pans and traps ventilated through the roof. Both also provide for fitting the house with gas tubing. The lead tubing, which also accommodated the water supply, came in the following sizes: 3/4, 5/8, 1/2, 1 1/2, and 1 1/4 inches.¹⁸

In September 1885, W. M. Randall built the chimney on the "South End of house" while "topping out flue on Ell." To support the chimney he used eight feet of rock filler in the basement. In November 1885, Randall along with two brick layers and two laborers, built the chimney on the "North Side of house." Six thousand seven hundred bricks, three loads (80 bushels each) of sand, and 18 bushels of lime were used. George P. Gates paid W. M. Randall \$250.69.¹⁹

Two bills for slate roofing tiles are extant. The first, negotiated by J. A. Addams [sic: J. W. Adams] on October 16, 1885, from the Kansas City Slate Company, provides for slate

covering a 32 square foot area.²⁰ The second dated April 5, 1886, from the same firm was for slating a porch. The porch overhang measured 54 by 21 inches.²¹

The fireplace mantels were purchased in January 1886 from James F. McAdow of Peerless, Conger and Scanlan. The Gates house's three mantels were purchased for \$235, \$125, and \$155. Material for the vestibule covering 40 square feet was also obtained. The \$569 bill was settled on February 25. Merchant McAdow wrote on the receipt, for the "warming of your new Home."²²

On December 30, 1885, the Newell light on the main stairway was purchased from the Independence Plumbing Company, "dealers in Iron Pumps, Rubber Hose, Brass Goods, Chandeliers, Plumbers Goods, Etc." One light globe for the hall, four for the parlor, three for the library, two for a bedroom, and two for S. R. [South, or living, Room?] were also purchased.²³

On January 1, 1886, Gates paid J. Eicherly \$117 for constructing his front steps and for work on the attic stairway which included installing a railing.²⁴

Three days later, Gates paid Bullene, Moores, Emery and Company of Kansas City \$464.92. The itemized list included,

among other items, curtains, various sizes of carpet, and a carpet sweeper.²⁵

On February 5, 1886, Gates paid \$375 to an unspecified Kansas City firm for a furnace.²⁶

An undated price sheet for "G. P. G." lists various purchases and construction amounting to \$3,657.10. The nature of the itemized list suggests that it was accomplished in the 1885-86 construction period. A partial summary of the list follows:

1 fancy dormer	50.00
1 fancy dormer...	20.00
2 fancy dormers	50.00
1 Porch	150.00
1 Porch	90.00
1 flight stairs...	150.00
plastering	270.00
lumber bill	750.00
mill and stone work	170.00
brick work in cellar	54.60
Hardware bill	200.00
tinning	
hauling	25.00
cut stone	74.50
chimney and roofs	82.00
1 fancy front door	30.00
1 fancy vestibule door	25.00
1 fancy side door	10.00
24 corner blocks	7.00
Painting and hard finish	325.00
O. G. doors 1/34	55.00
Windows	114.55
inside blinds	150.00
carpenter work	793.00 ²⁷

A December 24, 1890 bill from John Russell, a "Painter and

Paper Hanger" who lived on North Liberty Street, states that the kitchen ceiling and walls were given two coats of paint while one coat of hard oil finish was applied to the floor.²⁸

The Gates Family Comes To Independence

¹Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983; and, Family Genealogical Chart, Family of George W. Gates, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo.

²Ibid.; and, Charles T. Morrissey, Oral History Consultant, to Tom Richter, Ranger-In-Charge, letter, July 12, 1983, Harry S Truman National Historic Site. Morrissey has researched the early origins of the Gates family in Vermont and Illinois and plans to publish a short history.

³"Closed A Useful Life," Examiner (June 26, 1918), p. 1, folder-Gates, George P., Research Room Vertical File, Harry S. Truman Library (hereafter cited as HSTL). Another brother, G. Walter Gates, born in 1840, lived in his own home on East College in Independence, not at 219 North Delaware. See Notes Regarding Call with Nancy Ehrlich, former Archivist, Jackson County Historical Society Archives, with Elizabeth Safly, Librarian, March 1, 1983, HSTL.

⁴Affidavit of Real Estate Appraiser, November 18, 1918, R.R. Chopin, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Missouri; and, Assessor's Book of Real Estate, Independence, Missouri, for Year 1894, City of Independence, Limestone Storage Facility, 16400 West Truman Road. By 1894, E.P. Gates was the executor of his father's estate which was listed as Lots 1 to 4 and 9 to 25 of Gates Park, and having six cows.

⁵History of Jackson County, Missouri. Containing A History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc., Indexed Edition, 1881. Reprinted by Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Ramfre Press, 1966, p. 485, Jackson County Historical Society.

⁶Family Genealogical Chart, Family of George P. Gates, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo. Tillie died May 27, 1877, at the age of 3 years, 2 months and 8 days,

while Bessie died October 8, 1884, aged 11 months, 10 days.

⁷Warranty Deed, Frederick F. Yeager to George P. Gates, November 2, 1868 (recorded November 7, 1868), Land Deed Record Book 74, Page 454, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

⁸Kansas City Star, August 14, 1967, and Examiner, November 23, 1974.

Early Fires

⁹"An Ordinance Amending Section 136 Chapter 18 Revised Ordinances of the City of Independence," Ordinance No. 41, Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Missouri, Book B, p. 109, Office of the City Clerk.

¹⁰Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

¹¹Charles E. Anderson, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 20, 1983; and, Tom Manson, President, Western Roofing Company, Kansas City, Mo., July 5, 1983.

¹²Calvin Morgan, Chief, Independence Fire Department, telephone conversation, July 25, 1983.

Building the Gates Mansion, 1885

¹³"Closed A Useful Life," Examiner (June 26, 1918), p. 1, folder-Gates, George P., Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁴"James W. Adams," The History of Jackson County, Missouri, Containing A History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc., Indexed Edition 1881 (reprinted Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Ramfre Press, 1966).

¹⁵"The Building Boom," The Sentinel (January 2, 1886), p. 4, HSTL and Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo.

¹⁶"Katharine Mize Accola, "Flying High," (no publication or date, circa 1947, New Rochelle, New York), p. 23, folder-A182 5F8 1856-1962, Family Papers of Mize and Lucy Conway Peters, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo.

¹⁷Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview at 219 North

Delaware, July 20, 1983.

¹⁸Independence Plumbing Company, June 12, 1885, and Independence Gas and Coke Company, July 18, 1885, to George P. Gates, receipt. This and all following receipts were obtained by the National Park Service from the Harry S. Truman Library (HSTL).

¹⁹W. M. Randall to George P. Gates, September 19 and November 2, 1885, receipt, HSTL.

²⁰Kansas City Slate Company to J. A. Addams for G. P. Gates, October 16, 1885, receipt, HSTL. The bill was \$380.

²¹Kansas City Slate Company to G. P. Gates, April 5, 1886, receipt, HSTL. The bill was \$12.

²²James F. McAdow, Peerless, Conger and Scanlan, to Gates, January 1886, receipt, HSTL.

²³Independence Plumbing Company to George P. Gates, January 1, 1886, receipt, HSTL.

²⁴J. Eicherly to G. P. Gates, January 1, 1886, receipt, HSTL.

²⁵Bullene, Moores, Emery and Company to Gates, January 4, 1886, receipt, HSTL.

²⁶Kansas City firm to G. P. Gates, February 5, 1886, receipt, HSTL.

²⁷Price Sheet for G. P. G. [George P. Gates], undated, HSTL.

²⁸John Russell to Gates, December 24, 1890, receipt, HSTL.

CHAPTER FOUR

FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD

- * Harry S Truman's Childhood In Independence
- * David Willock Wallace
- * The wallaces Move To 219 North Delaware
- * The Courtship of Harry and Bess, 1910 to 1918
- * Lot One and the Two Wallace Houses, 1915-1916

Harry S Truman's Childhood In Independence

Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States, was not born in Independence. His parents, John Anderson and Martha Ellen Young Truman, were both born in Jackson County, but moved from farm to farm during their early married life. Both were uprooted during the hardships caused by Order Number 11 in the Civil War. The two were married on December 28, 1881, in Grandview, Missouri, a small town to the southwest of Independence in Jackson County. Soon after their marriage, they went to Lamar, Missouri, in Barton County, about 120 miles south of Independence. There John Anderson Truman worked as a mule trader when his wife gave birth to a son on May 8, 1884. They named the future President of the United States Harry S Truman. The child's middle initial, "S", was never intended to be the abbreviation for any particular name. By family tradition it stood for either "Solomon" or "Shipp," names honoring either of the child's grandfathers.

In 1885, the Trumans moved from Lamar to Harrisonville, and on to another farm southeast of Belton, both in Cass County, Missouri. In 1887, they moved back to Grandview where they stayed until 1890. Harry S Truman was six-years-old when the family moved to Independence and occupied a house (no longer extant) at 619 South Chrysler (Lots 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Ott

and Roberts Resurvey of Munn's addition, purchased December 12, 1890, and Lots 32 and 33, purchased July 11, 1892). It was at this same time, 1890, that Harry S Truman first saw and fell in love with Elizabeth Virginia "Bess" Wallace in Sunday school class at the First Presbyterian Church.

In 1896, the Truman family relocated to another Independence residence (extant; extensively altered) at 909 West Waldo (Lot 3, Woodland Place Addition, purchased November 21, 1895). There they lived until 1902. The move was significant because the family lived only a few blocks west of North Delaware and Harry S Truman and Bess Wallace attended secondary school together. The two often studied Latin together at the Waldo Street home of Truman's cousins, Mary Ethel and Nellie Noland. The childhood friends remained classmates until graduating from high school in 1901.¹

David Willock Wallace

Bess Wallace Truman's father, David Willock Wallace, was born on June 15, 1860, in Independence to Benjamin F. and Virginia Willock Wallace. Having come to Independence in 1833, Benjamin F. Wallace was one of the earliest settlers of Jackson County, serving in 1869 as Mayor of Independence. At the time

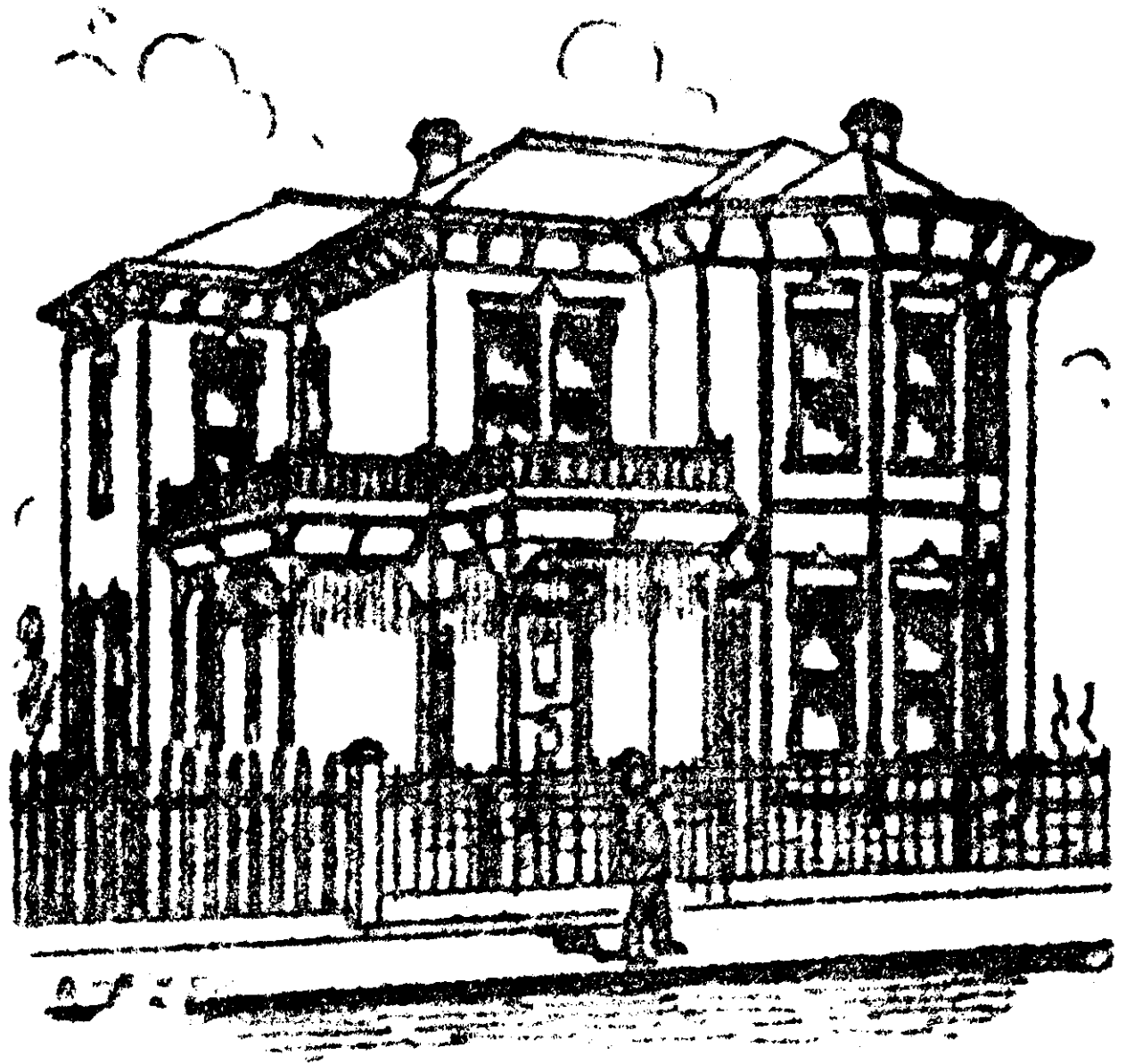
of Benjamin Wallace's death in 1877, he represented Jackson County for the First District in the Missouri Legislature.

His son, David, followed his example through a career in government. At the age of 14, David W. Wallace was the Assistant Docket Clerk of the Missouri Senate and, in 1877, became the Assistant Engrossing Clerk. On April 13, 1878, he was appointed Jackson County Deputy Recorder of Marriage Licenses in Independence.²

Despite David Wallace's apparently bright future, George P. Gates did not approve of Wallace courting his oldest daughter, Madge. Nonetheless, the two fell in love and eloped. David Wallace and Madge Gates were married on June 13, 1883.³

The couple moved nearby to a house at 117 West Ruby Street (See Figure 3). The house, which David Wallace purchased on July 28, 1882,⁴ is extant. It was at 117 West Ruby that David and Madge Wallace's first child--Elizabeth Virginia "Bess" Wallace--was born on February 13, 1885. With the additional expense of starting a family, the couple's finances were strained. On November 14, 1885, the property at 117 West Ruby was conveyed to John A. Sea and Sarah E. Pugsley in trust to secure a \$700 note. The Wallaces had one year to repay the loan at 10% annual interest.⁵

FIGURE 3



RESIDENCE OF D. W. WALLACE.

(The Independence Sentinel, January 2, 1886. Harry S. Truman Library and Jackson County Historical Society)

The Wallaces did not live in the Ruby Street residence long. The home was sold on April 11, 1887, to M.L. Hall.⁶ David, Madge, two-year-old Bess, and newborn Frank Gates Wallace (born March 4, 1887) moved into a larger house at 608 North Delaware, two blocks north of the newly-constructed Gates mansion. The family moved into the Gates house for an unknown length of time in the late 1880s. The 1889-90 Independence city directory records 219 North Delaware as their address.⁷

The David Wallace house on North Delaware was a two-story Victorian structure marked by a large bay window topped by a cupola. It had no basement, but it did have several outbuildings: a carriage house, stable, washhouse, woodhouse, and a privy decorated with a trellis.⁸ (This house was torn down in the early 1900s, and a modern home was built in its place and renumbered 610 North Delaware. A massive oak under which Bess Wallace once played still stands in the front yard).

It was at this house, two blocks from her grandparent's mansion, that Bess Wallace Truman grew up. Her two younger brothers, George Porterfield Wallace (born May 9, 1892) and David Frederick Wallace (born January 17, 1900), were probably born there. It was a common sight in the 1890s for neighbors to see Bess (or "Bessie") Wallace riding her velocipede to

Grandmother (or "Mama") Gates's house to the south. A childhood friend recalled:

Mrs. Gates was the cutest, sweetest little old lady, and she used to have parties for Bess, children's parties; and I remember the best cake--ladies all had cooks, but they usually made their cakes; nobody bought them because each lady had her specialty and bakers cakes were inferior.⁹

By 1903, 18-year-old Bess had already been graduated from Independence High School for two years. Her father was well-liked and a respected community leader. He was described as "the most popular man in the county."¹⁰ After high school, Wallace became the Deputy Jackson County Recorder. In 1889, he was elected Jackson County Treasurer, serving two two-year terms. He then moved from county government in Independence to the Federal Building in downtown Kansas City where he served as Deputy United States Surveyor of Customs under Port Surveyor J. Scott Harrison. Kansas City became an official "Port of Entry" in 1882. Wallace was a Democrat, a Presbyterian, and an active Mason. The Knights Templar elected him as Missouri's presiding official of the organization, the youngest man ever to hold the position.¹¹

The popular David Wallace, however, was plagued by financial problems and alcoholism. To the profound shock of the family and the community, David Willock Wallace shot and

killed himself in the early morning hours of July 17, 1903.¹²

The Wallaces Move To 219 North Delaware

Madge Wallace later admitted that she "felt so humiliated" by her husband's suicide that she left with her four children to stay with relatives (most likely Frank E. Gates, an uncle) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for nearly a year. When Madge Wallace, Bess and her brothers, Frank, George, and Fred, returned to Independence in 1904, they were welcomed into the spacious house at 219 North Delaware.¹³

The arrangement was ideal. Madge Wallace was able to care for her aging parents while Bess, then a day student at the Barstow School for Girls in Kansas City (a post-secondary, finishing school), continued her duty helping raise her brothers, most notably young Fred. When George P. and Elizabeth Gates could not negotiate the stairway and/or desired more privacy, they abandoned the second floor to the Wallaces and moved to the first floor bedroom which was supplemented with a bathroom (circa 1907-1910). These rooms and the front living room were considered the grandparents' quarters along with the south side porch where both spent the evening hours sitting. Madge and David Wallace's furniture was also moved

from 608 North Delaware into the Gates mansion and was incorporated into the existing decor.

Madge Wallace transformed the room above the kitchen into the sitting and sewing room for her own family. It was a place where the Wallaces and their friends could gather at night without disturbing the elderly Gates who usually retired early. They could enter the house through one of the kitchen entrances and walk up the rear stairway, all without bothering the grandparents.¹⁴

(For period photographs, see Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8).

The Courtship of Harry and Bess, 1910 to 1918

One of the frequent visitors to the upstairs sitting room at 219 North Delaware was Harry S Truman. Truman's friendship with Bess Wallace had lapsed since their 1901 graduation from Independence High School. Truman had held a succession of odd jobs in Independence and Kansas City before moving back in 1906 to the Truman family farm in Grandview. Their acquaintance was renewed around 1910 at the initiative of Harry Truman who was visiting his aunt and uncle, Joseph T. and Ethel Noland. The Noland house was across the street from the Gates mansion at

FIGURES 4 and 5

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-59-104 and 82-212-2

Circa 1900

Two of the three earliest-known photographs of 219 North Delaware. Note the dark trim.



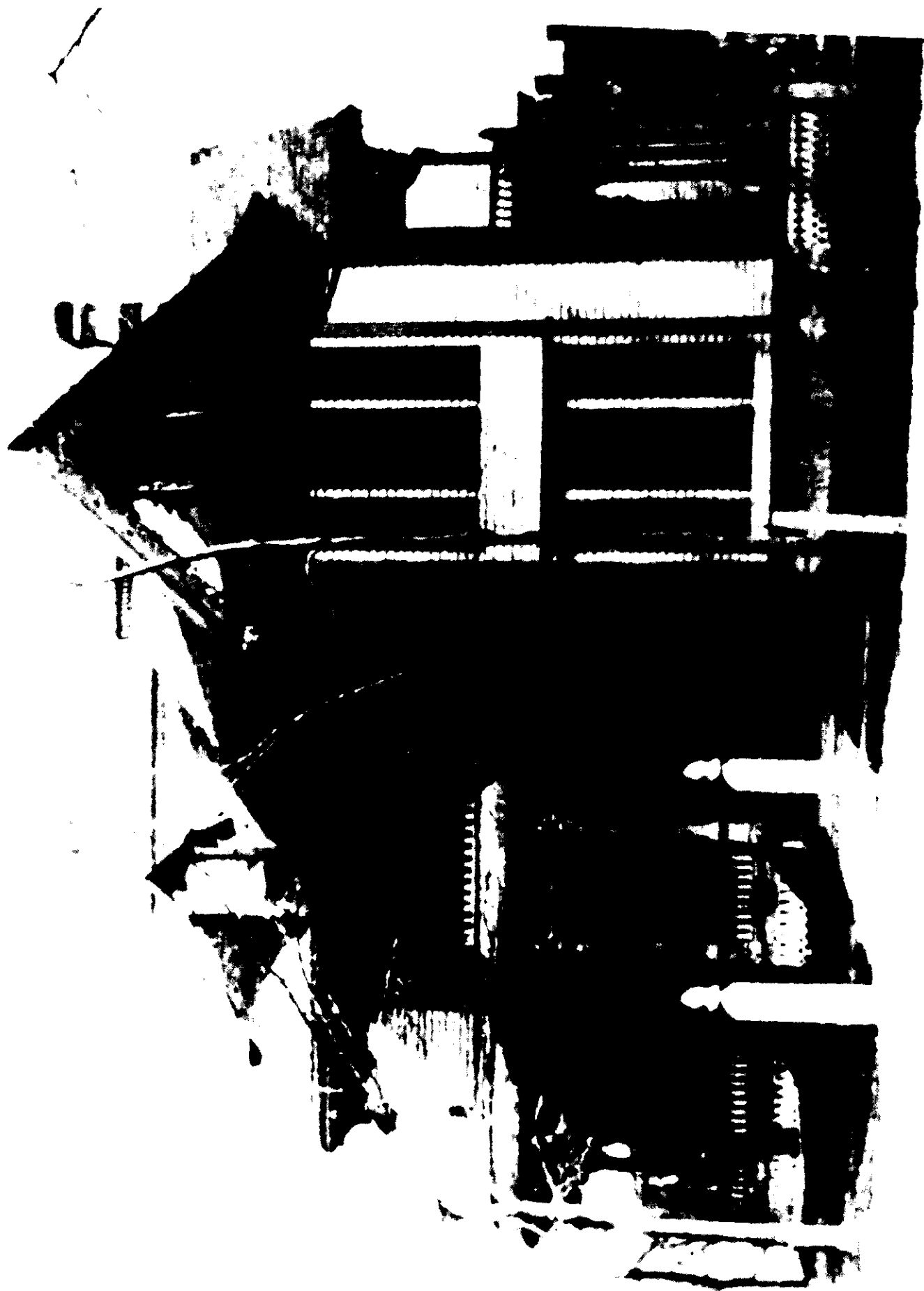


FIGURE 6

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-59-114

Circa 1900

One of the three earliest-known photographs of 219 North Delaware. Two unidentified men stand in the backyard with the 1867 structure in the background. Note the steps for a rear porch with simple overhang cover. This configuration disappeared between 1907 and 1910 when the Gates converted the area into the first floor bedroom and bathroom.



FIGURE 7

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-59-75

Bess Wallace on Front Porch

Circa 1905

The original porch balustrade, porch skirting, and light and dark color scheme are plainly revealed in this photograph. Note also the hanging plants and morning glories.

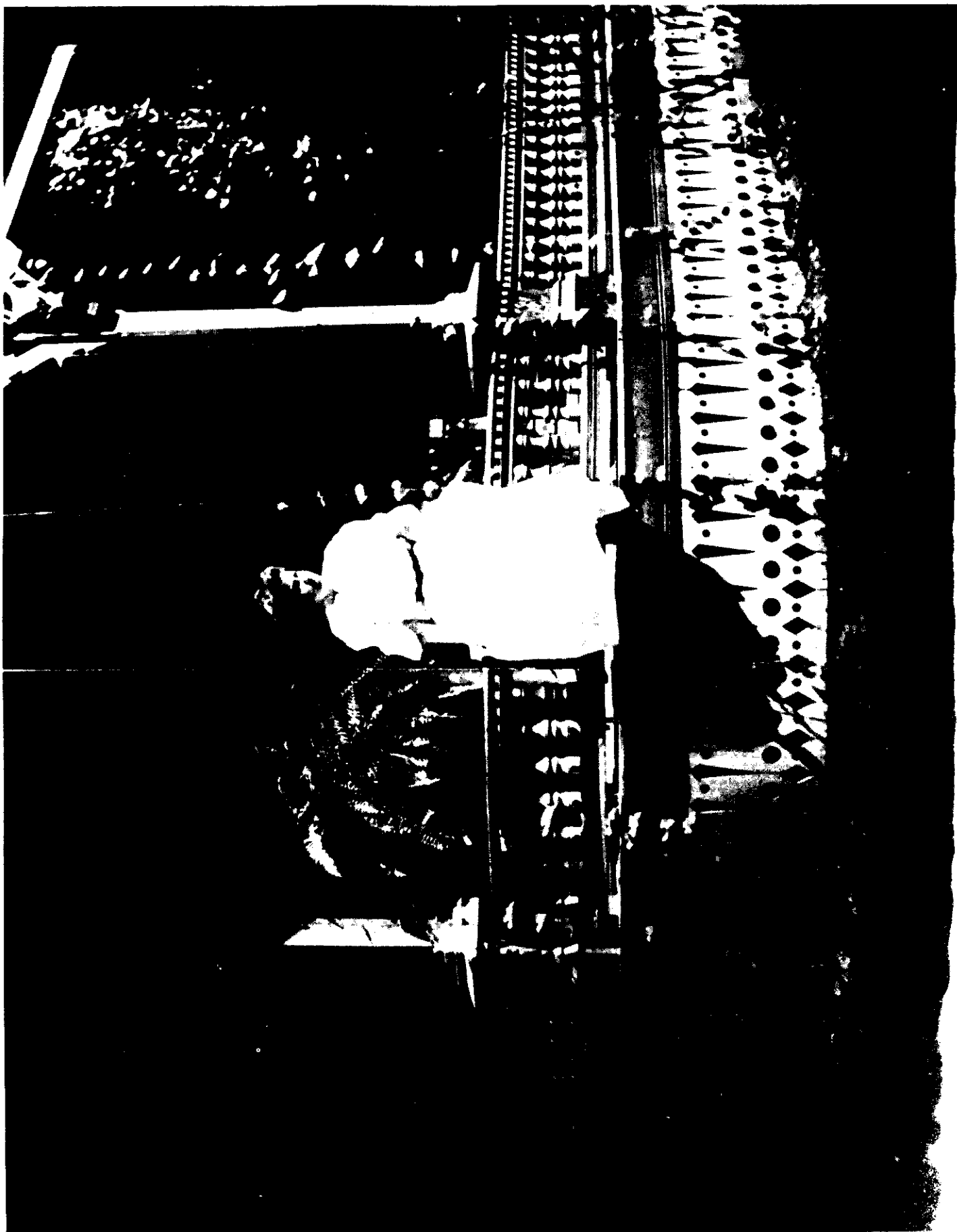


FIGURE 8

Truman Library Photo Archives, 72-3689

Driveway and Garden Area

Circa 1900-05

Faint writing on the photograph reads, "In Gates-Wallace backyard." In the background is the unpaved driveway (probably dirt and gravel), and picket fencing where the garden and grazing area is located.

Source: Noland Papers



216 North Delaware. One day while Truman was visiting the Nolands, his Aunt Ethel announced that she had a cake plate to return to Mrs. Wallace across the street. Twenty-six-year-old Harry S Truman immediately volunteered to take the cake plate back. He was delighted when his old childhood sweetheart, Bess Wallace, opened the door.¹⁵

A period of intense, prolonged courting began. Harry Truman became a regular visitor of his aunt and uncle, staying in their home overnight on the weekends after spending the day with Bess. He did sleep at least one night at 219 North Delaware, however. In a January 21, 1913, letter to Bess, Truman wrote, "I sure did enjoy myself last Sunday and I certainly appreciate Frank's sharing his sleeping quarters with me."¹⁶

Truman worked hard at the Grandview farm during the week, keeping in constant touch with Bess Wallace in Independence through a barrage of letters. He traveled by train north to Kansas City, then east to Independence. Schedules changed often and transfer connections were often missed. Despite the rigors of the 30-mile trip, seeing Bess was the high point of his week as he wrote in 1913, "It seems like a hollow week if I don't arrive at 219 Delaware at least one day in it."¹⁷

The long train trips ceased in 1914, the year Truman's father died, when Harry purchased a Stafford automobile for \$650. The car made his trips to Independence more frequent and easier. When he was not taking Bess for a drive or on a picnic, the car remained parked in the Gates's barn.¹⁸ One of Bess's childhood friends recalls the Gates house during this courtship period:

The house itself, always had in summer the coolness of a Victorian house, no matter how hot the day might be. There were several porches. If you walked uptown on a Sunday afternoon, and passed that way, you would see the Wallace family sitting out on the side porch; their most constant guest was Harry Truman, who would have driven over from Grandview to spend Sunday with Bess and her family.¹⁹

Truman's desire to make a more lucrative living than farming and Bess Wallace's family obligations kept the couple from getting married. She felt it was her duty to look after her elderly grandparents and chronically ill mother, and to help raise her youngest brother, Fred. Truman proposed marriage as early as November 4, 1913,²⁰ but dating continued on into 1917 at which time Truman enlisted in the Army. He was a member of the American Expeditionary Force to France and was commissioned on July 11, 1918, to take command of Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division of Missouri, National Guard. During his service in France, Truman kept up his

voracious letter-writing to his fiancée on North Delaware Street in Independence.

Captain Harry Truman returned to the United States in the spring of 1919, reuniting with Bess after a victory parade in downtown Kansas City on June 1, 1919.²¹

Lot One and the Two Wallace Houses, 1915-1916

In the years prior to the United States entrance as a belligerent into World War I, George P. and Elizabeth E. Gates presented two of their grandsons with small parcels of land upon which to build homes. The principal section of Lot 1 of James F. Moore's addition immediately east of 219 North Delaware which served as the family's garden, was divided and given as wedding presents to the brothers of Bess Wallace.

Frank Gates Wallace, who married Natalie Ott, was given the east 50 feet of Lot 1 on March 15, 1915. George Porterfield Wallace, who married Mary Frances (May) Southern, the daughter of the publisher of the Independence Examiner, was given the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of Lot 1 on August 22, 1916. The west 14.18 feet of Lot 1 remained in the Gates's possession. They also reserved "the right to maintain and use

the sewer that is now constructed across the... real estate."²²

The Wallace brothers built their homes during the year in which they received their parcels. The bungalows, which can be seen today at 605 and 601 West Truman Road, are of similar design. Both Wallace families spent their married lives in these houses, and Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, an excellent source of family history, currently resides at 605 West Truman Road.

Harry S Truman's Childhood In Independence

¹Residences of Harry S Truman, 1884-1972, Research Room Archival Listing, HSTL; and Oral History Interview with Mary Ethel Noland, Independence, Mo., August 23, and September 9, 16, 1965, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL.

David Willock Wallace

²The History of Jackson County, Missouri, Containing A History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc., Indexed Edition, 1881 (reprinted by Ramfre Press, Cape Girardeau, Mo., 1966), p. 881, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo.

³Mary Paxton Keeley, Oral History Interview, Columbia, Mo., July 22, 1966, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, p. 27.

⁴Warranty Deed, Isaac N. and Natalie A. Rogers to David W. Wallace, July 28, 1882, Land Deed Record Book 130, Page 53. Documentation on the Ruby Street house were obtained from Pat O'Brien, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Independence.

⁵Deed of Trust, D.W. and M.G. Wallace to John A. Sea and Sarah E. Pugsley, November 14, 1885, Land Deed Record Book 144, Page 45. A marginal notation on the deed of trust acknowledged

satisfaction of the note on May 14, 1887, by G.M. Nichol, "Assignee and holder of note."

⁶Warranty Deed, David W. and Madge G. Wallace to M.L. Hall, April 11, 1887 (filed April 25, 1887), Land Deed Record Book 158, Page 98.

⁷Directory of Independence for 1889-90 (Independence: Don L. Walters), p. 73, HSTL.

⁸Mary Paxton Keeley, Oral History Interview, Columbia, Mo., July 22, 1966, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, p. 22.

⁹Ibid., p. 36.

¹⁰Henry P. Chiles, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., November 1, 1961, and August 14, 1962, by J. R. Fuchs, HSTL, pp. 20; 22.

¹¹O.W. Price, The Federal Government in Greater Kansas City, Part I (Kansas City: Greater Kansas City Federal Business Association, 1939), p. 36, and, Missouri: Mother of the West, Vol. IV (Chicago: American Historical Society, Inc., 1930), p. 343.

¹²Robert Underhill, The Truman Persuasions (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1981), p. 39. The probate papers for the estate of David Willock Wallace are among 200-odd similar documents which are missing from the Jackson County Probate Court Office in Independence.

¹³Mary Paxton Keeley, Oral History Interview, p. 42, and, Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

¹⁴Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

Courtship of Harry and Bess, 1910 to 1918

¹⁵Mary Ethel Noland, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., August 23, September 9 and 16, 1965, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, p. 87, and, Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

¹⁶Robert H. Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983), p. 112. Bess' brother, Frank Wallace, did not marry and move from 219 North Delaware until 1915.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 136. The letter from Grandview was dated September 2, 1913.

¹⁸Ferrell, Dear Bess, p. 162. The letter to Bess, dated March 24, 1914, reported he was thinking of buying the car with the money from the settlement of the family lawsuit over his grandmother's estate.

¹⁹Elizabeth Paxton Forsling, "Remembering Delaware Street," Jackson County Historical Society Journal, Vol. IV, No. 12 (November 1963), p. 10, appended to the Sue Gentry, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., August 30, 1971, by Dr. Philip C. Brooks, HSTL.

²⁰Ferrell, Dear Bess, p. 141. Bess Wallace told Truman "she cared for him" the Sunday before, and Truman proposed in the letter that they "get engaged."

²¹Ibid., p. 288.

Lot One and the Two Wallace Houses, 1915-1916

²²General Warranty Deeds: George P. and Elizabeth E. Gates to Frank G. Wallace (March 15, 1915; Land Deed Record Book 334, Page 354) and George P. Wallace (August 22, 1916; Land Deed Record Book 339, Page 360), Jackson County Courthouse, Office of Deeds, Independence, Mo.

CHAPTER FIVE

GEORGE PORTERFIELD GATES DIES, 1918

George Porterfield Gates Dies, 1918

A dramatic change occurred at the Gates house while Harry Truman was in France. After a lengthy bout with influenza,¹ George P. Gates, 83, died at 7:15 p.m., on June 25, 1918. He died in the house on North Delaware Street where he had raised his family and lived since 1867. The community had lost an important leader. The Independence Examiner reported:

... the activities of Independence have felt the force of the family as it touched the life of the community in its social, religious, educational, political and business aspects. The father [George Washington Gates] had been judge of the county court, the younger son, E.P. Gates, attained the honors of the state judiciary and all the while the business acumen of him whose memory we especially recall, as he lies mutely resting from his labors, was felt and honored by all who knew him.²

The funeral took place at the Gates mansion on June 27, 1918, and the body was taken to the family plot at Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence for internment.

Under the dictates of George P. Gates's will, T.B. Wallace (son-in-law and husband of daughter Myra Gates Wallace; not related to David W. Wallace) and E.P. Gates (brother) were appointed executors of his estate. On July 3, the executors filed a petition in court to take possession and manage the real estate of George P. Gates for one year. The petition was

granted by Judge Albert W. Ott on July 8.²

On July 11, 1918, three local real estate men filed an appraisal on the real property of George P. Gates. The total value came to \$89,029.11. The appraisal also included \$200 in personal property for the "Family Bible and other books" and "\$500 for Household Kitchen and table furniture in residence."³

Yet another petition was filed against the estate in Independence Probate Court on August 12, 1918, by Elizabeth E. Gates. The widow, who claimed that no food was on hand, was granted a household allowance of \$1,000.⁵

The payment of household bills to two creditors was also authorized by the court. The following bill to the Hill Brothers, Dealers in Hardware, Stores, Tin and Graniteware, read:

May 4: 41 1/2 sq. ft. Screen wire
1/2 pt. black screen paint

June 6: 16 1/2 sq. ft. copper screens
7 1/2 sq. ft. Black screens

June 11: 24 sq. ft. Trellis wire.⁶

The 1918 purchase of black screens and paint indicates that the black house trim was still in use at this time. The second

bill to the Randall Brothers, Brick Contractors, read:

Resetting grate in Residence -- Del. St. \$8.50.⁷

Shares in the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company were revealed to the court by the company's secretary-treasurer, T.O. Cunningham. He told the court that Gates held 251 shares originally purchased at \$100 per share. The 1918 book value of each share came to \$800. The physical plant was valued at \$150,000, with cash and inventory set at \$650,000.⁸

The location and assessed value of the estate's real estate (other than the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company) was announced in court in November. The property and house at 219 North Delaware Street, including the west 14.18 feet of Lot 1 and all of Lots 2 and 3 in Moore's addition, was valued at \$8,500. Two additional properties on North Delaware Street were also assessed. Both were vacant properties in the McCauley Park addition. The first was the south half of Lot 7 and all of Lot 8 in Block 1 valued at \$1100, while the second consisted of all of Lot 10 and the south 17 feet of Lot 11 in Block 3 and came to \$700. The Gates farm, 77 acres, three and a half miles southwest of Independence square, was assessed at \$325 to \$400 per acre.⁹

Under the dictates of the will which was signed by Gates on June 19, 1916, his partners, son, George Walter Gates, and sons-in-law, William Strother Wells and T.B. Wallace, received his property "both real and personal and mixed and wherever situated to be by them held, managed and disposed of as trustees." The will specifically stated that his business interests included the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company, the Hero Mining Company, and Bank of Independence. Gates cancelled payment of all advancements and gifts to his family and provided that they share equally in his estate which was placed in trust for a period not to exceed 20 years following the death of his wife. The net income from the remainder of his estate, "after paying taxes and the expenses of maintenance," was paid to his widow, who received a one-third share, and to his five children, who received two-fifteenths shares.¹⁰

The will made no specific provision for the Gates mansion or property at 219 North Delaware. The three trustees, however, were empowered "to sell any or all of my real estate" or

to sell any of the personal estate.... Upon termination of the trust, the trustees shall have the power to sell any or all property necessary to make final distribution among the beneficiaries.¹¹

As the trustees were close family members, it is certain that

all three agreed to permit Mrs. Gates and Madge Wallace and her family to continue living in the house.

Final settlement of the estate came in probate court on December 9, 1918. It read as follows:

Name	Real Estate	Personal Property	Total Value
Elizabeth Gates (widow)	\$11,244.13	(annuity)	\$11,244.13
George Walter Gates (son)	\$6260.40	\$16,986.99	23,247.39
Madge Wallace (daughter)	6260.40	16,986.99	23,247.39
Maud Louise Wells (daughter)	6260.40	26,986.99	33,247.39
Myra Wallace (daughter)	6260.40	21,986.99	28,247.39
Frank E. Gates (son)	6260.40	16,986.99	23,247.39 ¹²

George Porterfield Gates Dies, 1918

¹Ron Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel at the Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Missouri, November 17, 1983" (Omaha: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, 1983), p. 10. [Hereinafter cited as Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman"].

²"Closed A Useful Life," Examiner (June 26, 1918), p. 1, folder-Gates, George P., Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

³A Petition, Application of Executors to take possession of Real Estate, Independence Probate Court, filed July 3, 1918, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

⁴Oath of Appraisers, July 11, 1918, Joseph Noland, Frank C. Wyatt, and F.W. Weinanshagon, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

⁵Application of widow for allowance in lieu of Provisions, Elizabeth E. Gates, Independence Probate Court, filed August 12, 1918, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

⁶Bill, Hill Brothers, Independence, Mo., to the Estate of G.P. Gates, July 11, 1918, No. 4177, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

⁷Ibid., bill, Randall Brothers, October 5, 1918.

⁸Affidavit of Appraiser as to Fees and Disbursements In the Matter of the Transfer Tax on Estate of G.P. Gates, November 8, 1918, T.O. Cunningham, Secretary-Treasurer, Waggoner-Gates Milling Company, No. 4177, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

⁹Affidavit of Real Estate Appraiser, November 8, 1918, R.R. Chopin, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

¹⁰Last Will and Testament of George Porterfield Gates, June 19, 1916, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo. In a November 22, 1916, codicil, Gates bequeathed a special legacy of \$15,000 to Maud Louise Wells and \$5,000 to Myra Wallace.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Order Assessing Transfer Tax, Etc., Independence Probate Court, December 9, 1918, No. 4177, Estate of G.P. Gates, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

CHAPTER SIX

THE NEWLYWEDS LIVE AT THE GATES HOUSE

- * The Newlyweds Live At the Gates House
- * Truman the Politician
- * Birth of a Daughter

The Newlyweds Live at the Gates House

A year and one day following the funeral of George P. Gates, the wedding of Captain Harry S Truman and Elizabeth Virginia Wallace took place at 4 p.m., June 28, 1919, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Independence. The bride was given away in marriage by her brother, Frank Gates Wallace. A reception was held at the Gates house.¹

Harry and Bess Truman returned to 219 North Delaware after their Michigan honeymoon to begin married life in 1919. It proved to be their lifelong home together. The principal reason the couple did not establish their own household was due to the chronic frail health of Madge Wallace who suffered from sciatica, a neuritis of the hip area. The painful affliction severely restricted the daily activity of Madge Wallace. With the responsibility of caring for her mother and grandmother, Bess Truman decided to remain at her family home.² One relative recalled:

Bess thought they should stay until her mother got used to the idea. Bess was very devoted to her mother. Oh, very! And, of course, Mrs. Wallace was a very wonderful mother, a very devoted mother. So, mother never got quite settled enough for Bess to leave. And they liked it that way, and Harry liked it that way. He was devoted to Mrs. Wallace, too, and she to him....³

Another stated:

After they were married, they thought they were going to live out in Grandview, but that summer, Mother Wallace became very ill. Bess came home; it was soon after they were married. She came home to take care of her mother, and they never did establish any other residence.⁴

Truman turned from farming to merchandising to support his new wife. He and war buddy Eddie Jacobson had operated a canteen together at an army training camp in Oklahoma before being shipped to Europe. Both decided to operate a similar business in peacetime. Preparations for opening the store took nearly five months, but "Truman & Jacobson" opened in November 1919 opposite Kansas City's prestigious Muehlebach Hotel. It was a men's furnishings establishment featuring items tailored for the well-to-do. Truman & Jacobson was open six days a week and more than 12 hours a day. Both partners worked long hours and usually did not go home until late at night. Truman was in charge of the bookkeeping and he often took the work home where Bess would help him.⁵ Of this time period, a journalist wrote:

No matter what his job was, Harry Truman always took home a briefcase full of work, but the house on North Delaware never seemed to be quiet. Floors were forever being waxed, curtains hung, ceilings painted, and walls papered, particularly it seemed in exactly the places where Harry Truman was trying to concentrate.⁶

It was not from lack of hard work that the business failed, but the postwar price deflation which forced Truman &

Jacobson to close in early 1922. Truman refused to declare bankruptcy, and would work to repay his debt. His tight financial bind made living at 219 North Delaware a necessity.

Truman the Politician

Just as rapidly as the haberdashery failed, Harry Truman launched himself into politics with the help of a friend and former Army officer, Lieutenant Jim Pendergast. Pendergast was the son of Mike Pendergast, political boss of eastern Jackson County, who, in turn, was the brother of Tom Pendergast, boss of the entire county. Truman was encouraged to run as a candidate for Eastern Judge of Jackson County. Truman won the Democratic primary in August and the general election in November. He took office in January 1923. As a member of the Pendergast political machine which operated from Kansas City in western Jackson County, Truman stayed apart from its machinations, preferring to manage the affairs of the eastern section from Independence.⁷

Although the practice was frowned on by the female residents, Judge Truman could not turn away those who came to 219 North Delaware looking for a county job. They were usually received in the first floor study.⁸

Birth of a Daughter

Next to his marriage, the second most important event in the life of Harry S Truman was the birth of his daughter, Mary Margaret. Bess Truman, 39, refused to go to a hospital, preferring instead to deliver her baby in the comfort and privacy of her family home. In the four years of her marriage, Bess Truman had miscarried twice.⁹ During a bitter snowstorm on February 17, 1924, a daughter was born to Harry and Bess Truman in their second floor, east bedroom. Born earlier than expected, no furnishings had been purchased for the baby. Little Margaret Truman spent the first days of her life sleeping on two pillows in the opened drawer of a bureau in the Trumans' bedroom.

For the first two years of her life, Margaret slept in the same room with her parents. In 1926, when it was decided that she was old enough to be given her own bedroom, Margaret was moved to the small second floor bedroom in the rear (east). To facilitate access to her bedroom, especially in the darkness of the night, a passageway was built connecting the Trumans' bedroom with that of their small daughter. A portion of the second floor sleeping porch was taken for the passageway. Access to the porch had always been through an open window, and no door or window was claimed to build the passageway.¹⁰

The Newlyweds Live at the Gates House

¹"Wallace-Truman," Examiner (June 28, 1919), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S 1919, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The article reported that the couple "left immediately after the ceremony for an extended trip north," but Miss Ethel Noland recalls having been at the wedding reception at 219 North Delaware. See, "Trumans to Observe 50th Quietly," Kansas City Times (June 28, 1969), p. 2A, folder-Truman, Harry S 1969, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

²Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983. Sciatica is a neuritis or simple neuralgia of the sciatic nerve, an affection characterized by paroxysmal attacks of pain along the course of the branches of the sciatic nerve. Popularly, it is known as any of various painful affections of the hip and adjoining parts.

³Mary Ethel Noland, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., August 13, September 9 and 16, 1965, by J. R. Fuchs, HSTL, pp. 118-19.

⁴Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁵Merle Miller, Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman (New York: Berkley Publishing Corporation, 1973), p. 109. Another author stated that Truman seldom got "back to the Gates house before midnight" and that "home life was meager during this hectic period." See Alfred Steinberg, The Man From Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1962), p. 55.

⁶Miller, Plain Speaking, p. 106.

Truman the Politician

⁷Robert Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983), pp. 301-04.

⁸Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 22, 1983. Gentry's own brother was among those who went to the house seeking political favors or advice.

Birth of a Daughter

⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret

Truman," p. 1.

¹⁰Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interviews,
Independence, Mo., June 14 and July 20, 1983.

CHAPTER SEVEN

FROM THE GATES HOUSE TO MADGE WALLACE'S HOUSE

- * Elizabeth Emery Gates Dies, 1924
- * Madge Wallace Acquires the Gates Mansion, 1924
- * Life in the Wallace House, 1924-1934
- * Truman In County Politics, 1924-1935

Elizabeth Emery Gates Dies, 1924

Elizabeth E. Gates lived to see the birth of her great-granddaughter, when four generations lived under her roof. Mrs. Gates lived for six years after the death of her husband in 1918. She spent nearly every summer in Colorado Springs, Colorado, caring for her unmarried, invalid son, Frank E. Gates. When she was not in Colorado, she was at her home in Independence. Mrs. Gates was in Colorado for only a short time when she died there on June 19, 1924, at the age of 83. Three daughters, Madge, Myra, and Maud, and her son, Frank, survived her.¹ The will of Elizabeth Gates named Frank E. Gates as her principal beneficiary inheriting the bulk of her estate. (See Appendix for will). He was empowered to use "so much of the principal fund as may be required for his maintenance and comfort. The remainder after his death to go to my other children...."²

Assets of the estate were appraised at \$56,013.09, and of that figure, Frank E. Gates received almost \$30,000, while each daughter received less than \$5,000.³ The appraiser's report detailed some of the contents of the house. The following household goods were listed:

Book case \$50; 1 desk \$15; 1 table \$10; 4 chairs \$25.
Books \$50--

parlor suite: 1 davenport \$15; 3 chairs \$15.

Dining Room: 1 table \$10; 1 side board \$15 and 6 chairs \$20.

3 bed room suites with beds and dressers and 1 hall coat rack \$15.

2 carpets \$20.⁴

Because of his frail health, Frank E. Gates could not move to Missouri and live in the family home which he had inherited. Madge Wallace, however, was very much interested in having the old house for herself and her family. She used her share of her mother's estate,⁵ plus some additional funds to buy the property.

Madge Wallace Acquires the Gates Mansion, 1924

On October 4, 1924, Madge Wallace purchased Lots 2 and 3 and the west 14.18 feet of Lot 1 from the trustees of the Estate of George P. Gates (Frank E. Gates and T.B. Wallace). She bought the property for \$10,000.⁶

The three Gates daughters did not have long to wait to inherit the remainder of their mother's estate because Frank E. Gates, 54, passed away in 1925.⁷ On September 4, 1926, Madge Wallace limited her property to include only Lots 2 and 3. She

deeded the west fourteen and eighteen one-hundredths feet of Lot 1 to her son and daughter-in-law, George Porterfield and Mary (May) Southern Wallace, for "one dollar and other valuable considerations."⁸

Life in the Wallace House, 1924-1934

Five people occupied the Wallace house in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Madge Wallace's quarters were in the second floor master bedroom, while her youngest son, Fred, had the northwest corner bedroom. Margaret Truman had her own bedroom between the second floor bathroom and her parents' room, connected by a passageway (circa 1926).

Margaret Truman remembered the cold winter nights in her room and a childish conviction which became a humorous family tale:

...before the gas furnace was put in, we had no blower. I had no heat in my room. I'm tough. I'm a survivor. I had no heat. The only register is that register that is in the dining room. It was very cold.

Anyway, I thought there was a little man dressed in black who lived in the attic... When the house would cool off at night, the steps would one by one creak coming down and stop right in front of my door. And I said to my mother, "I want a lock on my door." I said, "There's a little

man up there and he comes down every night and he stops in front of my door." And she said, "Oh, don't be ridiculous!" I remember my father saying, "It doesn't cost anything. Put a bolt on the door." So they put a bolt on the door.⁹

The Trumans' bedroom had always been the bedroom of Bess Wallace since she first came to the house in 1904. The furniture presently in the room belongs to Margaret Truman, while her parents' furniture, which was purchased in Washington, D.C., was moved in the mid-1970s to the first floor bedroom for Mrs. Truman's use.¹⁰ It was during the early decades of the 20th century that a plain white, marble wash basin was installed in the bedroom where shaving or simple washing could be done without tying up the popular second floor bathroom.¹¹ Harry Truman slept in the bed nearest the sink.¹² During the sultry summer nights in Missouri, the Trumans were not unknown to take advantage of the screened porch outside their bedroom.¹³

David "Fred" Wallace, unmarried and in his early thirties, was a close companion to young Margaret Truman. Both were continuously getting into "trouble and mischief about the house" and being called down by Mrs. Wallace.¹⁴ An architect, he accomplished several improvements to the Wallace house. In the late 1920s, a number of decorative crystal lamps were installed by Fred Wallace in the living room and parlor/music room. The chandelier in the living room was removed. Because

they came to be viewed as "ugly," he removed the decorative wood shelving and mirrors of the fireplace surrounds, although the second floor fireplace was left intact.¹⁵ He also helped transform the "dark" library into a bright, cheery room. The woodwork, walls, and bookcases were painted white, while red was used on the trim areas.¹⁶

Margaret had nine little girls on the same block with which to play in the attic and basement of the house as well as in the yard which featured swings and a sliding board. A favorite sport was riding tricycles or playing with wheel toys on the gravel driveway, creating "roads and highways out of the loose gravel." The children stirred up so much dust during the dry summer months that Bess Truman and her mother usually had to dust the house as much as three times a day.¹⁷

Margaret Truman recalled her backyard, the neighborhood playground:

...I had everything in my backyard that anyone would want to play with. I had a swing. I had a trapeze. I had a teeter-totter. I had a slide, and plenty of trees to climb. We had lots more trees out there than we do now. And we used to climb trees. All nine girls used to come over and play in my yard, and that way my mother never had to worry where I was. I had a fire engine. I had a three-wheeled bike; two three-wheeled bikes. I had a big two-wheeled bike. I had a small two-wheeled bike. You name it, I had it.... I don't know how my Grandmother stood it, but on bad

days, I was allowed to ride my tricycle in the house. My mother said she always gave her mother credit for that, that she never complained about that, because she was a very strict woman.¹⁸

Another summer pastime was digging channels through the backyard to sail the half-shells of English walnuts, stuck with a pin and a paper sail. Margaret Truman recalled in 1956:

It was a kind of canal, beginning at the drip-faucet at the side of the house and running muddily through the mint bed, tumbling with waterfalls downward through Grandmother Wallace's lilies of the valley (which were ruthlessly uprooted), and on into the rose garden where further depredations took place. It looked, indeed, as if a bunch of moles had got on top of the ground and continued their architecture. It was quite a problem to raise flowers in that weather and at this vantage I have a better understanding of the wan looks of my grandmother when she regarded the fallen petals of her treasured Talismans.¹⁹

A photograph showing the Truman family in the backyard in May 1928, shows the gravel drive lined by bricks, a stone bench beside the flower garden, and a white picket fence parallel to Van Horn (now Truman) Road (See Figure 9). The fence was short and only went a few yards from the driveway entrance.²⁰ Another fence, made of wire "with a board top and a board bottom," ran parallel to the alley from the barn to the sidewalk on North Delaware.²¹

FIGURE 9

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-318

1928 View Toward Van Horn (now Truman) Road

May 1928

Harry, Bess, and Margaret Truman in the backyard of the Wallace house. This photograph appeared in Margaret Truman's 1956 book, Souvenir. Note the diamond-shaped wood fence parallel to Van Horn Road, the stone bench, and placement of bricks to line the driveway.



Not shown in any pre-presidential photographs is the rose arbor, or pergola. This structure did not date to the Gates occupancy, but to sometime after 1924 when Madge Wallace owned the house. Mrs. Wallace, a woman who loved her flower gardens and roses, had the rose arbor constructed.²²

Madge Wallace's upright piano was replaced in 1932 when the baby grand piano was purchased for Margaret Truman by her proud father. The Christmas present was not then appreciated by the eight-year-old girl who was crestfallen that she had not received the electric train she desired. This is the same piano which is presently in the parlor/music room and which, while in the White House, nearly fell through the floor.²³

Spring was a busy time in the Wallace house during the 1920s and 1930s. Margaret Truman recalled "that season of domestic chaos when the ladies of my immediate ancestry tore the house limb from limb, scrubbed, waxed, painted, varnished, and enameled it and called it spring housecleaning."²⁴ The window coverings were also frequently cleaned and changed. Madge Wallace busied herself making most of the curtains for her home by hand.²⁵ Awnings and shutters were used on the front, west facade in the summer to block the intense sun and keep down the interior temperatures (See Figures 10 and 11).

FIGURE 10

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-474

Wallace House with Awnings and Shutters

Circa late 1920s

Note the vertical striped awnings across the front (west) facade of 219 North Delaware, and the presence of shutters on the second floor windows.

Source: Negative taken from Truman home, 1982.



FIGURE 11

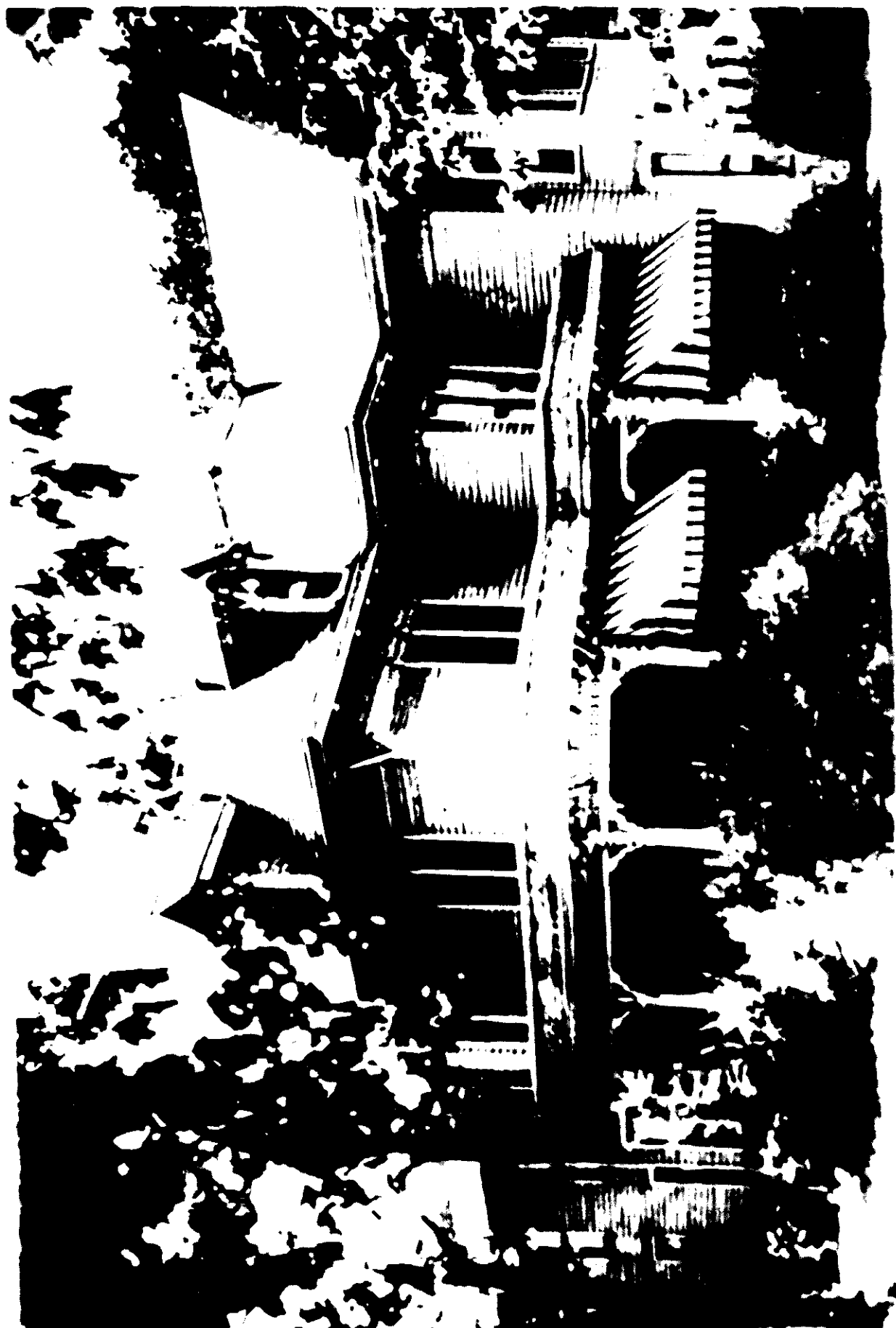
Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-2964

1934 Wallace House with Awnings

August 1934

Note that the vertical striped pattern of the awnings is much wider than those seen in the earlier (late 1920s) photograph in Figure 10. Also, the decorative railing above the first floor porch overhang is gone.

Source: Kansas City Star, August 12, 1934



Madge Wallace no longer had a sewing/sitting room on the second floor. By the 1920s, the room had become a storage area known as "the back room" where "everything was just shoved in there that we didn't want to use."²⁶ The back stairs remained a popular, quick avenue to go to and from the kitchen and second floor.

The small, north bedroom (which later became Mr. Truman's dressing room) featured a bed, but the room was not used. In the wintertime, to reduce drafts on the unheated second floor, the door to the north bedroom was kept closed.²⁷

Heating the house was always a problem (See "The Heating System" in Chapter 13). In the wintertime, the kitchen was the warmest and, therefore, the most popular room in the house.²⁸ During one exceptionally cold winter, the music room and library were closed off to conserve heat.²⁹

The theme of the interior furnishings was Victorian, which conformed to the personal tastes of Madge Wallace who delighted in her antiques as well as the Gates family heirlooms. Her granddaughter remembered:

When I was a little girl the floors were dark and polished, so that I could see my face in them,

and covered with oriental rugs. Grandmother Wallace loved antiques and there were many family heirlooms in the house. Her pride and joy was the fine old secretary in the living room which Great-grandfather Gates had brought out from Vermont in a wagon train.³⁰

In the second floor bedrooms, the floors were not carpeted as they appear today. The floors were painted dark brown to resemble an oak floor. Rugs were scattered about. The small second floor alcove which is immediately above the front entrance vestibule, was used as a resting nook. Decorated with curtains, chair and table, it provided a quiet place to think or read.³¹

Margaret Truman's childhood in Independence was marked by persistent colds and other infections. She went through an "early and bitter tonsillectomy" after which one tonsil grew back. During the winter of 1932-33, a case of influenza turned into pneumonia and then rheumatic fever. In order for his daughter to regain her health, Harry Truman sent his wife and child to stay with friends in Biloxi, Mississippi, during the early spring of 1933.³² It was their hope that the warm Gulf weather and a change in diet would restore her to good health.

During his family's seasonal exile from Independence, Judge Truman did not spend all his time at 219 North Delaware. He spent his weekends staying with his mother in Grandview.³³

In late April 1933, Truman stayed as an unregistered guest in Kansas City's Pickwick Hotel "so no job holder who wants to stay on can see or phone me." Because of Depression-era cutbacks, he had been forced to discharge 200 county workers.³⁴ In late May he joined Bess and Margaret Truman in Biloxi. Margaret's health had dramatically improved and the family was able to return to Independence by mid-June.³⁵

Truman In County Politics, 1924-1935

In 1924, Harry Truman's political career suffered a setback when he sought re-election as eastern judge. He was defeated as a result of a split in the local Democratic Party, and in the two years he was out of political office, he sold memberships for the Kansas City Automobile Club. With the backing of the Pendergast machine, Truman returned to office, winning the 1926 election. This time he was elected Jackson County Presiding Judge, serving two consecutive terms, 1927-1931 and 1931-1935. He established a remarkable record as the county's chief administrator. Through the passage of a multi-million dollar bond issue, Truman began an ambitious road building program which promised that no one would be more than two miles from a paved road. The Independence Courthouse was renovated to resemble Colonial Williamsburg (Georgian Revival).

Kansas City's 1870 courthouse was replaced by a modern art-deco skyscraper. Truman's success in Jackson County brought him wide attention throughout the state. Leaders in the Missouri Democratic Party and the Pendergast machine began mentioning his name as a possible candidate for the United States Senate.³⁶

Elizabeth Emery Gates Dies, 1924

¹"Mrs. George P. Gates Dead," undated newspaper clipping, folder-A172 unknown compiler 2F25 Woodson,-McCoy Scrapbook, Circa 1875-1925 newspaper clippings, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo.

Another son, G. Walter Gates, died in Coronado Beach, California, on February 8, 1923. The 55-year-old Gates was in California being treated for pneumonia. He was a successful Portland, Oregon, lumberman, having moved there in 1905. His funeral took place at 219 North Delaware on February 14, 1923. His nephews were pall bearers: John Wallace, Kansas City; Gates Wells, Platte City; Frank, George and Fred Wallace, and Harry Truman, Independence. See "G. Walter Gates Dead" and "Funeral of G.W. Gates," Examiner (February 9 and 15, 1923), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S 1923, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

²Last Will and Testament of Elizabeth Gates, October 31, 1917, Office of the Probate Court, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

³Final Settlement of the Estate of Elizabeth Emery Gates, Independence Probate Court, No. 4941. The financial settlement was as follows: Frank E. Gates, \$29,832.69; Madge Wallace, Maud Wells, and Myra Wallace, each received \$4,987.05; Maud Louise Drake (Granddaughter) \$2,493.53; and G. Walter Gates, Jr., (Grandson), \$2,493.52. The last two heirs were the two children of the deceased son, G. Walter Gates.

In an affidavit filed before the court on August 12, 1924, administrator T.B. Wallace swore that Frank E. Gates, 53,

was an invalid and "is now and has been for some years physically incapacitated from performing labor and thereby unable to earn a living. His said disability is permanent."

⁴In the Matter of the Appraisal of the Estate of Elizabeth Gates, Report of Appraiser, July 14, 1924, Independence Probate Court, No. 4941, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

⁵Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

Madge Wallace Acquires the Gates Mansion, 1924

⁶General Warranty Deed, Frank E. Gates and T.B. Wallace, as Trustees under the will of George P. Gates, and Madge Gates Wallace, October 4, 1924, Land Book 459, Page 342, No. 193526, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

⁷Genealogy chart, family group of George Porterfield Gates and Elizabeth Emery, by Annette W. Curtis, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Mo.

⁸Missouri Warranty Deed, Madge Gates Wallace to George P. and Mary S. Wallace, September 4, 1926, Land Book 492, Page 422, No. 219645, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence.

⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 20.

¹⁰Ibid., pp. 22; 59.

¹¹Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interviews, Independence, Mo., June 14 and July 20, 1983. The present blue sink was probably installed in the 1950s when the bedroom was rewallpapered.

¹²Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 59.

¹³In a letter from Harry Truman to his wife on July 11, 1939, he wrote: "Hope you didn't catch cold on that porch sleep on the first cool night." See Robert Ferrell, Dear Bess, p. 414.

¹⁴Margaret Truman, Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1956), p. 17.

¹⁵Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," pp. 39; 43. The old fireplace surrounds were found in the barn, and National Park Service personnel have moved them to the basement to provide improved security.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 39.

¹⁷Margaret Truman, Souvenir, p. 29.

¹⁸Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 14.

¹⁹Margaret Truman, Souvenir, p. 30.

²⁰Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 26.

²¹Ibid., p. 27.

²²Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

²³Margaret Truman, Souvenir, pp. 27-8. Harry Truman was probably in error when, in a June 28, 1957, letter to his wife, he indicated that the piano was purchased in 1928. See Dear Bess, p. 568.

²⁴Souvenir, p. 11.

²⁵Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview at 219 North Delaware, Independence, Mo., July 20, 1983.

²⁶Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 12.

²⁷Ibid., p. 29.

²⁸Ibid., p. 48.

²⁹Ibid., p. 44.

³⁰Margaret Truman, Souvenir, p. 21. The secretary is now located in the second floor front, west bedroom.

³¹Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview at 219 North Delaware, Independence, Mo., July 20, 1983.

³²Margaret Truman, Souvenir, pp. 26-7.

³³Ferrell, Dear Bess, p. 347. In a letter from

Grandview, Truman wrote his wife and daughter on April 14, 1933, that he had visited with her family and "had dinner with Mrs. Wallace."

³⁴Ibid., p. 351. The letter from the Pickwick Hotel was dated April 28, 1933.

³⁵"County Court Session Short," Examiner (May 16 and May 25, 1933), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S 1933, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

Truman In County Politics, 1924-1935

³⁶Ferrell, Dear Bess, pp. 304-05.

CHAPTER EIGHT

A TALE OF TWO HOMES: INDEPENDENCE AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

- * An Extended Family Occupies the Wallace House, 1934
- * Harry S Truman, Senator from Missouri
- * Harry S Truman, Vice President of the United States

An Extended Family Occupies the Wallace House, 1934

Fred Wallace, the youngest son of Madge Wallace, was married in 1930 and brought his new wife, Christine, to live in his mother's house at 219 North Delaware. To them was born a son, David, in 1934. Madge Wallace, 72, had abandoned her second floor west bedroom in the mid to late 1920s in favor of her late parents' first floor room. Because of her advanced age and chronic sciatica, she could no longer negotiate the stairway. Madge Wallace's former bedroom then became a nursery for David Wallace, with his parents' northwest corner bedroom nearby. In 1937, he shared his room with a new sister, Marian.

The Fred Wallace family lived with Madge Wallace and the Trumans from 1934 to 1942.¹ An architect and engineer, Fred Wallace and his family moved to Denver in 1942 where he became the regional manager of the War Production Board in April 1945.² The family later moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Harry S Truman, Senator from Missouri

With the support of his family and political friends, Truman won the 1934 Democratic nomination and election for U.S. Senator after a hard-fought, whirlwind campaign throughout the

State of Missouri. After his election on November 6, 1934, the Trumans made preparations to move to Washington, D.C. Leaving behind their family and friends, the Senator-elect, Bess, and Margaret left for their new life in the nation's capital shortly after noon on December 28, 1934. They drove away from 219 North Delaware in two cars bound for St. Louis. There they boarded a train for the remainder of the trip, while their cars loaded with personal possessions, were driven east to their new home.³

For the next decade, the Trumans lived in a series of apartments in the District of Columbia. Madge Wallace would come to visit often, remaining for long periods of time. Bess and Margaret Truman did not spend as much time in Washington as their famous husband and father did. They preferred to spend the summers away from the capital, traveling by train back to Independence and the Wallace family home. There they stayed through the fall while young Margaret went to the local public school from September through January. From January through May, she attended Gunston Hall, a private girls school in Washington.⁴ Senator Truman also came home often, especially when the Senate had adjourned. His sojourns in Independence were always balanced with trips around Missouri visiting with political leaders and making speeches.

Moving from apartment to apartment usually required the purchase of additional furnishings. In a letter to his wife on November 30, 1937, Truman wrote about an unfurnished apartment which he had taken beginning January 1, 1938. He wrote that they needed to purchase living room furniture and a rug; dining room furniture and a rug; twin beds, a rug, and a single bed for the two bedrooms.⁵ He did not wait for his wife to come to Washington to begin shopping for the new furniture. He wrote on December 5 that he had selected most of what they needed, but, that "I don't want to make any purchases until you see whether you like them or not."⁶ Two weeks later he wrote, "I may put in the bedroom outfit and you and Margey can sleep in the beds and I can sleep on the floor the first night."⁷

Before 1940, the second floor bathroom at 219 North Delaware was renovated. The old fashioned, legged bathtub was removed and the present blue porcelain tub, stool, and sink were installed. Plastic floor tiling was added but later was covered with first a red, then the present blue, carpeting.⁸

In November 1940, Harry S Truman was again elected Senator from Missouri, to serve another six year term from 1941 to 1947. Life changed very little for the family as they continued their frequent trips back and forth from Independence to Washington, D.C. (See Figure 12). World War II and the

FIGURE 12

Truman Library Photo Archives, 64-1528

The Trumans in the Dining Room

August 7, 1940

Senator Harry S Truman and his family sit at the dining room table reading congratulatory telegrams following late election returns. The returns indicate Truman's Senatorial primary victory over Governor Lloyd Stark and Maurice Milligan. Note the flowered wallpaper pattern and the plant behind Bess Truman. Also, note the identical positioning of the epergne (to the far right), a wedding gift to Madge and David Wallace.

Source: Roger Reynolds, Acme Photo.



impending involvement of the United States changed not only the course of the country, but the daily lives of the Trumans as well. The U.S. was slowly repealing its isolationist neutrality legislation as a potential showdown with Japan loomed. The Congress decided to remain in session for the duration of the world crisis. For this reason, in early September 1941, the Trumans decided to become full-time residents of Washington, D.C., returning to Missouri only for the summer, vacations, and holidays. Margaret Truman, therefore, was enrolled year-round in Gunston Hall.⁹

It was in the early 1940s that the electric attic fan was installed. The huge fan made the sultry summer days and nights less oppressive.¹⁰

The Fred Wallace family moved to Colorado shortly afterward in 1942, leaving Madge Wallace alone in her large house. Physically unable to care for the home herself, she closed up 219 North Delaware and moved into a small apartment on nearby Maple Avenue. She spent one winter there, came back to the home with the Trumans in the summer, then moved back to Washington with them in the fall.¹¹ For the next decade, the house at 219 North Delaware stood closed and empty for extended periods of time, open only during the summer months and holidays.

Harry S Truman, Vice President of the United States

Blessed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the movement within the Democratic Party to dump Vice President Henry Wallace from the party's 1944 ticket was in full swing at the July Democratic national convention in Chicago. There, Missouri's junior Senator, who had gained national respect for his committee's effort to halt waste and corruption in defense contracts, reluctantly accepted his party's nomination (See Figure 13).

On July 23, 1944, Harry, Bess, and Margaret Truman drove home from the Chicago convention. The following day, the vice presidential candidate and his family held an open reception in the backyard where they greeted more than 3,000 local well-wishers and neighbors.¹² The Trumans stood inside the pergola for several hours and shook hands with people who formed a seemingly endless line¹³ (See Figure 14).

Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S Truman won the November 1944 national election, defeating Republican challengers Thomas E. Dewey and John W. Bricker. After spending the Christmas holidays in Independence, the Trumans and Mrs. Madge Wallace again closed up 219 North Delaware and returned to Washington for the inauguration. They settled back into their small

FIGURE 13

Truman Library Photo Archives, 77-75

Appearance of the Wallace House at Truman's Vice-Presidential
Acceptance

July 22, 1944

This is the neglected and unkempt appearance of 219 North Delaware the day Harry S Truman was nominated for Vice President of the United States by the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Source: Truman Wing Collection, Acme Photo.



FIGURE 14

Truman Library Photo Archives, 63-1499-19

The Trumans of Independence

August 1944

The Trumans pose on the front lawn of their home shortly after the 1944 Democratic National Convention. The photograph was taken for the August 21, 1944, edition of LIFE Magazine in an article titled, "Truman of Missouri."

Source: Taken from the album Mr. President, His Family and Friends.



apartment unaware that Vice President Harry S Truman would serve in that office less than three months.

An Extended Family Occupies the Wallace House, 1934

¹David Wallace, "A Nephew Remembers Bess Truman and His Childhood In A Gingerbread Dream House," People (November 8, 1982), p. 47.

²"A Tremendous Job To Do," Kansas City Times (April 13, 1945), p. 3, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1945, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

Harry S Truman, Senator from Missouri

³"Trumans Leave For Washington," Examiner (December 28, 1934), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S 1934, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁴Margaret Truman, Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1956), p. 38. In Independence, she attended Bryant School, Independence Junior High School, and William Chrisman High School.

⁵Ferrell, Dear Bess, p. 406.

⁶Ibid., p. 407.

⁷Ibid., p. 410.

⁸Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 42.

⁹Margaret Truman, Harry S. Truman (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1973), p. 137.

¹⁰Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 36.

¹¹Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

Harry S Truman, Vice President of the United States

¹²Margaret Truman, Souvenir, p. 68.

¹³Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, June 22, 1983.

CHAPTER NINE

THE WHITE HOUSE YEARS, 1945-1953

- * Transforming the Gates-Wallace House Into the 'Summer White House', 1945
- * Flagpole
- * The Summer White House During the Truman Presidency, 1945-1953
- * United States Secret Service
 - Security Booth
 - Wrought Iron Picket Fence
- * Painting the Exterior
- * Rear Porches

Transforming the Gates-Wallace House Into the 'Summer White House', 1945

Resting and preparing for the upcoming San Francisco Conference which would spawn the United Nations, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt worked in his study in the "Little White House," a frame cottage atop Pine Mountain, in Warm Springs, Georgia. It was shortly after 1 p.m., April 12, 1945, when the President signed a bill extending the Commodity Credit Corporation that he complained of "a terrific headache." Aides carried the ailing President to the bedroom where he could lie down or sleep. His condition continued to worsen, however, and at 3:35 p.m., Franklin D. Roosevelt died from a massive cerebral hemorrhage.¹

At the moment of Roosevelt's death, Vice President Harry S Truman had finished presiding over the day's Senate debate and was in House Speaker Sam Rayburn's office. At 5:15 p.m., Truman was telephoned by Presidential Press Secretary Steve Early and told to come to the White House as soon as possible. Rushing to the Executive Mansion, Harry Truman was ushered into Eleanor Roosevelt's second floor study. A calm Mrs. Roosevelt told the Vice President that her husband was dead. "What can I do for you?" asked Truman. The First Lady responded, "Tell us what we can do. Is there any way we can help you?"²

Assembled in the Cabinet Room at 7:09 p.m., were members of the Roosevelt cabinet; Bess and Margaret Truman; and Harlan F. Stone, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who administered the Presidential oath of office to the somber Vice President. At 7:10 p.m., April 12, 1945, Harry S Truman became the 33rd President of the United States.³ Life for the Trumans of Independence, Missouri, would never again be the same as they suddenly found themselves the nation's First Family.

Just as Franklin D. Roosevelt's beloved estate at Hyde Park, New York, was constantly in the public eye during his presidency, so, too, was the Trumans' home in Independence thrust into the national limelight. Photographs of the house appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the country as Americans sought in-depth information on the new First Family. In the early weeks of the Truman presidency, many referred to 219 North Delaware as the "Hyde Park of the West."⁴

The years of neglect when the house stood empty for long periods while Mrs. Wallace and the Trumans were away in Washington had taken their toll. By the spring of 1945, the property was in a state of disrepair. On April 13, 1945, the Independence Examiner noted that the home's "clapboards are badly in need of paint and its ornate gingerbread gables and

porches are in need of repair."⁵ Americans throughout the country were eager to help the President beautify his home. In response to national media exposure of the house, the White House received offers to landscape the unkempt grounds⁶ (See Figures 15, 16, and 17).

Aware that her family home was the subject of public scrutiny, Bess Truman negotiated an agreement with a local contractor to refurbish the exterior of the house. On May 3, 1945, the local newspaper reported that "the contract included carpenter repairs on the outside where needed to be followed by two coats of paint." Orville Campbell was the Independence contractor in charge of the renovation project. His task of readying the house before the arrival of the First Family for the summer was stalled for several weeks because of "inclement weather."⁷

The renovation finally commenced on May 21, 1945, as roofers, painters, and carpenters worked feverishly to transform the exterior of the Wallace house. Scaffolding was erected around the front porches for the workmen to replace rotted millwork and slate shingles (See Figure 18). Painters began covering the worn, gray exterior with gleaming white paint and Kentucky green for windows and other trim areas. The sparkling white was chosen to conform to the home's new title,

FIGURE 15

Truman Library Photo Archives, 62-383

Summer White House

Circa 1945

The "wild" appearance of the shrubbery and indications of lighter colored trim would suggest the photograph was taken in the early spring before the renovation of May and June.

Source: Kansas City Star



FIGURE 16

Truman Library Photo Archives, 67-3886

Circa March-April 1945

The President's home shortly before renovation into the
Summer White House.



FIGURE 17

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-2963

Circa mid-April to mid-May 1945

219 North Delaware before painting and exterior renovations. Note the light-colored trim compared to the darker main parts of the facade.



FIGURE 18

Truman Library Photo Archives, 69-146

Transformation Into The Summer White House

May 21, 1945

Painters, roofers, and carpenters erect scaffolding around the front facade to make repairs. Note the heavy growth of shrubbery and the stark contrast in color as the painter on the ladder paints the guttering.

Source: Associated Press, donated by New York Herald/Tribune.



the "Summer White House."⁸

Arriving with Mrs. Wallace and daughter Margaret by train on June 3, 1945, Bess Truman came to Independence early to supervise the renovation and spring cleaning projects.⁹ The First Lady was particularly occupied with fitting her Washington apartment furniture into the existing decor. The furniture remained in crates scattered throughout the house, transported there following the family's move into the White House.¹⁰

The renovation work progressed into a "rush job"¹¹ as painters and other craftsmen hurried to finish the project before the President's arrival on June 27. It marked his first visit home upon succeeding Franklin D. Roosevelt to the presidency two months before. Work was completed in time for Harry S Truman's four-day weekend to relax after his participation in the historic United Nations San Francisco Conference (See Figure 19). During his stay in Independence, the President's busy schedule allowed him to eat only one meal in his own home.¹²

FIGURE 19

Truman Library Photo Archives, 65-3360

Appearance For The President's First Visit

June 27, 1945

This is how the house looked the day of Harry S Truman's first visit home upon his succession to the presidency. The renovations and trimming of shrubbery has been completed.

Source: George Dodsworth, photographer



Flagpole

The flagpole which now stands on the northwest corner of the Truman property was erected through the efforts of Independence citizens on June 26, 1945, in honor of the President's first homecoming since assuming his office. The more than thirty four-foot flagstaff was delivered to the residence at 219 North Delaware on June 25. It came from the City of Independence supply yard after local citizens, Hugh Miller, John Fish, and Robert Joyce approached Mayor Roger T. Sermon with the idea of presenting it to the First Family. They argued that the Independence White House should not be without a flagpole from which to fly the Stars and Stripes.

Mayor Sermon approved the gift of the flagstaff and Orville Campbell, contractor in charge of the renovations at the Summer White House, agreed to set the pole. The location on the northwest corner of the lawn was approved by Mrs. Madge Wallace and the First Lady. A free-will donation was taken up for citizens who wished to cover the city's cost for the standard.¹³

The flagpole was set in a concrete foundation which was poured the evening of June 25.¹⁴ The project was completed and the regulation flag (five by eight feet) was hoisted up the

steel staff at 9:00 on the morning of June 26, 1945, the day before the President arrived home.¹⁵

The significance of the flagpole to the local citizens during the presidential period was profound. Whenever the flag was raised--presumably by Secret Service agents--"the town knows that the President is home again."¹⁶

The Summer White House During the Truman Presidency, 1945-1953

Tremendous changes occurred in the daily lives of the Trumans beginning on April 12, 1945, when they found themselves the new First Family of the United States. The family soon moved from their Washington apartment into the Blair House and then into the White House in early May after Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt had vacated it. Secret Service protection stripped the family of its previous freedom of movement. One tradition the family refused to relinquish, however, was the practice of spending the summers in Independence. It was Mrs. Madge Wallace who especially preferred the familiar surroundings of her own home during the hot summer months. So, too, did Mrs. Truman and her daughter Margaret who began the summer homecoming tradition as early as 1935.

The President, charged with the awesome duty of running the country in the hectic postwar years, could not afford the luxury of a summer vacation. Most of his time was spent in Washington, keeping in close contact with his family by letters and frequent telephone calls. The President took advantage of Florida's favorable weather and stayed in Key West at a retreat which became known as "The Little White House." Harry Truman made regular trips to Independence during the summer to visit with his family and friends. Arriving aboard the presidential planes "Sacred Cow" and, later, "The Independence," none of his vacations were for periods longer than ten days.¹⁷

Summertime did mark the longest periods the Trumans spent in Independence during the presidential years, adding credence to the designation of "The Summer White House." Other homecomings came around major holidays such as Christmas. Occasional trips to Missouri were made on weekends to visit with family and friends. President Truman made special trips to see his aged mother at the Truman family farm in Grandview, Missouri. The First Family, without exception, came to Independence to cast their ballots in all local, state, and national elections.

During the absence of the First Family, 219 North Delaware stood locked and empty. In cold weather, George P. Wallace

drained the home's pipes to guard against freezing and damage to the plumbing system. Both the Wallace brothers and their wives regularly prepared the home preceding each arrival of the First Family. They also helped in closing up the home until the next visit.¹⁸

The Summer White House was a refuge for the family, a place which provided an escape from the highly-publicized life in the Executive Mansion. The Trumans did find a higher degree of privacy in Independence, 1,050 miles away from their busy official duties in Washington, D.C. In Missouri, the local press, in particular, Sue Gentry of the (Independence) Examiner, respected the First Family's privacy at their home and was largely content to report the Trumans' arrivals and departures. Concentrated press coverage came only when the President was in residence. With Secret Service agents policing the grounds, the press was kept at bay, observing the President's home from vantage points in the adjacent neighborhood.

The Trumans, in particular Bess Wallace Truman, cherished and guarded their privacy. It was a family decision not to allow the press to photograph the interior of their home during the presidential years.¹⁹

The only physical structural changes to the property during the presidential years, other than those at Government expense (See Secret Service section), were the addition of the flagpole and the rear porch construction. In April 1950, the rear porch was refloored and extended to the east six additional feet. The porch was also enclosed with screens.²⁰ A local carpenter, William E. "Bill" Gragg, did the work²¹ (See "Rear Porch" section at the end of this chapter).

Other than the placement of the Trumans' furniture from their Washington apartment into the existing decor of the Wallace house in June 1945, few interior changes occurred during the presidential period. One notable exception involved the painting of the kitchen and pantry green by Margaret Truman during the summer of 1948.²² This activity by the President's daughter, coupled with the earlier beautification of the grounds and structural exterior, prompted the statement on the back of postcards of the Summer White House which read, "The house has fourteen rooms and has been completely remodeled and redecorated to meet the requirements of the President and his family." Sending one of the postcards to her father in the summer of 1949, Margaret recalled:

Beside that bit of baloney I wrote: "And I know who did it! Me!" (That was a tribute to a recent outburst of energy on my part which involved painting the kitchen.)²³

Apparently, other than the painting of the kitchen, the home's interior had not been significantly altered.²⁴

The kitchen project was a major undertaking and the subject of correspondence exchanged between the White House and 219 North Delaware. On July 25, 1948, Margaret wrote her father, "Mother and I have been painting like mad and have finished the china closet. It is a pretty shade of green, but oh my! the work."²⁵ Three days later, the President wrote, "You seem to have been slaving away at your paint job and your garden. I am hoping to see an excellent result in each instance. I shall expect to be able to pick a nice bouquet from the garden when I come home Sunday and I shall hope to be able to see myself in those slick pantry walls!"²⁶ The effort involved covering the dark brown woodwork with green paint, a color the family liked and kept in the room to the present day.²⁷ On August 22, Margaret informed her father, "I have finished 3/4 of the kitchen with the second coat and it looks good. I'll finish it tomorrow afternoon I hope."²⁸

On May 15, 1949, green marble-style inlaid linoleum was placed on the floors in the kitchen, pantry, and hallway leading to the dining room. Two "bad places" in the floor were patched before the linoleum was laid, cemented over the felt-covered floorboards. Seventy feet of new quarterboard was also

installed.²⁹

Another presidential-era interior change involved new carpeting. On June 1, 1948, Bess Truman bought a 12 by 7-yard carpet with padding.³⁰ On June 30, 1949, the First Lady bought 66 square yards of carpet and padding as well as "8 additional yards for stairs and landing."³¹ A third purchase of carpeting on March 25, 1950, was 73 3/4 yards. The 12 by 17-yard carpet bought in 1948 was returned at this time.³²

On August 31, 1951, a blue Spruce lavatory was purchased for the second floor bathroom.³³

The Trumans spent every Christmas at the Summer White House except in 1947 and 1952 when they remained in Washington. Family tradition dictated that the home be decorated with wreaths and holly, and that a large Christmas tree covered with lights be placed in the center of the front bay window. An Australian journalist reported in 1949:

As Christmas approaches, the old house is decorated from cellar to attic. By the time the President's special train from Washington pulls into the railroad station in Independence, everything is in readiness. There is a big holly wreath of waxy green leaves and vivid red berries on the front door, wreaths are in the windows, mantels are banked with evergreens, a sprig of mistletoe is tied on a chandelier, and tall red candles are placed in the candlesticks.

A tapering evergreen tree--which may be a spruce, cedar, or fir whose topmost branches brush the ceiling--sits in the bay window of the downstairs living room. Its glittering ornaments and twinkling multicolored electric lights may be seen throughout the holidays by passers-by in the street. Margaret Truman usually decorates the tree herself. She always includes among the ornaments a little silver bell and a miniature red-and-white Santa Claus which were on her first Christmas tree.³⁴

The tradition of the President lighting the National Christmas Tree on the south lawn of the White House continued during the Truman presidency. From his first floor study in the Summer White House, President Truman used the same gold-plated telegraph key every year since 1945 to light the huge tree³⁵ (See Figure 20). At the same time, the President's annual Christmas greeting, which had been pre-recorded, was broadcast to the nation.³⁶ The 1951 event included a brief informal press conference in his study, the only time such an event took place inside the home during his presidency. Referring to an impending United Steelworkers of America strike for New Year's Day, President Truman promised to use "all the laws in the books" to keep the mills operating.³⁷

The house at 219 North Delaware, more than at any other time during the Truman presidency, was the focus of national attention on the night of the 1948 presidential election.

FIGURE 20

Truman Library Photo Archives, 67-7795

Lighting the National Christmas Tree from the Summer White
House

December 24, 1951

President Truman uses the gold-plated telegraph key to
light the National Community Christmas Tree in Washington D.C.,
from his library at 219 North Delaware. Note the glass-
enclosed bookcase and the room's striped wallpaper pattern.



Ironically, President Truman was not even there, having slipped away to nearby Excelsior Springs, Missouri, to spend the night at the Elms Hotel. Crowds of people and the national press corps surrounded the house hoping for a glimpse of the President or to witness his anticipated defeat. The lights remained on throughout the night in the house as Mrs. Truman and Margaret listened to the election returns. The crowd outside sang songs such as "The Missouri Waltz" and "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and began to surge impatiently onto the lawn. Margaret Truman, at one point, came out onto the front porch and announced to the people that her father was not there. The action succeeded for the crowd obeyed the Secret Service and stayed off the grounds.³⁸

The most historically significant event to occur while Harry Truman was in residence at 219 North Delaware during the presidential period was the Korean Crisis of 1950. Reading in the library on the evening of June 24, 1950, President Truman was interrupted by his daughter with an urgent call from Secretary of State Dean Acheson.³⁹ Acheson informed the President that ground forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had invaded the territory of the Republic of Korea. A clear test of the Truman policy of containing the spread of world communism, U.S. military assistance for South Korea was imminent. As the Cold War crisis loomed, traffic

passing the Truman home became so heavy that Independence policemen were stationed at the corner of North Delaware and Truman Road to direct the traffic. The volume of cars slowly passing the Summer White House was estimated at 25 per minute. Truman cut short his vacation and left Kansas City's Municipal Airport at 2:10 p.m., Sunday, June 25, bound for the White House and consultations with his top advisers.⁴⁰

United States Secret Service

Secret Service protection for the Truman family began on April 12, 1945, when Harry S Truman became President of the United States.⁴¹ Two Secret Service agents were assigned permanent duty stations in Independence to guard the home during the eight-year Truman presidency.⁴²

No records from the presidential period (1945-1953) survive to tell the full story of the Secret Service's involvement at 219 North Delaware.⁴³ From press and archival sources, however, a general picture can be seen.

The Secret Service proposed several changes to the property to facilitate its job of protecting the First Family. The dense shrubbery encompassing the house was soon trimmed

away to reduce a potential intruder's hiding places.⁴⁴ The west end of the barn was converted into a temporary command post for the two permanent agents and additional operatives who arrived with the President when he came home to Independence. The agency also requested the War Department to have the Army Corps of Engineers construct a fence and security booth on the grounds. How to fund the work and avoid "the possibility of unfavorable newspaper comment" were problems. According to an October 8, 1945, memorandum to General Harry H. Vaughan, Military Aide to the President:

The principal bar to the construction of the fence and booth by the War Department is that the property is privately owned and does not belong to the government. The War Department does not have an appropriation of funds which could be properly used for this purpose.

The informal concensus [sic] of opinion seems to be that, if the Secret Service believes that this construction is necessary in the fulfillment of its mission of protecting the President, the Treasury Department should provide the funds for the work which, in any event, would have to be done under contract.⁴⁵

Security Booth

The small guardhouse/security booth was built in the backyard to the immediate west of the barn in late 1945 (No photographs from the Truman Library reveal the booth very

clearly; See Figure 21). The estimated cost of the structure was \$1200.⁴⁶

When the President became a private citizen on January 20, 1953, the government-paid utilities for the security booth were turned off. Although an electric eye installed in the yard as an added security measure still signaled a "warning in the little guardhouse," the structure stood virtually useless.⁴⁷

The Trumans considered the booth "an intrusion" on their property since the day it was built.⁴⁸ Margaret Truman recalled:

[We] didn't like it at all.... It was just a little tiny box of a house that had a bathroom in it and a room where one or two men could sit at night. That was all we had. We didn't have a big, big detachment.... I suppose he [President Truman] had fifteen men around him.⁴⁹

In 1955, Bess Truman told a journalist of her dislike for the small building: "She'd like to get rid of it, but thus far has not found anyone willing to cart it off."⁵⁰

In 1962, the security booth was finally hauled away by painter/carpenter Robert Sanders and his son, Jerry. They took the building to the Bob Sharp farm on State Line Road in Kansas City. Sharp was a friend of the Trumans who wanted the booth

FIGURE 21

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-3706

Back Porch with View of Security Booth

1953

Former President Truman sits on the back porch reading newspapers. Note the furnishings and the rooftop of the Secret Service security booth adjacent to the barn.

Source: From the album, Mr. Citizen.



for an outbuilding. The booth was placed in a low-lying area where the elements quickly deteriorated it. It has long since been destroyed.⁵¹

Wrought Iron Picket Fence

While the Trumans agreed to the construction of the security booth in 1945, they rejected the fence or "any further work on the property."⁵²

The annual summer parade of tourists passing by to see the home of the First Family made Independence officials and merchants happy, but caused the Secret Service many headaches. The eve of the 1948 presidential election provided a good argument why the property should be sectioned-off from the public by a security fence. At one point, a large crowd of neighbors, curiosity-seekers, and the national press corps standing vigil around the property surged onto the lawn. The physical security of the house and its occupants was in danger. To calm and dissipate the impatient crowd, Margaret Truman came out on the front porch and announced that her father was not home. The Examiner reported:

Secret Servicemen were getting worried because the crowd was gradually closing in on the house.

They asked everyone to step back, and when the President's daughter went into the house, the crowd gradually dispersed from the lawn.⁵³

The following summer, record numbers of tourists paraded past the home.⁵⁴ The onslaught was too much for the small permanent Secret Service detail to handle. As a result of the increased number of tourists, it became clear that not only was the First Family endangered, but the physical integrity of the home and grounds was threatened, also. Local resident Henry P. Chiles stated that the tourists "got to pulling weather boarding off and everything.... Why they'd pull the leaves off the trees and just anything for a souvenir from the Truman home. They were tearing it up...."⁵⁵

During a White House meeting, it was former President Herbert Hoover who persuaded Harry Truman to follow his example and erect a fence around his home. Margaret Truman recalled:

"May I give you a word of advice?" Mr. Hoover said that. He said, "Is your house in Independence well protected?" And Dad said, "Well, there are two or three Secret Service men out there." [Hoover] said, "No, no... how about the yard?" And Dad said, "No." And [Hoover] said, "May I insist that you put up a fence before the American public walks off with your house?.... They did with mine in Palo Alto. They walked up to it and cut hunks out of it with a penknife until I put a fence around it." So, Mr. Hoover was responsible for the fence and the Secret Service was most grateful....⁵⁶

Reversing his initial decision, the President agreed to the installation of a wrought iron fence in the fall of 1949 at a cost to the Federal Government of \$5,400. He also approved the installation by the military of an anti-intrusion alarm system⁵⁷ (See Figure 22).

Workmen began digging the postholes and setting the posts in mid-October 1949. In a response to his cousin Nellie Noland's letter of October 24, the President wrote:

I am glad to hear that we are making some progress with the fence. It is quite a reflection on the American public when the President of the U.S.A. has to fence 'em out to keep them from carrying off the house bit by bit.

You know I've lived in Jackson Co. and Independence off and on for nigh on to 65 years and the last time I was home it took two secret service men and four policemen to get me to my own front door. Then I lost a couple of buttons and a handkerchief! Have I become so much of a curiosity by becoming the President--under protest?⁵⁸

By late November, work on the fence neared an end. On November 23, 1949, the Examiner reported:

Prefabricated sections of picket fencing has [sic] been placed around the lawn of the Summer White House this week by workmen. The posts have been drilled and laid for some time but the actual assemblage of the fencing was delayed by the steel situation. The fence is 5 feet in height and must be joined in sections.

FIGURE 22

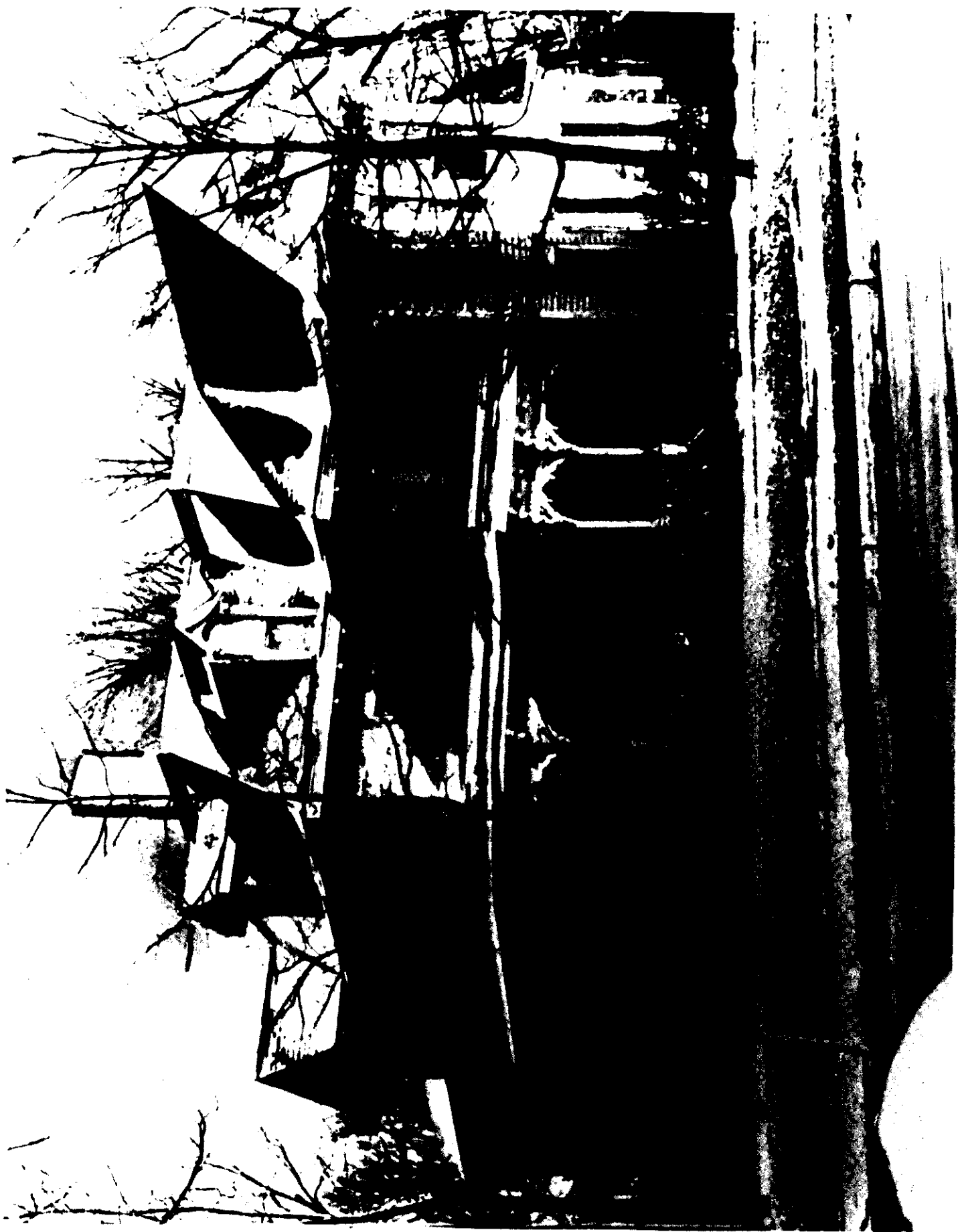
Truman Library Photo Archives, 62-382

The Summer White House Before the Fence

1949

This winter scene captures the entirety of the 1867 and 1885 structures. Taken shortly before the wrought iron picket fence was erected in November 1949, note the "No Parking" sign and the flagpole in the extreme left of the photograph.

Source: Kansas City Star



The fencing procedure became necessary to protect the lawn and property at the Summer White House. One of President Truman's frequent visits brings out scores of citizens who flock for a glimpse of the chief executive and in doing so stray upon the premises.⁵⁹

Near the end of his term, President Truman announced he planned to retain the high iron fence. Truman cited the souvenir hunters who almost tore former President Hoover's house down as his reason.⁶⁰ Truman later admitted that it was on the advice of former President Hoover that he was convinced to erect the fence.⁶¹

The iron fence never completely encompassed the property, leaving the east end open to give easy access to the two Wallace brothers' properties. The opening between the two garages was never enclosed as it was sometimes used by the family to gain access to and depart from the property. The warning sign in the alley stating "Private Drive" was placed there by the Independence Police Department after Mr. Truman became President.⁶²

Maintenance of the fence was the responsibility of the Federal Government. The General Services Administration (GSA), through the Truman Library, paid to have it painted on two separate occasions.⁶³ Locks are featured on the main gates

opening onto Truman Road and three pedestrian gates. The main pedestrian gate leading to the front entrance on North Delaware Street can be opened by pressing a switch in the vestibule. This lock was broken on January 31, 1977, and was secured temporarily with a Citadel padlock. It was repaired by the Secret Service two months later.⁶⁴

Painting the Exterior

During the renovation of the exterior of 219 North Delaware into the Summer White House in the spring of 1945, the home was bathed in white to match the Executive Mansion in Washington, D.C. While photographic evidence proves the house was once gray with dark (black) trim, there is some evidence to suggest that the frantic painting in 1945 may have been the first time the home was painted a bright white. A caption from a May 21, 1945, Kansas City Star photograph stated that "neighbors of the Harry S. Truman home at 219 North Delaware street in Independence today were satisfied the house will be white [emphasis added] this summer, for painters got to work this morning."⁶⁵ The photograph (See Figure 18) reveals a stark contrast between the former worn gray and the new bright white paint.

While most individuals interviewed could not remember the house as any different color before 1945, nearly all agreed that if the color were indeed changed, the previous color was probably a light gray or off-white.⁶⁶

In the spring of 1945, a five-man crew supervised by Bob Snyder of Independence spent nearly seven weeks painting the exterior. During this time they had "literally 'poured' the paint on," using nearly one hundred gallons of white paint. Kentucky green paint was used on the trim at the windows and doors. The white latticed rose arbor was also given a fresh coat of paint and its rose vines were rearranged on the pergola.⁶⁷

Four years later the Summer White House was painted again, but by only one man. The painter in the spring of 1949 was John H. Moler. Beset with many labor disputes during his administration, the President came under attack from painters unions when it was learned that Moler did not belong to a union. The head of local Painters District Council No. 3 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America wrote a letter to the White House protesting the employment of Moler. Hired by Mrs. Truman at no cost to the Federal Government, Moler was employed because of his skills as a painter regardless of his union or nonunion membership. The

letter apparently was never answered.⁶⁸

Rear Porches

Photographs from as early as 1930 reveal that the rear (east) porch was covered and extended the entire length of the east and south sides of the 1867 structure (See Figures 23, 24, and 25). A series of Sanborn fire insurance maps beginning in 1907, however, show the south side of the rear porch was first built sometime between 1907 and 1916 (See Sanborn maps in Appendix). Construction probably took place when the first floor bathroom was built (1907-1910).

In 1950, the President had the rear (east) porch refloored, extended on brick tiers to the east six feet, and screened-in. The Independence carpenter who was paid by the Trumans to extend and screen the porch was William E. "Bill" Gragg. Gragg remembers that he did the work at the same time the Trumans moved out of the Executive Mansion into Blair House, January 1949.⁶⁹ It is more likely, however, that the work was done in the spring of 1950, while the Trumans were still living in Blair House. First, a number of photographs taken by George P. Wallace on June 5, 1950, focus specifically on the screened porch. Taken from every angle, collectively

FIGURE 23

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-321-3

Margaret Truman and Historic Rear Porch (1)

Circa 1930

Margaret Truman, age six, stands in the Wallace backyard. Behind her is the 1867 wing and rear porches. Note the ballustrade and latticework.

Source: Negative taken from the Truman home, 1982.



FIGURE 24

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-321-4

Margaret Truman and Historic Rear Porch (2)

Circa 1930

Margaret Truman, age six, stands in the Wallace backyard. With the 1867 wing in the background, the appearance of the historic rear porch is evident.

Source: Negative taken from the Truman Home, 1982.



FIGURE 25

Truman Library Photo Archives, 83-88-4

Old Porch and Pergola

Circa 1940

Vegetation nearly obscures the rear porch (pre-1950 extension and screened enclosure). The rose arbor/pergola appears at the right.



the photographs suggest that the porch was a novelty. Second, a press article discussing expenditures at the Truman home reported that the construction on the back porch was done in April 1950.⁷⁰ Third, the President's daughter agreed that the work would not have been done in the winter, but more likely in April 1950.⁷¹ (See Unaccessioned Photographs--Figures 26--and Figure 27).

The ceiling fan, an integral and seemingly original component of the rear porch, was a gift to the President from family friends, the Brantons and Shaws, following Mr. Truman's appendix and gall bladder operation in June 1954. Instead of sending flowers like countless other individuals, they decided that a better gift would be a ceiling fan to help circulate the summer air. (The President did not believe in air conditioning). The fan was one of three purchased from a drugstore in North Kansas City. Antiques that had previously been reconditioned, the fan was one of three which hung from 15-foot pipes in the store.⁷² The fan was most likely installed in July 1954 when the President returned home to recuperate.

The rear porch was Bess Truman's favorite place in her home. She and her husband spent countless hours relaxing and reading there. Her Tuesday Bridge Club frequently met there during good weather.⁷³ According to one person who recalls the

FIGURES 26

Truman Library Photo Archives, Unaccessioned Photographs.

[Note: These are among a collection of photographs and other materials which have not been cleared by Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel for official release to the public].

Rear Porch Enclosure and Pergola

June 5, 1950

These photographs reveal the new rear porch extension and enclosure from various angles, the porch furniture and the adjacent rose arbor.

Source: George P. Wallace, photographer.

FIGURES 26



FIGURES 26

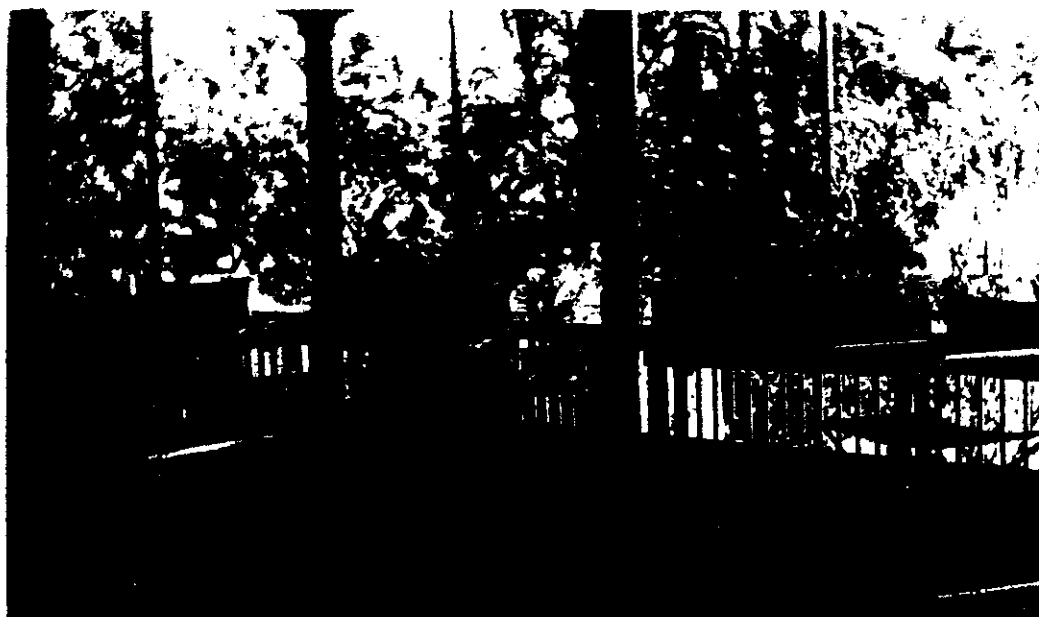
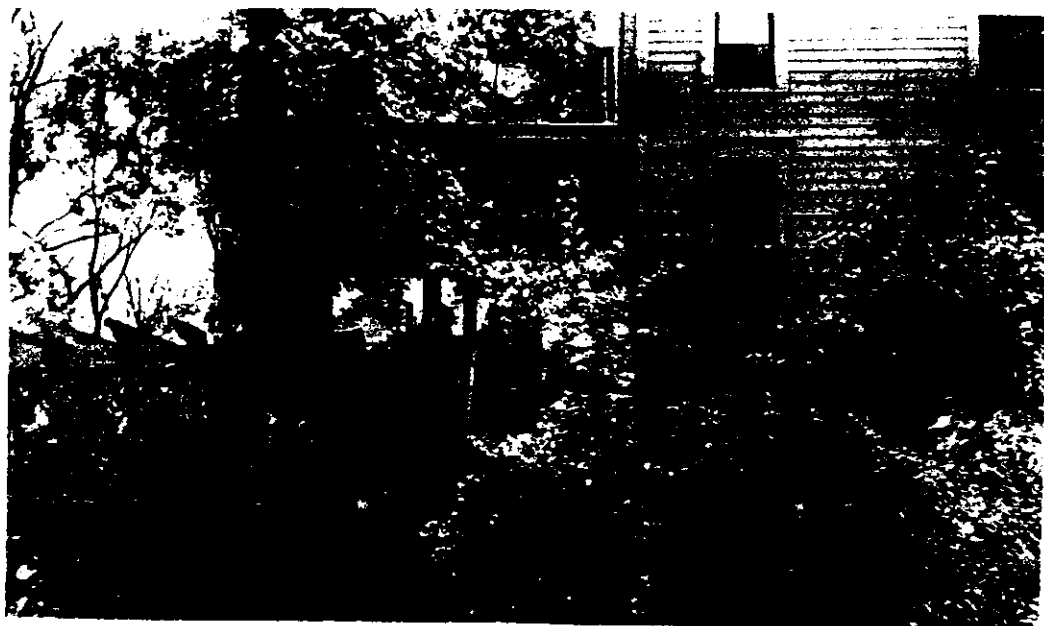


FIGURE 27

Truman Library Photo Archives, 67-388

1950 View Looking Southeast

May 2, 1950

Taken from an album showing improvements around the Independence Square area, the photograph shows the November 1949 fence and April 1950 rear porch extension in place. Placement of telephone poles and various signs in the neighborhood are also apparent.

Source: Albert Schoenbreg, photographer.



house from the turn of the century to the present, the rear porch was always "shaded by grapevines."⁷⁴

Transforming the Gates-Wallace House Into the 'Summer White House', 1945

¹"Roosevelt's Death," Life (April 23, 1945), p. 19, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

²"Truman Sworn In In The White House; He Becomes 33rd President," Life (April 23, 1945), pp. 28-9, Mid Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

³Ibid., p. 28.

⁴"Presidential Home Town Abode To Get Some External Repairs," Examiner (May 3, 1945), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁵"New 'Hyde Park' of the West," Examiner (April 13, 1945), p. 4, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁶Conway H. Thompson, Thompson and Oddo Tree Surgery Co., North Kansas City, Mo., to Harry S Truman, letter, May 22, 1945. Truman's response to Thompson on May 25 read: "I don't think the place at home will need any landscaping." And, Rose A. Conway to Richard C. LeBre, Reliable Tree Service, Dundee, Illinois, letter, January 10, 1946. The response stated that care of the trees is "in the hands of local people and is being properly handled." See folder-The President's Home In Independence, Missouri, President's Personal File 1-G, HSTL.

⁷"Presidential Home Town Abode To Get Some External Repairs," Examiner (May 3, 1945), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁸"Dressing Up For Company?" Kansas City Star (May 21, 1945), p. 1; "Harry's On His Way Home, to Just Rest and Visit A Bit," Kansas City Star (no date, circa June 1945), folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1945 (misfiled), Research Room Vertical File, HSTL; and Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence,

Mo., June 30, 1983.

Another title for the house was given by the Democratic Committee's Women's Division which issued a press release on the First Family on April 13, 1945. They called the house "The Gates Victorian Mansion." See Bess Furman, "Trumans Give Up 5-Room Residence," New York Times (April 14, 1945), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1945, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁹"First Lady and Family Arrive Home," Examiner (June 4, 1945), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1945, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁰"Margaret Truman's Irish Setter Is First At Summer White House," Examiner (June 2, 1945), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

¹¹Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 22, 1983.

¹²"Truman Visits At Home; Returns to Washington," Examiner (July 2, 1945), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1945, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

Flagpole

¹³"Flag Pole Gift For Truman Yard: Through Efforts of City and Amer. Legion & Several Individuals, Standard Is Being Erected on Lawn," Examiner (June 25, 1945), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo. Newspaper accounts differ on the height of the standard from 20 feet to 30 feet.

¹⁴"Busy On Truman Plans: Jackson County Prepares A Welcome For President," Kansas City Star (June 26, 1945), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S July-Sept. 1945, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁵Ibid.; and, "City Is Scrubbed Up and Shined For Visit of Its Favorite Son," Examiner (June 26, 1945), p. 1. The newspaper reported that the city was awash with American flags in honor of the presidential homecoming.

¹⁶Paul P. Kennedy, "Home Town Opens Arms For Truman: Independence Would Welcome Him as Neighbor, but Many Doubt He Will Return," New York Times (December 10, 1952), p. 1, White House Scrapbooks, HSTL. The President's daughter stated that the flagpole seen today is original. Evidence of a concrete footing nearby can also be seen.

The Summer White House During the Truman Presidency, 1945-1953

¹⁷Harry S Truman did find time to get away from the White House for short vacations on the East Coast. He frequently sailed on the presidential yacht, S.S. Williamsburg.

¹⁸"Lights Go On For Yule Season In the Truman Family Home Here," Examiner (December 18, 1950), p. 1; "Lights Go On Again Soon At Home of Nation's 'First Family'," Examiner (December 6, 1951), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.; and, Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

¹⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," pp. 37-8.

²⁰"Truman's Home No San Clemente," Kansas City Times (September 6, 1973), P. 3D, folder-Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

²¹Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983. Gragg, due to serious health problems, was unavailable for an interview.

²²Margaret Truman, Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1956), pp. 209-10. Miss Truman also planted a flower garden which never quite materialized.

²³Margaret Truman, Harry S. Truman (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1973), pp. 448-9.

²⁴Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 36.

²⁵Margaret Truman, Letters from Father: The Truman Family's Personal Correspondence (New York: Arbor House, 1981), p. 150.

²⁶Ibid., p. 111.

²⁷Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 16.

²⁸Margaret Truman, Letters from Father, p. 151.

²⁹Burton Linoleum Company to Mrs. Harry S. Truman (c/o Mrs. Geor. Wallace), June 1, 1949, receipt, HSTL. The bill

amounted to \$130.45. The company did not charge for 8 hours of time spent patching the floor or for other labor costs.

³⁰Tucker's (Independence square) to Mrs. Harry Truman, June 1, 1948, receipt, HSTL. The bill was \$215.83.

³¹Ibid., June 30, 1949. The bill was \$746.20.

³²Ibid., March 25, 1950. The bill was \$566.90.

³³C. E. Sharp Plumbing, 110 W. Kansas, Independence, August 31, 1951, receipt, HSTL. The bill was \$125.78.

³⁴"Xmas in America," The Modern Motorman (Sydney, Australia), (December 1949), pp. 4-5, folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1949, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. Concerning the door wreath, the December 20, 1948, Examiner reported: "The traditional cedar wreath, which the ladies of the family usually fashion themselves, will appear on the big front door for the Yule festivities." See "President Truman Home Wednesday," p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

³⁵"President Ends Christmas Visit," Examiner (December 26, 1950), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.; and photograph, Kansas City Star (December 25, 1949), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1949, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

³⁶An article in 1951 stated that the annual Christmas message to the nation was "usually pre-recorded." See "Grim and Tired President Is Home For Holiday Visit," Examiner (December 24, 1951), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

³⁷"president Back To Work After A Restful Day," Examiner (December 26, 1951), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

³⁸"Truman In Startling Victory: Truman Neighborhood Scene of Excitement Throughout Night," Examiner (November 3, 1948), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1948, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

³⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 37.

⁴⁰"President's Home Visit Curtailed," Examiner (June 26, 1950), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1950, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

United States Secret Service

⁴¹Public Law 82-79 (July 16, 1951), which gave the Secret Service permanent authority, for the first time legally provided for the protection of the President, his immediate family, the President-elect, and the Vice-President upon his request. Secret Service protection of all past presidents had been upon their request. Excerpts from the History of the United States Secret Service, 1865-1975, reprinted from the Service Star (Department of the Treasury, U.S. Secret Service, 1975), p. 32.

⁴²Sue Gentry, "A Quiet Transition To Private Life As The Trumans Return Home," Examiner (January 22, 1953), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo. The two agents were James F. McDermott and Arleigh J. Wade.

⁴³Interview with U.S. Secret Service officials, Washington, D.C., August 11-12, 1983. When Truman left office, all records on him were destroyed.

⁴⁴"Harry Truman's Missouri," Life (July 1945), p. 83, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1945, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁴⁵Major Charles G. Heitzeberg, Asst. Sec., General Staff, War Department, to Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, memo, October 8, 1945, folder-The President's Home In Independence, Mo., President's Personal File 1-G, HSTL.

Security Booth

⁴⁶"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House report No. 93-1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁴⁷Sue Gentry, "A Quiet Transition To Private Life As The Trumans Return Home," Examiner (January 22, 1953), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S January 1953, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁴⁸Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 22, 1983.

⁴⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 31.

⁵⁰Helen Worden Erskine, "Truman In Retirement," Collier's (February 4, 1955), p. 21, folder-Truman, Harry S Jan.-March 1955, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵¹Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, June 30, 1983.

Wrought Iron Picket Fence

⁵²"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93-1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵³"A Holiday and Ovation Tonight For Mr. Truman," Examiner (November 3, 1948), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1948, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵⁴"Vacationing Motorists Pause At Truman Home By Dozens Daily," (July 8, 1949), p. 1, and "Tourists Swarm By Summer White House," (August 22, 1949), Examiner, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁵⁵Henry P. Chiles, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., November 1, 1961 and August 14, 1962, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, p. 57.

⁵⁶Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 33.

⁵⁷"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93-1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵⁸Robert H. Ferrell, editor, Off The Record: The Private Papers of Harry S. Truman (New York: Harper and Row, 1980), p. 167. The letter from Truman was dated October 29, 1949.

⁵⁹"Fencing-Up the Summer White House," Examiner (November 23, 1949), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North

Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁶⁰Jack Williams, "Iron Fence at the Summer White House Figures in Truman Plans," Kansas City Times (December 5, 1952), p. 1, White House Scrapbooks, HSTL.

⁶¹Merle Miller, Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman (New York: Berkley Publishing Corporation, 1973), p. 397; and Harry S Truman, Mr. Citizen (New York: Popular Library, 1953), p. 25. Mr. Truman was in error when he stated in this second source that the fence was erected in 1947, but here he related one of his favorite stories about the fence: "That fence always reminds me of what some smart alecs of those days after World War I used to say: 'The French fought for liberty, the British fought to control the seas, but the Americans fought for souvenirs.'"

⁶²Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 22, 1983.

⁶³Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983. Sanders is the individual who painted the fence.

⁶⁴Memorandum, February 17, 1977, Independence/Truman Detail to Washington Office, Secret Service Files, Division of Property, folder-Correspondence 1977, Washington, D.C.

Painting the Exterior

⁶⁵"Dressing Up For Company," Kansas City Star (May 21, 1945), p. 1.

⁶⁶Interviews, Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace and Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, June 14, 1983; and Robert Sanders, June 30, 1983, Independence, Mo.

⁶⁷"Harry's On His Way Home, to Just Rest and Visit A Bit," Kansas City Star (no date, circa June 1945), folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1945, (misfiled), Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁶⁸Clyde A. Balding to Harry S Truman, letter, May 9, 1949, folder-The President's Home In Independence, Missouri, President's Personal File 1-G, HSTL.

Rear Porches

⁶⁹Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30,

1983. Sanders obtained this information through Gragg's wife. Gragg, due to serious health problems, was unavailable for an interview.

⁷⁰"Truman's Home No San Clemente," Kansas City Times (September 6, 1973), p. 3D, folder-Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. There is no indication of any Federal funds used for this project.

⁷¹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," pp. 34-5.

⁷²Mrs. Mary Shaw (William Coleman) Branton, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 20, 1983.

⁷³Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace and Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interviews, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁷⁴Mary Paxton Keeley, Oral History Interview, Columbia, Mo., July 12, 1966, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, p. 52.

CHAPTER TEN

TRANSITION FROM WASHINGTON

- * Madge Gates Wallace Dies in the White House, 1952
- * The Homecoming: Retirement at 219 North Delaware
- * Madge Wallace's Estate: The Trumans Purchase 219 North Delaware, July 1953

Madge Gates Wallace Dies in the White House, 1952

For nearly a decade, Mrs. Madge Wallace lived with the Trumans in Washington--in apartments, Blair House, and the White House--and at her own home in Independence. Bess Truman insisted on the arrangement, even when her brothers Frank and George offered to have their aging mother live with them. The First Lady would not hear of it, stating, "It's a daughter's duty to look after her mother."¹

The President's mother-in-law was a proud woman who insisted upon paying her own way. In August 1946, Bess Truman forwarded to her husband a \$40 check from Mrs. Wallace which Mrs. Wallace insisted should go toward the grocery bill at the Summer White House. Harry Truman responded:

Wish your mother wouldn't insist on assuming these bills. She should sit back and let us do the worrying as she didn't in days gone by. I'd like her to feel she hasn't a financial worry in the world as long as I have a job and I want my mother to feel the same way. Don't tell her, but I'll invest her payment of the grocery bill in the game of chance, which I anticipate on the Williamsburg beginning Friday.²

Almost a month before the Truman administration became history, Madge Gates Wallace, age 90, died. She lingered for two weeks after suffering a stroke which progressed into

pneumonia. She died at 11:35 a.m., December 5, 1952, in her White House bedroom. With her at her death were the President and Mrs. Truman, and the family physician, Dr. Wallace H. Graham.³ On December 7, the First Family flew back to Independence for the funeral. The service, held at 3 p.m., December 8, was private and was held at 219 North Delaware.⁴ According to her wishes, Madge Wallace's casket was placed in the parlor/music room and an Episcopal minister lead the service. After the funeral, the body was taken to Woodlawn Cemetery for internment in the Gates family plot.⁵

State functions in the White House were cancelled during the month-long family mourning period for Mrs. Wallace. Christmas of 1952, the last during the Truman presidency and the first without Mrs. Wallace, was not spent at the Independence family home as was customary, but in the White House. Only once before, 1947, had the Trumans remained at the White House for Christmas, always preferring to go to their own home in Missouri.⁶

The Homecoming: Retirement at 219 North Delaware

Harry S and Bess Wallace Truman left Washington, D.C., immediately following the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower

on January 20, 1953. The former President and his wife were bound for their home in Independence and a well-deserved rest from the rigors of public service. The Trumans, private citizens once again and without Secret Service protection, boarded a train en route for their native Missouri. Along its westbound route, the train passed through cities and towns alike where crowds of people had gathered to greet and cheer the former First Family. On the evening of January 22, 1953, the train pulled into the Independence depot of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The sight which awaited the couple later made Bess Truman admit that maybe all the years of public service had indeed been worth it.

Approximately 10,000 people turned out to applaud Harry and Bess Truman and welcome them home to Independence. An estimated 8,500 people jammed the vicinity of the railroad depot, and 1,500 more surrounded 219 North Delaware paralyzing the neighborhood for a six-block radius. Twelve Independence police officers were stationed in front of the Truman home as the couple emerged from their automobile, posed for photographs, and made their way up the walk and through the front doors. Harry and Bess Truman had come home to stay.⁷

Madge Wallace's Estate: The Trumans Purchase 219 North Delaware, 1953

Unlike her parents, Madge Gates Wallace died intestate. Frank Gates Wallace, her oldest son, financial adviser, and conductor of the family's interests in the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company, was appointed administrator of the estate. Madge Wallace's four children, Bess Truman, Frank G. Wallace, George P. Wallace, and David "Fred" Wallace, agreed to divide their mother's estate equally between them. There never was a question of who among the four would receive the Gates-Wallace mansion. The three Wallace brothers had their own established homes and 219 North Delaware, the Summer White House, had been the home of Bess Wallace Truman for nearly half a century. The house would go to her.⁸ Margaret Truman recalled:

...my grandmother died without leaving a will so the whole family had agreed that Mother and Dad should live here. This should be their house. But they insisted on buying, assuming that everybody had a quarter share, and paying everybody what a quarter share was worth. That they would own it free and clear.⁹

The first and largest of four financial claims filed against Madge Wallace's estate was by Harry S Truman. He asked the probate court for the payment of \$9,373.64 to cover the cost of labor and material for unspecified repairs to the residence at 219 North Delaware. The period the repairs

covered was from August 8, 1945, to November 28, 1950.¹⁰

According to Truman's lawyer, Rufus Burrus, the claim covered the cost of the 1950 rear porch extension, roof repairs, and interior repairs.¹¹

The probate court allowed the Truman claim on March 20, 1953. On March 28, it approved another request by estate administrator, Frank G. Wallace. Wallace declared that since the estate was unable to pay its creditors without converting some of its assets into cash, Mrs. Madge Wallace's Waggoner-Gates Milling Company stocks should be sold. The court agreed and two certificates were sold to the Waggoner family for \$23,531.25.¹²

The remaining three claims filed against the estate also involved the Gates-Wallace house. On April 22, 1953, John S. Hurst filed a claim for \$625 for "repairs to the property caused by windstorm." Similarly, on June 16, the Earl Hawkins Roofing Company filed claim for \$239.60 for "repairs to roof caused by windstorm." The final claim on July 8 by the Western Adjustment and Inspection Company asked for \$864.60 "covering damage caused by windstorm."¹³

There is no indication when the windstorm occurred or when the above stated repairs were accomplished. The total sum of

repairs conducted at 219 North Delaware filed against the estate of Madge Gates Wallace was \$11,102.84.

The process for transferring ownership of 219 North Delaware to Harry and Bess Truman began and was completed in July 1953. Possibly because the Trumans wanted to speed the legal process or avoid certain tax requirements, the heirs of Madge Wallace deeded the property to Frank G. Wallace, oldest son and estate administrator, on July 17, 1953.¹⁴ Eight days later, on July 25, 1953, Frank G. Wallace and Natalie O. Wallace, his wife, in turn deeded the property at 219 North Delaware to

Harry S. Truman and Elizabeth (Bess) Truman, husband and wife, as an estate by the entirety with right of survivorship... in the consideration of the sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR and other valuable considerations.¹⁵

According to family lawyer Rufus Burrus, the couple wanted the property placed in both their names in order for it to revert automatically to the surviving partner¹⁶ (See Figure 28).

The appraised price for the property was revealed on February 8, 1954, when the final settlement of the estate was filed in probate court. The value of the real estate, not including "household effects and other chattels," was appraised at \$25,000.¹⁷ Bess Truman's share of the property, therefore,

Missouri Warranty Deed

1934 PAGE 631

This Indenture, Made on the 25th day of July A. D., One

Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-three by and between

FRANK G. WALLACE and NATALIE O. WALLACE, his wife,

of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri parties of the first part, and
 HARRY S. TRUMAN and ELIZABETH (Bess) TRUMAN, husband and wife, as an
 estate by the entirety with right of survivorship,

of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri parties of the second part,

WITNESSETH: THAT THE SAID PARTIES OF THE FIRST PART, in consideration of the
 sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR, and other valuable consideration - - DOLLARS,
 to them paid by said parties of the second part (the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged), do
 by these presents, Grant, Bargain and Sell, Convey and Confirm unto the said parties of the second
 part their heirs and assigns, the following described lots, tracts or parcels of land
 lying, being and situate in the County of Jackson and State of Missouri, to wit:

All of Lots Two (2) and Three (3), MOORE'S
 ADDITION in and to the CITY OF INDEPENDENCE,
 Jackson County, Missouri.



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD The premises aforesaid with all and singular, the rights, privileges, appur-
 tenances and immunities thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said parties of the
 second part and unto their heirs and assigns forever; the said Frank G. Wallace and
 Natalie O. Wallace hereby covenanting that they are
 lawfully seized of an indefeasible estate in fee of the premises herein conveyed; that they have
 good right to convey the same; that the said premises are free and clear from any incumbrance done or suf-
 fered by them or those under whom they claim; and that they will
 warrant and defend the title to the said premises unto the said parties of the second part and unto
 their heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons
 whomsoever

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said parties of the first part have hereunder set their
 hands and seal the day and year above written.

Frank G. Wallace (SEAL)
 Natalie O. Wallace (SEAL)

came to \$6,250. To purchase the remaining three-fourths interests in the house, Harry and Bess Truman paid at least \$18,750.

On May 10, 1954, the probate court approved the final settlement. The financial breakdown was as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Financial Settlement</u>
Elizabeth (Bess) Truman	Daughter	Bonds \$4,000.00 Cash 4,385.90
Frank G. Wallace	Son	Bonds 4,000.00 Cash 4,385.90
George P. Wallace	Son	Bonds 4,000.00 Cash 4,385.90
David Frederick Wallace	Son	Bonds 4,000.00 Cash 4,385.90
Total:		\$33,543.60 ¹⁸

With the one-fourth interest in 219 North Delaware, each heir received a total of \$14,635.90 from their mother's estate.

Madge Gates Wallace Dies In the White House, 1952

¹Robert Underhill, The Truman Persuasions (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1981), p. 44.

²Robert Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983), p. 530. The letter from the White House was dated August 12, 1946.

³"Mrs. Wallace Is Dead," Kansas City Star (December 5, 1952), p. 1, White House Scrapbooks, HSTL.

⁴"Mrs. Wallace's Rites Simple," Examiner (December 8, 1952), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁵Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 40.

⁶Austin Stevens, "President Carves At Family Dinner," New York Times (December 25, 1952), White House Scrapbooks, HSTL.

The Homecoming: Retirement at 219 North Delaware

⁷"Home To Cheers," Kansas City Times (January 22, 1953), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Jan.-March 1953, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. Margaret had established her own residence in New York and did not accompany her parents on this trip home.

Madge Wallace's Estate: The Trumans Purchase 219 North Delaware, July 1953

⁸Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 42.

¹⁰Receipt for Claim, Harry S Truman to Administrator Frank G. Wallace, undated, No. 9784, Estate of Madge Gates Wallace, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

¹¹Col. Rufus Burrus, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 22, 1983.

¹²"Application For Authority To Sell Shares of Stock In Waggoner-Gates Milling Company," Frank G. Wallace, Administrator, filed March 28, 1953, No. 9784, Estate of Madge Gates Wallace, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

¹³Semi-Annual Settlement, Frank G. Wallace, Administrator, September 30, 1953, No. 9784, Estate of Madge Gates Wallace, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

¹⁴Missouri Warranty Deed, George P. and Mary S. Wallace,

David Frederick and Christine M. Wallace, and Elizabeth (Bess) and Harry S Truman, to Frank G. Wallace, July 17, 1953, Land Book 1034, Page 627, No. 609417, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

¹⁵Missouri Warranty Deed, Frank G. and Natalie O. Wallace to Harry S and Elizabeth (Bess) Truman, July 25, 1983, Land Book 1034, Page 631, No. 609418, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

¹⁶Col. Rufus Burrus, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 22, 1983.

¹⁷Report of Appraiser, February 8, 1954, No. 9784, Estate of Madge Gates Wallace, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

¹⁸Finding and Order Discharging Administrator, Final Settlement Approved, May 10, 1954, Frank Wallace, Administrator, to the Jackson County Probate Court, No. 9784, Estate of Madge Gates Wallace, Office of the Probate Court of Jackson County, Independence, Mo.

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
 - REMODELING THE ATTIC
 - SHORING-UP THE MAIN FLOOR
 - REMODELING THE BASEMENT
 - MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS
 - THE REJECTED DRIVEWAY JOB, 1956

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

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

²Ibid.

³Harry 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

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

⁶Ibid., pp. 14; 36.

⁷Robert 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.

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

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

¹⁰Robert 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.

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

¹²Ibid. 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.

¹³Bess 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.

¹⁴Robert 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?).

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

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

¹⁷Although 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.

¹⁸Robert 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.

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

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

²²Robert 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

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

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

REMODELING THE ATTIC

²⁵Agreement, 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.

²⁶Ibid.

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

²⁸C.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."

²⁹List 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.

³⁰Agreement, 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

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

REMODELING THE BASEMENT

33Ibid., 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.

34Ibid. 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

35Ibid. 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.

36Agreement, 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.

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

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

³⁹Agreement, 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.

⁴⁰Agreement, 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.

⁴¹Agreement, 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

⁴²Agreement, 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.

⁴³Agreement, 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.

⁴⁴Ibid. The amount for the work was \$5.30.

⁴⁵Agreement, 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.

⁴⁶Charles 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

⁴⁷Charles 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.

CHAPTER TWELVE

AN ACTIVE RETIREMENT AT THE TRUMAN HOME

- * Activities, Events, and Changes, 1953-1955
- * "Person To Person": The Nation Sees the Trumans' Home, 1955
- * Activities, Events, and Changes, 1956-1970
- * Gas Yard Lamp
- * Pergola
- * Sundial
- * Robert Sanders Painting Company
- * Replacing the Roof

Activities, Events, and Changes, 1953-1955

Harry and Bess Truman quickly settled into a normal, routine life much like the way they lived before they were both catapulted to the pinnacle of national politics. A common sight in Independence during the 1950s and early 1960s was that of Harry Truman performing his daily early morning constitutional up and down the sidewalks of the surrounding neighborhood. An early riser, the former President awoke around 6:00 every morning. He would leave his wife still sleeping in their bedroom, walk through the passageway into his daughter's childhood room, and then into the small, north bedroom. It was this room that the President used to dress, and where, in later years, he would sometimes sleep on the low-lying, twin bed. Before leaving the house for his walk, Mr. Truman would take a stick with a nail in the bottom and patrol the grounds picking up litter. Returning from his walk, he would read the morning paper, write, and wait until breakfast at 8:00.¹

Even though Bess Truman ran the household, Harry Truman helped her whenever he was home from his office at the Federal Reserve building in Kansas City. He had his own share of daily "chores." One of the chores the former President never wanted to do, but that his wife coaxed him to do, was to mow the lawn. An incident was one of Harry Truman's favorite stories:

There was one chore she did ask me to do, which I wanted to get out of doing. That was to mow the lawn. I think she did this mainly to tease me a little. She takes great pride in the yard and puts in many hours tending the rose garden. We do call in outside help to tend to the grounds and trees and cutting of the grass. But one weekend Mrs. Truman said that I had done nothing about the lawn. So I waited till Sunday morning, just as our neighbors were beginning to pass on their way to church, and I took out the lawn mower and started to cut the grass. Mrs. Truman, preparing to leave for church, was horrified to see me cutting the lawn.

"What are you doing on Sunday?" she asked.

"I'm doing what you asked me to do," I replied.

Meanwhile the neighbors continued to pass by the house. Their glances were not lost on Mrs. Truman. She never asked me to mow the lawn again.²

Letters and gifts to the couple came in a never-ending stream. Two years after their homecoming, Bess Truman was reported still "occupied with fitting the mementoes and possessions acquired in Washington into the Victorian decor and family heirlooms. Gifts still flow in; Some are kept, others not...."³ Bess Truman also resumed regular meetings of her Tuesday Bridge Club which usually met on the home's rear porch. The group of neighborhood ladies met once every other Tuesday to play bridge. This was the only regular entertaining conducted at the home for the couple went out "fairly often" for social engagements⁴ (For period photographs, see Figures 29, 30, and 31).

FIGURE 29

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-3727

1953 Retirement (1)

Mr. Truman sitting in the living room reading The Legislative Struggle. Note the Persian rug, original fabric on the chair which is now covered, and wallpaper patterns.

Source: From the album, Mr. Citizen.



FIGURE 30

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-3728

1953 Retirement (2)

Harry S Truman plays his daughter's piano, which during the presidential years appeared in the White House, in the parlor/music room of the former Summer White House.

Source: From the album, Mr. Citizen.



66-3728

The only time I've played the piano since coming home was one night in June when it was too hot to do anything else.

FIGURE 31

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-3729

1953 Retirement (3)

Harry and Bess Truman read in the living room. Note the Persian rug and uncovered sofa and chair.

Source: From the album, Mr. Citizen.

[See also Figure 21 for the same period photograph of the back porch].



We do a lot of reading nights, just the two of us. I'm interested most in history, but Mrs. Truman likes a good mystery. Our lights are usually off by 11 o'clock.

Home for less than six months, the Trumans left for Washington to visit with old friends. Typical of their low-key, average lifestyle, the couple made the trip in their own car. The large black sedan pulled out of the driveway at 219 North Delaware at 7 a.m., June 19, 1953, with the former President behind the wheel. They scheduled three days in which to make the trip. The couple caused such a commotion along the way, especially at the hotels, they never made such a trip again.⁵

This public adulation never abated; it was a fact with which the Trumans lived and which intensified their own need for privacy. Even at their beloved 219 North Delaware, their actions were observed. In the summer of 1954, for example, Bess Truman had a garden umbrella, table, and chairs assembled in the backyard. One afternoon she sat there to read, but so many tourists gathered at the fence to stare at her that she quickly retreated into the house.⁶

Serious illness first interrupted the tranquillity of retirement in June 1954 when the 70-year-old President suffered a severe gall bladder and appendicitis attack. Mr. Truman returned home from the hospital following major surgery on July 9. An air conditioner was the gift from Mrs. Truman to keep

her husband from suffering in the hot Missouri summer. It was installed in the first floor guest bedroom where Harry Truman took up temporary quarters during his recuperation.⁷

During his hospital stay, Harry S Truman approved the City of Independence's proposal to locate his presidential library in Slover Park, less than a mile from his home.⁸ In a July 22, 1954, informal ceremony on the home's screened-in rear porch, the President accepted a check from the president of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, one of the first donations for the construction of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.⁹

The reception following the groundbreaking for the Truman Library was held at 219 North Delaware on May 8, 1955, President Truman's 71st birthday. The Truman family hosted the combination groundbreaking-birthday dinner for nearly 150 out-of-town dignitaries. As the guests entered through the front door, Bess Truman stood in the vestibule to greet them with Harry Truman immediately inside the foyer. Margaret Truman stood in the middle of the central hallway directing the guests to the dining room by way of the parlor/music room and library.

The country ham, smoked turkey, and hot biscuit dinner was

served on the large dining room table which was "covered with a lace cloth and centered with an arrangement of yellow snapdragons, yellow gladioli, and carnations." The meal was prepared with additional hired help by the Truman's cook, Miss Vietta Garr, in the Truman kitchen. Mother and daughter worked unpretentiously refilling trays and glasses for the distinguished guests who were all seated in tables and chairs on the rear lawn.¹⁰

"Person To Person": The Nation Sees The Trumans' Home, 1955

Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) television cameras converged on 219 North Delaware on May 27, 1955, to present Edward R. Murrow's "Person To Person" interview show. From CBS studios in New York, Margaret Truman acted as guest host and interviewer for Murrow who was on assignment for CBS News in London. The focus was on Harry and Bess Truman in retirement. Broadcast live from the home, the segment marked the first time the 30-minute program's producers devoted their entire program to one family home, and the first time ever that "such a telecast had been conducted in the home of a president or a former president."¹¹ It also marked the first time that television cameras were permitted inside the Truman home.

Television crews arrived several days in advance of the telecast. Nearly 40 CBS technicians, four cameras, and two tons of other equipment were allowed onto the property. Two large micro-wave transmitter cones were elevated to the tops of telephone poles adjacent to the home on Truman Road capable of transmitting 500-watt beams to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company building in downtown Kansas City. Half of the carriage house/barn was converted into a control center.

The entire first floor, with the exception of the bedroom, was flooded with television lights. Physical changes to the home to accommodate the filming included moving some of the furniture. The Examiner reported:

...furniture was cleared from some of the rooms to give the television lens a wide focus. The "spare" furniture was shoved into the downstairs guest bedroom, Mrs. Truman said.¹²

The residence had undergone "much housecleaning and furbishing" before the broadcast. Mrs. Truman and her maid/cook, Vietta Garr, did "a little grumbling... about the complexity of wires and equipment" strewn throughout the house and the cigarette ashes on the floors.¹³

According to the couples' wishes, the interview began with the Trumans sitting on the rear porch where normally "they sit

and chat with old friends in the spring, summer and fall."¹⁴ The conversation between daughter and parents ranged from the weather to politics to baseball. The cameras proceeded from the rear porch to the kitchen where Vietta Garr was baking brownies. Then they shifted back to the porch from where the Trumans walked to the side porch entering the dining room, past the stairway and into the living room. There they sat on the couch in front of the colored glass bay windows. From there they proceeded to the music room and sat on the settee against the north wall. Margaret Truman pointed out a painting by Sir Winston Churchill done at Marrakech and an original from Grandma Moses hanging over the piano. Mr. Truman played part of Paderewski's "Minuet" before the couple walked into the library. Margaret noted that her father's work table was gone to which Mrs. Truman responded, "We had to have some room in here today." While in the library, the icon from the Mosque of St. Sophia given to the President by the Queen of Romania was featured. The icon was propped up on the stereo/phonograph against the bookshelves.

From the 1955 view of the interior of the Truman home compared to its present appearance, there are no startling changes. It reflects most of the "modernization" or improvements which had begun in 1953. Over the span of 28 years, the furnishings and interior decoration have remained

nearly the same.¹⁵ (See Figures 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38).

Activities, Events, and Changes, 1956-1970

A second large reception was held at the Truman home following the April 21, 1956, wedding of Mary Margaret Truman and E. Clifton Daniel, Jr. The wedding took place at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Independence where Harry and Bess Truman were married 37 years before. Invited guests were given the run of the house as wedding gifts were displayed on the beds in the second floor bedrooms¹⁶ (See Figure 39).

June 1957, saw Harry and Bess Truman become grandparents when the first of their four grandsons was born. A nursery corner was arranged in the second floor master bedroom which stood ready anytime the Daniel family came to visit.¹⁷

A third and final reception was held at the Truman home on July 6, 1957, following the dedication of the Harry S. Truman Library. The dinner was the same as that which was served at the 1954 groundbreaking reception. The house was decorated with red roses, and pink roses served as the centerpiece on the dining room table. Among the 400 selected guests for the

"Person To Person" with Edward R. Murrow (Guest Host, Miss Mary Margaret Truman). Photographs from the May 27, 1955, television film.

Truman Library Photo Archives, reel to reel film

FIGURE 32: Rear (east) screened porch.*

FIGURE 33: Cook Vietta Garr in the kitchen.*

FIGURE 34: Dining room.*

FIGURE 35: Living room (Truman Library, 64-1053).

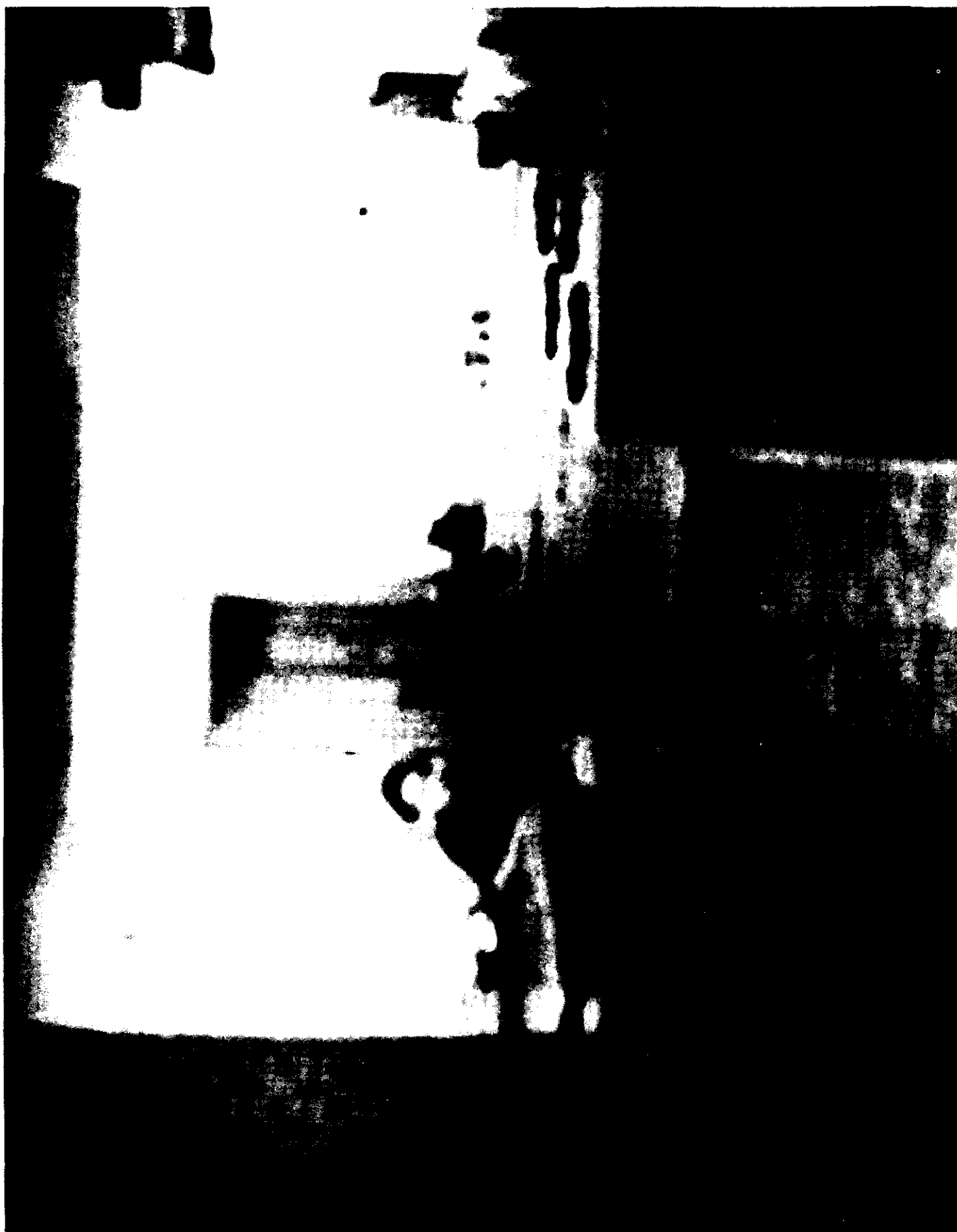
FIGURE 36: First floor central hall.*

FIGURE 37: Parlor/music room.*

FIGURE 38: Library (Truman Library, 64-1050).

[*Note: The poor quality of this early television film has resulted in the unfocused photographic prints].











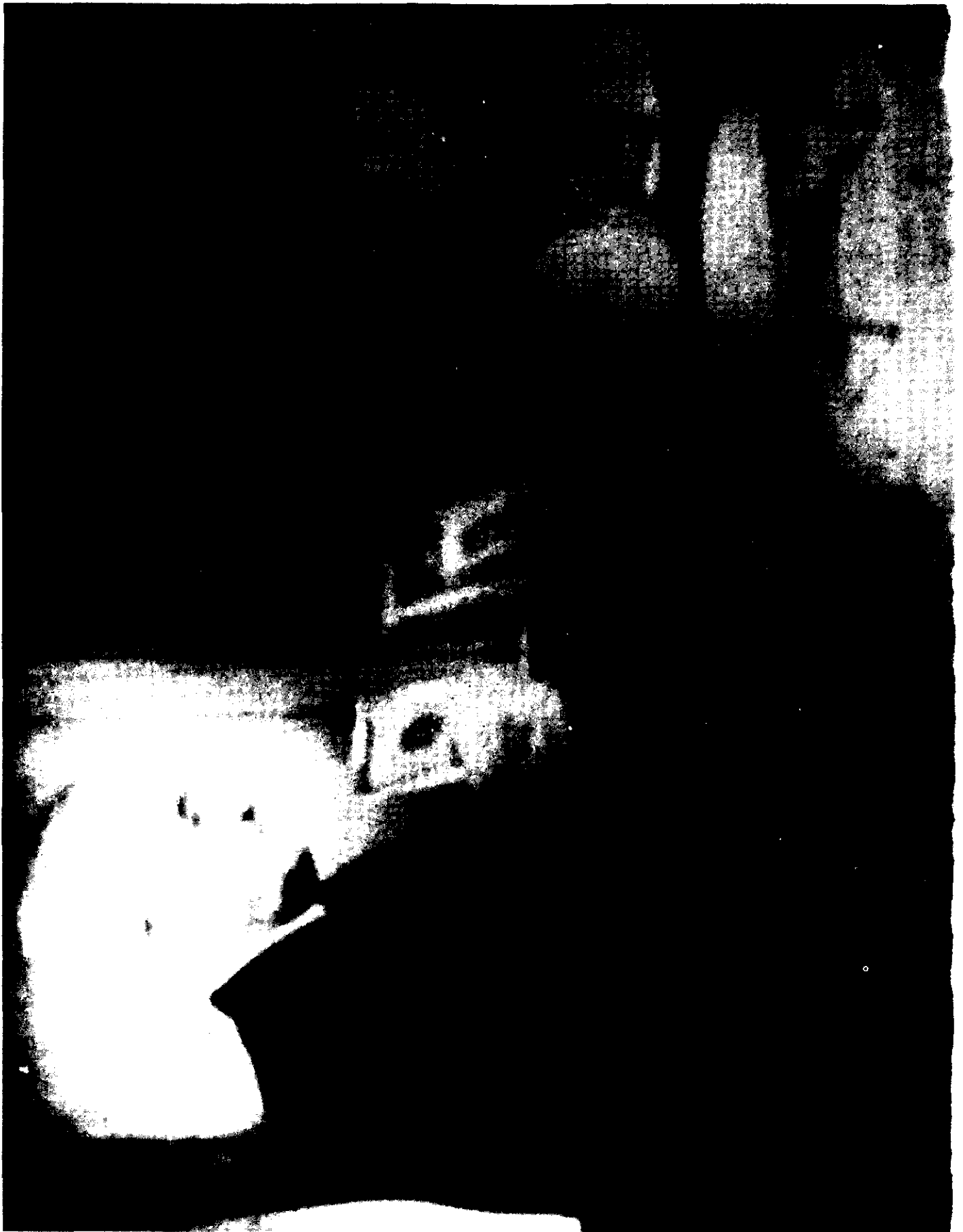




FIGURE 39

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-1628

Margaret Truman's Wedding Day

April 21, 1956

The curious gather outside the Truman home on the day of Margaret Truman Daniel's wedding. Note the screen doors at the front entrance and the presence of the television antenna braced by the chimney.

Source: Bert Landfried, photographer.



dedication and reception were former President Herbert Hoover, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Baines Johnson, Senate Minority Leader William F. Knowland, Dean Acheson, W. Averell Harriman, and Missouri Senator Stuart Symington.¹⁸

By 1956, a television antenna was installed on the roof of the Truman home to improve reception on a black-and-white television set, a gift from their daughter who also gave them the color TV presently seen in the music room. Harry Truman, however, rarely watched television, not only because "it hurt his eyes," but because he preferred to read books and newspapers to keep abreast of current events. The former President did watch special broadcasts like presidential speeches and news conferences. Bess Truman enjoyed watching baseball games and was an avid fan of the Kansas City Athletics. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Truman spent much more of her time watching TV.¹⁹

Only during this retirement period did the Trumans realize financial stability. Harry Truman had never been a wealthy man. His salary as County Judge, Senator (\$10,000 a year), Vice President, and President was never really sufficient to care for his family, participate in the political process, and

fulfill all his engagements as a public servant. In the early 1940s, the Truman farm in Grandview had to be sold because of a mortgage foreclosure. The sale of publishing rights to his memoirs, Year of Decisions (1955) and Years of Trial and Hope (1956) finally provided the couple financial stability. Truman had devoted his own time and money raising funds to build the Truman Library. Out of his own pocket, he maintained a clerical staff of three to handle his voluminous correspondence. Coupled with repairs and renovations on their home, the Trumans, while living comfortably, were by no means "wealthy." Indeed, economizing on their modernization project was a priority for Harry and Bess Truman.²⁰ A Federal pension for the former President began on August 28, 1958, when legislation granting former presidents an annual pension of \$75,000, was approved. Two-thirds of the sum was targeted for clerical help while \$25,000 was paid directly to Mr. Truman from the U.S. Treasury.²¹

In the early 1960s, Harry Truman worked with film director Merle Miller taping 141 interviews concerning his presidency and government in general. For a day, the film crew was allowed inside 219 North Delaware--only the second time this had been permitted--to film the Trumans at home. Like the 1955 "Person To Person" interview, only the first floor was filmed. So cumbersome was the volume of film that no network or public

television organization ever aired the series,²² although a portion was purchased by Screen Gems and some footage was broadcast.

Serious illness struck the President again on October 13, 1964, following an accident at his home. Truman was in the second floor bathroom when he slipped on a mat and fell forward on his right side. He struck his chest against the bathtub, fracturing two ribs. His eyeglasses were also broken in the fall causing multiple contusions to his right eyebrow and forehead. The eighty-year-old former President was discovered unconscious on the bathroom floor by Mrs. Arletta Brown, a maid, who called for an ambulance.²³

President Truman never regained his good health following the accident. Trips to his office at the Truman Library became rare as did his customary neighborhood walks. His health further deteriorated as a result of a July 30, 1966, colitis attack which confined him to his home. His recuperation was slow. The couple stayed in Independence for two years without leaving until March 16, 1967, when they vacationed two weeks in Key West, Florida. Mrs. Truman remarked, "It's the longest I have stayed home since 1934."²⁴

A major component of the President's health problems

involved vertigo which kept him out of the public eye at 219 North Delaware. In mid 1967, he was reported in the press to read a book each day while sitting in his overstuffed chair in the small library room. His personal secretary, Miss Rose Conway, came to the house each weekday morning for dictation of correspondence. While Harry Truman had the afternoons free to read and take catnaps, Bess Truman kept busy with household chores and "weekly trips to the bookstore and public library."²⁵

During this time period of ill health, the Trumans remained very much interested in the community and especially their immediate neighborhood. On September 19, 1967, a request to the Independence City Planning Commission to rezone a tract of land north of Truman Road and east of Delaware from two-family residential and apartment residential to planned apartment residential was blocked by angry property owners. A petition signed by 32 neighborhood residents, including Harry and Bess Truman, denounced the rezoning proposal to build two and three bedroom townhouse apartments in their neighborhood. Although some argued for a zoning change back to single-family residences, the group's attorney argued for maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood because the Truman home would someday be "a national shrine."²⁶

In May 1968, a reporter analyzed the method that local residents used to determine what the Trumans were doing; they watched the lights shining through the windows:

The library at the Truman home is only dimly lighted through its windows, and a light always burns when the room is occupied.

Neighbors and passersby watch this light for a clue to the former President's activities. The light goes off about seven each evening, and moments thereafter a light goes on in a bedroom on the second floor, at the south side of the big old house.

There Truman and his wife read, listen to the music he loves, or perhaps watch television, particularly documentaries.²⁷

On October 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson paid his sixth visit during his presidency to 219 North Delaware. Johnson and Truman were good friends, both personally as well as politically. In tribute to Harry S Truman's role in helping realize the birth of the United Nations, President Johnson signed a bill designating October 24 an annual "U.N. Day" in the United States. Johnson also signed a proclamation praising Mr. Truman for his participation in helping create the international organization. Johnson's 24-minute visit and signing ceremony took place in the living room of 219 North Delaware²⁸ (See Appendix for two declarations).

One of Harry S Truman's last acts to commemorate the past

was a 1970 meeting at his home with members of his administration. April 12, 1970, marked the 25th anniversary of his succession to the presidency. Kept brief in deference to Truman's frail health, former Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder, and White House Counsel Charles S. Murphy gathered to reminisce with the former President.²⁹

On December 7, 1970, the Trumans purchased a Sears window air conditioning unit. Minor roof repair was done at the same time.³⁰ A new air conditioner was purchased from a different firm on July 22, 1972. The bill included "install[ing] and haul[ing] off old unit."³¹

(For period photographs, see Figures 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48.)

Gas Yard Lamp

The gas light which stands near the front gate entrance is a relatively recent addition to the property. The lamp, which illuminates the front (north) yard, was viewed by the Trumans as an added "safety precaution."³² The black old fashioned

FIGURE 40

Truman Library Photo Archives, 68-670

Living Room Fireplace Detail

Circa 1968

Unidentified man with Harry S Truman in front of the
living room fireplace.



FIGURE 41

Truman Library Photo Archives, 72-3488

Living Room Detail

July 6, 1968

Left to Right: Harry S Truman, Laura Hare Truman, and
John Ross Truman (nephew) following their wedding.

Source: Noland Papers.



FIGURE 42

Truman Library Photo Archives, 70-1288

Back Porch Decor

May 5, 1969

Mr. Hale with former President and Mrs. Harry S Truman on
the rear porch of their home.

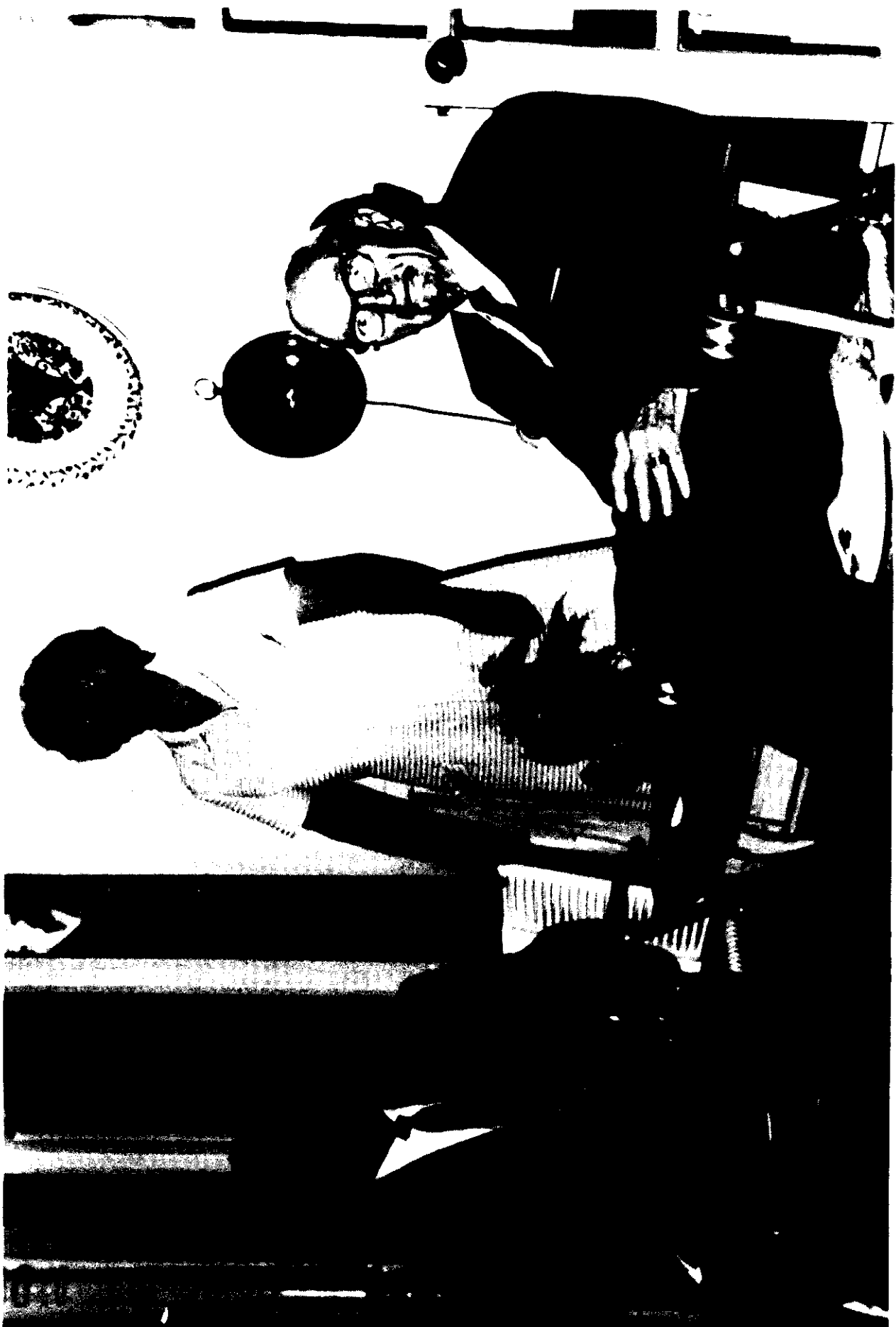


FIGURE 43

Truman Library Photo Archives, 70-1244

Southeast Living Room Detail

May 8, 1969

Harry S and Bess Wallace Truman on the former President's
birthday.

Source: John A. (Jack) Smith, photographer.



FIGURE 44

Truman Library Photo Archives, 70-1245

Southwest Living Room Detail

May 8, 1969

Mrs. Bess Wallace Truman sits in a chair amidst flowers
and a cake on her husband's birthday.

Source: John A. (Jack) Smith, photographer.



FIGURE 45

Truman Library Photo Archives, 72-4048

Library Room Detail

December 3, 1971

Paul Burns, Chief of the Secret Service Truman Protective Division, presents Harry S Truman with a new Secret Service badge.



FIGURES 46, 47, and 48

Truman Library Photo Archives, 71-857, 71-859, and 71-860

Truman Home From All Angles

December 1, 1970

These photographs were all taken by archivists at the Truman Library on the same day after a visit to the house. Figure 48 reveals the absence of the rose arbor/pergola.







style gas lamp was presented to the Trumans in 1964 by Hadco Products, Incorporated, of Littlestown, Pennsylvania. Shipped to the Truman Library, Independence Gas Service Company workmen transported it to the residence and installed it free of charge on June 24, 1964.³³

Called the "Gettysburg," this style of gas light was installed in the early 1960s in historic downtown Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and at the nearby Dwight D. Eisenhower farm. The Gettysburg is a replica of the mid-19th century handcrafted fixtures indigenous to New England. Made of cast aluminum, the light features solid brass accents.³⁴

It was Bess Truman's decision to have the light installed. The lamps were a popular fad in Independence in the early 1960s, and Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace had already had a gas light installed on her property at 605 West Truman Road.³⁵

The six-foot lamppost stands on a concrete base. The trench for the gas line was dug to the northeast corner of the property. Painter Robert Sanders recalls the day the yard lamp was installed. He remembers that Mrs. Truman, like a typical housewife faced with escalating utility bills, complained once she realized that the gas to operate the light would cost extra each month. She expressed her dismay at having to pay the

increased gas bills.³⁶

Pergola

The rose arbor, or "pergola" as the family called it, was built soon after 1924 to accent Mrs. Madge Wallace's rose garden. The pergola never sported any of the grapevines which enveloped the nearby rear porch with green, seedless grapes. It did, however, have rose vines. The original pergola was claimed by a windstorm before the presidential period and was rebuilt by order of Bess Truman. The reconstructed pergola was the July 24, 1944, site of the open-yard reception following Harry Truman's acceptance of the vice-presidential nomination. This structure was also claimed by a severe storm. A second reconstruction was not undertaken and the damaged pergola was carried away. The date for the removal of the pergola is unknown, but it did come before 1970³⁷ (See Figure 49).

Sundial

A concrete stand in the north side yard next to Truman Road, immediately north of the bird bath in the center of the pergola, once accommodated a sundial.³⁸ When the National Park

Service took possession of the property in December 1982, the sundial itself was missing. Margaret Truman's book, Souvenir, bears the sundial's inscription in its preface:

My Face Marks The Sunny Hours.
What Can You Say of Yours?³⁹

Since Margaret Truman's early childhood, the sundial has stood in this approximate position in the yard. It was formerly in the center of four of Mrs. Madge Wallace's rose beds which were separated by grass walkways. Immediately prior to World War II, the rose beds were covered by sod and the sundial was moved for a short time when a badminton course was set up for Margaret and her aunt and uncles to use.⁴⁰

Robert Sanders Painting Company

In the early summer of 1953, a family-run painting business was hired to paint the house. This same company continued to paint and maintain the structure until Mrs. Truman's death. The family company was run by Robert Sanders of Independence. Sanders and his fellow painters painted the house six times since 1953. Regular painting took place every five to six years and each time the job was done it took almost

FIGURE 49

Truman Library Photo Archives, 84-6-2

Pergola

Date Unknown

This photograph was taken from a slide found in the Truman home after Bess Truman's death. It is one of the few photographs which reveal the pergola and back stairs.

Source: Color slide taken from the Truman home, 1982.



30 days to complete. The last time the house was painted when Mr. Truman was alive was in June 1969.⁴¹

Regular maintenance work was included in the agreement. This maintenance usually consisted of trips once or twice a year to touch up areas which had begun to peel early and washing down the walls of the front and side porches where dirt accumulated and dulled the finish. Regular maintenance activity was especially concentrated on the north and west (front) facades which the passing tourists could readily see. Robert Sanders and his employees took immense pride in their work on the President's home and wanted it to appear at its best at all times. With the failing health of Mrs. Truman since 1973, no painting or maintenance retouching has been done for the last four to five years.

The first time the painting company worked at 219 North Delaware in 1953, Sanders signed a contract with Mr. Truman, but thereafter the agreements were verbal. Sanders described the condition of the exterior paint at that time as "in bad shape." He used 84 gallons of primer and 84 gallons of regular white Pittsburgh Paint. The barn was also primed and painted. While the structure obviously needed some immediate repairs, the Trumans could not afford them, but wanted it painted "to look presentable."

Green enamel paint was again used as trim on the doors and storm sashes. The color that Sanders used was called "Kentucky green." According to Sanders, this color was long used on the house, but from close examination of the trim areas, he determined that the original color used was black and that the original primer was yellow ocher.

The iron picket fence erected by the Secret Service in November 1949, was also painted twice by Sanders. Because the fence is the property of the Federal Government, the Trumans did not pay Sanders to paint it, but rather the General Services Administration did.⁴²

Replacing the Roof

The decorative slate roof which was installed on the 1885 Gates mansion had a long tradition of leaking. In the mid-1930s, the 50-year-old roof required extensive maintenance. Local sheet metal workers repaired or replaced sections of the flat metal decking and relaid new felt underlayment. Damaged guttering was also replaced at this time. The roofing contractors dealt with Judge Truman, not the home's owner, Mrs. Madge Wallace.⁴³

The slate roof was predominantly gray with a ribbon-like pattern of green slate decorating the bottom and top sections. By mid-century, however, the green had long since been bleached by the sun to a dull tan. The heavy slate, normally square in shape, was clip-cornered and laid in colorful, decorative patterns. Other slate tile colors which adorned the roof were red, black, and purple. Cut nails were used in the 1885 construction, not the customary copper variety.⁴⁴

A contract to conduct regular maintenance to repair leaks was held by the Hawkins Roofing Company from the presidential period until 1962. Mrs. Truman usually led workmen from room to room showing them where the water seepage had caused damage to the home's interior. In 1962, because the Trumans believed the roofing company had been negligent in its contractual obligations, they awarded a new roof maintenance contract to the Western Roofing Company of Kansas City. The Trumans chose the Western Roofing Company because of their trust in Tom Manson, a former Hawkins salesman, and now president of his own roofing company.

The general condition of the roof, even during the presidential period, was "very deteriorated." Most of the large slate tiles were cracked and broken from the many years

of harsh weather and constant patching.⁴⁵

In 1969, as a result of winter ice damage and a severe July hail storm, the eighty-year-old slate was beyond repair. Water damage to the interior ceilings and walls was extensive. Although the couple's homeowner's insurance coverage would pay for a new roof and the inside repairs, Mrs. Truman, considering her husband's frail health, stated that the repairs to the inside of the house would involve "too much noise and mess." She approved the installation of a new roof, but decided that she did not want the inside work done. Some of the interior water damage from this period is visible today.⁴⁶

Tom Manson met with the Trumans in their home in mid-July to discuss the options on replacing the old roof. Manson recommended that another slate roof be put on the house exactly like the original. The shipment of slate, he explained, would have to be ordered from the eastern United States and would take approximately six weeks' delivery time. Manson recalls how Bess Truman was "a real ramrod" to get things done right away. He tried to convince her to replace the old roof with new slate, but she was unwilling to wait six weeks for the shipment, or "to be bothered with all the mess."

Manson explained that asphalt shingles were an alternative

solution to slate. Although the insurance company would pay all costs, there was a considerable price difference between slate and asphalt shingles. Slate was more expensive especially with shipping costs. Slate was also a heavier load for the old wooden rafters to bear. Mr. Truman, according to Manson, was inclined to go along with his recommendation to replace the old slate with a new slate covering to match the original. The final decision, however, went to "the Boss"; Mrs. Truman chose to have an asphalt shingle roof installed.

The next decision made was what type of asphalt shingle to use. Manson showed the couple samples of various types of shingles available on the market. The Trumans were concerned primarily with keeping the appearance of their house the same as before. They wanted to match the color of the new roof as closely as possible to the color of the old gray slate. Manson and the Trumans spent considerable time discussing how best to match the color of the old slate and looked at many different kinds and colors of shingles before they arrived at their final choice.

The Trumans chose a new type of shingle on the market. They selected a gray fiberglass-asphalt shingle with new fire-retardant properties.⁴⁷ The order for the re-roofing job was signed on July 14, 1969, at a cost of \$4,820.65, billed to

the Commercial Union Insurance Company of Kansas City. The job was completed on September 11, 1969.⁴⁸

Before the new shingles were put in place, minor repair work was done on the flat metal roof decks. The felt underlayment, rotted and missing in many places, was replaced. During the removal of the old slate, the work crew left the gate on Truman Road open one afternoon. In short order, about 40 tourists swarmed into the yard and were picking up the souvenirs which littered the ground. Salvageable slate tiles came only from the lower gables above the porches. Most all of the tiles from the main roof were too badly broken to save. Manson managed to salvage about 200 slate tiles, mounted them on plaques, and distributed them to friends and clients as a promotional technique.⁴⁹

The house has never been provided with lightning rod protection. Upon seeing a picture of the Trumans' home in May 1949, an engineer for the New England Lightning Rod Company in Vermont, wrote the President and offered to provide it. A response from Charles G. Ross, Secretary to the President, stated that Mr. Truman was "not in the market for lightning rod equipment at this time."⁵⁰

Activities, Events, and Changes, 1953-1955

¹Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

²Harry S Truman, Mr. Citizen (New York: Popular Library, 1960), p. 59.

³Helen Worden Erskine, "Truman In Retirement," Collier's (February 4, 1955), p. 21, folder-Truman, Harry S Jan.-March 1955, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁴"A Birthday Report From Independence: Truman, At 75, Takes Own Advice On Keeping Busy," Washington Sunday Star (May 3, 1959), p. B-3, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1959, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵"Trumans Driving To Washington," Examiner (June 19, 1953), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

⁶Helen Worden Erskine, "Truman In Retirement," p. 20.

⁷"'Back Home' Is Best Tonic For Mr. Truman's Recuperation," Examiner (July 9, 1954), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

⁸"Truman Library To Be Built In Independence," Examiner (July 7, 1954), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

⁹Ibid., "C. of C. Check For Library To Mr. Truman," Examiner (July 22, 1954), p. 1.

¹⁰"Missouri Hospitality At Its Best At Truman Home Reception," Examiner (May 9, 1955), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

"Person To Person": The Nation Sees The Truman's Home, 1955

¹¹"Nation Eavesdrops As Truman Family Visits on TV," Examiner (May 28, 1955), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1955, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹²Sue Gentry, "Truman Family Will Take The Nation Into It's Home In 'Person To Person' Telecast To Be Aired Tonight," Examiner (May 27, 1955), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library,

North Branch, Independence.

¹³Margaret Truman, Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1956), p. 350.

¹⁴"'Open House' To Nation," Kansas City Star (May 27, 1955), folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1955, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁵"Person To Person", CBS-TV, May 27, 1955, Independence, Missouri. The film is in the archives of the Truman Library. The only obvious change is the absence of the television set in the music room. The Trumans did have at least one television set, however. Mrs. Truman remarked during the program that she had seen some good T.V. shows recently, but no wrestling matches--her favorite sport next to baseball.

Activities, Events, and Changes, 1956-1970

¹⁶Sue Gentry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 22, 1983.

¹⁷"Modest and Retiring Bess Truman Was Powerful Influence Behind the Scenes," Examiner (July 3, 1957), p. 12D, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

¹⁸"Reception at Home To Follow Dedication," Examiner (July 5, 1957), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S July-Sept. 1957, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 45.

²⁰Robert Sanders, June 30, 1983, and Robert Nickell, June 29, 1983, Interviews, Independence, Mo.

²¹"Truman Retains Staff," Kansas City Times (September 5, 1958), folder-Biographical Information--HST, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. Previous to the legislation, Truman paid his personal secretary, an administrative assistant, and a stenographer out of his own pocket.

²²Merle Miller, "HST: Backstage With A Star Performer," Show Magazine (no date, circa May 1964), p. 76, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1964, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. Bess Truman refused to take part in the filming, but did finally agree to accompany her husband to the front door as he began his morning walk. She was quoted as saying, "I have no desire to have my voice recorded for posterity."

23 "Ribbs Cracked, Head Cut in Accident--Truman Rests Well In Hospital," Examiner (October 4, 1964), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1964, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

24 Sue Gentry, "Trumans Plan Florida Vacation," Examiner (February 28, 1967), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Jan.-March 1968, (misfiled), Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

25 Phil Koury, "Harry Truman Weaves a Legend in Homespun," Kansas City Star (May 7, 1967), pp. 1; 16A, folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1967, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

26 "Petition Opposing Delaware Rezoning Signed by Trumans," Examiner (September 20, 1967), p. 1, folder-Homes--HST, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The attorney was James E. May, now a Jackson County Judge. The zoning change allowing limited apartments in the area came about around 1950.

27 Margaret Richards, "Truman at 84 Stronger, Feeling Better," St. Louis Post-Dispatch (May 6, 1968), folder-Truman, Harry S April-June 1968, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

28 "L.B.J. Tribute To Truman," Kansas City Times (October 12, 1968), p.1, folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1968, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The visit was Johnson's thirteenth since 1960.

29 Felix Belair, Jr., "Truman Greets Guests 25 Years After He Took Over Presidency," New York Times (April 12, 1970), folder-Truman, Harry S 1970, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

30 McDaniel Sheet Metal and Roofing (9136 Wilson, Independence), December 7, 1970, receipt, HSTL. The air conditioner cost \$168.93 and the roof repair was \$25.

31 Charlie Pendelton's Appliance and TV Center (124 S. Main, Independence), July 22, 1972, receipt, HSTL. The bill was \$245.14.

Gas Yard Lamp

32 Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

33 Mrs. Elizabeth Safly, Librarian, Harry S. Truman

Library, Telephone Conversation, July 11, 1983. Mrs. Safly obtained this information from the Gas Service Company in Independence.

³⁴Lew Waltz, National Sales Manager, Hadco (Division of Craftlite, Inc.) to Randall J. Pope, Acting Regional Director, National Park Service, Midwest Region, letter, September 20, 1983. On file in MWR Cultural Resources Management.

³⁵Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," pp. 46-7.

³⁶Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983.

Pergola

³⁷Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," pp. 25; 35.

Sundial

³⁸Robert E. Lockwood, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 1, 1983.

³⁹Margaret Truman, Souvenir (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1956), preface; and, Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman."

⁴⁰Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," pp. 24; 47.

Robert Sanders Painting Company

⁴¹Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983; and, "Bess and Harry's 50 Golden Years," Detroit News (June 26, 1969), p. 2D, folder-Truman, Harry S 1969, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The last source stated that the painters were at work that week painting the house white.

⁴²Ibid. Sanders recalls having cut the wire to the closed circuit TV camera while trimming weeds away from the fence. The action brought an immediate response from Secret Service agents in the command post.

Replacing the Roof

⁴³Leo Zaner, Jr., Telephone Conversation, July 12, 1983. A Kansas City sheet metal worker, Zaner's grandfather, Andrew Zaner, assisted in the construction activity in the mid to late 1930s on the roof of the Wallace house. He died in 1940.

⁴⁴Joseph Mance, Telephone Conversation, June 28, 1983. Mance worked on the house from 1955 to 1962 as an employee for Hawkins.

⁴⁵Tom Manson, Telephone Conversation, June 28, 1983.

⁴⁶Rufus Burrus, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 22, 1983.

⁴⁷Tom Manson, Telephone Conversation, June 28, 1983; and, Interview, July 5.

⁴⁸Tom Manson, Telephone Conversation, July 7, 1983.

⁴⁹Ibid.; and, Interview, July 5, 1983. Additional slate tiles were discovered in the basement by National Park Service personnel.

⁵⁰W.C. Morrill, District Engineer, New England Lightning Rod Company, Waterbury Center, Vt., to Harry S Truman, letter, May 30, 1949, folder-The President's Home In Independence, Missouri, file-President's Personal File 1-G, HSTL; and, Ibid., Charles G. Ross to W.C. Morrill, letter, June 16, 1949.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE TWILIGHT YEARS

- * The Secret Service Returns
 - Command Post at 224 North Delaware Street
- * The Man From Independence Dies, December 26, 1972
- * Bess Truman Lives Alone at 219 North Delaware
- * Robert Sanders and Exterior Carpentry Repairs
- * Repointing the Chimney
- * Foundation/Latticework Repair
- * Bicentennial Sign
- * Bess Wallace Truman Dies, October 18, 1982
- * National Recognition for the Truman Home

The Secret Service Returns

The Trumans were without Secret Service protection from the moment Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated President of the United States on January 20, 1953. The Trumans faced no serious threats, although the wrought iron picket fence was retained to separate the house from the general public. In the aftermath of the November 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy, however, Secret Service protection resumed for the Trumans on December 16, 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 89-186. The law extended lifetime Secret Service protection to former presidents, their widows, and minor children. President Truman immediately announced "he would accept the courtesy offered to him but that he had not been bothered much in the past 13 years since he left the White House."¹

Secret Service agents returned to Independence immediately to guard Harry and Bess Truman. When the operatives asked permission to reestablish a command post or erect a guardhouse on the grounds, Mrs. Truman refused.² Margaret Truman recalled, "...they were told, 'No!' Not under any circumstances. They were told by my mother that she would not have that in the backyard, and that was it."³

The Trumans did, however, allow some electronic surveillance systems installed on the grounds "provided there were no modifications of a substantial nature to either the residence or surrounding property."⁴

The agents insisted that Mike Westwood, the Independence policeman assigned by the mayor to protect the Trumans since their return from Washington, be relieved of his duty at the home. They refused to allow him to stay at the home with the Secret Service now in charge. Westwood recalled:

The Secret Service took complete charge and just took over the house.... They started immediately installing telephones and such, all of which... annoyed Mr. Truman.⁵

It was Mrs. Truman, however, who was vehemently against the reintroduction of the Secret Service. She believed that the protection was unnecessary and an infringement upon the couple's cherished privacy. She wanted the Secret Service to leave her and her husband alone.⁶

The former President reviewed the legislation. Within the bill's provisions was a clause which left Secret Service protection to the discretion of a former president. He ordered the Secret Service out.

Through the personal intervention of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Trumans were coaxed into permitting Secret Service agents to be stationed at the Truman Library to protect President Truman during his regular working hours there.⁷

The "Truman Protective Division" came into existence in February 1966 with two agents assigned to the Truman Library. In July, Mr. Truman requested temporary surveillance of his residence following an incident with a former mental patient.⁸ During these months of contact with the Trumans, the agents gained their trust and confidence.⁹ Surveillance of 219 North Delaware was soon expanded to day duty. In May 1967, the detail at the Truman Library was permanently established in an office and able to offer 24-hour protection for the Trumans.¹⁰ By this time, permission to use the west side of the barn/ garage had again been granted.

In September 1967, a panic alarm system was installed at the Truman Library and residence. Three small transmitters the size of cigarette packs were given to the Trumans to place in various rooms inside the house. A receiver was installed in the barn and at the Truman Library security office. Whenever the Trumans pushed the button on one of the transmitters, a signal was sent to the two receivers which sounded a warbling tone to alert the agents. The receiver at the Truman Library

was connected to the private line between the security office and the Kansas City field office of the Secret Service. The alarm system became operational at 4 p.m., September 9, 1967, while the telephone monitor went on line at 9:30 a.m., September 11, 1967.¹¹

In early August 1969, closed circuit television surveillance was installed for the Truman home. The camera, atop the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints' Center Stake Building southwest of the home on North Delaware, was "capable of Pan and Tilt operation, Zoom Lens operation, and is remote controlled [sic] and monitored from the Command Post, located in the Truman Library."¹²

Command Post at 224 North Delaware Street

In the fall of 1970, the Secret Service requested the General Services Administration (GSA) to lease a brick house at 224 North Delaware for use as a command post. The property was occupied beginning November 15, 1970.¹³ The new command post served as a 24-hour visual surveillance center capable of providing "immediate response to emergency situations."¹⁴

In September 1971, a low-level light lens was installed in

the closed circuit television system. This enabled the agents in the command post across North Delaware Street to survey the Trumans' home at night.¹⁵ Because of this close surveillance by the Secret Service, the Trumans allowed their doorbell, which rang at the front gate, to be disconnected. All visitors would first have to consult the agents.¹⁶

In early 1972, a lengthy list of new equipment was shipped to Independence. A request that an additional camera be added to enhance security was made by the Truman Protective Division in March 1972. The camera would cover the area of the rear gate, noting that "it is the wishes [sic] of Former President and Mrs. Truman that the rear gate be left permanently open." The problem of fire because of the dated electrical system was also discussed:

The addition of smoke and fire detectors have become critical due to the age of the Truman home. The wiring in the home is also quite old increasing the chance of fire. TSD [Technical Security Division] has agreed that the smoke and fire detectors are necessary. In order to run the alarms to the Truman Division Command Post another twenty-four pair telephone cable will be required from the Truman garage to the Truman Command Post.¹⁷

The cost for all the electronic security systems installed at the home by 1974 was estimated to be around \$23,200.¹⁸

Although the Trumans' initial contact with the Secret Service was chilly, a warm relationship soon developed. According to Margaret Truman,

They didn't mind the Secret Service. They got along with them very well and knew all of them by name and at Christmas they invited them all in for a drink and some cake and coffee or whatever. They were kind of like family.¹⁹

Additional panic transmitters were ordered and placed on the window sills in the more frequented rooms. The devices were inadvertently used on at least one occasion when one of the Trumans' grandsons, William Wallace Daniel, activated one of the transmitters which brought agents storming into the front and rear entrances of the home.²⁰

Until Mr. Truman's death on December 26, 1972, twelve Secret Service agents and special government police officers were assigned to the Truman Protective Division. Protection for his widow consisted of four agents and four special policemen. The agents always accompanied the Trumans whenever they left their home, but never stayed overnight inside the residence. Only when Mrs. Truman's health began to fail and she was restricted to a wheelchair were agents allowed to spend the night. Robert Lockwood, Special Agent in Charge from 1973 to 1982, stated "...we didn't go in until she'd retired for the night.... We had to move slowly to get permission to stay in

the house at all."²¹

At the time of Bess Truman's death, a \$20,000 surveillance system was on order for installation at 219 North Delaware. The order was cancelled as agents worked to dismantle the existing equipment and remove it from the house and command post.²² Within a few weeks of the funeral, the last Secret Service agent had gone. On December 1, 1982, the lease on the command post at 224 North Delaware expired and the activity of the Secret Service's Truman Protective Division ended.²³

The Man From Independence Dies, December 26, 1972

Following 22 days in the hospital, Harry S Truman died at the age of 88 on December 26, 1972. The cause of death was listed as "organic failures causing a collapse of the cardiovascular system." Following the simple state funeral, the first in American history to take place totally outside Washington, D.C., the 33rd President of the United States was laid to rest in the courtyard of the Truman Library.²⁴

A color photograph of military guards and the flag at half-mast at 219 North Delaware reveals the appearance of the Truman home on December 27, 1972 (See Figure 50).

FIGURE 50

Truman Library Photo Archives, 73-1392

Truman Funeral

December 27, 1972

219 North Delaware the day following the President's death. The flag is at half-staff, and military guards and a simple rope fence separates the home from passersby.

Source: Kansas City Star.



An inventory of the former President's estate was filed in Jackson County Probate Court on March 1, 1973. The appraised value of the estate was \$747,682. It did not list jointly-held property with Bess Truman, but did include personal furniture, household items, and wearing apparel valued at \$1,200, and personal property valued at \$20,000. The bulk of his estate was left to his wife.²⁵ In accordance with the July 1953 deed granting sole ownership of 219 North Delaware to Harry and Bess Truman, the right of survivorship clause automatically transferred full ownership rights of the home to Bess Truman.²⁶

Bess Truman Lives Alone at 219 North Delaware, 1973-1982

Following the death of Harry S Truman, his widow turned down her daughter's offer to come to New York City and live with her. She refused, citing her desire to remain in Independence and the familiar family home. As she told a neighbor, "I was born here and hope to die here."²⁷

Bess Truman was afflicted with a number of serious illnesses over the next decade. Her chronic malady was the arthritis which forced her in the mid-1970s to give up the bedroom she had occupied since 1904 and move into the first

floor bedroom. There, in her last years, the twin beds were removed in favor of a rented hospital bed. The former First Lady had a hired companion (Mrs. Valerie LaMere) to take care of running the household and a small staff of nurses. Mrs. Truman was in and out of Kansas City's Research Hospital for illnesses like high blood pressure, a broken hip, pneumonia, and a mild stroke on September 26, 1981. From each hospitalization, she rallied and recovered. During the long recuperation periods at her home, she was able to get around through the use of a wheelchair.²⁸

As if frozen in time, rooms were left in the manner they appeared in late 1972. Common touches, like Harry Truman's coat, hat, and cane left near the rear foyer door and his suits still in the closet in their dry cleaning packaging, were left undisturbed.

In the decade Bess Truman lived there alone, the Truman home changed little. There were some changes, however. Mrs. Truman did finally order the completion of the last phase of the home's 20 year-long "modernization" program. With her husband gone, the "noise and mess" she always feared might disturb him no longer mattered. The interior decorator she had used since 1953, Robert Nickell, did his last job at the Truman home only three months following the President's death. He

began work on March 29, 1973, repainting the trim in the first floor guest bedroom. He did not wallpaper it. The room, which over the course of time had housed the ailing Gates grandparents, Mrs. Madge Wallace, and her own husband in their last years, was prepared in the spring of 1973 for the inevitable time when she, too, would have to use it.

The move downstairs came in the mid to late 1970s. Margaret Truman recalled:

Mother stayed up there for a long time, and I finally persuaded her. Mr. Lockwood [Robert Lockwood, head of the Secret Service Detail] was absolutely frantic because she would go upstairs at night and he could just see her falling all the way down the stairs. She was using a cane and so he and I finally talked her into moving down here, and I told her, I said, "I will be sure of one thing, if Mr. Lockwood will do it. He and the Secret Service men will change the beds for you so you have your own bed." So, she did and that far bed [nearest the east wall] was her bed.

The beds upstairs [in the Trumans' bedroom] belong to my, with my suite of furniture that I had when I was a child.²⁹

After his work in the first floor bedroom, Nickell immediately began preparations to wallpaper the front foyer and central hall, stairway, and second floor central hall. Mrs. Truman wanted the new wallpaper to finish the modernization effort. To start the project, Nickell purchased felt for the

ceilings at the Certainteed Roofing Company of Kansas City on March 28, 1973. He recalled:

For awhile we bought the felt paper from a roofing company in Kansas City, Mo., since it was usually used for the base of asphalt shingles. We used the one pound grade of felt. We used this felt on all the ceilings that we decorated, except the kitchen and pantry and in Mr. Truman's study.³⁰

Nickell began the wallpapering project on March 30, 1973, and worked alone until April 11 when he called in an assistant, Troy Owings, to help him with the cumbersome scaffolding. The entranceway halls, stairway, and second floor central hall work was the longest and hardest job Nickell ever did at the Truman home. He remembered:

The last job was the biggest and most difficult. I was 20 years older. The high ceilings and stair-well were more difficult to decorate and this was the most expensive paper that I put on for Mrs. Truman. Due to the scaffolding for the stair-well, I had to have some help and a friend, Troy Owings, helped me on this job.³¹

Before the job was finished, Nickell ran out of paper for the hall. On April 16, he went to the Imperial Wallpaper Company in Independence to purchase four more rolls of the expensive paper. The next day, April 17, 1973, the project was completed. Mrs. Truman paid Nickell by check for \$1,188.96.³²

Robert Sanders and Exterior Carpentry Repairs

In addition to painting the house since 1953, Robert Sanders did all the necessary exterior carpentry work on the house and barn. This work mainly involved replacing rotted wood. In the 1960s, the south side porch was shored-up by Sanders and a front step was replaced. This work was charged to the GSA through the Truman Library.³³ In 1974 or 1975, the front steps were replaced. The stairs, which were not original, had rotted because they were set wrong. Instead of sloping downward to allow the water to run off, they sloped inward, thus retaining water and accelerating deterioration. The steps were replaced with one-and one quarter-inch thick boards with one riser and two to three threads.

When the front steps were replaced, the rotted balusters on the north side of the front porch were also replaced with new spindles. The old balusters were examined closely and the new ones were selected to match the originals.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Truman emphasized that she wanted the carpentry repairs to the exterior to be "the most economical possible."³⁴ She relied on the advice of Robert Sanders and Robert Lockwood, Chief of the Secret Service Truman Protective Division. According to Lockwood,

In the period since 1973, the house and property changed very little. Mrs. Truman's health was failing and she didn't want to spend the money to make the needed repairs around the house. She didn't want to spend the money on the repairs because she knew she wasn't long for this world.³⁵

Other repairs in the mid-1970s were minor, and included replacing the linoleum in the kitchen and guttering over the south kitchen door due to squirrels eating the fascia out.³⁶

Repointing the Chimney

Shortly after Christmas 1981, both Sanders and Lockwood noticed a slight tilt in the home's main chimney. The men investigated and learned that the central chimney, which juts out from the roof more than seven feet, was indeed leaning to the west about one and one quarter inches. They feared that if the problem were not corrected immediately, the heavy brick tower would fall down onto the front facade of the house.

The men decided not to worry Mrs. Truman with the problem because of her extremely frail health. Sanders called Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel in New York and explained that several bricks at the bottom of the chimney were missing and that the chimney was in danger of collapsing. Mrs. Daniel agreed that the emergency repair work be done.

Work began immediately and in one day four workers dismantled the chimney, making sure they retained the same bricks to replace on the same facade of the structure. During the repointing process, Sanders checked the job three separate times to make sure that the appearance of the chimney remained the same as before. He was aware of the necessity to maintain the integrity of the historic structure, having done similar work at other area historic sites. In March 1982, the repointed chimney was repainted with a sealer coat, then a coat of exterior latex white paint.³⁷

Foundation/Latticework Repair

In 1982, during a time when Mrs. Truman was in the hospital, Sanders conducted some minor repairs on the foundation. Some areas on the north foundation wall were cracked or crumbling. The house was separated from the foundation below the windows of the library, and raised up slightly while the deteriorated wall was repaired. At the same time, on the north side porch, the squared porch skirt latticework was replaced. It, also, was matched to the existing latticework. Rotted wooden boards on the porch decking were replaced as well.³⁸

Bicentennial Sign

The marker which stands near the flagpole on the lawn's northwest corner was installed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Independence in late April 1976. The black aluminum sign features raised white lettering. Made available through Federal funds at \$350 each, the sign is one of many placed at historic places throughout Independence.³⁹

The sign reads:

TRUMAN HOUSE

Built about 1867 by George Porterfield Gates, a mill owner. President Harry S. Truman and his wife, Bess Wallace Truman, granddaughter of Gates, made this their home from the time of their marriage in 1919. The "Summer White House" from 1945 to 1953.

Bess Wallace Truman Dies, October 18, 1982

Bess Truman's final hospitalization occurred for three weeks in September 1982 for treatment of an intestinal ulcer. Although she was weakened, the ulcer did not contribute to her death. The nation's oldest former First Lady died in her first floor bedroom at 3:50 a.m., October 18, 1982, of congestive heart failure caused by an accumulation of chest fluids. She

was rushed to Kansas City's Research Hospital where she was pronounced dead at 4:38 a.m.⁴⁰ Following a simple, private funeral service, Bess Wallace Truman was buried beside her husband in the Truman Library courtyard.

Secret Service agents dismantled their security systems and abandoned their command post a short time after the funeral. The executors of Bess Wallace Truman's estate, United Missouri Bank of Kansas City, hired a security guard to watch the property. Details of her will were revealed which showed that Mrs. Truman had donated 219 North Delaware to "The United States of America to be held and operated by it under the direction of the Archivist of The United States in conjunction with the Harry S. Truman Library."⁴¹

Three stipulations within the will placed restrictions on the future operation of the house. It stated that the public not be allowed to go above the first floor during the lifetime of her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel. A second provision "recommends" that Mrs. Daniel be permitted to live in the home "one week of each calendar year during her lifetime" because of her activities with the Truman Library and Truman Library Institute. The third requirement, contained in a May 5, 1978, codicil, states that Mrs. Daniel approve in writing "the manner in which my residence is used."⁴²

National Recognition for the Truman Home

On February 23, 1972, 219 North Delaware was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.⁴³ At the request of the Trumans, no ceremony was held and no designation marker was erected. Following the death of Mr. Truman, the city of Independence, with the full support of his widow,⁴⁴ established the Harry S. Truman Heritage District, or more commonly known as the Harry S. Truman Historic District. The boundaries of the district encompassed 12 blocks centering on the Truman home and the immediate North Delaware Street neighborhood.

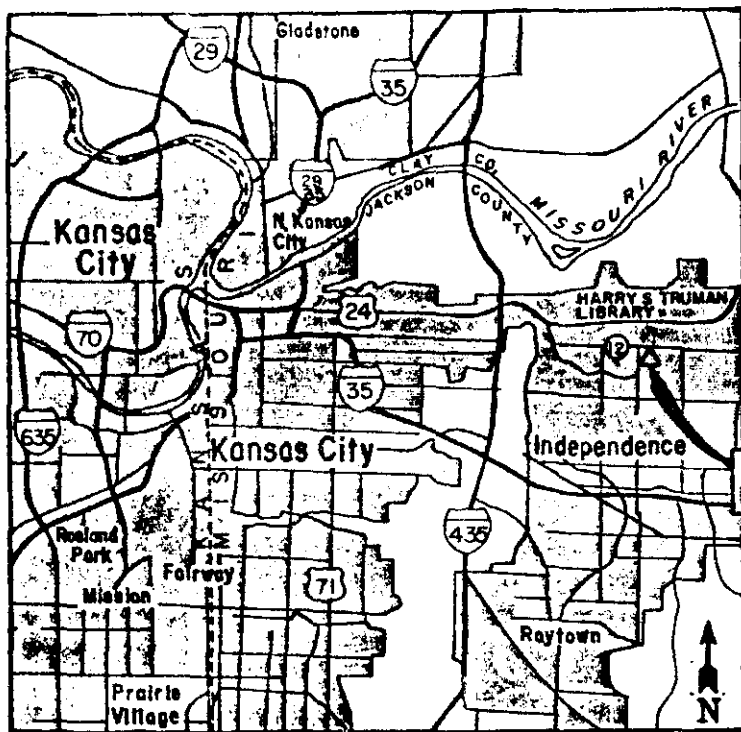
The historic district ordinance includes restrictions from construction or demolition of structures to tree and shrub plantings and removals⁴⁵ (See Appendix). The preservation ordinance was drafted "to protect President Truman's home and neighborhood from inappropriate development and to promote the area as a stable, single-family environment."⁴⁶ Churches within the district, however, are exempt from compliance with the ordinance.

One of the first physical changes the city undertook in the Truman Heritage District was the 1976 renovation of

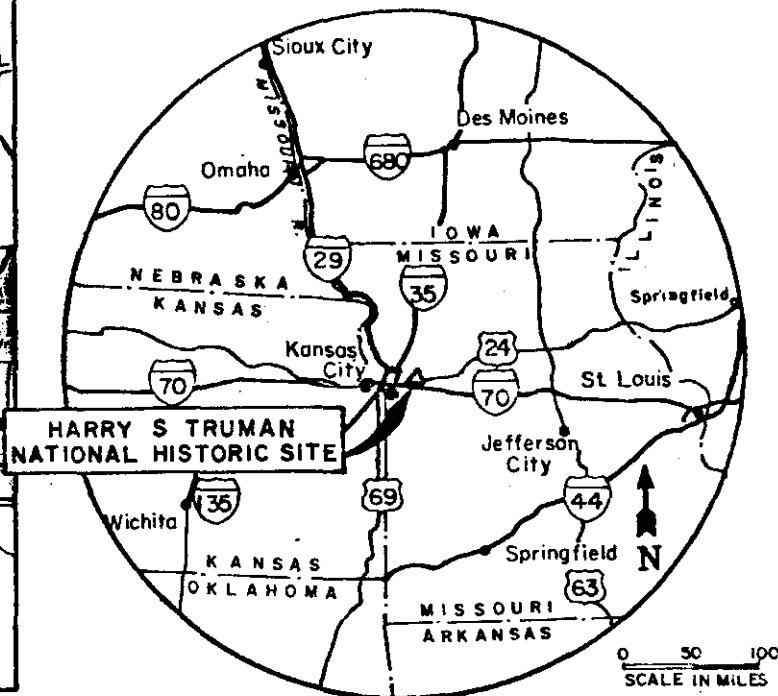
sidewalks and curbing in front of the Truman home. The project was designed by the heritage commission to return the street to its appearance in the 1940s. The city council financed the initial \$4,101 purchase for cut limestone curbing from a Topeka, Kansas, limestone company. Two types of hexagonal blocks similar to ones used in the original sidewalk were relocated to the home from other similar city sidewalks. The work, completed in late April 1976, was the first phase of a three year plan to restore the sidewalks and curbing in the 12-block area to the presidential period.⁴⁷

In an effort to preserve the historic character of a rapidly-changing neighborhood, the city council on January 2, 1979, approved legislation which more than tripled the size of the Harry S. Truman Heritage District. While the church exemption clause remained, the boundaries expanded from six to twenty-two blocks and created a corridor along North Delaware Street stretching from the Truman home to U.S. Highway 24, near the presidential library⁴⁸ (See Figure 51). [In early 1984, the city amended the boundaries to include only the Delaware Street corridor.]

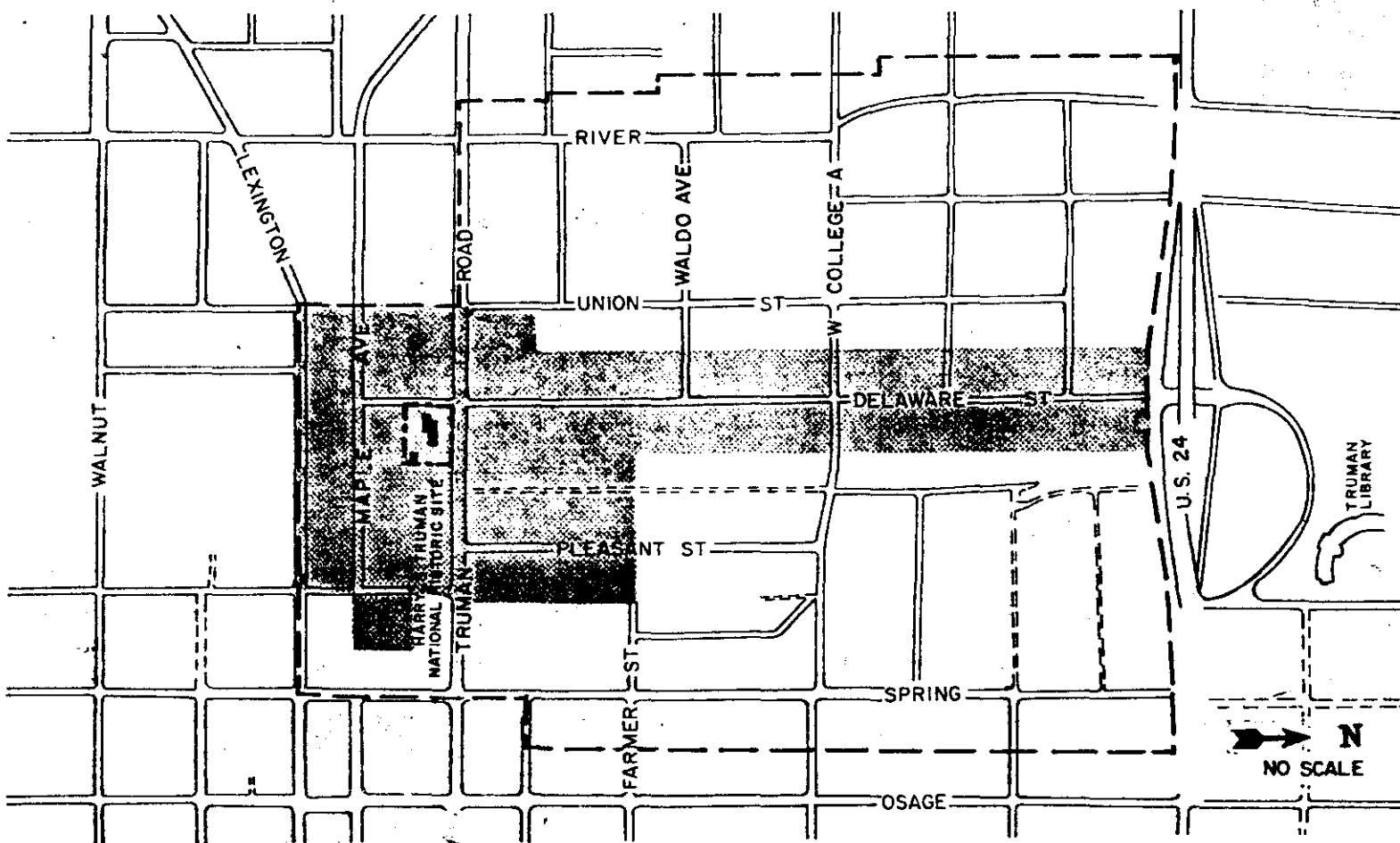
In 1980, the Independence Junior Service League initiated the first Truman Heritage Tour as part of the annual Truman Week activities. The walking tour, based on the paths of Mr.



SCALE IN MILES
VICINITY MAP



LOCATION MAP



- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BOUNDARY
- HARRY S. TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT (City of Independence)
- HARRY S. TRUMAN HISTORIC DIST. (National Register)

EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING and BOUNDARY MAP
HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
 JACKSON COUNTY, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Truman's famous morning walks, featured ten private homes and three public buildings.⁴⁹

Following the death of Mrs. Truman on October 18, 1982, the dictates of her will (See Appendix) left the property to "The United States of America to be held and operated by it under the direction of the Archivist of The United States in conjunction with the Harry S. Truman Library." On December 8, 1982, Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, acting under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, signed Designation Order No. 3088 declaring 219 North Delaware the "Harry S Truman National Historic Site." On December 17, 1982, a cooperative agreement was signed between the Executor of the Estate of Bess Wallace Truman, the General Services Administration (representing the Archivist of The United States and the Truman Library), and the Department of the Interior to provide protection for the property. The National Park Service had taken possession of 219 North Delaware five days previously, on December 12, 1982, making it the twenty-seventh presidential site in the National Park System.

The Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Mo., was authorized by Public Law 98-32 (97 Statute 193) signed by President Ronald W. Reagan on May 23, 1983. Its purpose is to "preserve and interpret for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations the former home of Harry S Truman, thirty-third President of the United States"⁵⁰ (See Appendix).

The Secret Service Returns

¹"Truman Quick to Get Guard," Kansas City Star (December 17, 1965), folder-Truman, Harry S Oct.-Dec. 1965, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

²"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93--1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

³Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 53.

⁴"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93--1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵Robert W. Phillips, "Truman Trips Recalled By Personal Aide," Kansas City Star (October 1, 1973), p. 1, folder-Westwood, Mike, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁶Ray Zumwault, U.S. Secret Service, Interview, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 11, 1983.

⁷Robert W. Phillips, "Truman Trips Recalled By Personal Aide," p. 1.

⁸"Truman Protective Division," The Service Star, U.S. Secret Service, Department of the Treasury (Sept.-Oct. 1971), p. 12.

⁹Ray Zumwault, U.S. Secret Service, Interview, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 11, 1983.

¹⁰"Truman Protective Division," The Service Star, p. 12.

¹¹Security Specialist [deleted] to Special Agent in Charge Wong, September 12, 1967, Technical Security Division, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1967.

¹²Security Specialist [deleted] to Special Agent in Charge Wong, August 7, 1969, Technical Security Division, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1969.

Command Post at 224 North Delaware Street

¹³"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," Fifteenth Report by the Committee on Government Operations, May 20, 1974, Union Calendar No. 490, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Report No. 93-1052, p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁴"Truman Protective Division," The Service Star, p. 12.

¹⁵Notes from a classified memo dated September 16-17, 1971, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1971.

¹⁶Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 33.

¹⁷Special Agent in Charge Paul A. Burns, Truman Protective Division to A.D. Hill, Protective Forces, memo, May 3, 1972, U.S. Secret Service, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., folder-Correspondence 1972. The recommendations were made as a result of a technical security survey conducted on March 27, 1972, of the Truman home.

¹⁸"Expenditure of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," p. 51, folder-Presidential Properties, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 51.

²⁰Ibid., pp. 51-2.

²¹Joe Henderson, "Secret Service Ends Vigil at Truman Home," Kansas City Star (December 1, 1982), p. 3A, folder-Truman Home-Historic Site, 1982-1983, National Park Service, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

²²Ray Zumwault, U.S. Secret Service, Interview, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 11, 1983.

²³Henderson, "Secret Service Ends Vigil at Truman Home," p. 3A. Under the lease agreement, the Secret Service pledged to compensate the owners of 224 North Delaware to convert the four rooms into individual offices, and assume the first \$5,000 worth of maintenance each year. They also agreed to pay the owners for returning the rooms and fixtures to their former state.

The Man From Independence Dies, December 26, 1972

²⁴"The World of Harry Truman," Time (January 8, 1973), pp. 15-18; and, "Truman Dies At 88," Kansas City Star (December 26, 1972), p. 1.

²⁵"Wills of the Month: Truman Library Receives Former President's Papers," Trusts and Estates (May 1973), pp. 374-5; 401, folder-Harry S. Truman Will, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The will, written in 1959, was 22 pages long with two codicils.

²⁶Missouri Warranty Deed, Frank G. and Natalie O. Wallace to Harry S and Elizabeth (Bess) Truman, July 25, 1953, Land Book 1034, Page 631, No. 609418, Office of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Mo.

Bess Truman Lives Alone at 219 North Delaware, 1973-1982

²⁷"Bess Truman: A Life Portrait; Phase V: Living Alone," Examiner (October 18, 1982), p. 6B, HSTL.

²⁸Ibid., and, "Doctor Says Her Heart 'Began to Fibrillate'," p. 1; 5.

²⁹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 59.

³⁰Robert Nickell to Ron Cockrell, letter, July 28, 1983.

³¹Ibid., and, Robert Nickell, Diary 1973, personal papers of Robert Nickell, Independence, Mo.

³²Ibid., and, Interview, June 29, 1983, Independence, Mo. Another minor interior decoration alteration was done in 1982. Roger T. Sermon, an Independence interior decorator, was phoned by Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel during a period in 1982 when her mother was incapacitated. At Mrs. Daniels' instruction, Sermon replaced curtains and window coverings in the large upstairs front, or west, bedroom. According to Sermon, the replacements were "done very closely to what was there before." Telephone conversation, Sermon and Anderson Interior Decorators, 10815 Winner Road, July 22, 1983.

Robert Sanders and Exterior Carpentry Repairs

³³Robert Lockwood, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 1, 1983; and, Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983. According to the 1974 House Committee on Government Operations Report, "Expenditures of Federal Funds In Support of Presidential Properties," the total cost for shoring-up the south porch, replacing the front steps, and painting the fence cost the GSA \$1,250.

³⁴Robert Lockwood, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 1, 1983.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid. Lockwood said that an aluminum screen cover was installed to keep the squirrels out of the gutter.

Repainting the Chimney

³⁷Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983.

Foundation/Latticework Repair

³⁸Ibid. Sanders said he had seen historic photographs of the house and was aware that the latticework was not original.

Bicentennial Sign

³⁹"Bicentennial Signs Placed," Examiner (April 23, 1976), p. 1B, folder-Truman, Harry S 1976, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. While not in place at this date, the Truman sign was scheduled to be erected by the end of the month.

Bess Wallace Truman Dies, October 18, 1982

⁴⁰Bob Burgdorfer, "Bess Truman Is Dead At the Age of 97" and "Doctor Says Her Heart 'Began to Fibrillate'," Examiner (October 18, 1982), p. 1, HSTL.

⁴¹"Last Will and Testament of Bess Wallace Truman," December 21, 1974. See Appendix.

⁴²Ibid.

National Recognition for the Truman Home

⁴³Cultural Resources Management Division Files, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska.

⁴⁴Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 56.

⁴⁵An Ordinance Establishing the Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Ordinance No. 5445, January 2, 1979, City of Independence, Mo.

⁴⁶Harry S. Truman Historic District, Independence, Missouri," pamphlet, Independence Heritage Commission, City of Independence, Mo.

⁴⁷Bob Lynn, "District To Revive Memories: Truman Heritage Gets Emphasis In Independence," Kansas City Star (February 19, 1976), p. 4E, folder-Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁴⁸Ibid., "Heritage District Size Expanded," Kansas City Times (January 3, 1979), p. 4B.

⁴⁹Rich Hood, "Take A Stroll With Harry and Experience a City's Pride," Jackson County Star, supplement to the Kansas City Star (May 6, 1981), p. 3, folder-Truman Heritage Tour, 1981, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁵⁰"Briefing Statement, Harry S Truman National Historic Site," National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resources Management, file-L58 General HSTR, Omaha, Ne.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

SPECIAL TOPICS

- * The Heating System: Wood, Coal, and Gas
- * Gas
- * Water
- * Electricity
- * Neighborhood of North Delaware Street
- * Sidewalks
- * History of Truman Road
- * Telephone
- * Carriage House/Barn
- * Domestic Help
- * Moving From 219 North Delaware
- * Animals at 219 North Delaware

The Heating System: Wood, Coal, and Gas

<Note: For purposes of clarity, room designations have been included. Technical assistance for this section was provided by Midwest Regional Historical Architect Francis O. Krupka, National Park Service>.

The original heating system (circa 1867-1907/10) for what is now the Truman home involved the use of the three, extant fireplaces in addition to an as yet undetermined number of stoves (including a wood-burning kitchen range). These were followed by a centralized heating system using, in succession wood, coal, and gas as fuels.¹ Metal floor and wall grills at the heating duct openings which appear throughout the house indicate the extent of this central heating system.

1867-1907:

The original (i.e. 1867-1884) configuration of the home is unknown in its entirety, but several items may be assumed. First, the kitchen range would have existed from the first. Second, the fireplace that is now in the parlor/music room, in all probability, originally faced what is now the library and was the principal heat source for the first floor. (See Building Chronology Drawings, NPS No. 492/80004, Sheets 1-4/4). On the second floor, a second fireplace in what is now the

Truman dressing room (Room 209) would have provided the only heat source on that level.

With the 1885 construction enlarging the house, additional fireplaces were installed in the living room (Room 104) and the west, front bedroom (Room 204) immediately above it, both serviced by a twin-flued chimney stack. It would have been at this point in time that the fireplaces which originally serviced Rooms 109 and 209 were re-oriented to service Rooms 108 and 207, the configuration that currently exists.

The three fireplaces of the 1885 home (i.e., in the living room, the parlor/music room on the first floor and the west, front bedroom on the second floor) were installed and relied on for the purpose of providing heat. The fireplace in the living room received the most constant use. According to Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace:

We caught the chimney on fire once! We decided to make a fire in it one day and the chimney hadn't been cleaned out. The sparks commenced coming out of the roof. Yes, they [the Trumans] used it! This house was cold. It was always cold in here until they got that double [gas] furnace in down there in the basement, then it began to get heated up.²

Before the 1920s, to ensure that the living room remained warm, solid green portieres covered the three entrance doorways

into the spacious room, blocking out the cold drafts from the central hall (Room 103).³ The portieres hung from rods suspended from brass rings which are still in evidence today at the tops of each doorway opening. Margaret Truman stated that during her childhood, the portieres were heavy dark red velvet, tied back by cords. They were no longer used to retain heat, but were merely ornamental.⁴

1907-1910:

The exact date for the installation of the central heating system is unknown, nor are the dates when the transitions from wood to coal, and from coal to gas occurred. It is known that major alterations were made in the period 1907-1910.

City records indicate that electric power was available in the area of the Truman home in the late 1880s.⁴ The changes to the home indicated on the 1907 Sanborn Map (which could indicate changes to the home dating back to the 1885 construction period), imply that power was available to the house. It is probable that the central heating plant was installed sometime in the years 1885-1910.

The original controls for the central heating plant, still

extant in the central hall (Room 103) alcove under the stair, were mechanical, indicating that the installation predated the installation of electric service to the house. It is likely that electric controls for the central furnace were not installed until later, considerably after the 1910 construction period which provided electric service to the house.

One of Harry Truman's household chores in the early mornings was to go down to the basement, clean and carry out the old ashes, and stoke the furnace with new coals. In his book, Mr. Citizen, published in 1953, Mr. Truman described his household activities since January 1953:

When I get up at about five to five-thirty in the morning, I go downstairs and do a round of work in the house. In the wintertime, this used to include [indicating anytime between 1919 and 1952] tending the furnace and carrying out the ashes--that is, until gas was put in and made me give it up.⁵

Dates for the transitions from the wood-burning to the coal-burning era, and, from the coal-burning to the gas-burning eras are not known. According to Margaret Truman, the coal furnace was converted directly to gas:

...they put in the modern gas inside the old furnace. They didn't put in a gas furnace. They put the gas inside the old furnace.... They put the blower in at the same time so that it would heat up the whole house.... I don't know if it was

before the 40s or not, but it was before Mother and Dad moved back.⁶

The Heating System

¹Charles E. Anderson, Interview at 219 North Delaware, June 20, 1983.

1867-1907:

²Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview at 219 North Delaware, July 20, 1983. The Trumans continued to use this fireplace even after the house was converted to gas heat.

³Ibid. The portieres have not been used since the gas furnace was installed.

⁴"Electric Light," Ordinance No. 55, Charter and Revised Ordinances of the City of Independence, Missouri, Revised by B.A. Bartlett and A.M. Ott (Independence: Sentinel Printing and Publishing Company, 1898), pp. 250-1, Office of the City Clerk.

1907-1910:

⁵Harry S Truman, Mr. Citizen (New York: Popular Library, 1960), p. 59.

⁶Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 44.

Gas

On June 28, 1881, Caldwell Yeaman was given a 25-year concession by the Independence Board of Aldermen to build and operate a gas works "for the purpose of supplying Independence and suburbs and the inhabitants thereof with gas." Yeaman was instructed to lay conductors or gas mains "under and along" and down the "center or one side only" of the towns' streets and alleys. The ordinance specified that the gas works "shall be of a capacity of at least thirty five thousand cubic feet of gas per diem, of not less at any time than thirteen candle power." Construction was set for two months following the passage of the ordinance and operations would then begin within six months at which time 1.5 miles of gas mains had to be installed. Yeaman also agreed to supply the iron lamp posts to light the streets.¹

As progress on the gas works continued, the Board of Aldermen dictated on November 14, 1882, that the new gas company erect 26 lamp posts throughout the city and "supply a good and sufficient quantity of gas for each post subject to the same conditions and restrictions" contained in the 1881 enabling ordinance. In the Delaware Street neighborhood, a post was requested for Rock Street (now Maple Avenue) between Pleasant and Delaware while another was ordered for Delaware Street at the alley south of Farmers (now Farmer) Street.² On

February 28, 1883, the Board of Aldermen asked the "Independence Gas and Coke Company" to erect and maintain 10 additional gas lamp posts "like those already in use."³

This gas system, gas manufactured from coal, was in operation in Independence by the completion of the major addition to the Gates house in 1885 and used in the structure. By 1887, however, the city turned to another form of fuel, natural gas. On March 7, 1887, a 20-year franchise was awarded to a group of men from Polk County, Iowa, "to lay mains and service pipes in the City of Independence, Missouri, to supply said City and its citizens with natural gas." They were given the right to prospect for natural gas in the city and provide consumers with the requisite fixtures and service pipes. Construction of the system would begin three months after the "discovery of sufficient natural gas to furnish said city and the laying of the same on the principal Streets of said City shall be completed within one year thereafter."⁴

With natural gas available in Independence by the early 1880s, it is unknown when the Gates house made the transition from coal gas to natural gas.

Gas

¹"An Ordinance Concerning Gas Works," Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Missouri, Book B, pp. 28-31, Office of the City Clerk.

²Ibid., "An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of 26 Gas Posts," pp. 48-9.

³Ibid., "An Ordinance for the Erection of Ten Additional Gas Posts," p. 52.

⁴Ibid., Ordinance No. 148, pp. 243-5.

Water

Along with gas, an internal water system was installed in the Gates house when the 14-room addition was built in 1885.¹ The home's initial water supply came from the vein of a spring which lies beneath the property. A cistern which stored the spring water still remains underneath the rear porch of the house near the kitchen entrance. George P. Gates believed that he had access to the same "very fine spring water" that flowed above ground in nearby Fairmont Park. He was proud of the fact that he could use the pure water for his family.

The cistern system was still in use when the Trumans were married in 1919 and when their daughter Margaret was born in 1924. But, by 1926, with the encroachment of new housing in the area, the family began to suspect that the spring was being contaminated.² During the summer of 1926, Mr. Truman cautioned his wife not to allow Margaret to drink from the cistern, "You'd better have that cistern water analyzed and not let the young lady have any but boiled."³ Soon after when it was proven to be contaminated, the cistern was closed.⁴

A city operated water system was available as early as the mid-1880s. In a spring 1883, special election, Independence voters approved the building of a waterworks for a city water supply and to extinguish fires.⁵ An April 4, 1883, city

ordinance granted the "Independence Water Company" the "authority to establish, construct, maintain, and operate" such a waterworks. The ordinance gave the city the right to locate water mains and pipes as well as fire hydrants. The city permitted the new company two months to begin construction, and one year to lay at least six miles of water mains and to begin operations.⁶ Because of apparent construction delays, the city extended the first day of operation to September 1, 1884.⁷

On March 18, 1884, the Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance specifying the location of the water mains and fire hydrants. This initial bill saw water service provided throughout the Delaware Street neighborhood. Water mains were placed down the centers of the streets, including North Delaware. Hydrants near the Gates house were as follows:

- No. 32--corner of Maple Ave. and Delaware Street.
- No. 33--on Delaware at alley South of Bagby's.
- No. 34--on corner of Delaware and Farmer Streets.⁸

The date for the establishment of a city sewerage system is uncertain, although a special "Sewer Fund" tax assessment first appeared in the Assessor's Book of Real Estate for James F. Moore's addition in 1901.⁹ Another sewer assessment came in 1914.¹⁰

When the two Wallace brothers' bungalows were built on Lot 1 of the Gates property in 1915 and 1916, drainage and sewer pipes were buried on the north side of Blue Avenue (now Truman Road).¹¹ In fact, in the general warranty deeds granting the parcels to the Wallace brothers, George P. and Elizabeth E. Gates "reserve[d] the right to maintain and use the sewer that is now constructed across the... real estate."¹²

When the house stood empty during the time that Mrs. Madge Wallace and the Truman family lived in Washington, D.C., George P. Wallace (605 W. Truman Road) made sure that all the water pipes in the "big house" were drained during the winter months to guard against damage to the plumbing.

As for the home's two bathrooms, the bathroom on the second floor probably dates to the 1867 structure. The first floor bathroom was added onto the bedroom in the early part of the century (1907-1910) when the elderly Mr. and Mrs. Gates took up quarters on the first floor.¹³ The 1907 Sanborn Map shows no evidence of a privy on the property (See Appendix).

Water

¹"The Building Boom," The (Independence) Sentinel (January 2, 1886), p. 4, HSTL and Jackson County Historical Society.

²Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence,

Mo., June 14, 1983.

³Robert H. Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983), p. 322. The letter from Ft. Riley, Kansas, was dated July 15, 1926.

⁴Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁵Ordinance No. 48, Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Missouri, Book B, p. 62, Office of the City Clerk.

⁶"An ordinance to provide a supply of water and extinguishment of fires," No. 57, Charter and Revised Ordinances of the City of Independence, Missouri, Revised by B.A. Bartlett and A.M. Ott (Independence: Sentinel Printing and Publishing Company, 1898), p. 262, Office of the City Clerk.

⁷Ordinance No. 63, Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Missouri, Book B, p. 134, Office of the City Clerk.

⁸Ibid., Ordinance No. 44, pp. 112-4.

⁹Assessor's Book of Real Estate, Independence, Missouri, for the Year 1901, p. 97, City of Independence, Limestone Storage Facility, 16400 West Truman Road.

¹⁰Ibid., 1914, p. 111.

¹¹Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983. Mrs. Wallace remembers the day of her wedding, October 24, 1916, getting stuck in the Gates's car over a soft spot where the pipes had been recently buried.

¹²General Warranty Deeds: George P. and Elizabeth E. Gates to Frank G. Wallace (March 15, 1915; Land Deed Record Book 334, Page 354) and George P. Wallace (August 22, 1916; Land Deed Record Book 339, Page 360), Jackson County Courthouse, Office of Deeds, Independence, Mo.

¹³Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983. Mrs. Wallace is of the firm belief that the Gates bathroom and bedroom were added after the Madge Wallace family moved in. The Sanborn maps show a change was indeed made between 1907 and 1916. Since Mrs. Wallace's memory of the Gates house begins in 1910, it is logical that the construction took place between 1907 and 1910.

Electricity

Electricity was present in the Gates mansion probably long before the second decade of the 20th century. It was available in Independence in the last two decades of the 19th century.¹

On September 6, 1887, the city granted to I.N. Rogers, A.W. Jones, and their associates, the "right to establish, maintain, and operate an electric light plant in the city." The concession ordinance specified that the men could erect and maintain poles no shorter than 30 feet high on any of the towns' streets and alleys. In addition, electric power was to be available within six months of the ordinance's passage, or March 1888.²

While most of the gas piping to the overhead lighting system in the Gates house was disconnected when the lights were converted to electric power, much of the gas tubing remains intact behind the walls and ceilings. As a testimony to a prevalent local mistrust of electricity in those earlier days, the chandelier in the parlor/music room was never converted from gas.³

Electricity

¹Patrick O'Brien, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Independence, Telephone Conversation, September 29, 1983.

²"Electric Light," Ordinance No. 55, Charter and Revised Ordinances of the City of Independence, Missouri, Revised by B.A. Bartlett and A.M. Ott (Independence: Sentinel Printing and Publishing Company, 18908), pp. 250-1, Office of the City Clerk.

³Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

Neighborhood of North Delaware Street

James F. Moore's addition to the town of Independence was platted on June 10, 1846.¹ Delaware Street came into existence when John F. McCauley's addition, to the immediate north of Moore's addition, was platted on January 28, 1852. Delaware Street in McCauley's addition measured 49 1/2 feet in width.²

Delaware Street was officially extended into the middle of Moore's Addition after James T. Thornton deeded to the city on May 14, 1858, "so much of the West Side of Lot Number three... as lies in Delaware Street as extended from McCauley's addition... to Rock [now Maple] Street."³ Therefore, Delaware Street was extended south across Tanyard, or Tan Yard, (now Truman) Road to Maple Avenue, taking an unspecified amount of land from Lots 3 (the Gates/Wallace/Truman property) and 4 (all the houses on the west side of Delaware directly across from the Truman home).

"Delaware," as the sixth west base line from the Independence "square," was formalized as a street name for the existing "Delaware and Mabelle Streets their lines, if extended," by the city in 1910.⁴ "Maple Avenue," formerly known as "Rock Street," was changed by the city through an April 27, 1883, ordinance.⁵

The neighborhood in 1868, a year after George P. Gates purchased Lots 2 and 3, featured a small Methodist Church across Delaware southwest of the Gates property. The church, later called the Watson Memorial Methodist Church, was an integral feature of the neighborhood until 1966 (See Figure 52). In 1966, the congregation voted to merge with the Christ Methodist Church in Independence and sold the building to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS). The RLDS then razed the church, but retained the office building addition to the north which is now the Center Stake Building at 200 North Delaware.⁶

Directly west on Delaware across from the Gates house was the A.T. Slack Mansion. It, like the Gates Mansion, was built in 1885 by Architect James M. Adams. The Slack Mansion, no longer extant, was two and one-half stories with ten rooms. It, too, had gas and water systems, and cost \$7,000 to construct⁷ (See Figure 53).

On the same block to the east of the Gates house stood the Independence High School on North Pleasant Street. It was completed several years before the graduation of the class of 1901, among whom were Harry S Truman and Bess Wallace. An older building adjacent to the new high school on the north was

FIGURE 52

Truman Library Photo Archives, 67-3878

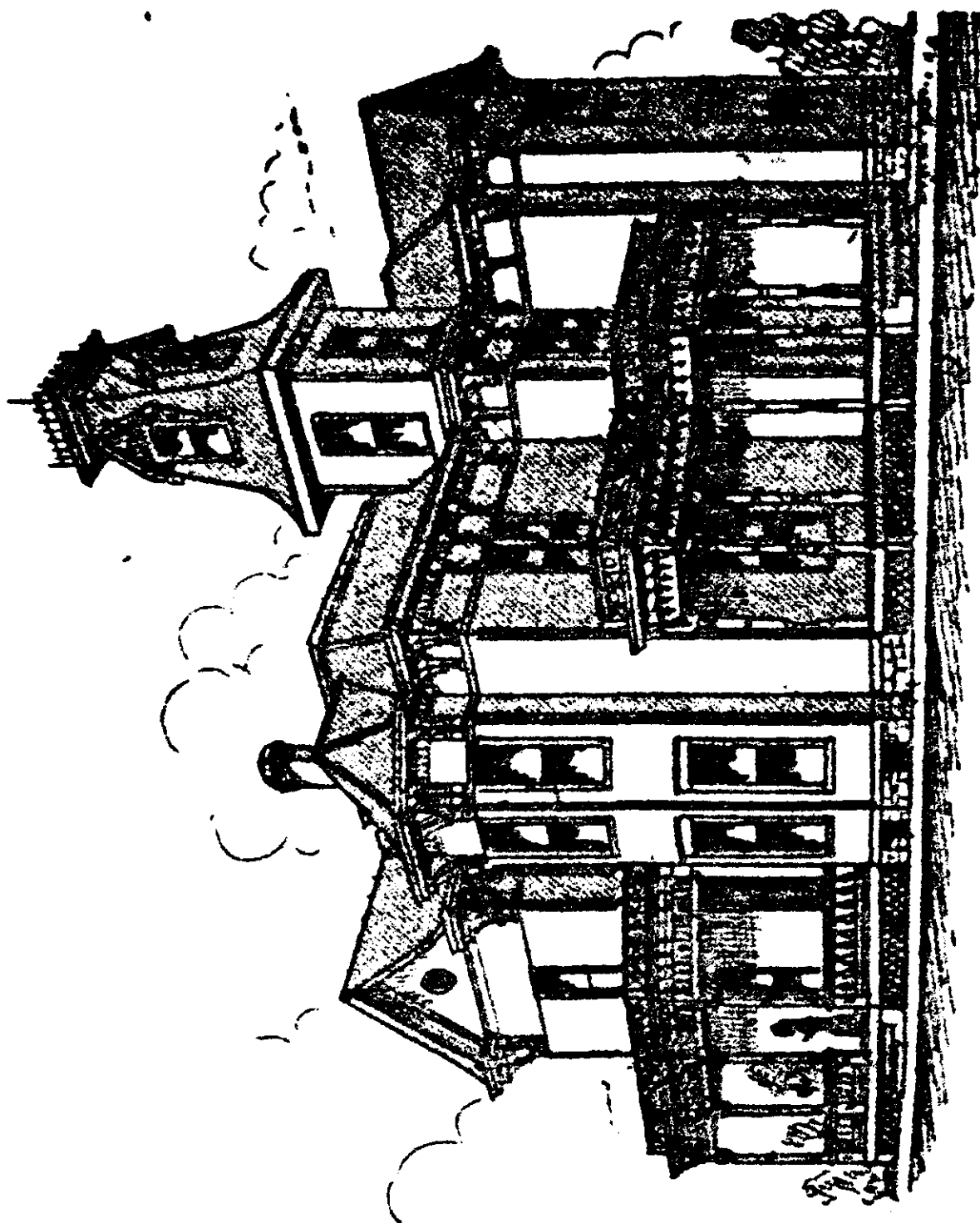
Aerial View Showing Wallace House in Relation to Methodist
Church

September 12, 1945

An aerial view taken for a promotional brochure funded by the Independence Chamber of Commerce, the photograph reveals the Watson Memorial Methodist Church which dates to around the time George P. Gates built his first home in 1867. The church was razed in 1966.

Source: The Independence Examiner.





RESIDENCE OF A. T. BLACK, ESQ.

(The Independence Sentinel, January 2, 1886)
Harry S. Truman Library and Jackson County Historical Society

the library, a place where the future President spent much of his time. A fire in 1939 destroyed the Independence High School. It was soon rebuilt, however, but as a junior high school named after Professor W.L.C. Palmer.

Another high school was constructed and opened in 1918 at 709 West Maple Avenue, across the street from the Watson Memorial Methodist Church. William Chrisman High School was attended by Margaret Truman.¹⁰ It stood empty when the new building by the same name was built, but was purchased in the 1970s by Park College of Parkville, Missouri.

Around 1900 the neighborhood of North Delaware Street was dotted by imposing Victorian structures. The flavor of the neighborhood was transitional with the small town of Independence to the east and open farmland to the west.¹¹ Elizabeth Paxton Forsling, who was born in Independence in 1889 and lived on Delaware Street during her childhood, wrote about this period at the turn of the century. In a series of articles titled "Remembering Delaware Street," she wrote:

Delaware Street started at Maple and went about eight blocks north. It had an imposing entrance for on the corner was one of those beautiful "wine glass elms".

The houses along Delaware Street were mostly Victorian, with large comfortable rooms, high ceilings, and windows with wooden shutters closed

in the summer against the blazing sun. ...the rooms were surrounded with expansive lawns, trees, shrubbery, and at the back vegetable and flower gardens were often found. Also, there were barns and carriage houses, sometimes a wash house and a wood shed. Most people had their own horses and a cow or two.

From the garden sun-ripened vegetables were picked the morning they were to appear on the table. Nearby in Kansas City the finest meats were available. The black rich earth of Jackson County was a land of milk and honey. The people believed the important thing was to put the finest meals and the most appetizing food that could be produced on the table.

The garden and yards along Delaware Street were lovely indeed. Spring brought the bridal wreath, the iris, the snowballs, and all the early bulbs, followed by a profusion of early summer flowers, and in the Fall, the late blooming blossoms flamed up to match the splendor of the autumn leaves.

The porches of the houses on Delaware Street, [were] where the people sat in the evening, their voices were a part of the evening. Friendly voices of good will between neighbors, an intimate connection of the life of the street.¹²

Also in the evenings, children--including the Paxtons and the Wallaces--would play "Run Sheep Run" in the street. Horsedrawn carriages traversing Delaware Street would go around the games, or "pull off to the side and catch a ball or two."¹³

The home south of the alley at 211 North Delaware was built in 1914¹⁴ by Charles Harding, a lumberman. The cream colored, two-story stucco building has been occupied by a succession of families and is now divided into a duplex.¹⁵ During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the home figured large

in the childhood of Margaret Truman. The house at 211 North Delaware was then occupied by a family named Ogden with several daughters who were Margaret's playmates. The Ogden sleeping porch was across the alley from the Wallace sleeping porch where Margaret was required to take her afternoon nap. The girls hooked up "an elaborate and cumbersome network of strings and wires" to exchange messages and small objects. The ingenious system was not foolproof, however. The treetops often interfered with the pulley system and the items would fall into the alley, necessitating sneaking out of the house to retrieve them without being caught.¹⁶

During the presidential period, the families on North Delaware Street were very much aware of being in the national spotlight. The Summer White House was the city's number one attraction and, at the start of the post-war tourist boom in 1948, the most common question asked in Independence was "Where is the Truman house?"¹⁷ To facilitate the visitor's access to the famous house and neighborhood, the city erected seven enameled black and yellow directional signs on September 23, 1949, followed shortly afterward by 40 more signs.¹⁸

Neighborhood of North Delaware Street

¹"James F. Moore's Addition To The town of Independence," George W. Rhoades, Surveyor, June 10, 1846, Jackson County Historical Society.

²John F. McCauley's Addition To The City of Independence," Lot Coffman, C.S., January 28, 1852, Jackson County Historical Society.

³Deed, James T. Thornton to the City of Independence, May 14, 1858, Jackson County Land Deed Record Book 29, Page 316. Assuming an equal amount was taken from each lot, 24 3/4 feet was taken from Lot 3. Lands Division, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Ne.

⁴"Section 777, Names of Streets," Revised Ordinances of Independence, Missouri, 1910, Compiled, Arranged and Indexed by Allen C. Southern and John H. Hardin (Independence: The Examiner Printing Company, 1911), p. 253, Office of the City Clerk.

⁵"An Ordinance Changing the Name of Rock Street," approved April 27, 1883, Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Missouri, Book B, p. 60, Office of the City Clerk.

⁶Sue Gentry, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., August 30, 1971, by Dr. Philip C. Brooks, HSTL, p. 15. Additional information was provided by Pat O'Brien, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Independence.

⁷"The Building Boom," The Sentinel (January 2, 1886), pp. 4; 10, HSTL and Jackson County Historical Society.

⁸Assessor's Book of Real Estate, Independence, Missouri, for Year 1907; 1908; 1909; and 1926, City of Independence, Limestone Storage Facility, 16400 West Truman Road.

⁹Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry did not recall the presence of the Slack Mansion when her family moved into 216 North Delaware.

¹⁰Sue Gentry, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., August 30, 1971, by Dr. Philip C. Brooks, HSTL, p. 15.

¹¹Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

¹²Elizabeth Paxton Forsling, "Remembering Delaware Street," Jackson County Historical Society Journal, Vol. III, No. 8 (May 1962), pp. 7-8; 10, supplement to Sue Gentry, Oral History Interview, HSTL.

¹³Ibid., p. 10.

¹⁴Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

¹⁵Sue Gentry, "Young Dramatists Give A Special Performance to Families," Examiner (December 31, 1980), p. 6B, folder-Harry S. Truman Heritage District, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The column reported that the house was featured on the inside cover of the Dec.-Jan. issue of Modern Maturity. The home is owned by Mrs. C.H. Allen who lives to the immediate south at 616 West Maple Avenue.

¹⁶Margaret Truman, Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1956), p. 30.

¹⁷"Summer White House First Stop For Tourists Arriving Here Daily," Examiner (July 23, 1948), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

¹⁸Ibid., "Signs Mark Route To Truman's Home," Examiner (September 24, 1949), p. 1. Funded by the Independence Chamber of Commerce, the first signs were placed at 23rd and Noland; Noland and Pacific; Maple and Noland; Maple and Pleasant; College and Noland; Highway 24 and Noland; and Maple and Main.

Sidewalks

In the early 1880s, the Independence Board of Aldermen began a beautification initiative designed to integrate the immediate annexed areas surrounding the original "Old Town" and Independence Square district. They began with a vigorous legislative campaign directing property owners along major thoroughfares to build sidewalks on their lots. One of the first city ordinances calling for the construction of sidewalks was approved on October 8, 1883, and involved Delaware, Pleasant, Hickman, and Temple Streets. Sidewalks for Delaware were to be built on both sides of the street as property owners were required to "build second class sidewalks in front and alongside of their respective lots within thirty days from the passage of this Ordinance."

Building specifications for second class sidewalks as provided by the Board of Aldermen were:

pine or oak timber, two inches thick, by five foot long, laid on three stringers 2x4, of oak or pine timber, and securely fastened to same. The stringers to be nailed together by a cleat on each side of joint, not less than two feet long. Where said walk is over any place that is below grade of the street, it shall be supported on stringers nailed securely to upright post 4x4 inches, and not further apart than six feet.¹

If property owners failed to construct the sidewalks

within the allotted 30 days, the city hired carpenters to build them and then either sent a bill to the property owner or issued a special tax bill against their lot(s).

Sidewalks on Blue Avenue (now Truman Road) appeared as early as 1887 when similar legislation called for the construction of a plank sidewalk on the north side of Blue Avenue from Ruffner (now River Street) to Delaware. Approved by the aldermen on March 14, 1887, the specifications were as follows:

3 planks 2 inches thick and 8 inches wide, to be laid lengthwise; to be laid on stringers 2 by 4 inches; said material to be of pine, white or burr oak, to be securely spiked on said stringers or sleepers; said stringers or sleepers to be not exceeding 3 feet apart, and to be securely fastened in 2x4 posts of pine or oak, and said walk shall be as near as practicable on the grade of the street.²

The transition from wood to stone or concrete sidewalks probably came around the turn of the century, although specific dates are not known. The earliest historical photographs of the Gates house reveal the presence of the decorative hexagonal limestone block sidewalk, a reconstruction of which can be seen today.

An additional beautification measure was the city-mandated program to keep weeds along streets and sidewalks under

control. An ordinance approved on July 13, 1885, declared that it was the "duty of all persons owning Real Estate fronting on any of the streets of the City of Independence, Missouri, to keep the grass and weeds in the street or streets opposite said property to the middle centre [sic] of said street or streets and alleys cuty down and removed from the same."³

¹"An Ordinance Requiring Sidewalks to be Built on Delaware, Pleasant, Hickman and Temple Streets," No. 25, Approved 8 October 1883, Record of Ordinances, Book B, Independence, Missouri, p. 9, Office of the City Clerk.

²Ibid., "An Ordinance to build a sidewalk on the north side of Blue avenue, or boulevard, and Tan Yard Rd.," No. 150, p. 247.

³Ibid., "An Ordinance to Cut Weeds," No. 95, p. 169.

History of Truman Road

When James F. Moore's addition was platted on June 10, 1846, the street now known as Truman Road was then called "Tanyard Road."¹ On an 1868 map (See Appendix), although the designation of Tanyard Road is not given, the street covered the two-block length of Moore's addition and did not connect to any other east-west road.²

By 1886, it had been renamed "Blue Avenue",³ and the name was standardized by the city in 1910.⁴ By 1931, it was changed to "Van Horn Road,"⁵ after Col. Robert Thompson Van Horn who was the owner and editor of the Kansas City Journal-Post and the sixth mayor of Kansas City (1861-65 and 1865-69). At the turn of the century, the street was nothing more than a narrow dirt country road lined by trees. It was later graveled, then paved by the 1940s.⁶

Since 1915, Independence politicians and planners wanted to make Van Horn Road a major thoroughfare. The Bureau of Public Roads, however, would not permit the Missouri Highway Department to use Federal funds for the project because Independence Mayor Roger Sermon refused the government's demand to make Van Horn a one-way street. Van Horn, according to one city official, was "like a strangulated vein; you had to go all

around the business district virtually to get through anywhere."⁷

Despite the ban on using Federal funds, the city announced in January 1946 that Van Horn Road would be opened through Independence at a 42-foot width and connect with county roads outside the city limits. To widen the road to a uniform width, condemnation proceedings would take the needed land. It was revealed that all the land would be taken from the north side of Van Horn,⁸ an important detail since the President's home was on the south side.

Kansas City preceded Independence in the move to change the name of Van Horn to "Truman Road." Fifteenth Street, a major Kansas City east-west thoroughfare, connected to Independence's Van Horn Road on the later city's western boundary. On February 11, 1946, Kansas City Councilman Sheridan E. Ferrell, upon the request of 88 property owners along Fifteenth Street, proposed to the Kansas City City Council that the street be designated "Truman Road." Independence Mayor Sermon, bowing to local critics, stated that his city would approve the name change only when Kansas City changed Fifteenth Street.⁹

After three years of deliberation, the Kansas City City

Council passed Ferrell's ordinance on November 22, 1948, only three weeks after President Truman won the 1948 presidential election. One week later, the Independence City Council followed suit. Both cities made the birth of "Truman Road" effective on Inauguration Day, January 20, 1949.¹⁰

President Truman did not oppose the name change, but he reportedly "felt bad... because he knew and respected Colonel Van Horn" who died in 1916.¹¹ While the President frequently declined to have public facilities carry his name, the Truman family had negative feelings about the selection of 15th Street/Van Horn Road to be called "Truman Road." They thought that one of the major county roads such as Blue Ridge Boulevard would have been more appropriate for the name change.¹²

The city of Independence soon discovered that the opening and widening of Truman Road, first proposed in 1946, was impossible without Federal funds. Mayor Sermon remained obdurate in his refusal to the Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) to make it one-way eastbound into the city. The stalemate was broken only upon Sermon's death in 1950. His successor, Robert P. Weatherford, Jr., agreed to the BPR's stipulation. Two weeks later, President Truman received a call from Thomas H. MacDonald, BPR Chief Engineer, who asked Truman if he objected to the BPR appropriating the funds to the Missouri Highway

Department. Truman called Mayor Weatherford who explained, "Even though the road runs along the north side of your home, it is a technical strangulation in the traffic pattern of this city."

Two days later, BPR Chief Engineer MacDonald called the mayor and said that the funds for the Truman Road project had been approved. In reference to his talks with the White House, MacDonald stated that the President "said it was all right with him, he just didn't want anybody to think that he was the one that was pushing it."¹³

Construction on Truman Road did not begin until early 1953 after the passage of a city bond issue.¹⁴ During the construction, the Examiner reported:

Truman Road across the street from the [Truman] family home is a sorry sight since a row of fine old trees and shrubbery have been uprooted and the yards graded down in the process of widening the thoroughfare. The Trumans are now using the alley on the south side of their home as a drive entrance.

Mrs. Truman said she was sorry to see the trees gone and of course she felt more sorry for the neighbors across the street than for herself, but that she realized it was all in the spirit of progress.¹⁵

Sewer lines were also installed on both sides of the

street, and a large part of the lawn of the property on the northwest corner of Truman Road and Delaware was taken. Mounds of dirt were piled up against the iron fence on the north side of the Truman home. Mr. Truman made "regular inspection tours" of the project while Mrs. Truman, "like all neighbor women, fought the dust which also covered her yard, entrance walks and porches."¹⁶

Dedication ceremonies for the completed project were held December 16, 1953. The former President cut the ribbon and made a speech formally dedicating Truman Road.¹⁷

Ironically, Harry Truman was nearly injured as a result of the traffic change-over to one-way traffic. On a morning stroll on February 10, 1954, he was almost struck by a car which had turned the wrong way onto Truman Road while he was crossing the street.¹⁸

On June 19, 1961, the Independence City Council unanimously voted to return Truman Road to two-way traffic. The action was taken due to a petition from uptown merchants who claimed the one-way thoroughfare had an adverse effect on their businesses.¹⁹ Truman Road remains a two-way thoroughfare to this date.

History of Truman Road

¹"James F. Moore's Addition To The town of Independence," original plat map, June 10, 1846, George W. Rhoades, Surveyor, Office of Land Planning and Zoning, City of Independence, Mo.

²"Bird's Eye View of the City of Independence, Jackson County Missouri, 1868," drawn by A. Ruger, Jackson County Historical Society.

³Atlas of the Environs of Kansas City in Jackson County Missouri. From Official Records and Actual Surveys (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1886), Jackson County Historical Society.

⁴Revised Ordinances of Independence, Missouri, 1910, Compiled, Arranged, and Indexed by Allen C. Southern and John H. Hardin (Independence: The Examiner Printing Company, 1911), p. 253, Office of the City Clerk. The ordinance read: "That Blue Avenue, Spring Branch and County Road and their line, if extended, be made the second north base line and named Blue Avenue."

⁵Revised Ordinances of Independence, Missouri, 1931, Compiled, Arranged, and Indexed by Roger T. Sermon, John F. Thice, and James S. Craig (Independence: Lambert Moon Printing Company, 1932), pp. 220-1, Office of the City Clerk.

⁶Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace and Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interviews, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁷Robert P. Weatherford, Jr., Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., June 11, 1976, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, pp. 33-4.

⁸"Van Horn Road To Be Opened at 42 Foot Width," Examiner (January 12, 1946), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence, Mo.

⁹Ibid., "Protest A Change To Truman Road," Examiner (February 16, 1946), p. 1.

¹⁰Ibid., "Van Horn Road Is Truman Road In Independence," Examiner (November 30, 1948), p. 1; and The Truman Road Story, sponsored by Women's Truman Democratic Club of Missouri, Inc., (Kansas City, Kansas: Lane Printing Co., 1952), p. 7, folder-Jackson County History, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹¹Charles S. Stevenson, "Mayor Van Horn Never Given Credit For 'Saving' City," Jackson County Historical Society Journal (April-May-June 1983), p. 10, White House Scrapbooks (misfiled), HSTL.

¹²Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 41.

¹³Robert P. Weatherford, Jr., Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., June 11, 1976, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, pp. 35-6.

¹⁴"Open Truman Rd. Bids On Feb. 27," Examiner (February 10, 1953), p. 1, folder-Truman, Harry S Jan.-March 1953, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹⁵"Former President Truman Makes His Birthday Just 'Routine Day'," Examiner (May 8, 1953), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

¹⁶"Truman Home Isolated By Work On Road," Examiner (December 15, 1953), p. 6, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

¹⁷"Truman Road Is Dedicated With A Ribbon-Cutting and Luncheon," Examiner (December 16, 1953), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

¹⁸"Mr. Truman Almost A Victim Of One-Way Traffic Change-Over," Examiner (February 10, 1954), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

¹⁹"City Asks For 2-Way Truman Rd., Examiner (June 20, 1961), p. 1; and, Robert P. Weatherford, Jr., Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., June 11, 1976, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, p. 37. The city lost further Bureau of Public Roads funds because of the breached contract.

Telephone

Telephone service first came to the North Delaware Street neighborhood in 1896.¹ Jackson County was served by a dual system, the Bell Telephone Company and the Independence Home Telephone Company. The later became the second telephone company in Independence when the city granted a concession to J.S. Haley to erect telephone poles and wires on May 2, 1903.² Each company was independent of the other and, therefore, incapable of connecting with the other's system. During the Trumans' courtship, Harry Truman would call "64", the number of the Gates house on North Delaware Street, on the Home system from his Grandview farm.³ There is evidence, however, that the Gates house had both Home and Bell telephone service.⁴

Neither the Bell nor Home system was especially reliable in their infant days. Customers had to go through an operator and endure long waits after which it was not uncommon to get the wrong number or be cut-off. Direct dialing did not come until after World War I.⁵ By that time, Bell Telephone Company had become dominant in Jackson County. By March 1918, 219 North Delaware was served only by the Bell system.⁶

According to Margaret Truman, from her earliest recollections (late 1920s), only two telephones were present in her

family home through the presidential period. The telephones, both of which were the upright post variety, were located beneath the first floor stairs and in the Trumans' second floor bedroom. The upstairs telephone number was 1523J while the number downstairs was 1523W. Although different, "it didn't make any difference with the W and the J because if you answered one you could hear everything that was said on the other one.... They both rang; when you called one, they both rang."⁷

When the First Lady, daughter Margaret, and Mrs. Madge Wallace returned to Independence for the summer in early June 1945, the President was unable to call them as he would later come frequently to do. The telephone there had apparently been changed to a new, unlisted number. In a June 7 letter, he sheepishly explained to Mrs. Truman, "I lost the phone number you gave me by putting it where I could find it."⁸

During the Truman presidency, to guard against any chance of illegal telephonic eavesdropping, a special telephone was installed next to the telephone adjacent to the stairway. Providing a direct link either to the White House or any other place in the world, the special telephone operated with a "scrambler" which ensured that no third party listening in could understand the conversation. On one occasion, President

Truman called his family during the Potsdam Conference using the "scrambler" telephone system.⁹

With the return of the Secret Service in December 1965, additional telephones were installed.¹⁰ A phone was put in the library and the kitchen. The kitchen phone was equipped with a jack which permitted it to be plugged into a similar jack on the back porch in the summertime, or taken upstairs and used in the Trumans' bedroom where the old telephone had been removed. After President Truman's death, the telephone by the stairs was removed and another telephone with a long cord was put in the first floor bedroom for Mrs. Truman's use.¹¹

Telephone

¹Elizabeth Paxton Forsling, "Remembering Delaware Street," Jackson County Historical Society Journal, Vol. III, No. 8 (May 1962), p. 11, as appended to Sue Gentry, Oral History Interview, August 30, 1971, by Dr. Philip C. Brooks, HSTL. Mrs. Forsling was a childhood friend of Mrs. Bess Wallace Truman and sister of Mary Paxton Keeley.

²"Independence Home Telephone Company," Ordinance No. 1769, Revised Ordinances of Independence, Missouri, 1910, Compiled, Arranged, and Indexed by Allen C. Southern and John H. Hardin (Independence: The Examiner Printing Company, 1911), p. 300, Office of the City Clerk.

³Robert H. Ferrell, Dear Bess: The Letters From Harry to Bess Truman, 1910 to 1959 (New York: W.W. Norton and

Company, 1983), pp. 45; 119. The letter from Harry Truman to Bess Wallace was dated March 12, 1913.

⁴Ibid., p. 86. In a letter to Bess Wallace dated June 18, 1912, Harry Truman wrote that while he was in Kansas City, he tried to call her seven times--six times on the Home and once on the Bell systems.

⁵Ibid., p. 45.

⁶Ibid., p. 252. The letter from Mr. Truman was dated March 21, 1918. Truman had called his fiancée at 5 a.m. that day from the Rock Island Railroad depot in the Armourdale District of Kansas City, Kansas. He was on a troop train en route from Fort Lawton, Oklahoma, to New York City, and then on to the Western Front in France. He related how he had to search frantically for a Bell phone. Apologizing for the early hour, he wrote: "I am sorry to have disturbed your mother but I hope she'll forgive me this time."

⁷Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 46.

⁸Ibid., p. 515.

⁹"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. 46.

¹⁰Robert W. Phillips, "Truman Trips Recalled By Personal Aide," Kansas City Star (October 1, 1973), p. 1, folder-Westwood, Mike, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

¹¹Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 46.

Carriage House/Barn

The carriage house, which measures 32.7 by 24.3 feet, has always been known to the Gates/Wallace/Truman family as "the barn." Its construction date is unknown, but its heavy timber construction suggests that the barn served as a support building for the original Gates house.¹

Photographs of Bess Wallace and her family on the rear lawn in 1904 reveal the barn in the background. A wooden ramp leads from the gravel drive into the barn's interior and two large, sliding barn doors are on the north (front) facade. The color of the barn appears to be light gray with dark trim, colors which match those of the main house at this time period (See Figures 54, 55, and 56).

In the first decade of the century, the barn housed George P. Gates's carriage. Whether a horse was kept there is not known.

By 1914, the barn had been converted into a garage to shelter the Gates automobile. Another vehicle it sheltered was the 1911 Stafford that Harry Truman purchased in 1914. Driving from his Grandview farm to see Bess Wallace, Truman parked it in the barn next to Mr. Gates's automobile.² The second garage

FIGURE 54

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-59-76

Barn, Trellis, and Outbuilding

Circa 1904

Evidence of a small outbuilding to the east of the barn can be seen. The existence of an outbuilding is verified by the 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (See Appendix). The picket fence surrounding the garden and grazing area is also visible. From Left to Right: Bess Wallace, Nellie Noland, Frank Wallace, Ethel Noland, Fred Wallace (child), and Will Boger.



FIGURE 55

Truman Library Photo Archives, 82-59-99

Backyard/Barn Detail (1)

Circa 1904

Bess Wallace stands in the backyard of 219 North Delaware.



FIGURE 56

Truman Library Photo Archives, 66-277

Backyard/Barn Detail (2)

Circa 1904

Group on lawn of the Gates house, Left to Right: Fred Wallace, Ethel Noland, Nellie Noland, Frank Wallace, Bess Wallace (eating watermelon), George Wallace, and Will Boger.

Source: Noland Papers.



building immediately east of the barn was built in 1922 for Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace's Essex.³

In early October 1939, the barn received a new roof, installed by someone other than the family's handyman.⁴

During the presidential era, when the Secret Service was charged with protecting the First Family, the west side of the barn, which was used as a garage by both the Truman and two Wallace families, was converted into what originally was intended to be a temporary operating station. The Secret Service continued to use the barn even when the small security booth was built adjacent to the barn in late 1945.⁶

In the 1950s when the property underwent modernization, the renovation of the old barn was proposed to the Trumans. The deterioration of the long neglected structure concerned the couple. In the mid-1950s, carpenter Charles E. Anderson offered to work on the barn. He proposed raising the structure off its stone foundation and repair or replace it with concrete. He also offered to replace the sections of rotted wood. In their discussions, both Mr. and Mrs. Truman stressed their preference of preserving the original appearance of the structure in any improvement work done. With the renovations in the house taking top priority, carpentry work on the barn

was cancelled. Mr. Truman informed Anderson that he could not afford it.⁷

Anderson did do a small amount of work on the barn, however. On January 9, 1956, he installed the weathervane atop the cupola.⁸ On April 30, 1956, some repairs were done on the weathervane.⁹

A fire took place at some unknown time in the barn. Evidence of charred timbers can be seen in the interior southwest corner. The second level loft, full of cut wood boards and packing crates from the White House, is accessible only by crude boards nailed into an inside wall. Two windows on the west wall have been boarded-up.

Carriage House/Barn

¹Although the 1868 "Bird's Eye View Map of Independence" does not show the barn, it could have been built shortly afterwards or in the 1870s. The Sentinel article discussing the construction of the Gates mansion does not mention the barn.

²Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

³Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁴Robert Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983), p. 424. The letter, from Washington, D.C., was dated October 9, 1939. Truman wrote: "Glad you roofed the barn. Hope Frank didn't take it too hard." Frank Wallace was not the likely person who would do this work. However,

according to Margaret Truman's Souvenir, the family's handyman at this time is referred to as "old Frank."

⁵Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 34.

⁶Bess Furman, "Independent Lady From Independence," New York Times Magazine (June 9, 1946), pp. 20; 47.

⁷Charles E. Anderson, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 20, 1983.

⁸Invoice, Anderson to Harry S Truman, January 9, 1956, folder-Truman, Harry S, Misc. Work, Personal Work Files of Charles E. Anderson, Holden, Mo. No material costs were included.

⁹Ibid., invoice, April 30, 1956.

Domestic Help

Like most of their neighbors, the Gates always had domestic servants, all of whom were Afro-Americans. Black women did all the cooking and cleaning work at the house. The common practice was for the cook to come to the house before each meal, prepare the food, and then go back to her own home taking all the left-overs with her. This arrangement kept the cost of having a cook minimal.¹ The large force of black domestics lived in three segregated areas of Independence. Those who worked in the Delaware Street area lived in the section known as "The Neck." The Neck was adjacent to McCauley Park (at the termination of North Delaware Street and the present location of the Truman Library) and the commuter train station to Sugar Creek and Kansas City.²

Miss Vietta Garr, who was also black, began working for Madge Wallace in 1929 and stayed with the family until she retired in the early 1970s. Vietta Garr went with the Trumans and Madge Wallace when they moved to Washington, but quit her job for a short time when the family went back to Washington in late 1944. She was rehired in the summer of 1945 and went with the family to the White House in the fall.³

When the Trumans came back to Independence in 1953, they

found themselves the "subject of gossip" and hard to obtain domestic help. Mr. Truman wrote in Mr. Citizen:

We found it difficult to get domestic help--help that would, as my mother used to say, "keep their mouths shut when they ought to."

We are of the old fashioned cult that believes in home privacy, and we would much rather do the things that need to be done in the home ourselves than have someone around who will go out and gossip about it.

Most of the people who worked for us before we went to the White House were no longer physically able to do steady work when we returned home. But we got along reasonably well. We have two or three people come in once or twice a week to clean up and help Mrs. Truman get things arranged so that the house runs almost exactly as it used to.⁴

A 1961 article revealed the small scope of the domestic staff and the former President's own household chores:

The Trumans live in comfort but no elegance. They prefer it that way. They prefer their privacy to a large domestic staff. Thus, they have only one regular in help--a cook--and the occasional use of a gardener.

In the division of labor at the Truman home, the former President lugs out ashes, hauls in firewood, helps with the dishes, moves furniture when the "boss" decides on a new arrangement and, because he rises earlier than anybody, frequently makes his own breakfast.⁵

After the death of Mr. Truman, when Bess Wallace Truman lived at 219 North Delaware alone, the domestic staff remained

small, supplemented only by nurses who came regularly to check on the former First Lady. In 1978, Mrs. Truman had the full-time services of a companion, Mrs. Valerie LaMere, who helped her care for the household and pay the bills.⁶

Domestic Help

¹Mary Paxton Keeley, Oral History Interview, Columbia, Mo., July 12, 1966, by J.R. Fuchs, HSTL, pp. 49-50.

²Elizabeth Paxton Forsling, "Remembering Delaware Street," Jackson County Historical Society Journal, Vol. III, No. 8 (May 1962), p. 11, appended to Sue Gentry, Oral History Interview, Independence, Mo., August 30, 1971, by Dr. Philip C. Brooks, HSTL.

³"Truman's Cook Is Doubtful," New York Sun (June 1, 1945); "First Lady Back to White House," Examiner (September 26, 1945), p. 1; and "Mrs. Truman Attends Services For Family Cook," Kansas City Star (January 6, 1974), p. 8B, folder-Truman, Harry S Family Cook (Miss Vietta Garr), Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. Vietta Garr died December 31, 1973, having served the Truman family as cook and maid for nearly half a century. She died after suffering critical burns November 1, 1973, at her home when her dress caught fire from a kitchen stove burner.

⁴Harry S Truman, Mr. Citizen (New York: Popular Library, 1953), p. 56.

⁵Saul Pett, "To Harry Truman Folksy Living Is a Joy," Kansas City Star (August 27, 1961), p. 10F, folder-Truman, Harry S July-Sept. 1961, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL.

⁶"Bess Truman: A Life Portrait; Phase V: Living Alone," Examiner (October 18, 1982), p. 6B.

Moving From 219 North Delaware?

The question of the Trumans moving from their home either to a permanent location in Independence, Washington, D.C., or elsewhere has surfaced a number of times.

Upon the death of George Porterfield Gates in June 1918, Bess Wallace mentioned in a letter to her fiance fighting in France that she was considering moving to a smaller house. Harry Truman responded, "I do wish I could be there to help you decide whether you'd stay in a huge house or a small one. It wouldn't take me two minutes to decide."¹

During their first year of marriage, Truman attempted to buy a house for himself and his new bride. Fifteen years later he wrote, "My 1920 experience buying a house almost made a coward out of me...."²

In 1935, the Trumans discussed the possibility of building their own house in Washington to escape the inconvenience of apartment living. Truman wrote to his wife:

I'd like very much to build the house and we'll look it over when I get home. But you know a house said to cost \$8,500 will cost \$10,500 and it is necessary to have a lot clear--and one where we'd want to be will cost \$2,500 anyway. So you can see how it piles up. There would be at least \$2,000 or \$2,500 in furniture too.³

In the last weeks of the Truman Presidency, family lawyer Rufus Burrus believed that the family might want to relocate into a more modern, spacious home. Burrus and an Independence realtor, apparently acting without the consent of the President, found a large home on a sizeable piece of land on the "northern edge of town." He informed the President that it could be purchased at a bargain price. Truman said that 219 North Delaware was "a comfortable place to be," and, in response to buying the other residence, said, "No. It sure is a good price, but I've got all the property that I can care take of right now."⁴

The Trumans did return to the house on North Delaware to live together nearly 20 years in retirement. Speculation about moving to the East was rampant, especially during the spring of 1953. Press reports ranged from Harry and Bess Truman searching for a Park Avenue apartment in New York City to bidding for a 54-acre estate in Connecticut. The former President consistently denied the reports.⁵

Moving From 219 North Delaware?

¹Robert H. Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton

and Company, 1983), p. 267. The letter was postmarked in France, July 31, 1918.

²Ibid., p. 371. The letter was postmarked Washington, D.C., July 12, 1935.

³Ibid.

⁴Rufus Burrus, Interview, Independence, Mo., July 22, 1983.

⁵Robert Conway, "Trumans Eye A 500G Conn. Estate," New York Daily News (March 19, 1953); and, "Truman Denies Seeking A Home on Park Ave.," New York World-Telegram (March 18, 1953), folder-Homes--HST, Research Room Vertical File, HSTL. The reports were fueled by the belief that the couple wanted to be near their daughter whose singing career centered in the New York area. Also, it was believed Mr. Truman wanted to consult with Henry S. Luce, publisher of Time, Life, and Fortune magazines, to which Truman had sold the rights to his memoirs.

Animals at 219 North Delaware

Before her marriage, Bess Wallace had a dog named "Gypsy" which was allowed free roam of the neighborhood. Of unknown breed, the dog was long legged and tan colored.¹ Bess Wallace also had calico chickens, a number of which died from the cool spring weather of 1911.² The animals probably were housed in one of the small outbuildings which appear on the 1907 Sanborn Map.

As late as the 1910s, the Gates had one milk cow which was kept in a shed on the property. Lot 1, where the Wallace brothers' homes were later built, partially served as a pasture area for the cow. George Wallace, whose duty it was to milk the cow, unaffectionately referred to it as "Susie Damn."³ City personal property tax records for the mid to late 1890s reveal George P. Gates not only owned a cow, but he had a horse as well.⁴

An ordinance "restraining all kinds of stock from running at large within the city limits" was passed by the Board of Aldermen on August 25, 1884. Cattle, horses, mules, donkeys, sheep, and goats were listed as public nuisances and prohibited from roaming at large. If observed running free, the animal's owner could be fined from \$5 to \$10, and the City Marshall was

directed to impound the animal until the fine was satisfied.⁵

Before she was 10 years old, Margaret Truman had two ill-fated episodes with pets. On one cold winter night, the girl left her goldfish bowl on the rear porch next to the cistern. The following morning the unfortunate goldfish was frozen solid in its bowl. Margaret also had a "little white dog" which her mother continuously admonished her to take care of or she would give it away. Bess Truman's warnings went unheeded and the dog was soon given to a family on a nearby farm.⁶

"Mike," an Irish Setter and the official White House pet, was an April 1945 gift to Margaret Truman from Robert "Tom" Hannegan, former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and Postmaster General during the Truman administration. Mike arrived in Independence for the first time on June 2, 1945, to "a new gleaming white kennel with his name lettered above the door" on the rear lawn.⁷ Mike was shipped back to Washington, D.C., and his White House enclosure after only two months; he consistently slipped out of his harness and roamed free throughout the Independence neighborhood.⁸ Mike never returned. The spirited dog was given away to a man in Virginia who raised bird dogs.

Many different kinds of animals have made 219 North Delaware their unauthorized home. Squirrels fleeing from dogs frequently darted behind the fragile porch skirting to escape. The resulting damage required continuous latticework maintenance. Birds of all kinds have taken up residence in the attic as did a raccoon in the 1960s. The raccoon made a shambles out of two century-old featherbeds before it was discovered and evicted.⁹ Mrs. Truman demanded that the Secret Service men take the raccoon alive. The directive caused the agents much grief as the animal became quite vicious during its pursuit.¹⁰ The family waged a continuous war with pigeons who enjoyed building nests under the eaves. Men were hired periodically to shoot the pests and remove their nests.¹¹

George P. Wallace claimed that he once saw a snake in his northwest second floor bedroom (the Truman dressing room). The reptile apparently slithered up from a hole in the floorboards.¹²

Animals at 219 North Delaware

¹Mrs. H.H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, Interview, Independence,

Mo., June 14, 1983.

²Robert H. Ferrell, Dear Bess (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983), pp. 31; 35. The letters are dated May 3 and 17, 1911.

³Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 14, 1983.

⁴Assessor's Book of Real Estate, Independence, Missouri, for Year 1894; 1895; 1896; 1897; and 1898, City of Independence, Limestone Storage Facility, 16400 West Truman Road. City tax records exist as early as 1894 only.

⁵"An Ordinance Restraining all kinds of stock from running at large within the city limits," No. 64, approved August 25, 1884, Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Book B, pp. 136-7, Office of the City Clerk.

⁶Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 30.

⁷"Margaret Truman's Irish Setter Is First At Summer White House," Examiner (June 2, 1945), p. 1, Mid-Continent Public Library, North Branch, Independence.

⁸Ibid., "First Lady Off For White House," Examiner (August 8, 1945), p. 1. See also, Cockrell, "Oral History Interview with Margaret Truman," p. 30.

⁹Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Mo., June 30, 1983.

¹⁰Mrs. Elizabeth Safly, Research Room Librarian, Harry S. Truman Library.

¹¹Robert Sanders, Interview, Independence, Missouri, June 30, 1983.

¹²Mrs. George P. (May) Wallace, Interview at 219 North Delaware, July 20, 1983.

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Gentry Shaw, was a member of Mrs. Truman's Tuesday
Bridge Club).

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22, 1983.

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the Jackson County Historical Society;
accomplished title search of the Truman property).

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22, 1983.

(Long-time reporter and city editor of the
Independence Examiner during the presidential
period. A friend of Harry and Bess Truman, Miss
Gentry was a member of the press whom the Trumans
trusted and confided personal news).

Haukenberry, Mrs. H.H. (Ardis). Interview. Independence,
Missouri. June 14, 1983.

(Second cousin of Harry S Truman and resident of
216 North Delaware, the Noland-Haukenberry house).

Hobby, Rev. Edward. Interview. Kansas City, Missouri. July 21, 1983.

(Part-time handyman and groundsman from the Trumans for 25 years).

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(Head of Secret Service Truman Protective Division from 1973 to 1982).

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(President, J.C. Mance and Sons Roofing Company, Basehor, Kansas. A roofer employed in the 1940s and 1950s by the Earl Hawkins Roofing Company which was hired by the Trumans to repair and maintain the original slate roof).

Manson, Tom. Interview. Kansas City, Missouri. July 5, 1983; Telephone Conversations, June 28 and July 7, 1983.

(President, Western Roofing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. A former employee of the Earl Hawkins Roofing Company, his own company replaced the slate roof with asphalt shingles in 1969).

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(Chief, Independence Fire Department. Chief Morgan ascertained that his department has no record of a fire at the Gates/Wallace/Truman home).

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(Historic Preservation Officer, City of Independence).

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(Painter and carpenter for the Trumans since 1953).

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(Sister-in-law of Mrs. Bess Wallace Truman, she recalls the Gates house as early as 1910).

Zaner, Leo Jr. Telephone Conversation. July 12, 1983.

(Sheet metal worker in Kansas City, Zaner's grandfather, assisted on repairs to the slate roof in the early 1930s).

HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Ayers, Eben A., Papers of.
folder-Independence Home.

Oral History Interviews with:

Henry P. Chiles. November 1, 1961; August 14, 1962.

Jonathan Daniels. October 4-5, 1963.

Tom L. Evans. April 17, 1963.

Sue Gentry. August 30, 1971.

Edgar G. Hinde. March 15, 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall S. Jessee. May 19, 1964.

Mary Paxton Keeley. July 12, 1966.

Mary Ethel Noland. August 23; September 9 and 16, 1965.

Mrs. W.L.C. Palmer. January 18, 1962.

Robert P. Weatherford, Jr. June 11, 1976.

Photographic Archives.

Research Room Vertical File.

(An extensive collection of newspaper and magazine articles concerning the lives of the Trumans and all related topics. The following is a listing of file folders from which information was obtained).

Biographical Information--H.S.T.
Gates, George P.
Harry S. Truman Heritage District.
Harry S. Truman Will.
Independence, Visits to while President.
Homes--H.S.T.
Jackson County History
Presidential Properties
Secret Service
Truman, Harry S (53 folders, 1919-1981).
Truman, Harry S Family Cook (Miss Vietta Garr).
Truman Heritage Tour--1981.
Truman Home--Historic Site; 1982-1983--National Park
Service.
Westwood, Mike.

Truman, Harry S. Papers of the President of the United States,
1945-1953.

Official File 78.
President's Personal File 1-G: folder-The President's
Home In Independence, Missouri.

White House Scrapbooks.

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Anderson, Charles E. Personal Work Files. Holden, Missouri.
(Contracts, plans, bills, lists of materials, etc.).

Nickell, Robert ("Bob"). Five-Year Diaries (1953-57; 1958-62;
1963-1967; 1968-1972; and 1973).

(Chronological account of all interior decorating
at 219 North Delaware from 1953 to 1973).

CORRESPONDENCE

Morrissey, Charles T. Letter to National Park Service, Harry S
Truman National Historic Site, (Thomas L. Richter).
Independence, Missouri. July 12, 1983.

Nickell, Robert. Letter to National Park Service, Midwest Re-

gional Office. (Ron Cockrell). Omaha, Nebraska. July 28, 1983.

Waltz, Lew. Letter to Randall R. Pope, Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service. September 20, 1983.

GOVERNMENT OFFICES OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, INDEPENDENCE

Office of Deeds. Titles to all transactions on Lots 1, 2, and 3 of James F. Moore's Addition, Independence, Missouri.

Office of the Probate Court. Last Wills and Testaments, Probate Documents for the Estates of:

George Porterfield Gates (No. 4177).
Elizabeth Emery Gates (No. 4941).
*David W. Wallace (No. 921).
Madge Gates Wallace (No. 9784).

(*Note: All probate documents for David W. Wallace are missing. A former policy allowed such papers to be checked out. An inventory in the 1940s revealed that Wallace's were among 200 others which had vanished).

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
INDEPENDENCE HERITAGE COMMISSION

Aerial Topographic Survey. Independence, Missouri. Abrams Aerial Survey Corporation. Lansing, Michigan. October 1979.

Bird's Eye View of The City of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. A. Ruger. 1868.

John F. McCauley's Addition. Plat Map. Independence, Missouri. Lot Coffman, C.S. January 28, 1852.

James F. Moore's Addition. Plat Map. Independence, Missouri. George W. Rhoades. June 10, 1846. Redrawn 1847.

Quarter Section Maps. Property, Location and Parcel Size.
Subdivisions and Irregular Tracts K-4c, d; K-5c, d.
Independence, Missouri. Circa 1950. (Revised: National
Park Service, Midwest Regional Office. August 25,
1983).

Zoning District Map. Independence, Missouri. Ordinance 6078.
May 2, 1980.

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Charter and Revised Ordinances of the City of Independence,
Missouri. Revised by B.A. Bartlett and A.M. Ott.
Independence: Sentinel Printing and Publishing Company,
1898.

Record Book of Ordinances, City of Independence, Missouri.
Books A and B. No date.

Revised Ordinances of Independence, Missouri, 1910. Compiled,
Arranged, and Indexed by Allen C. Southern and John H.
Hardin. Independence: The Examiner Printing Company,
1911.

Revised Ordinances of Independence, Missouri, 1931. Compiled,
Arranged, and Indexed by Roger T. Sermon, John F. Thice,
and James S. Craig. Independence: Lambert Moon
Printing Company, 1932.

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
LIMESTONE STORAGE FACILITY, 16400 WEST TRUMAN ROAD

Assessor's Book of Real Estate, Independence, Missouri, for
Years (1894 through 1926; 1930; 1935; 1940; 1945; 1949;
1951; 1953; and 1954).

Unofficial City Census. James S. Craig, City Clerk. Filed
April 25, 1911.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Jackson County,
Missouri. Carefully Compiled from Personal Examinations
and Surveys. Philadelphia: Brink, McDonough and
Company, 1877.

Atlas of the Environs of Kansas City In Jackson County
Missouri. From Official Records and Actual Surveys.
Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1886.

Gallup's Atlas of Independence Missouri. Kansas City:
Gallup's Map and Supply Company, circa 1925-40.

The History of Jackson County, Missouri. Containing A History
of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc., Indexed Edition,
1881. Reprinted by Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Ramfre Press,
1966.

Peters, (Mize and Lucy Conway) Family Papers. 1856-1962.

Woodson-McCoy Scrapbook. Folder-A172-2F25. Circa 1875-1925
newspaper clippings.

MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY
NORTH BRANCH, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

The Examiner. Daily newspaper of Independence, Missouri.
1940-1965.

(This local library is a repository for this
newspaper and many articles which are not in the
Truman Library's Research Room Vertical File were
discovered here).

BOOKS

Donovan, Robert J. Tumultuous Years: The Presidency of Harry
S. Truman, 1949-1953. New York: W.W. Norton and
Company, 1982.

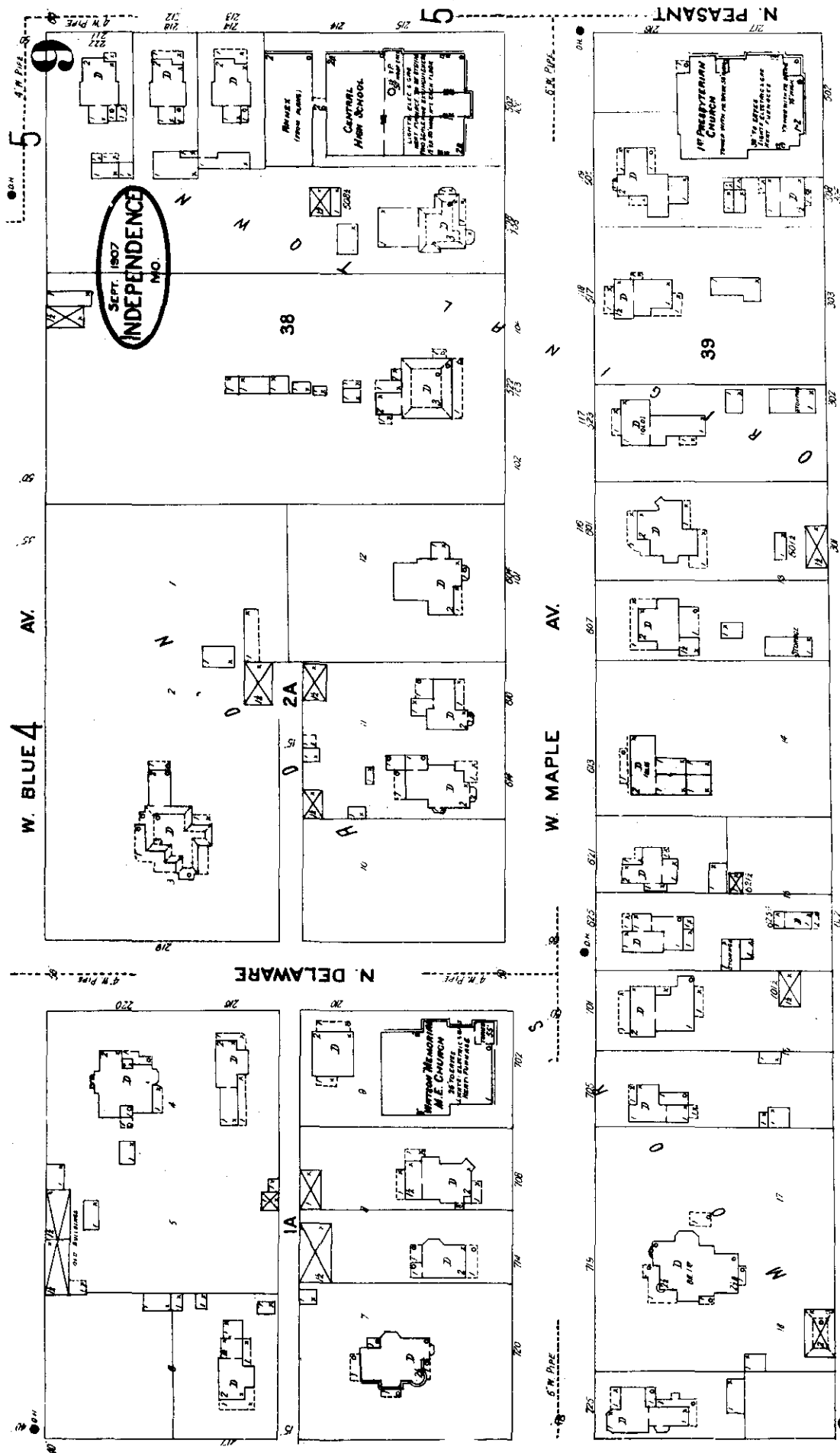
Ferrell, Robert H. (ed.). Dear Bess: The Letters From Harry to

- Bess Truman, 1910-1959. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1983.
- _____. (ed.). Off The Record: The Private Papers of Harry S. Truman. New York: Harper and Row, 1980.
- Foerster, Bernd. Independence, Missouri. Independence, Mo.: Independence Press, 1978.
- Hillman, William. Mr. President. New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1952.
- Miller, Merle. Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman. New York: Berkley Publishing Corporation, 1973.
- Steinberg, Alfred. The Man From Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman. New York: G.P.Putnam's Sons, 1962.
- Truman, Harry S. Mr. Citizen. New York: Popular Library, 1953.
- Truman, Margaret. Harry S. Truman. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1973.
- _____. Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1956.
- _____. Letters from Father: The Truman Family's Personal Correspondence. New York: Arbor House, 1981.
- Underhill, Robert. The Truman Persuasions. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1981.

APPENDIX

Sanborn Maps
Independence, Missouri -- vicinity of 219 North Delaware.

- * September 1907
- * August 1916
- * August 1926
- * August 1926 (Corrected to 1949)



W. LEXINGTON

50

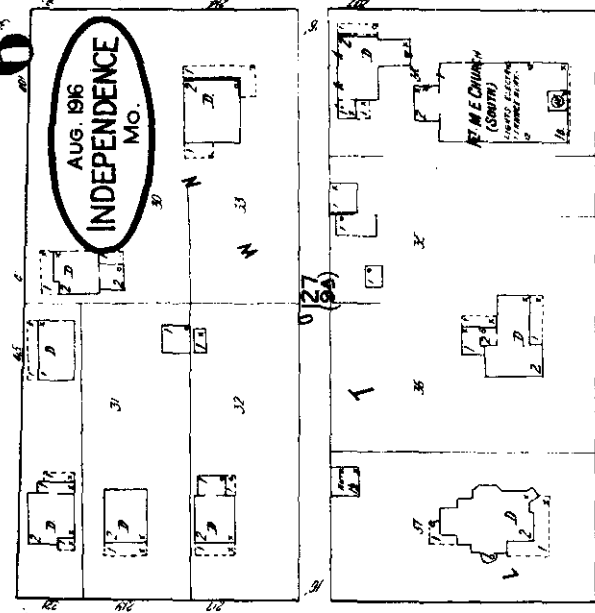
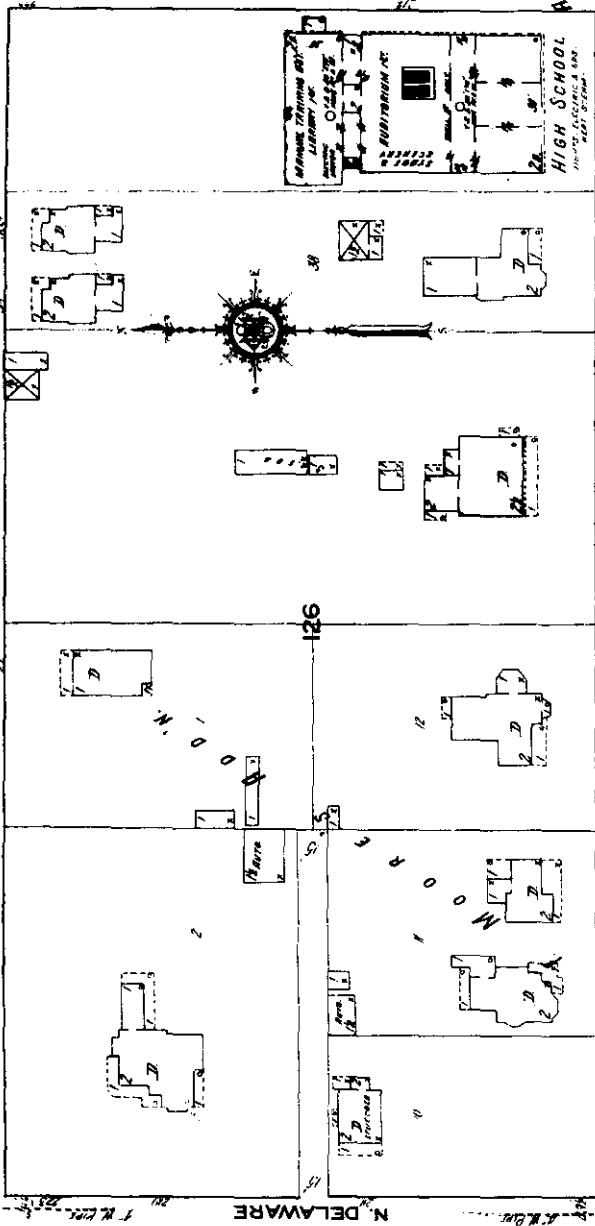
17

W. VAN HORN

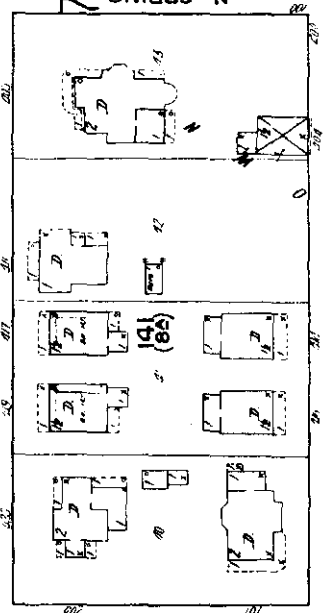
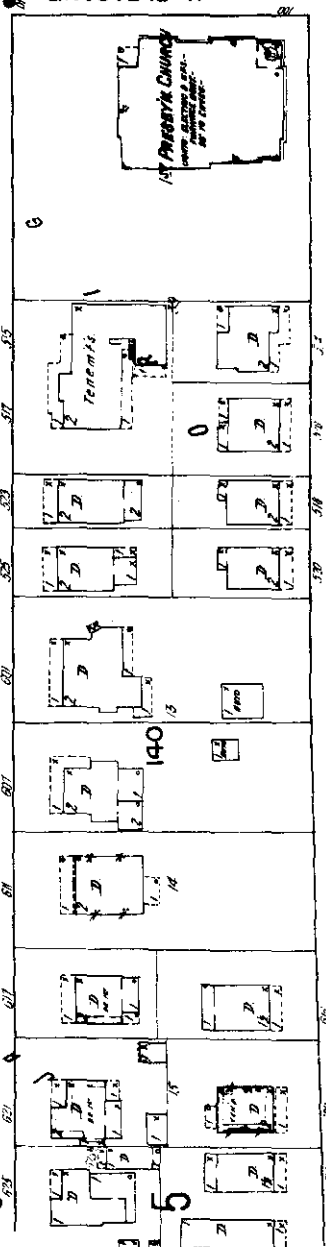
ROAD (BLUE AV.)

2

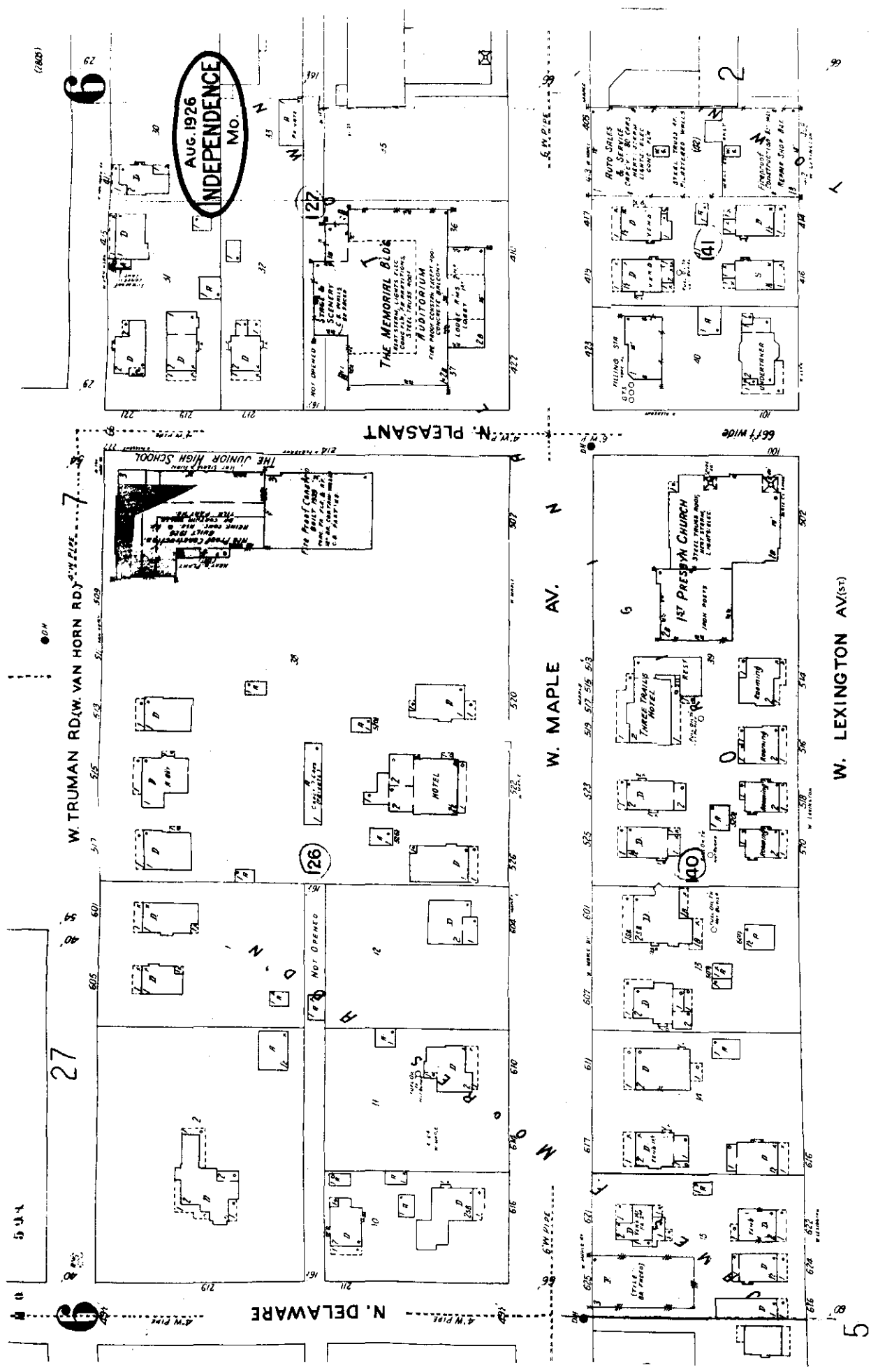
6



W. MAPLE AV.



W. LEXINGTON



(2808)

6

AUG. 1926
INDEPENDENCE
MO.

N. PLEASANT

W. TRUMAN RD. W. VAN HORN RD. W. PINE

27

N. DELAWARE

W. MAPLE AV.

W. LEXINGTON AV (ST)

1ST PRESBYT CHURCH
STEEL FRAME BUILDING
LUMBER SHED
2 JAPANESE HOUSES

THREE TRAILS
HOTEL
REST
DINING
KITCHEN
BATH
HALL
CLOSET
PORCH

THE MEMORIAL BLDG
STEEL FRAME, LIGHTS, FLOOR
CONCRETE, 100' x 100'
ADDITIONAL
CONCRETE BALCONY
ONE AND ONE HALF BLOCKS
LONG

ROTARY CLUB
A SERVICE
CLUB, 100' x 100'
LIGHTS, FLOOR
CONCRETE, 100' x 100'
STEEL TRUSS ROOF
PLASTERED WALLS
WATER TANK
HALL
KITCHEN
BATH
HALL
CLOSET
PORCH

5

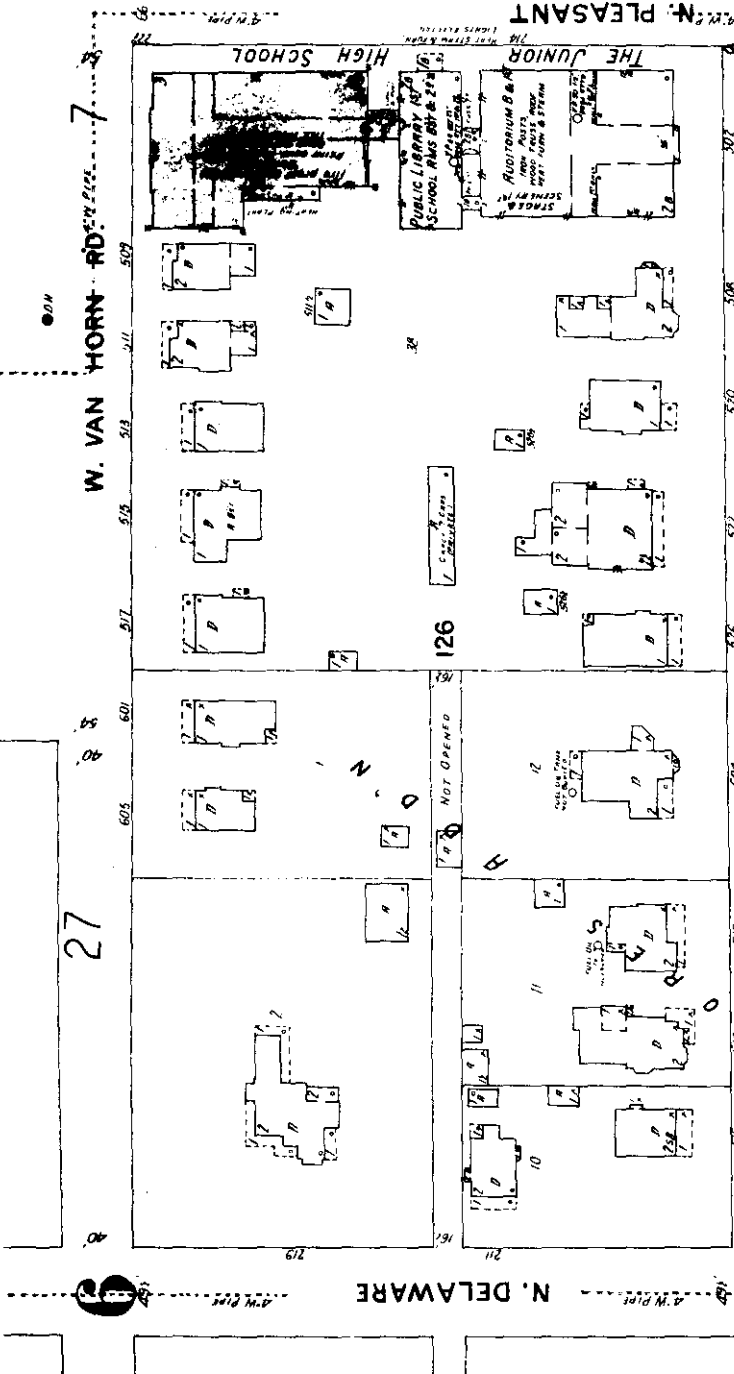
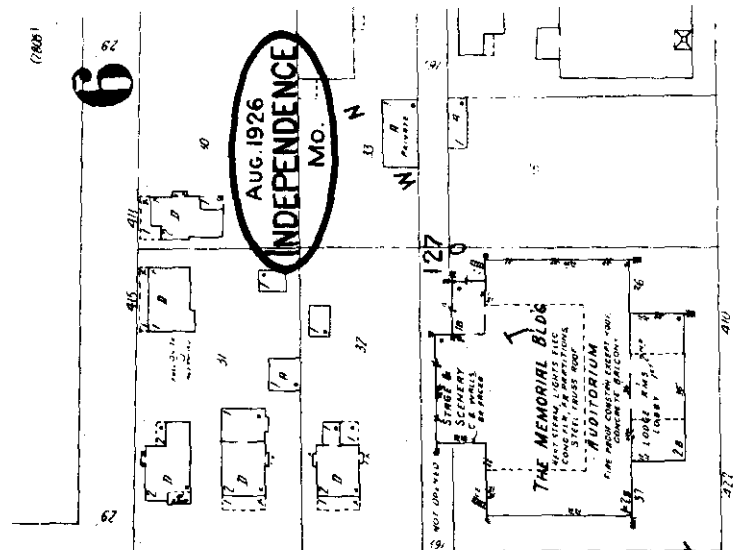
78851

27

W. VAN HORN RD. N. 212

7

6

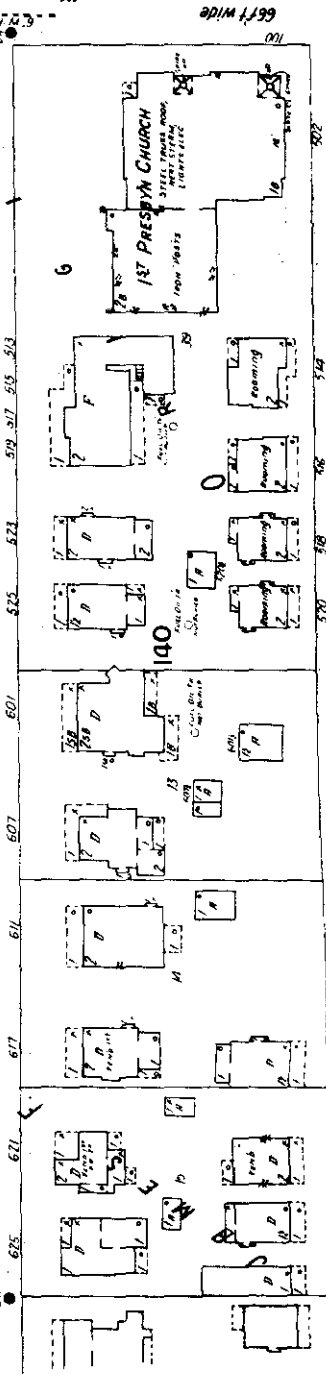
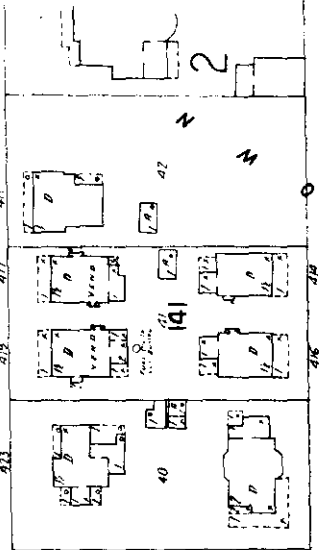


W. MAPLE AV.

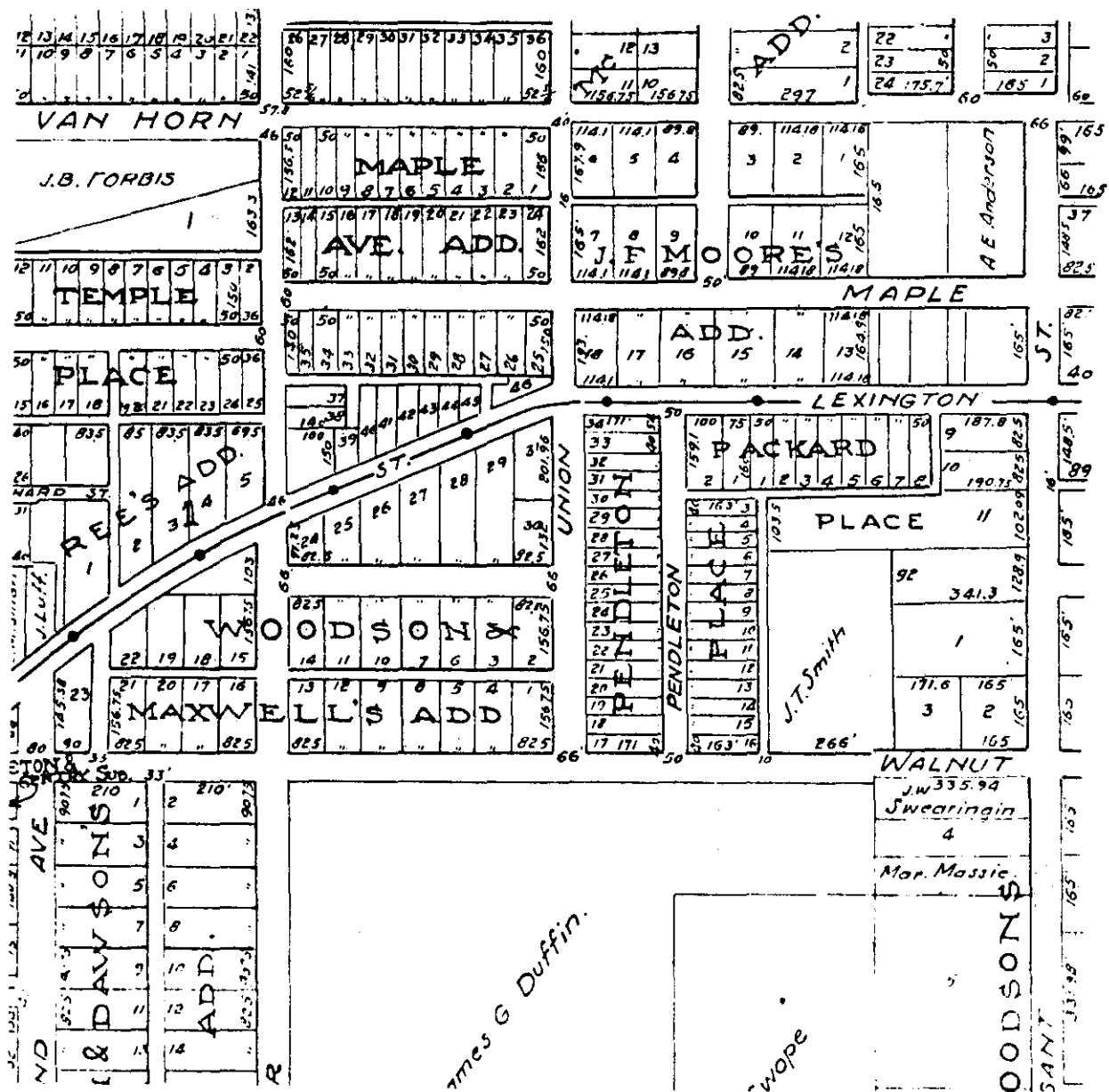
N

66 ft wide

66 ft wide



W. LEXINGTON



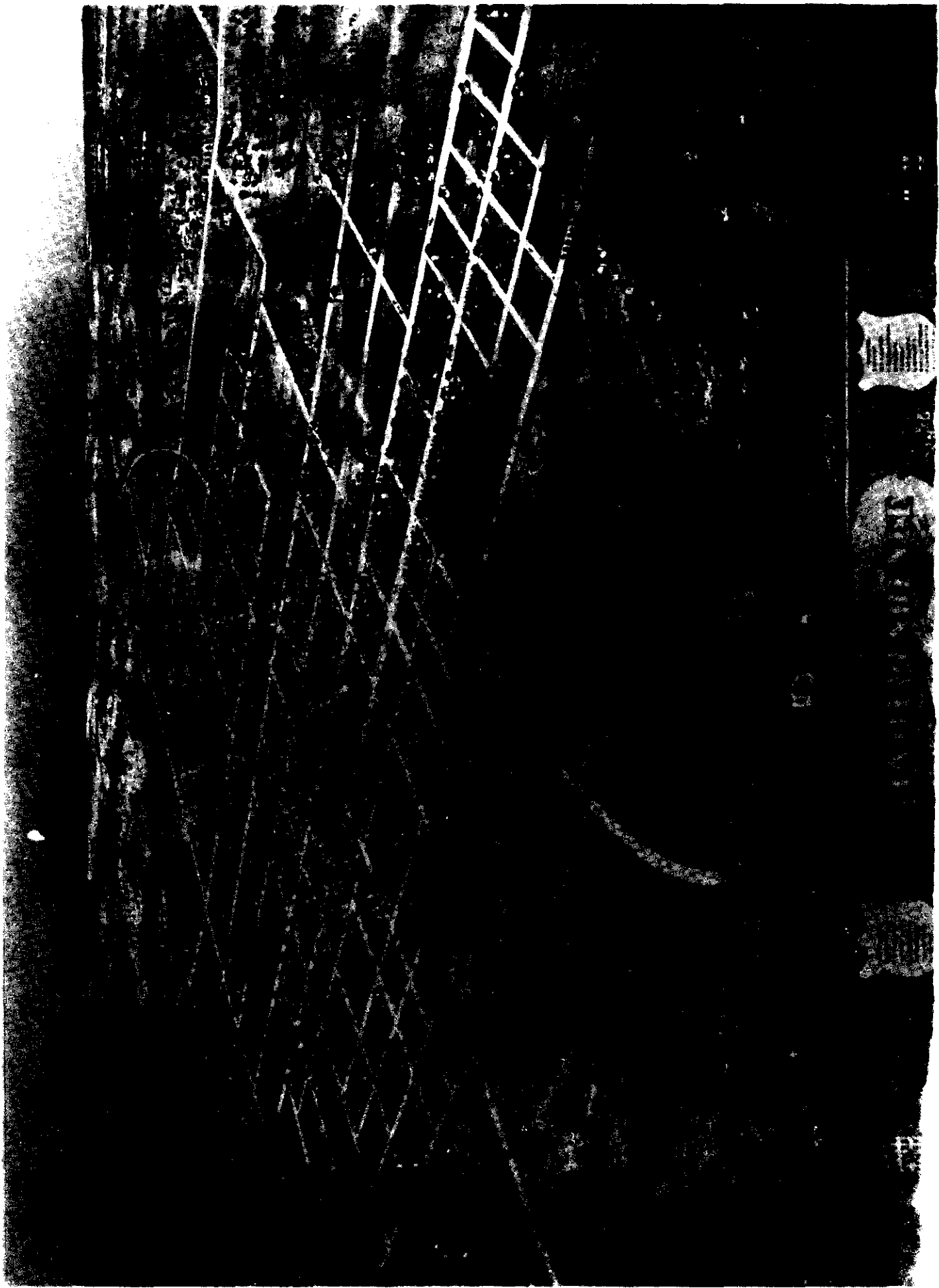
GALLUP'S ATLAS OF INDEPENDENCE MISSOURI

Published by Gallup Map and Supply Company,

Kansas City, Missouri

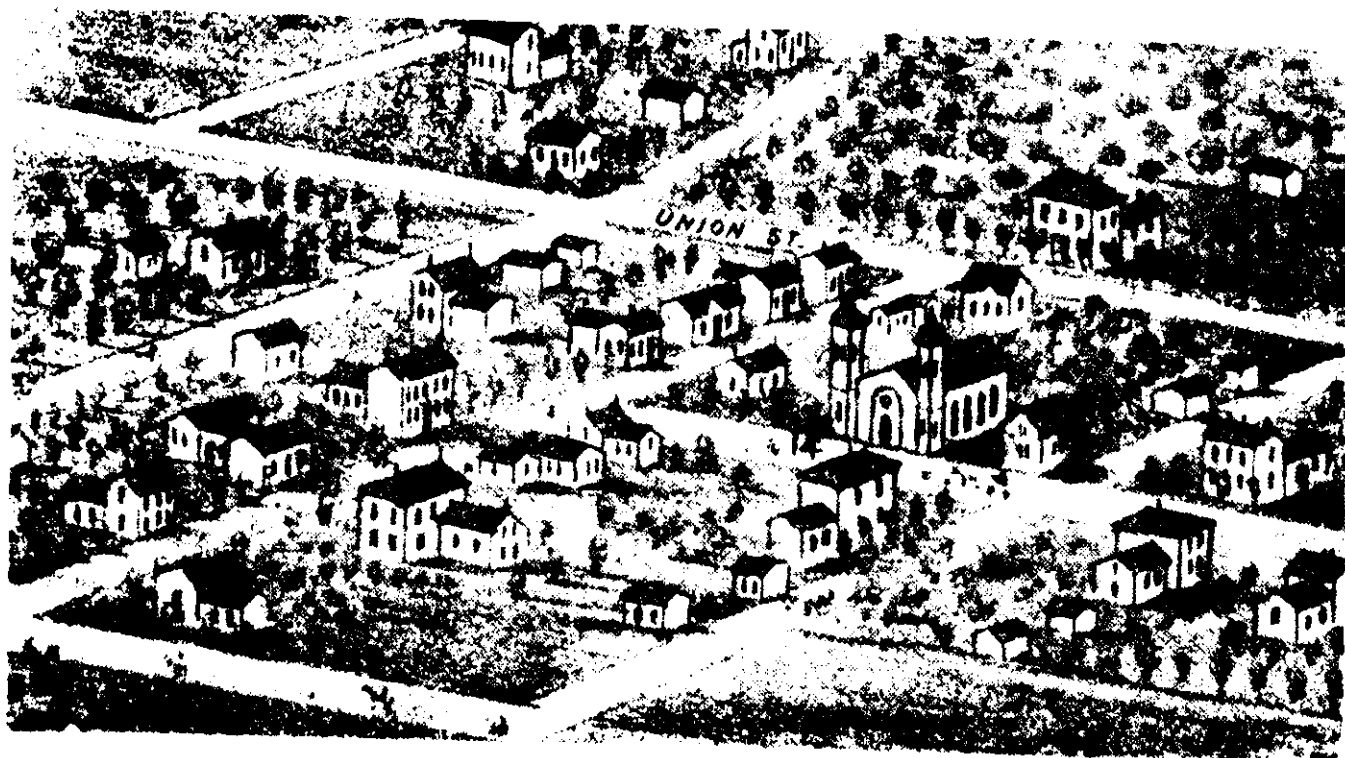
No Date. (circa 1925-1940)

(Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Missouri)

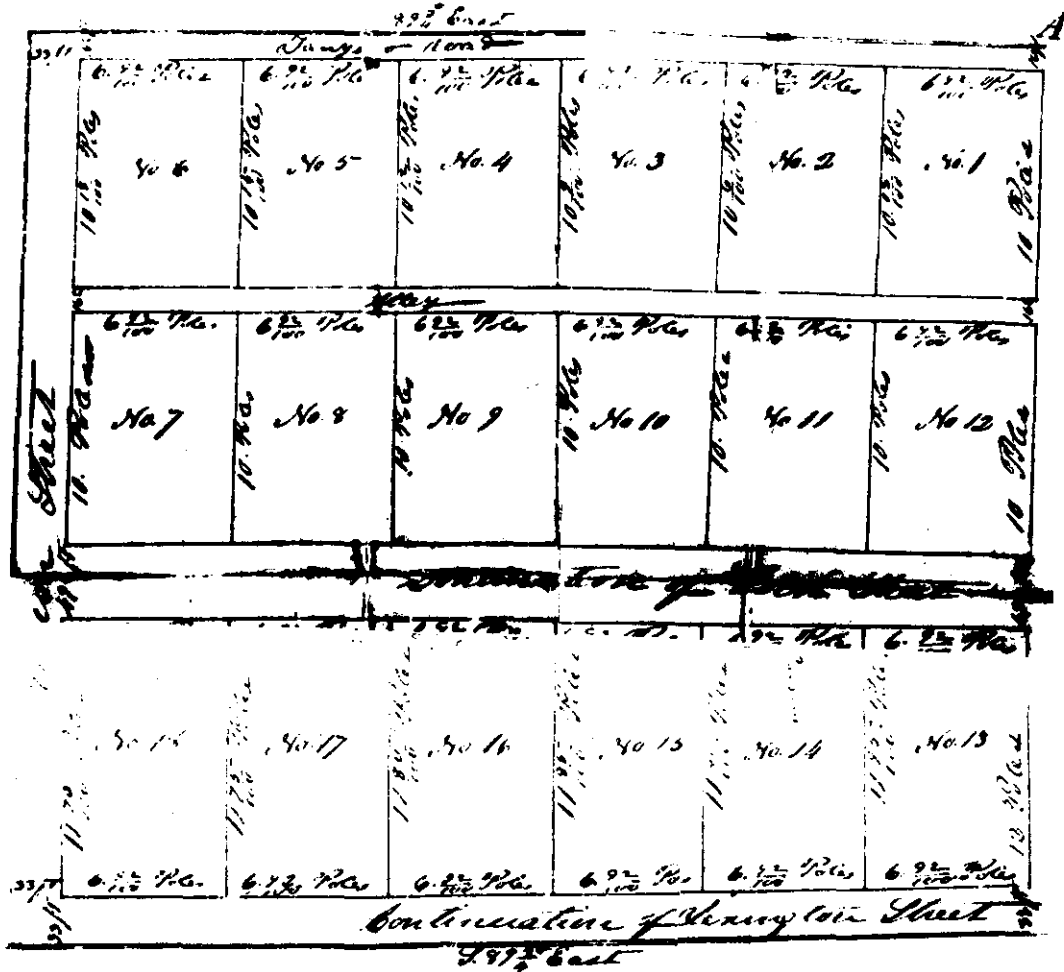


Enlargement of the North Delaware Street neighborhood (1868).

The 1867 Gates house is directly across the street from the church which is numbered fourteen (14).



The town of Independence
 (Green River East)



Reference The size of the lots is represented by figures in poles & hundredths of poles at their corners & sides. The width of the street by figures in feet. The point is the North West corner of the block of Independence.

June 10th 1846

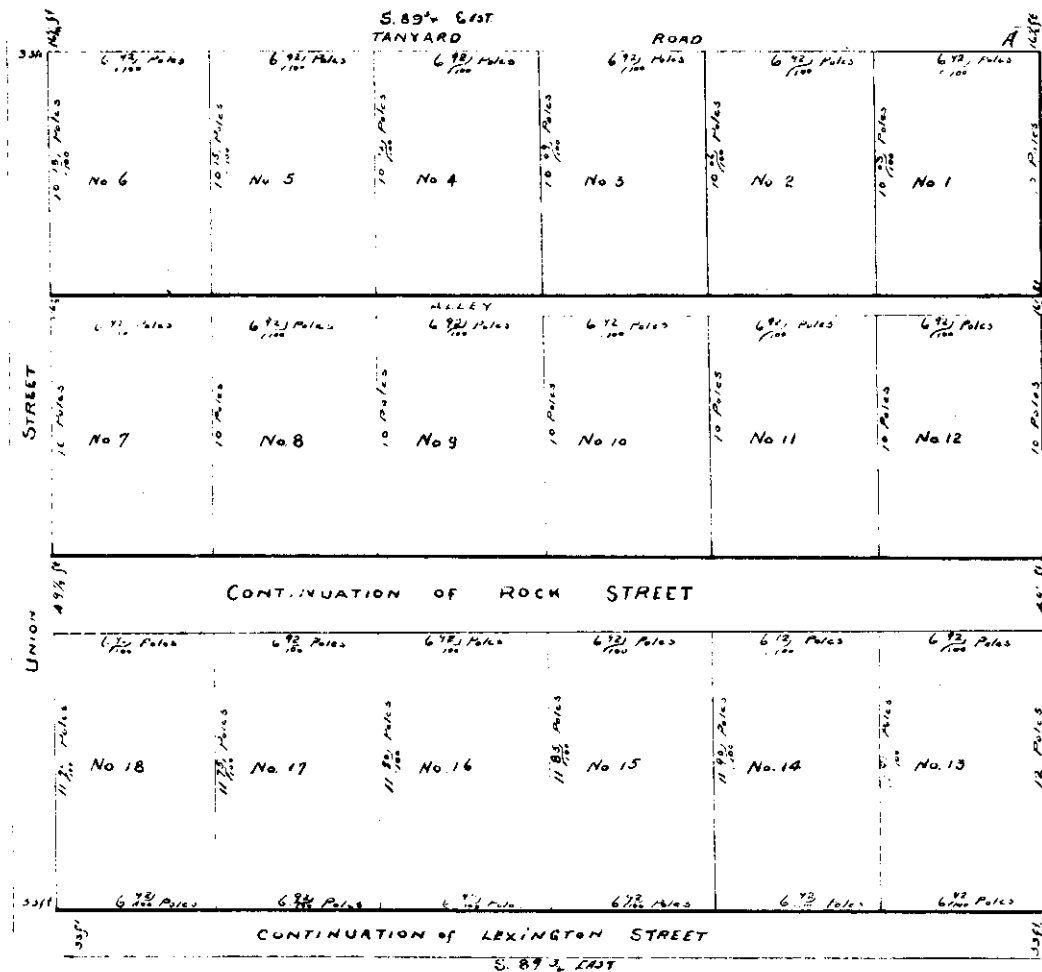
Geo. W. W. W. W. W.

1847 - 2

James F. Moore's Addition

TO THE TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE

Yards 8 1/2 East



1852 - 2


John F. Mc Cauley's Addition

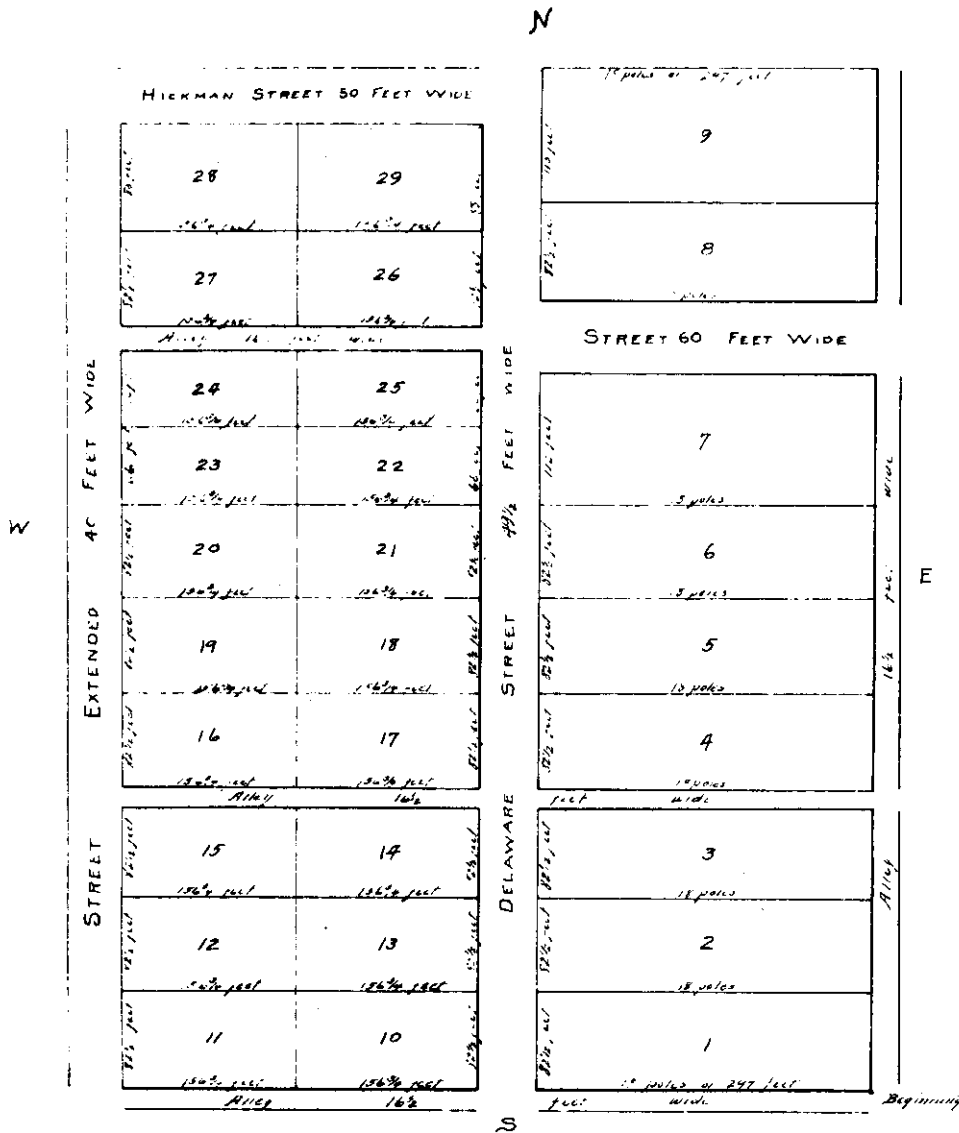
TO THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER OF SEC. 3 IN TOWNSHIP 49 OF RANGE 32

Beginning 16 1/2 feet west and 16 1/2 feet North of the 1/2 mile corner on the East side of said Sec 3.
 Lots No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 are each 12 1/2 feet wide by 18 poles or 297 feet long. Lot No. 7 is 12 feet by 247 feet, Lot No. 8 is 12 1/2 feet by 297 feet
 or 18 poles, Lot No. 9 is 18 feet by 247 feet long. Lots no 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are each 12 1/2 feet front by 156 3/4 feet deep.
 Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 are each 12 1/2 feet front by 156 3/4 feet deep. Lots No 22, 23, 24 and 25 are each 64 feet front by
 156 3/4 feet deep. Lots 26 and 27 are each 18 feet by 156 3/4 feet deep.
 The size of the lots are all designated on the Plat and the widths of all the streets and alleys.
 Value of East and West lines " N 8 S 50"

Laid down from a scale of 5 poles to the inch.

Given under my hand this 28th day of January A.D. 1832

John F. Mc Cauley  Lot Comm. C.S.



INDEPENDENCE, MO.

ZONING DISTRICT MAP

LEGEND:

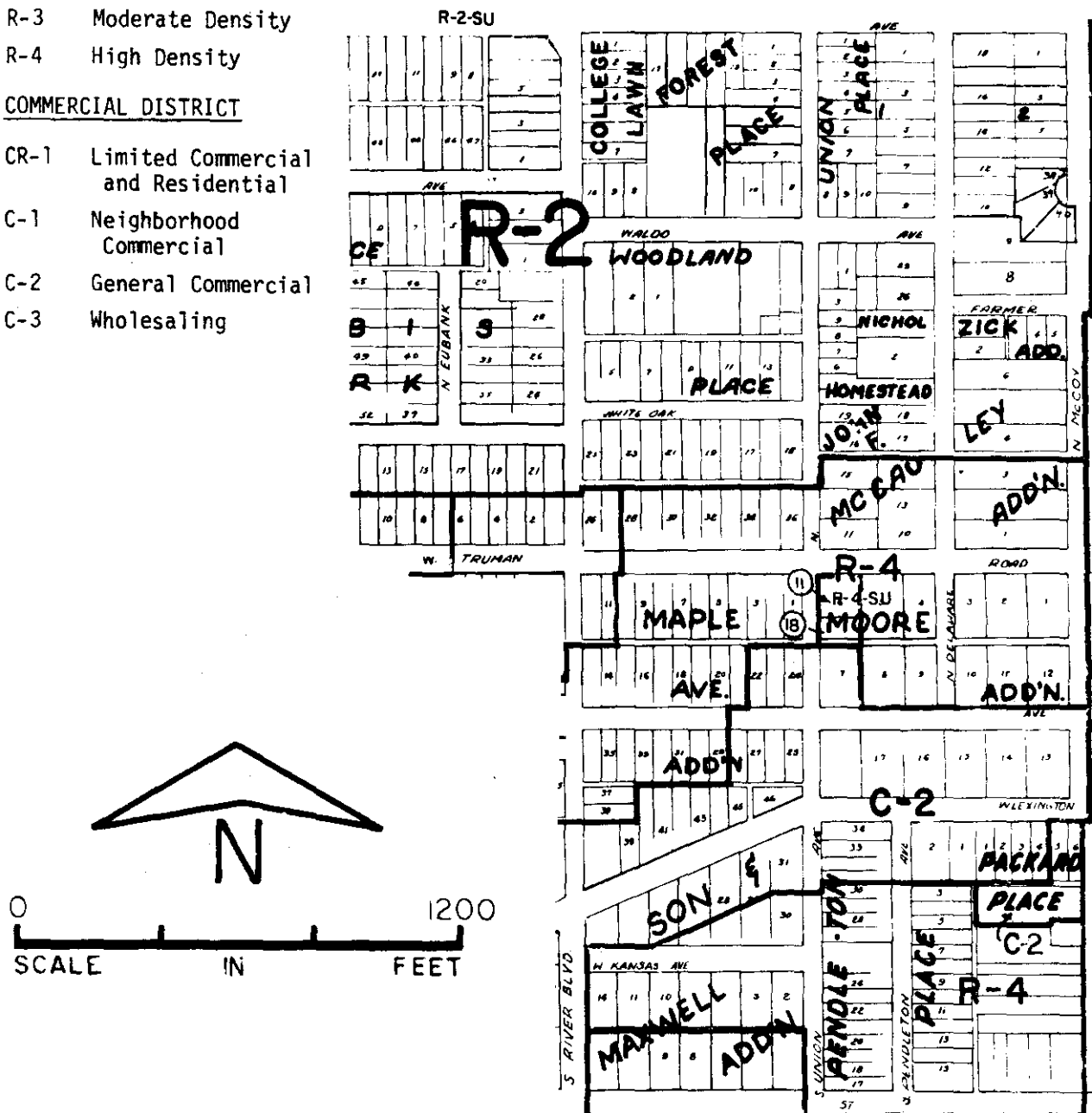
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

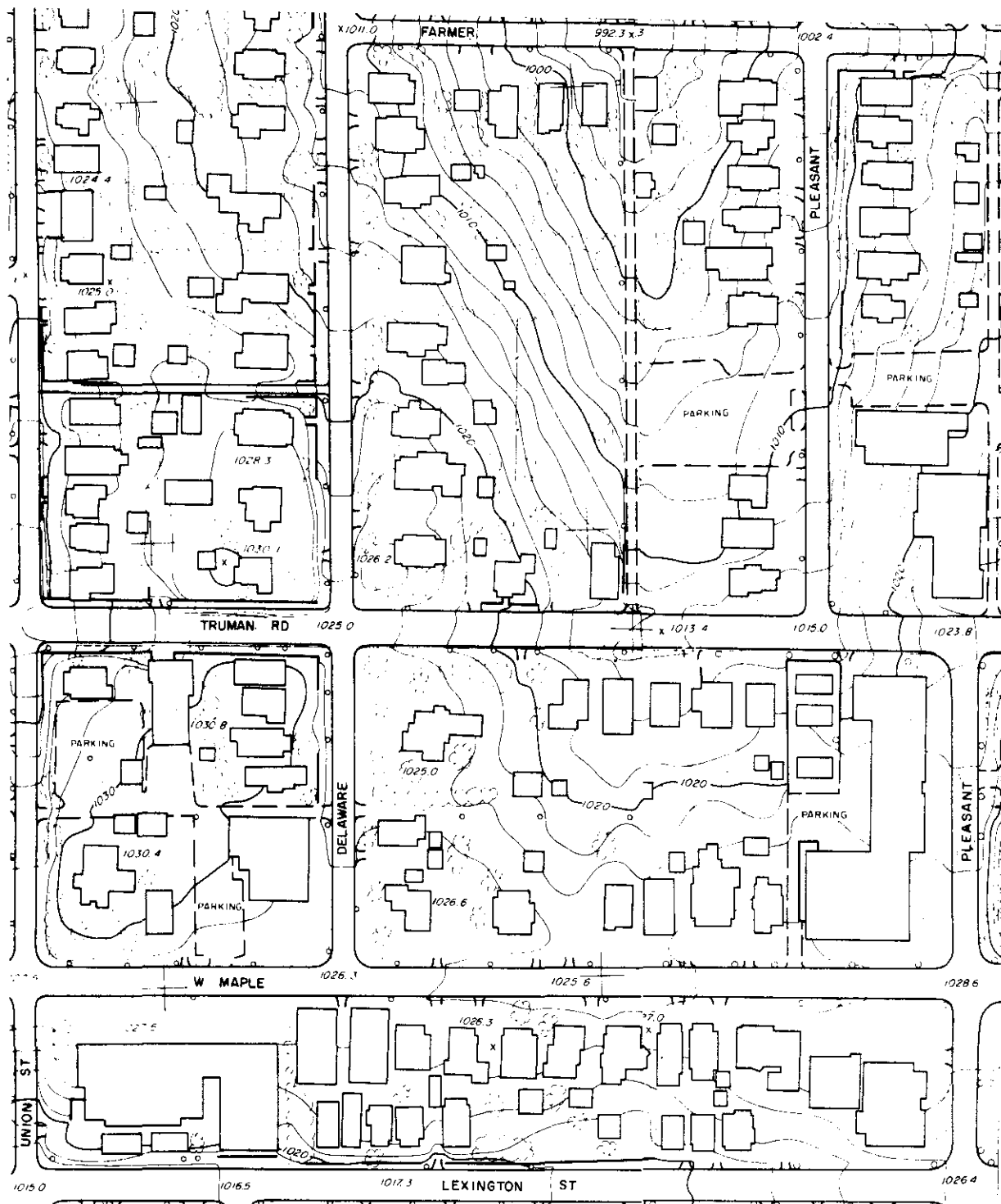
- R-E Estate
- R-1 Single-Family
- R-1-A Single-Family
- R-1-B Single-Family
- R-2 Two-Family
- R-3 Moderate Density
- R-4 High Density

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- CR-1 Limited Commercial and Residential
- C-1 Neighborhood Commercial
- C-2 General Commercial
- C-3 Wholesaling

ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY 1980 BY
ORDINANCE NO. 6078 PASSED BY THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI





INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

AERIAL TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY APRIL 1979
DATE OF MAPPING OCTOBER 1979

ABRAMS AERIAL SURVEY CORPORATION
LANSING, MICHIGAN

SCALE 1:1200

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 FEET

FIVE HUNDRED FOOT GRID BASED ON MISSOURI PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM

CONTOUR INTERVAL 2 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



Deed Record Book 29, Page 316
Jackson County, Missouri

Know all men by these present that we James T. Thornton and _____ Thornton his wife of the City of Independence in the County of Jackson and State of Missouri for and in consideration of the Sum of one dollar to the Said James T. Thornton in hand paid by the City of Independence in Said County of Jackson the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged also the further consideration of extending Delaware Street as now projected on McCauleys addition to said City of Independence through part of Lot 3 in Moores addition to Said City South to Rock Street in Said City, do by these present remise, release and forever quit claim unto Said City of Independence and its assigns so much of the West Side of Lot Number three in Said Moores Addition to the Said City of Independence as lies in Delaware Street as extended from McCauleys addition through said Moores addition to said Rock Street. Given under our hands and seals this 14th day of May AD 1858.

Jas. T. Thornton

(Recorded October 30, 1858)

Deed Record Book 52, Page 210
Jackson County, Missouri

James G. English and wife

To

George P. Gates

Deed

Know all men by these presents that we James G. English and Mary E. English his wife of the County of New Haven in the State of Connecticut for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred dollars to us paid by George P. Gates of the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do grant bargain sell and convey unto him the said George P. Gates his heirs and assigns the following described lots or parcels of land situate in the City of Independence in the County of Jackson and State of Missouri viz,

Lot No. two (2) in James F. Moores addition to the City of Independence and Lot No. three (3) in said James F. Moores addition to said City excepting that part of said lot No. three deeded by James T. Thornton to the City of Independence May 14th 1858 for the purpose of opening Delaware street.

To have and to hold the premises above described and granted with all the privileges thereby belonging unto him the said George P. Gates his heirs and assigns forever and I the said James G. English for myself my heirs executors and administrators covenant with the said George P. Gates his heirs and assigns forever warrant and defend the title to said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. In testimony whereof we the said James G. English and Mary E. his wife by one attorney in fact William Chrisman under and by virtue of the authority contained in a certain letter of attorney dated the 15th day of September AD 1866 and duly recorded in the Recording Office for Jackson County Missouri hereby subscribed our names and affixed our seals the 20th day of June 1867.

James G. English
Mary E. English

By their Atty. in fact William Chrisman

(Recorded June 21, 1867)

Deed Record Book 52, Page 273
Jackson County, Missouri

Q C Deed

P. Roberts
Geo P. Gates

Know all men by these presents that I, Preston Roberts, for and in consideration of one dollar in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do by these presents sell remise and forever quit claim unto George P. Gates his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest in and to the following Real Estate lying in the City of Independence County of Jackson State of Missouri to wit

Lot No. 2 in James F. Moores addition to the City of Independence and Lot 3 in said Moores addition to said City excepting that part of said Lot No. 3 deeded by James T. Thornton to the City of Independence May 14th 1858 for the purpose of opening Delaware Street.

To have and to hold the interest hereby conveyed to the said George P. Gates to his heirs and assigns forever. In Testimony whereof & hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of July 1867.

P. Roberts

(Recorded July 8, 1867)

Deed Record Book 74, Page 454
Jackson County, Missouri

F.F. Yeager
To
George P. Gates

WARRANTY DEED

Know all Men by these Presents, That Frederick F. Yeager and Susan M. Yeager his wife of the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri have this day, for and in consideration of the sum of Eight hundred Dollars to the said Frederick F. Yeager in hand paid, by George P. Gates of the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN and SELL unto the said George P. Gates the following described tracts or parcels of land situate in the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri: That is to say, Lots numbered one (1) and twelve (12) in Moores addition to the City of Independence, Missouri, the above consideration is secured by note of this date due in (illegible) and said Yeager retains the venders lien in said lots until said note and interest are paid.

To have and to hold the premises hereby conveyed, with all the rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said George P. Gates his heirs and assigns forever. The said Frederick F. Yeager hereby covenanting to and with the said George P. Gates and his heirs and assigns, for himself and his heirs, executors and administrators, to warrant and defend the title to the premises hereby conveyed, against the claim of every person whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seals this Second day of November AD 1868.

Frederick F. Yeager
S. Yeager

(Recorded November 7, 1868)

The venders lien herein retained (illegible) Deeds (illegible) charged and I acknowledge satisfaction in full. Given under my hand this 23rd May 1870.

F.F. Yeager

I, George P. Gates, of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, do hereby make, declare and publish this, my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and testamentary dispositions which I have heretofore made.

RECORDED
INDEXED

Item 1. I desire that all of my just debts be paid out of the funds of my estate, by my executors hereinafter named.

Item 2. I hereby give, bequeath and devise to George Walter Gates, William Strother Wells and T. B. Wallace and to their successors and assigns in trust all of my property, both real and personal and mixed and wherever situated to be by them held, managed and disposed of as trustees as hereinafter designated and appointed.

Item 3. I have heretofore given or advanced or loaned to my children and to the husbands of some of my daughters various sums of money. For some of the moneys so advanced or loaned I have taken notes. It is my will and desire that all obligations growing out of such gifts, advancements and loans shall be cancelled; and that my children shall, subject to the provision hereinafter made for my wife, Elizabeth Gates, share equally in the benefits of whatever estate I may die possessed of, without charging them with said advancements and gifts or enforcing payment of such obligations, I have heretofore had in mind the setting apart for the benefit of my son, Frank E. Gates, of the income of certain shares of stock in the Wagoner Gates Milling Company and in the Hero Mining Company, and have endorsed over but not delivered the certificates representing said shares.

I have now decided not to set apart to my son, Frank E. Gates the said shares of stock, but to make provision for him equally with my other children as hereinafter provided. The cancellation of the obligations of my son, Frank, for moneys heretofore advanced to him as hereinbefore provided, is, upon condition that he execute and deliver to me or to my executors any and all transfers or assignments, if any are necessary, to legally re-invest the title to the same in me or my estate.

Item 4. The legal title to all of my property, real and personal and mixed, shall vest in said trustees and their successors in trust, with full power, as their discretion may dictate, to sell any or all of my real estate, and execute and deliver conveyances of the same, and re-invest the proceeds to be by them held under the terms and provisions of the trust hereinafter declared; and said power of sale shall also include sales made for purposes of division. The trustees shall have power to sell any of the personal estate. But it is my wish that the shares of stock in the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company, and in the Bank of Independence, and in the Hero Mining Company be held intact by the trustees until the termination of the trust, unless circumstances should arise making it necessary or advisable in the judgment of the trustees to sell said shares or any of them, in which latter event the trustees shall have power to sell said shares or any of them, and re-invest the proceeds to be held by them under the terms and provisions of this trust. Upon termination of the trust, the trustees shall have the power to sell any or all property necessary to make final distribution among the beneficiaries.

Item 5. The said trustees shall hold and manage said trust estate and receive the income thereof, and after paying taxes and the expenses of maintenance and of administering the same, pay over the net income thereof as follows:

To my wife, Elizabeth Gates, during her life time in lieu of dower, one third thereof,

To my son, George Walter Gates, and in case of his death to his heirs at law, two fifteenths thereof,

To my son, Frank E. Gates, and in case of his death to his heirs at law, two fifteenths thereof,

To my daughter, Madge Wallace, and in case of her death to her heirs at law, two fifteenths thereof,

To my daughter, Maud Louise Wells, and in case of her death to her heirs at law, two fifteenths thereof,

To my daughter, Myra Wallace, and in case of her death, to her heirs at law, two fifteenths thereof,

After the death of my wife, Elizabeth Gates, whether she survive me or not, the one third of the net income of said estate heretofore directed to be paid to her shall be paid over in equal parts to my children, and in case of the death of any of them, the heirs of such as are deceased to receive the part which otherwise would go to the deceased.

Item 6. The trust hereinbefore created and declared shall continue and remain in force during the life of my wife, Elizabeth Gates, and for such length of time thereafter, not exceeding twenty years, from the date of this instrument as the trustees or their successors may determine,

ALL DONE

it being my will and desire that at any time after the death of my wife, Elizabeth Gates, the said trustees or their successors in trust may in their discretion elect to terminate said trust. When said trust is terminated equal division of my estate shall be made among my children, namely, George Walter Gates, Frank E. Gates, Madge Wallace, Maud Louise Wells and Myra Wallace. In case of the death of any of my said children prior to said final distribution the one fifth interest of said deceased child shall be given to his or her heirs at law.

Item 7. In case of the death or resignation of one or more of said trustees, successors shall be appointed by the Circuit Court of Jackson County sitting at Independence. The said trustees shall act without a bond and without compensation. In carrying out the provisions of the trust hereby created, a majority of the trustees shall control the action of the trustees; any act required to be done by said trustees including deeds of conveyance shall be valid if executed by two of their number.

Item 8. I hereby appoint William Strother Wells and T. B. Wallace executors of this will without bond, with authority to close up said estate in the Probate Court of Jackson County, within the time allowed by law and upon final settlement the estate shall be turned over to the trustees heretofore appointed.

Witness my hand at Independence, Missouri, this
19th day of June 1916.

Geo W Gates

The foregoing instrument was this th 19 day of June 1916, signed and declared by George P. Gates to be his last will and testatemt in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Franc C. Hyatt
Chas. A. Davis

Dated,

Independence, Missouri.

Franc C. Hyatt

I, George P. Gates of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, do hereby make, declare and publish this codicil to my last will and testament made by me on the 19th day of June, 1916; the former codicil to said will having been heretofore by me revoked and destroyed.

Item 1. I hereby except and reserve from the bequests and devises to the trustees named in said will and from the trust by said will created the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars to be provided or raised by said executors out of my cash on hand or such property of my estate as in their judgment can be conveniently converted into money without sacrifice or detriment to said estate and a power of sale ~~as~~ hereby given said executors for said purpose.

Item 2. Out of said sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars so reserved, I give and bequeath as a special legacy the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars to my daughter, Maud Louise Wells, and also as a special legacy the sum of Five Thousand Dollars to my daughter Myra Wallace. The said legacies to be in addition to the one-fifth part of each of said daughters in the trust estate vested in said trustees.

Item 3. The said executors are hereby directed to pay said legacies before final settlement by them of said estate and before turning over the trust estate to said trustees.

Item 4. The terms and provisions of my said will relating to said trust estate, the management and administration thereof by said trustees and the provisions relating to the division of said trust estate including the income thereof, are not hereby modified or altered but are hereby expressly confirmed; and the proportionate shares of my children in said trust estate shall remain the same as in said will set forth;

#2

it being my intention by this codicil to alter said will only so far as to provide the two special legacies hereinfore set out and to bequeath the same to my said daughters in addition to their shares in the trust estate.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Independence, Missouri, this 22nd day of November, 1916.

Geo P Gates

The foregoing instrument of writing was signed by George P. Gates and declared by him to be a codicil to his last will and testatment made by him on the 19th day of June, 1916, in the presence of us and we, at his request, and in his presence and in the presence of each other, have hereto set our names as witnesses this 22nd day of November, 1916.

W M Spencey
Of Independence, Missouri.

J. T. Kaland
Of Independence, Missouri.

I, Elizabeth Gates, of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, do hereby make and publish this, my last will and testament.

Item 1. All of my property of which I may die possessed ~~of~~, I give to my son, Frank E. Gates, for life; in trust, however, to use the income thereof, for his maintenance and comfort, and if it should become necessary he may use so much of the principal fund as may be required for his maintenance and comfort. The remainder after his death to go to my other children, namely, Mudge Wallace, Maud Gates Wells, G. Walter Gates, and Myra Wallace, equally, and in case of the death of any of the latter, his or her share shall belong to his or her heirs at law.

Item 2. I hereby appoint T. B. Wallace as my executor.

In witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Independence, Missouri, this 31st day of October 1917
Elizabeth Gates

The foregoing instrument was at the date thereof signed and declared by the said Elizabeth Gates to be her last will and testament in the presence of us, who at her request and in her presence, and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Frank E. Gates
 of Independence, Mo.

Lester J. Cunningham
 of Independence, Mo.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF

BESS WALLACE TRUMAN

I, BESS WALLACE TRUMAN, of Independence, Jackson County Missouri, make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and codicils made by

ARTICLE I

A. I bequeath all of my jewelry and clothing to my daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, if she survives me.

B. My daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, is the owner of many of the contents in my home at 219 North Delaware, Independence, Missouri. I bequeath all of the contents of my home, other than those specifically bequeathed in paragraph A of this Article and other than those contents owned by my said daughter, to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to be held and operated by it under the direction of the Archivist of The United States in conjunction with the Harry S. Truman Library.

ARTICLE II

I devise any and all interest owned by me at the time of my death in my residence at 219 North Delaware, Independence, Missouri, and in all real property adjoining my residence which passed to me upon the death of my husband, HARRY S. TRUMAN, to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to be held and operated by it under the direction of the Archivist of The United States in conjunction with the Harry S. Truman Library, subject however to the provision that during the life of my daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, the area above the first floor of my residence shall not be available to the public. My daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, has participated in the activities of the Harry S. Truman Library and the Harry S. Truman Library Institute. In this connection, I recommend that the Archivist of The United States permit her to occupy my residence one week of each calendar year during her lifetime.

ARTICLE III

A. I bequeath the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Independence, Missouri.

B. I bequeath the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to THE HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

C. I bequeath the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) to each of ARLETTA BROWN, GERALDINE PETERSON and EDWARD E. HOBBY who survives me and is in my employ at the time of my death.

ARTICLE IV

All of the rest, residue and remainder of my property, whether real, personal or mixed, of whatever it may consist and wherever it may be situated (including any property over which I

may at the time of my death have only a power of appointment), I devise and bequeath to my daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, if she survives me, but if she should not survive me then to her issue who survive me, per stirpes.

ARTICLE V

I direct my executor to pay out of my residuary estate any and all estate and inheritance taxes that become payable by reason of my death.

ARTICLE VI

My executor shall have all of the powers conferred upon it by law, and without limiting the same, but in furtherance thereof and in addition thereto, I authorize and empower my executor at any time or times during the probate administration of my estate, in its discretion, without procuring the authorization of any court: to settle, compromise, adjust, liquidate or release claims and debts in favor of or against my estate; to retain any and all property owned by me at the time of my death; to manage, invest and reinvest my estate in any manner my executor deems advisable; to borrow money with or without giving security therefor, and to mortgage or sell, or both, all or any part of the property, real, personal or mixed, constituting my estate, upon such terms and conditions and for such considerations as my executor may deem advisable, regardless of whether such borrowing, mortgaging or selling is necessary for the payment of debts, taxes or expenses of administration.

ARTICLE VII

I appoint UNITED MISSOURI BANK OF KANSAS CITY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Kansas City, Missouri, to act as executor of this will and I request that no bond be required of said executor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 21st day of December, 1974.

/s/ Bess Wallace Truman (SEA

The foregoing instrument, consisting of two (2) typewritten pages, was initialed on each page thereof with the initial "B. W. T." by BESS WALLACE TRUMAN (a person known to us to be of sound mind), and was by her signed, sealed, published and declared to be her last will and testament, in our presence, and in the presence of each of us, and we, at the same time, at her request, and in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses this 21st day of December, 1974.

/s/ Robert E. Lockwood Address 11800 E. 60th Ter.
Kansas City, Mo. 64133

/s/ Donald R. Argetsinger Address 1508 "B" St.
Blue Springs, Mo. 64015

/s/ Arthur Mag Address Kansas City, Mo.

FIRST CODICIL TO LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF

BESS WALLACE TRUMAN

I, BESS WALLACE TRUMAN, of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, make, publish and declare this to be the first codicil to last will and testament executed December 21, 1974.

ITEM I

I hereby amend Article II of my said will to the extent canceling the following words in lines three and four of said Article II: "and in all real property adjoining my residence which passed to me upon the death of my husband, HARRY S. TRUMAN."

ITEM II

I hereby add the following Article II-A to my said will, be inserted immediately after Article II of my said will and immediately before Article III of my said will:

ARTICLE II-A

I devise any and all interest owned by me at the time of my death in the East 57.09 feet of Lot 1, JAMES F. MOORE'S ADDITION, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, also known as 601 West Truman Road, to my daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, if she survives me.

ITEM III

I hereby republish, ratify and confirm all of the terms and provisions of my said will as amended and supplemented by this first codicil thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 11 day of November, 1976.

/s/ Bess Wallace Truman (SE

The foregoing instrument was signed and sealed by BESS WALLACE TRUMAN (a person known to us to be of sound mind) and was by her published and declared to be the first codicil to her last will and testament executed December 21, 1974, in our presence, and in the presence of each of us, and we, at the same time, at her request and in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses this 11 day of November, 1976.

/s/ Donald H. Chisholm Address Kansas City, Mo.

/s/ Rufus Burrus Address Independence, Mo.

/s/ Robert E. Lockwood Address Kansas City, Mo.

SECOND CODICIL TO LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF,

BESS WALLACE TRUMAN

I, BESS WALLACE TRUMAN, of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, make, publish and declare this to be the second codicil to my last will and testament executed December 21, 1974.

ITEM I

I hereby add the following sentences to the end of Article II of my said will:

The manner in which my residence is used by THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA under the direction of said Archivist during the life of my daughter, MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, shall be approved in writing by my said daughter. In the event any estate and inheritance taxes are charged against my estate as the result of the devise made under this Article II then THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, beneficiary of said devise, shall bear a ratable portion of said taxes.

ITEM II

I hereby republish, ratify and confirm all of the terms and provisions of my said will as amended and supplemented by the first codicil thereto executed November 11, 1976, and as further amended and supplemented by this second codicil thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 5th day of May, 1978.

/s/ Bess Wallace Truman (SEA

The foregoing instrument was signed and sealed by BESS WALLACE TRUMAN (a person known to us to be of sound mind) and was by her published and declared to be the second codicil to her last will and testament executed December 21, 1974, in our presence, and in the presence of each of us, and we, at the same time, at her request and in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses this 5th day of May 1978.

/s/ Donald H. Chisholm Address Kansas City, Mo.

/s/ Lewis S. Mohr Address Kansas City, Mo.

/s/ Loren G. Procter Address Kansas City, Mo.

RESIDENCES OF HARRY S. TRUMAN - 1884-1972

1. Lamar, Missouri (Barton County), 1884 -85
2. Harrisonville, Missouri (Cass County), 1885
3. Farm southeast of Belton, Missouri (Cass County), 1885-87
4. Farm near Grandview, Missouri (Jackson County), 1887-90 and 1906-1917.
5. 619 S. Crysler, Independence, Missouri (Jackson County) - Lots 4, 5, 6 & 7 of Ott and Roberts Resurvey of Munn's Add., purchased Dec. 12, 1890-Later added Lots 32 and 33 (July 11, 1892) - 1890-96.
6. 909 W. Waldo, Independence, Missouri - Lot 3, Woodland Place Add. purchased Nov. 21, 1895 - 1896- 1902
7. 902 N. Liberty, Independence, Missouri - Part of (John) Lewis Add. north of Lot 22 - 1902
8. 2108 Park, Kansas City, Missouri (Jackson County), 1902-1905
9. 2650 E. 29th Street, Kansas City, Missouri - 1905 (?)
10. 1314 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri - 1905-1906 (?)
11. 219 N. Delaware, Independence, Missouri - 1919-1972 (Residences in Washington, D.C. for the period 1935-53 are shown below)
 - a. 3016 Tilden Garden (3000 Tilden, N.W.) - 1935
 - b. The Sedgwick Gardens (3726 Conn. Ave., N.W.) - by April 17, 1936
 - c. The Carroll Arms (301 First, N.E.) - by Feb. 18, 1937
 - d. 3051 Idaho Ave., N.W. (Warwick Apts) - by May 5, 1938
 - e. Tilden Gardens - by March 23, 1939
 - f. 3930 Conn. Ave., N.W. - by June 6, 1940
 - g. 4701 Conn. Ave., N.W. - by April 23, 1941 (Lived there until 1945)
 - h. The White House and the Blair House - 1945-1953.

UNITED STATES STATUTES AT LARGE

CONTAINING THE

LAWS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS
ENACTED DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
NINETIETH CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1968

AND

REORGANIZATION PLANS AND PROCLAMATIONS

VOLUME 82

IN ONE PART



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1969

have radically altered the conditions of life for most men on our planet. Relations between men, and between man and his environment, have been permanently changed by events that began in the scientific laboratory.

As a result of this revolution in knowledge, it has become possible for all men to be adequately fed, clothed, and sheltered; for new energy resources to be committed to man's use; for information to be spread broadly and instantaneously to the remotest regions of the earth.

It has also become possible for man to destroy himself; for local aggression to be converted into global catastrophe; for mis-information and demagoguery to reach millions, and to shape their political destinies.

The scientific and technological revolution offers man unparalleled opportunities to liberate—or to enslave—his spirit. He can gain his freedom from physical want, and lose his identity in the prosperous streets of great cities. He can move his family to a healthier and more spacious environment, and lose the sense of community with his fellow men. He can free more hours for leisure activity, and find those hours empty and purposeless.

Thus his spirit lives in a state of crisis. In the midst of that crisis—as in days long ago, before “science and technology” were common words to his tongue—man cries out for meaning, for guidance, for assurance that his spirit is of value. In the midst of baffling change, he longs for enduring values. In the impersonal rush of his days, he seeks a sign that he is known, and accepted, as a unique person.

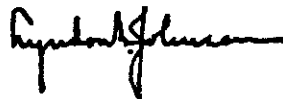
In this era of science and technology, we have set aside a day of prayer. Let us use it to thank God for the blessings of human industry and ingenuity, and to seek His strength, His love, and His guidance in the crisis of our spirit.

The Congress, by a joint resolution of April 17, 1952, provided that the President “shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.”

66 Stat. 64.
36 USC 185.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby set aside Wednesday, October 16, 1968, as National Day of Prayer, 1968.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3878

UNITED NATIONS DAY, 1968

By the President of the United States of America

October 11, 1968

A Proclamation

On October 24, 1968, the world will mark the twenty-third birthday of the United Nations.

Our commitment to that organization has been a continuing element of our foreign policy since the U.N. was founded, in 1945. Distinguished Americans of both parties represented our country in the framing of its Charter. Democrats and Republicans alike continued to represent our country in the councils of the United Nations. Together they have contributed to its objectives—the peaceful settlement of disputes, economic and social progress, the control of nuclear armaments, the growth of international law, and the protection of human rights.

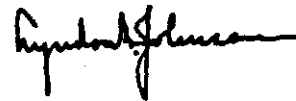
The cause of human rights is receiving special notice in the United Nations this year, for it was 20 years ago that the General Assembly adopted a landmark document, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To mark that anniversary, 1968 has been designated as International Human Rights Year.

As we take stock of the work of the United Nations, let us not be beguiled either by easy optimism or by blind pessimism. Let us look squarely at both its successes and its disappointments. Above all, we must not forget that the cause of peace and progress, in this age of mingled hope and danger, requires nations to reject aggression in favor of conciliation and cooperation—of which the United Nations offers the greatest common instrument. Not by arms, but by giving life and practice to the principles of peace, will men find the peace and security in which freedom can flourish.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, October 24, 1968, as United Nations Day, and I urge the citizens of this Nation to observe that day by means of such community programs as will contribute to a realistic understanding of the aims, problems, and achievements of the United Nations and its associated organizations.

I also call upon officials of the Federal and State Governments and upon local officials to encourage citizen groups and agencies of communication—press, radio, television, and motion pictures—to engage in special and appropriate observance of United Nations Day this year in cooperation with the United Nations Association of the United States of America and other interested organizations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3879

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT PART WHICH HARRY S. TRUMAN
PLAYED IN THE CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

October 11, 1968

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ante, p. 1659.

By Proclamation No. 3878, I proclaimed October 24, 1968, as United Nations Day, and urged the citizens of this Nation to observe that day by appropriate community programs.

It is especially fitting that, on United Nations Day, Americans should recall the significant part which President Harry S. Truman played in the creation of the United Nations, and the continued support which he gave to that Organization during his term of office.

Some of Harry S. Truman's first decisions when he became President on the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt concerned the United Nations Conference in San Francisco. From the day the Conference met on April 25, 1945, to draft the United Nations Charter, until it concluded two months later, President Truman gave close direction to the work of our delegation and climaxed the proceedings with an historic address at the closing session of the Conference.

President Truman knew that an effective world organization was needed to prevent a repetition of the devastation wrought by two World Wars. Under his direction, the United States proposed that the development of nuclear energy take place under United Nations control. Through the Point Four Program and in other ways, he projected the United Nations into the field of economic and social development. His concern for human rights led him to appoint Eleanor Roosevelt as the United States spokesman on human rights. Mrs. Roosevelt helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 20th anniversary we celebrate this year.

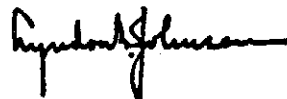
President Truman never flinched in the exercise of United States responsibility in and through the United Nations. Had he not resolutely supported United Nations opposition to the attack on the Republic of Korea in 1950, other aggressive adventures would have been encouraged, and the United Nations would be a far less effective body. He was alert to every possibility for using the United Nations on behalf of peace and justice—whether in Iran, Greece, the Middle East, Kashmir, or elsewhere.

The United States and the world owe much to President Truman's interest in the United Nations. It is right that the Congress should have, by a joint resolution approved October 11th authorized and requested that I issue a proclamation recognizing this fact on October 24—United Nations Day. It is my great pleasure to do so.

Ante, p. 996.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby urge the citizens of this Nation in their observances of United Nations Day 1968 to give special recognition to the significant part which Harry S. Truman played in the creation of the United Nations and to recall those qualities of character, responsibility and leadership which caused him to support the United Nations in its efforts to keep the peace, and to promote the rule of law and the prevalence of social justice among all men.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Address		
219 North Delaware		
B. District	Code	
Truman Historic District		
C. Building Type		
Residence		
D. Listed on Heritage Commission List of 6/24/75	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

II. NOTES

Two-story frame residence built in several stages; clapboard siding; truncated hip roof; elaborate brackets on entablature; L-shaped porch with pierced wood frieze and square posts. Slate roof is now covered with asbestos shingles.

Built by George Porterfield Gates, grandfather of Mrs. Bess Truman. The home of Mr. & Mrs. Truman from the time of their marriage. The SUMMER WHITE HOUSE during Harry Truman's Presidency.

Circa 1865

Source: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY-NOMINATION FORM.

III. PHOTOGRAPH



A. View	B. Roll	C. Frame
West	1	15
Northwest	1	16
West - detail	1	18
North	1	17
Carriage House	1	20
East - back porch	1	21

IV. SURVEYOR/DATE

MAS RJC JAR	10-28-75	BF JAR	11-28-75
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V. EVALUATION

Approved for Further Research	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Date
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The preparation of this survey was financed in part through a comprehensive planning grant from the Dept. of H. U. D., under the provision of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY FORM Form I

INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL SURVEY for the
HERITAGE COMMISSION, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI by
M. A. SOLOMON/R. J. CLAYBAUGH, ARCHITECTS, INC. and
BERND FOERSTER, A.I.A.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Page 1 of 4

A. Address

219 North Delaware

B. Present Use

Residence

II. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Truman house is "an asymmetrical, two-and-a-half story frame Victorian dwelling, the house occupies a rectangular lot, approximately 175 by 225 feet in size, on the corner of North Delaware Street and Truman Road. Behind the main house, at the southeast corner of the lot, stands a large frame carriage house now converted into a garage and approached either from a drive off Truman Road or by means of an alley leading to North Delaware Street. The tall iron fence surrounding the Truman property was erected in 1947, at the suggestion of ~~FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover~~, to protect the house and grounds from souvenir hunters. The antique-style gas lamp to the left of the entrance walkway beyond the iron gates is of recent vintage.

Stylistically, the house is an eclectic mixture of Late Gothic Revival, bracketed, and modified Eastlavian decorative elements. A combination hip-and-gable roof, pierced by tall arched attic dormers, covers the structure. The most notable features of the facade are the porch, with its elaborate wooden jigsaw trim, and the massive, highly-ornamented bay which projects to the south of the centrally placed front door. Flanking the middle section of the tripartite windows of the bay are narrow sashes filled with colored glass. The balustraded porch extends from the main entrance around the north side of the house. There is a smaller porch, similarly treated, on the south side.

The ground slopes eastward toward the rear of the dwelling, from which projects a low, two-story ell containing the kitchen. A porch, resting on high brick piers and partially screened for use as a summer retreat and dining area, extends along the south side and across the back of this wing. A wooden lattice conceals the area under the porch except at the eastern end, which is left open to facilitate storage beneath.

Continued on the following page.

The preparation of this survey was financed in part through a comprehensive planning grant from the Dept. of H. U. D., under the provision of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

RESEARCH FORM—Form II

INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL SURVEY for the
HERITAGE COMMISSION, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI by
M. A. SOLOMON/R. J. CLAYBAUGH, ARCHITECTS, INC. and
BERND FOERSTER, AIA.



II. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - continued

The broad lawn surrounding the house is dotted with large oaks and informally-planted shrubbery and flowerbeds. From the steps at the foot of the back porch, a walk extends to the driveway leading from Truman Road to the garage.

In 1955, the Trumans refurbished and partially modernized the interior for the sake of convenience. More recently, the polychromatic slate roof which covered the house and front porch has been replaced by asbestos shingles. These are the most significant changes made to the house within the past score of years." (From "The National Register of Historic Places" form on the Harry S Truman Historic District).

Today's two-story kitchen wing was erected in 1867. At that time this was the main house. Where today's back porch is located was a one-story kitchen wing. The 1868 Bird's Eye View of Independence illustrates a rectangular, two-story residence with a one-story kitchen wing on this property. Records in the Jackson County Recorder of Deeds office reveal that George Porterfield Gates, Mrs. Truman's maternal grandfather, purchased the lot on June 20, 1867. The purchase price of \$700.00, when compared with the lot across the street, indicates that no structure was on the property. On December 23, 1865, the lot and house across the street sold for \$3,500.00 (Book 47, page 277). See Form II for 216 North Delaware.

In 1885, the present main section of the house was erected and the earlier section became the kitchen wing. THE INDEPENDENCE SENTINEL, on January 2, 1886, carried an article entitled "The Building Boom" which commented:

"While 1885 was not exactly a field year in building, still a little was done in that line. Mr. Jas. M. Adams reports as follows:

George P. Gates, 2½-story mansion, fourteen rooms, gas and water, (see engraving) \$8,000."

James W. Adams was the architect and builder of this residence. A biographical sketch of Mr. Adams appeared in a history of the county written in 1881:

"Carpenter and contractor, was born in Fauquier county, Va., February 25, 1828, and in 1844, he apprenticed himself to learn the carpenter and joiner's trade. October 26, 1858, he moved to California, Moniteau county, Mo., where he remained seventeen months, and then moved to Tipton, same county, there residing two years engaged at his trade. He then acted as fireman on the Terre Haute & St. Louis Railroad, retaining this position about ten months. In February, 1865, he moved to Nebraska, and remained till December 2, 1865, when he located in Independence, Mo. Was married to Miss Elizabeth Stinson, of Cooper county, Mo., June 25, 1861." (THE HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, 1881, reprinted 1966, Ramfre Press, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, page 868)

This material was researched and written by
James A. Ryan, Historian and Project Coordinator
for
M. A. Solomon/R. J. Claybaugh Architects Inc. and
Bernd Foerster, AIA

continued on the following page

219 North Delaware Street

III. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In the 1888 directory, Mr. Adams in partnership with Chris Yetter, advertised themselves thusly:

"ADAMS and YETTER/Contractors, Carpenters and Builders/Plans/Elevations, and/ Specifications/Furnished at Short Notice" (DIRECTORY OF INDEPENDENCE 1888-89, M. R. Wright Printing Co., Independence, Missouri, 1888, page 28).

George Porterfield Gates was born in Vermont and came to Independence, Missouri, circa 1866. Here he was engaged in the lumber business until 1883 when he purchased an interest in the Waggoner flour mill. He died in 1918 (Conversation with Liz Costen, Truman Library, May 19, 1976).

Margaret Gates, a daughter of George Porterfield Gates, married David Willock Wallace on June 13, 1883. They had four children: Elizabeth, Frank, George and Frederick. After Mr. Wallace's death on June 17, 1903, his widow and children moved into the Gates' home.

Bess Wallace and Harry Truman married on June 28, 1919. From 1919 until his death in 1972, Harry Truman was a resident of 219 North Delaware Street. In 1924, Mrs. Margaret Wallace became the sole owner of the house. At her death in 1952, the residence became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Truman.

Throughout the period of the Truman occupancy, the house has been both a social and a political gathering place. THE INDEPENDENCE EXAMINER of April 7, 1920, carried an article which stated that,

"Through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Truman, The Good Samaritan Class of the First Christian Church entertained their friends with a musical tea on Tuesday afternoon and evening in a very delightful way. The rooms of the beautiful home were dressed in spring flowers and made a charming setting . . . "

In 1922, Mr. Truman's political career began. First elected Eastern Judge of Jackson County, Mr. Truman became successively Presiding Judge, United States Senator, Vice-President and on April 12, 1945, the President. From that date until 1953, 219 North Delaware Street served as the "Summer White House".

III. HISTORICAL INFORMATION - continued

On June 24, 1950, President Truman, at home in Independence, received word by telephone of the Communist invasion of South Korea.

After the close of his Presidency many prominent Americans, including Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and former Chief Justice Earl Warren visited the Truman home. In the period after Mr. Truman's death, President Ford visited Mrs. Truman on Delaware Street.

In 1972, the Truman house and the surrounding neighborhood were designated a National Historic Landmark. (Where not otherwise noted, the source for the above information is from "The National Register of Historic Places" form for the Harry S. Truman Historic District).

This material was researched and written by
James A. Ryan, Historian and Project Coordinator
for
M. A. Solomon/R. J. Claybaugh Architects Inc. and
Bernd Foerster, AIA

IV. PHOTOGRAPHY

INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL SURVEY — Form II Page 3 of 4



A. View	B. Roll	C. Frame	A. View	B. Roll	C. Frame
West	76	007	01		
North Northwest	76	007	02		

BILL NO. 78-730

ORDINANCE NO. 5445

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
HARRY S. TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT, ESTABLISHING
THE STANDARDS WITHIN SAID DISTRICT AND REPEALING
ORDINANCE NO. 3407.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Independence Missouri established the Harry S. Truman Heritage District by Ordinance 3407 in 1974, and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Commission, in conjunction with various City Departments, have deemed it expedient and desirable to extend and expand the original district boundaries, leaving all other provisions and appurtenances to said ordinance intact, and

WHEREAS, the Independence Heritage Commission has recommended that the following amendments to the original boundaries be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

That the following amendments to the original boundaries and all original standards, terms and definitions are hereby adopted for the Harry S. Truman Heritage District.

That the Harry S. Truman Heritage District is to be comprised of the following area:

Beginning at a point on the south right-of-way line of U.S. 24 Highway said point being at the intersection of the western lot line of lot 3, block 1 of Idle-wild park and the south right-of-way line of U.S. 24. Thence south along the western line of lot 3 block 1 Idle-wild Park to the vacated alley adjacent to said lot. Thence along the vacated alley to the northwest corner of lot 16, block 1, Idle-wild Park. Thence south along the west line of lots 16, 15, 14, 13, and 12 Block 1 and lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 Block 6, and lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 block 7 to the southwest corner of lot 5 block 7 Idle-wild Park. Thence easterly along the south line of lot 5 to its intersection with the extension of west lot line of lot 8 block 7 Idle-wild Park. Thence southerly along the extended west line of lot 8 block 7 of Idle-wild Park to the south right-of-way line of West College Avenue. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the westerly line of lot 7, block 1 Waldo Place. Thence southerly along the west lines of Lots 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 block 1 and lots 3, 2, and 1 block 2 Waldo Place to the southwest corner of lot 1 block 2 Waldo Place. Thence southerly along the easterly lines of lots 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 Forbis Park to the southeast corner of lot 36 Forbis Park. Thence south along the extension of the above described line to its intersection with the south right-of-way line of West White Oak Street. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the westerly lot line of lot 22 Forbis Park. Thence southerly along the west line of lots 22 and 1 Forbis Park to the north right-of-way line of Truman Road. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the western right-of-way line of North Union Street. Thence southerly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the north right-of-way line of West Lexington Avenue. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the west right-of-way line of North Spring Street. Thence northerly along said right-of-way line to a point, said point being at the intersection of west right-of-way line of Spring Street and the extended north right-of-way line of White Oak Street. Thence easterly along the extended

north right-of-way line of White Oak Street to a point, said point being 130 feet east of the east right-of-way line of North Spring Street. Thence northerly along a line parallel to and 130 feet east of the eastern right-of-way line North Spring Street to a point, said point being at the intersection of said line and the south right-of-way line of U.S. 24 Highway. Thence westerly along said right-of-way line of U.S. 24 to the point of beginning.

That the purpose of said Heritage District is to maintain the area in the same manner as it is presently constituted as a turn-of-the-century midwestern residential community of spacious, free-standing homes and residentially related institutions situated in open yards and landscaped as presently constituted with future landscaping to be in accordance with other provisions of this ordinance.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Because architecture of the District is differing and represents an extended time span, it is not the intent of this Ordinance to insure conformance with a particular architectural style, but instead shall be to insure a harmony and appropriateness of maintenance and construction with the general character of significant structures within the District. This shall be done in such a manner that safeguards the District's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage as embodied and reflected in such unimproved parcels of land and improvements thereon. In addition one of the purposes is to promote the use of the heritage district for the education, delectation, and welfare of the people of the City.

To achieve these goals, all properties in the Harry S. Truman Heritage District shall be maintained in a clean and sightly manner. In addition, all prpperties shall be maintained and all construction shall be undertaken in accordance with the following standards that shall be supplementary to other legal requirements of the City of Independence for maintenance and construction.

Nothing herein contained shall limit the expansion, demolition, restructuring, alteration or other change to an extablished church (religious body for religious purposes) now existing within the Heritage area as herein delineated.

DEFINITIONS

BLOCK FRONTAGE: A parcel of land terminated by public highways or streets, other than alleys and fronting upon both sides of a public highway or street.

HEIGHT OF STRUCTURE: The vertical distance measured from the highest of the following three levels:

- (a) From the street curb level;
- (b) From the established or mean street grade in case the curb has not been constructed;
- (c) From the average finished ground level adjoining the structure if it sets back from the street line;

to the level of the highest point of the roof beams of flat roofs, or roofs inclining not more than one inch (1") to the foot, or to the mean height level of the top of the main plates and highest ridge for other roofs.

LOT: A parcel of land occupied or to be occupied by one main structure or unit group of structures, and the accessory structures or uses customarily incident thereto, including at least such open spaces as are required under this article, and having its principal frontage upon a public street. A lot as used herein may consist of one or more platted lots, or tract or tracts, as conveyed or parts thereof.

LOT, CORNER: A lot abutting upon two or more streets at their intersection. A corner lot shall be deemed to front on that street on which it has its least dimension unless otherwise specified by the building inspector.

LOT, DEPTH: The mean horizontal distance from the front street line to the rear line.

LOT, INTERIOR: A lot whose side lot lines do not abut upon any street.

BILL NO. 5445

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ARTICLE 7 OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE AS THE HARRY S. TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT AND EMBODYING ORDINANCE NO. 5445, WITH CERTAIN REGULATION CHANGES, BUT NO CHANGE IN THE BOUNDARIES.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Independence Missouri established the Harry S Truman Heritage District by Ordinance 3407 in 1974, and amended that district by Ordinance No. 5445 on January 2, 1979; and,

WHEREAS, the Independence Heritage Commission has recommended that the Harry S Truman Heritage District should be codified as Article 7 of Chapter 14 of the Independence City Code, with certain changes in the regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the provisions in Ordinance No. 5445 are hereby enacted as Article 7 of Chapter 14 of the Independence City Code, with amendments, and Article 7 of Chapter 14 of the Independence City Code is hereby enacted in the following words and provisions:

"ARTICLE 7. HARRY S TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT.

SEC. 14.07.001. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

This Article shall be known, referred to and cited as the Harry S. Truman Heritage District of the City of Independence.

The Harry S Truman Heritage District is to be comprised of the following area:

Beginning at a point on the south right-of-way line of U. S. 24 Highway said point being at the intersection of the western lot line of Lot 3, Block 1 of IDLE-WILD PARK and the south right-of-way line of U. S. 24. Thence south along the western line of Lot 3 Block 1, IDLE-WILD PARK to the vacated alley adjacent to said lot. Thence along the vacated alley to the northwest corner of Lot 16, Block 1, IDLE-WILD PARK. Thence South along the west line of Lots 16, 15, 14, 13, and 12 Block 1 and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Block 6, and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 7 to the southwest corner of Lot 5, Block 7, IDLE-WILD PARK. Thence easterly along the south line of lot 5 to its intersection with the extension of west lot line of Lot 8, Block 7, IDLE-WILD PARK. Thence southerly along the extended west line of Lot 8, Block 7 of IDLE-WILD PARK to the south right-of-way line of West College Avenue. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the westerly line of Lot 7, Block 1 WALDO PLACE. Thence southerly along the west lines of Lots 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1, Block 1 and Lots 3, 2, and 1, Block 2, WALDO PLACE to the southwest corner of Lot 1, Block 2 WALDO PLACE. Thence southerly along the easterly lines of Lots 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, FORBIS PARK to the southeast corner of Lot 36, FORBIS PARK. Thence south along the extension of the above described line to its intersection with the south right-of-way line of West White Oak Street. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the westerly lot line of Lot 22, FORBIS PARK. Thence southerly along the west line of Lots 22 and 1 FORBIS PARK to the north right-of-way line of Truman Road. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the western right-of-way line of North Union Street. Thence southerly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the north right-of-way line of West Lexington Avenue. Thence easterly along said right-of-way line to its intersection with the west right-of-way line of North Spring Street. Thence northerly along said right-of-way line to a point, said point being at the intersection of west right-of-way line of Spring Street and the extended north right-of-way line of White Oak Street. Thence easterly along the extended north right-of-way line of White Oak Street to a point, said point being 130 feet east of the east right-of-way line of North Spring Street. Thence northerly along a line parallel to and 130 feet east of the eastern right-of-way line of North Spring

Street to a point, said point being at the intersection of said line and the south right-of-way line of U. S. 24 Highway. Thence westerly along said right-of-way line of U. S. 24 to the point of beginning.

SEC. 14.07.002. PURPOSE.

The purpose of [said] The Harry S Truman Heritage District is to maintain the area in the same manner as it [is] was [presently] constituted [as a turn-of-the-century] during the life and career of President Harry S. Truman as a midwestern residential community of spacious, free-standing homes and residentially related institutions situated in open yards and landscaped as presently constituted with future landscaping to be in accordance with other provisions of this Article; to foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past; to protect and enhance the district's attractions to tourists and visitors; to promote and encourage continued private ownership so that the objectives listed above can be attained. The Harry S Truman Heritage District is intended to be and is established as a zoning overlay district.

SEC. 14.07.003. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Because [architecture] the environment of the District is differing and represents an extended time span, it is not the intent of this Article to insure conformance with a particular architectural style, but instead shall be to insure a harmony and appropriateness of maintenance and construction with the general character of significant structures within the District. This shall be done in such a manner that safeguards the District's historic, environmental, aesthetic, and cultural heritage as embodied and reflected in such improved or unimproved parcels of land and improvements thereon. In addition one of the purposes is to promote the use of the [h]Heritage [d]District for the education, delectation, and welfare of the people of the City.

To achieve these goals, all properties in the Harry S Truman Heritage District shall be maintained and all construction shall be undertaken in accordance with the following standards that shall be supplementary to other legal requirements of the City of Independence for maintenance and construction.

Nothing herein contained shall limit the expansion, demolition, restructuring, alteration or other change to an established church (religious body for religious purposes) now existing within the Heritage area as herein delineated.

The two ex-officio non-voting members appointed for the Harry S Truman Heritage District shall consist of the Director of the Truman Library and one other resident of the district at large.

SEC. 14.07.004. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this Article, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations, shall have the meaning given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is mandatory.

AREA means a piece of ground not built over or occupied.

BLOCK FRONTAGE means a parcel of land terminated by public highways or streets, other than alleys and fronting upon both sides of a public highway or street.

[CHURCH means a building and/or site built and used specifically for religious services on a regular basis.]

CITY means the City of Independence, Missouri.

CITY FORESTER means the City Forester of the City of Independence, Missouri.

D.B.H. means the diameter of a tree trunk measured four and one-half feet above the ground.

ENVIRONMENT means an aggregate of social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community.

HEIGHT OF STRUCTURE means the vertical distance measured from the highest of the following three levels:

- (a) From the street curb level;
- (b) From the established or mean street grade in case the curb has not been constructed;
- (c) From the average finished ground level adjoining the structure if it sets back from the street line;

to the level of the highest point of the roof beams of flat roofs, or roofs inclining not more than one inch (1") to the foot, or to the mean height level of the top of the main plates and highest ridge for other roofs.

HERITAGE DISTRICT means an environment containing one or more structures or natural features having special historical, cultural, architectural, or archaeological interest or value constituting a distinct section of the City; it is a site, environment, structure or natural feature together with all its natural characteristics and man-made improvements that is identified with historic personages or with important events; or that embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a particular era or epoch of history; or that exemplifies an important aspect of community design or history; or that contains a structure or structures of considerable architectural value; or that contains a site or sites of archaeological interest or value.

HERITAGE LANDMARK means an individual structure, or natural feature, or an integrated group of structures on a single lot or site, or a site having special historical, cultural, architectural, or archaeological interest or value.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER means the Historic Preservation Officer of the City of Independence, Missouri.

LOT means a parcel of land occupied or to be occupied by one main structure or unit group of structures, and the accessory structures or uses customarily incident thereto, including at least such open spaces as are required under this Article, and having its principal frontage upon a public street. A lot as used herein may consist of one or more platted lots, or tracts, as conveyed or parts thereof.

LOT, CORNER means a lot abutting upon two or more streets at their intersection. A corner lot shall be deemed to front on that street on which it has its least dimension unless otherwise specified by the building inspector.

LOT, DEPTH means the mean horizontal distance from the front street line to the rear line.

LOT, INTERIOR means a lot whose side lot lines do not abut upon any street.

LOT, WIDTH means the horizontal distance between side lines, measured at the front building line.

LOT LINES means the lines bounding a lot as defined herein.

LOT LINE, FRONT means the boundary between a lot and the street on which it fronts.

LOT LINE, REAR means the boundary line which is opposite and most distant from the front street line, except that in the case of uncertainty the building inspector shall determine the rear line.

LOT LINE, SIDE means any lot boundary line not a front or rear line thereof. A side line may be a party lot line or a line bordering on an alley or a side street.

PARCEL means any measured unit of land.

PARKWAY means the section of street right-of-way located between the sidewalk and the adjacent curb line.

PERSON means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.

PRIMARY STRUCTURE means a building or buildings in which the principal use or uses of the premises is contained, housed, or situated.

PROPERTY means any parcel of real estate.

PROPERTY LINE means the dividing line between the street and the abutting property.

RECONSTRUCTION means any addition to, removal of, extension, or change in [the location of] an exterior wall or roof of a structure.

SIGN means any words, numerals, figures, devices, designs or trademarks by which information is made known, such as are used to identify or call attention to a building, structure, or object, or designate or mention an individual, profession, firm, business, or commodity.

STREET means a public right-of-way which affords principal means of vehicular access to property abutting thereon.

STREET TREE means a tree in the public right-of-way adjacent to a dedicated street.

VALUE means preservation worth as determined by the Heritage Preservation Commission review.

VARIANCE means relief from or variation of the provisions of these regulations, other than use regulations, as applied to a specific piece of property, as distinct from rezoning.

YARD means open space at grade between a structure and the adjoining lot lines, unoccupied and unobstructed by any portion of a structure from the ground upward, except as otherwise provided. In measuring a yard, for the purpose of determining the width of a side yard, the depth of a front yard or the depth of a rear yard, the least horizontal distance between the lot line and the main structure shall be used.

YARD, FRONT means a yard across the full width of the lot from the front line of the primary structure to the front line of the lot.

YARD, REAR means a yard between the rear lot line and the rear line of the primary structure and the side lot lines.

YARD, SIDE means a yard between the primary structure and the adjacent side line of the lot, and extending entirely from the front yard to the rear yard.

YARD TREE means a tree located in a private yard.

SEC. 14.07.005. PRESERVATION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES.

Prior to demolition or reconstruction of any existing structure, the Heritage Preservation Commission shall classify the structure as belonging to one of four groups and shall approve demolition or reconstruction according to the following guidelines:

Group I structures: To be classified in this group, the structures are to be considered outstanding examples of particular styles or periods, works of major architects, and structures or groups of structures of exceptional visual and environmental quality. Group I structures must be retained in historic character in perpetuity.

Group II structures: To be classed in this group, the structures are to be of lesser historical, cultural, aesthetic and environmental importance than those in Group I, but are still of historical, cultural, and aesthetic importance to the visual character of the area and should be retained. Group II structures should be retained in historic character and should be altered in historic character or replaced only if there is no viable possible alternative.

Group III structures: To be classed in this group, the structures are to be of little individual significance, but contribute to the overall character and environment of the area and reinforce the visual quality of the more important structures. This class of structures should be retained if possible, but could be changed or altered.

Group IV: To be classed in this group, the structures have no particular historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic or environmental value or have negative architectural value and can be considered expendable.

SEC. 14.07.006. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION.

To [make a determination] determine [as] into what group a structure shall fall [in], the [group shall be determined on a point schedule according to the] following criteria shall be used:

1. The Importance of a Structure or Site to Its Environment

Guidelines for judging compatibility in this section are to be based on (1) an analysis of existing land and structure use and the relationship of the particular property to uses in the immediate vicinity, (2) compatibility of the existing use with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and (3) an analysis of the feasibility of conversion of the existing structure, if not compatible in use, to a more compatible use.

Points are to be assigned as follows:

Compatible - 2 points
Acceptable - 1 point
Non-Compatible - 0 points

2. Physical Condition and Design Integrity

This is to be based on an exterior building rating as follows:

In Sound Condition - 3 points
In Need of Minor Repairs - 2 points
In Need of Major Repairs - 1 point
Dilapidated or Structurally Sub-standard - 0 points

3. Architectural Significance and Design Integrity

Guidelines for judging Architectural significance are to be based on (1) whether the structure represents an important architectural period, (2) is of an indigenous type, and (3) is the sole or rare surviving example of style or period (4) whether original design integrity has been maintained.

Points are to be assigned as follows:

Great Significance - 5 points
Considerable Significance - 3 points
Significant - 2 points
Not Significant - 0 points

4. Historic Significance

This is the most important of the four criteria and is established on the basis of historic research.

Points are to be assigned as follows:

Great Significance - 8 points
Considerable Significance - 4 points
Significant - 2 points
Not Significant - 0 points

5. Composite Value

The point rating assigned for composite value is as follows:

Group I Structures - 12 points
Group II Structures - 8 points
Group III Structures - 5 points
Group IV Structures - 2 points

Any proposed reconstruction or addition to an existing structure shall be approved by the Heritage Commission only after it finds that exterior

visual appearance is harmonious with original construction and with the character of Group I and Group II structures along the block frontage. Review by the Heritage Preservation Commission of reconstruction or additions shall include, but not be limited to, style, materials of construction, architectural detailing, proportion, bulk and dimensions, and placement on the property.

SEC. 14.07.007. NEW, EXPANDED, OR REMODELED STRUCTURES.

Primary residential structures shall front upon publicly dedicated streets.

Front yards shall be not less than twenty-five feet or more than forty feet in depth.

Interior side yards shall be not less than seven feet in width.

Street side yards shall be not less than twenty-five feet in width.

Rear yards shall be not less than thirty feet in depth.

Any proposed construction shall be approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission only after [it] the Commission finds that exterior visual appearance is harmonious with the character of Group I and Group II structures (see "Preservation of Existing Structures") along the block frontage. Review by the Heritage Commission shall include, but not be limited to, style, materials of construction, architectural detailing, proportion, bulk and dimensions, and placement on the property.

SEC. 14.07.008. OUTDOOR SPACE.

Front yards shall not be paved or used for vehicular use or parking, except that drives to garages or other parking areas not located in front yards shall be permitted.

Trees having trunk diameters of five inches in diameter at four and one-half feet or more shall not be removed except upon replacement by a tree of the minimum size and of a species listed in Section 14.07.016.

At the time of construction of any new primary structures, yard trees shall be planted, and they shall be planted, as specified in Section 14.07.016 according to species.

Street tree species shall be selected from and shall be at least the minimum size specified in Section 14.07.016. Street trees shall be spaced at minimum intervals according to species as listed in Section 14.07.016.

Total hard-surfaced area of any lot shall not exceed one-third of the total lot area.

Opaque fencing shall not be placed in any front yard.

Fencing in any front yard shall not exceed a height of four and one-half feet and shall not be closer than five feet to any right-of-way line.

No advertising signs shall be placed in front yards[.]; any permissible signs shall conform to the City Code; real estate signs (i.e. "For Rent" or "For Sale" signs) are permitted; all permanent signage shall be reviewed by the Heritage Preservation Commission before erection and shall conform to all applicable Codes. These include, but are not limited to over-large house numerals, memorials and historic signage and designations. All street, directional informational, traffic or other like sign designations or markings under the jurisdiction of the City shall be subject to review before the Heritage Preservation Commission before their installation.

Exterior private lighting shall not be mounted at an elevation of more than seven feet above grade and shall be not closer than ten feet to any side or rear property line.

Municipal, public, and private utility installations, including street-light wiring, shall be placed underground in accord with standards established by the City Council.

[Major]Landscape features, including trees and other vegetation deemed by the Heritage Preservation Commission to be important to the

character of the District, shall not be removed or altered except with prior approval of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

SEC. 14.07.009. PROPORTION OF STRUCTURE TO GROUND AREA.

Primary structures shall be not more than forty feet and not less than twenty-five feet in height.

Lot coverage by primary structures shall not differ by more than one percent from a ratio of structure to lot of 1:5.

SEC. 14.07.010. HARDSHIPS.

Where the Heritage Preservation Commission finds that extraordinary hardships or particular difficulties may result from strict compliance with [these Standards] this Article, they may approve variations or exceptions to [the Standards] this Article so that substantial justice may be done and the public interest secured and general welfare protected, provided that such variations or exceptions shall apply to conditions that are unique to the property for which the variation is sought and are not applicable, generally to other property[.], providing the hardship is not a self-imposed hardship.

SEC. 14.007.011. STREET TREE REGULATIONS.

A. No tree shall be planted where the parkway is less than three feet wide.

B. The minimum parkway width for each variety of acceptable street tree is shown in Sec. 14.07.016.

C. Trees must not be less than one and one-half to two inches D.B.H. when planted.

D. All trees must be protected and supported by tree guards.

E. No tree shall be placed so as, in the opinion of the City Forester, to cause a traffic hazard.

F. All cuts above one inch in diameter must be painted with an acceptable tree wound dressing.

G. Spacing of trees shall be as shown in Sec. 14.07.016.

H. No tree shall be planted nearer than one foot from the curb line or outer line of the sidewalk.

I. No tree shall be planted without the prior approval of the City Forester.

J. Trees and bushes listed in Sec. 14.07.013, are specifically prohibited.

K. No person shall (1) damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any tree or plant or injure the bark; (2) attach any rope, wire, or other contrivance to any tree or plant; (3) cause or permit any wire charged with electricity to come in contact with any tree or plant or allow any gaseous liquid or solid substance which is harmful to such trees or plants to come into contact with them.

SEC. 14.07.012. YARD TREE REGULATIONS.

A. No living tree larger than five inches D.B.H. shall be removed without authorization from the Heritage Preservation Commission.

B. Whenever a tree of over five inches D.B.H. is removed, it shall be replaced by another similar tree, on the same lot, of at least two inches D.B.H.

C. No tree or bush shall be planted so as to impede pedestrian or vehicular movement on a public sidewalk or street.

D. Spacing of trees shall be as shown in Sec. 14.07.016.

E. Trees and bushes listed in Sec. 14.07.015, are specifically prohibited.

F. Any tree which is dead or defective by reason of decay, disease, infestation by insects, or damage of any kind and because of such

condition is dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, comfort, or welfare of any of the inhabitants of the City, or the public, or which tends to endanger public or private property shall be removed by the property owner.

SEC. 14.07.013. PROHIBITED STREET TREES.

A. Trees specifically prohibited for planting along streets and public rights-of-way

Trees

Birch, Betula species and varieties, inclusive
Black Cherry, Prunus Serotina
Box Elder, Acer Nepundo
Catalpa, Catalpa speciosa
Columnar Poplars, Populus alba, P Nigra, and B Simoni
Common Buckthorn, Rhamnus Carthartha
Cottonwood, Populus Deltoides
Crabapple, All hybrids and varieties of Basic American and European origin having little or no resistance to indigenous diseases
Elms, Ulmus species, and all hybrids
Honeylocust, Triancanthos Inermis, not to include thornless varieties
Maidenhair Tree, Ginko Biloha, Female only
Mimosa, Albizzia Julibrissin, all varieties
Mountain Ash, Sorbus species and varieties, inclusive
Mulberry, Morus species, inclusive
Osage-Orange, Maclura Pomifera
Pawpaw, Asimina triloba
Persimmon, Diosnyros Virginiana
Pin Oak, Quercus Palustris
Silver (soft) Maple, Acer Sacchasinum (A. dasycarnum) and varieties, inclusive
Sumac, Rhus glabra, Rhus copallina
Sweet-Gum, Liquidambar Styraciflora
Tree of Heaven, Ailanthus Atlissina
Weeping Willow, Salis babylonica

SEC. 14.07.014. STREET TREE REGULATIONS.

A. Trees which have a maturity height exceeding thirty feet (30) shall be prohibited from public rights-of-way which have overhead wiring.

B. On all street intersection corners, plant material shall be restricted to a maximum of thirty inches (30") high above pavement level in a triangular area of which the lateral sides are measured at thirty-five feet (35') from the center of the corner, all tree limbs in such an area must be a minimum of nine feet (9') above street level or higher.

C. Shrubbery and other plantings shall be restricted to a maximum of thirty inches (30") high above the driveway surface along all automotive access drives, public, private, or commercial in a triangular area of which the lateral sides are measured at fifteen feet (15') along the outside edge of the driveway from the street gutter and from the outside corner of the driveway along the street gutter or curbing.

D. Any plant or tree which produces thorns is specifically prohibited.

E. Any plant or tree which is grown primarily for food crops, such as, but not limited to, apples, pears, grapes, tomatoes, beans or potatoes is specifically prohibited.

SEC. 14.07.015. PROHIBITED YARD TREES.

A. Trees specifically prohibited from use as yard trees

Trees

Box Elder, Acer Nepundo
Cottonwood, Populus DeHoides
Elms, Ulmus species and all hybrids
Tree of Heaven, Ailanthus Altissima

SEC. 14.07.016. RECOMMENDED STREET AND YARD TREES.

The following trees, and the conditions for their planting, are recommended for the use of either street trees or yard trees.

Common Name	Generic Name	Minimum Width of Parkway	Minimum Spacing In Yards	Minimum Spacing in Pkwy.
Alder, European	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	9'	50'	60'
Alder, Speckled	<i>Alnus incana</i>	6'	45'	50'
Ash, American (white)	<i>Fraxinus Americana</i>	9'	45'	60'
Ash, Green (seedless varieties preferred)	<i>Fraxinus Pennsylvanica</i> var <i>Glabra</i> Medesto var <i>Marshall's</i> Seedless	4'	40'	50'
Cherry, Cornelian*	<i>Cornus mas</i>	20'	20'	30'
Cherry, Sargents	<i>Prunus Sargenti</i>	9'	30'	50'
Crabapple, Arnold*	<i>Malus Arnoldiana</i>	20'	20'	30'
Crabapple, Carmine*	<i>Malus Astrosanguinea</i>	20'	20'	30'
Crabapple, Dorothea*	<i>Malus x Dorothea</i>	10'	20'	30'
Crabapple, Hall's*	<i>Malus halliana</i> , spontanea	20'	10'	30'
Crabapple, Japanese Flower	<i>Malus floribunda</i>	20'	25'	40'
Crabapple, Lemoine*	<i>Malus purpurea</i> Lemoinei	15'	20'	30'
Crabapple, Redbud*	<i>Malus zumi calocarpa</i>	20'	15'	30'
Crabapple, Siberian	<i>Malus baccata</i> var. <i>columnaris</i> *	12'	20'	30'
		9'	10'	20'
Crabapple, Tez*	<i>Malus Hupehensis</i>	20'	20'	30'
Cypress, Bald	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	12'	30'	75'
Ginko, (Maidenhair Tree) male only	<i>Ginko biloba</i> , Male	12'	40'	60'
Golden-rain Tree*	<i>Koelreuteria paniculate</i>	4'	20'	40'
Gum, Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	4'	40'	50'
Hawthorne, Washington*	<i>Cratageus phaenopyrun</i> (syn <i>C. Cordata</i>)	20'	25'	35'
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginia</i>	6'	35'	50'
Hornbeam, American*	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20'	30'	50'
Hornbeam, European	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> var. <i>fastigiata</i> var. <i>pendula</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>	9'	40'	50'
		15'	20'	30'
		20'	25'	35'
		12'	25'	35'
Kalopanax	<i>Kapopanax pictus</i>	12'	50'	75'
Linden, American (syn. Ironwood)	<i>Tilia Americana</i>	12'	40'	60'
Linden, Little Leaf	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	6'	45'	50'
Linden, Silver	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	12'	50'	65'
Linden, Mongolian	<i>Tilia Mongolica</i>	9'	50'	65'
Locust, Black	<i>Robinia pseudocacia</i> var. <i>Columnaris</i>	9'	40'	50'
		6'	25'	30'
Locust, Monument*	<i>Robinia hybrida</i> Monument	15'	25'	30'
London Plane Tree	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	6'	50'	90'
Magnolia, Saucer*	<i>Magnolia x souleangeana</i> var. <i>amabilis</i> , (alba) var. <i>lennei</i> , (nigre) var. <i>speciosa</i> , (rosea)	15'	25'	40'
Maple, Amur*	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	15'	15'	30'
Maple, Manchurian*	<i>Acer mandschuricum</i>	12'	25'	35'
Maple, Mountain	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	15'	25'	35'
Maple, Norway	<i>Acer platanoides</i> var. <i>Cavalier</i> var. <i>Cleveland</i> var. <i>Columnare</i> var. <i>Crimson King</i> var. <i>Jade Glen</i> var. <i>Olmstead</i> var. <i>Summershade</i>	12'	40'	50'
		9'	30'	50'
		12'	35'	45'
		6'	20'	35'
		15'	35'	50'
		12'	35'	60'
		9'	20'	40'
		15'	45'	75'

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1982, BY THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager

NOTE: Brackets surround existing text that is being removed by this ordinance.
Underscored text represents the major additions made by this ordinance.

Because of the significant structural changes to place the standards of
the Harry S Truman Heritage District into the format of the City Code
the brackets and underscores may not reflect all changes.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
PH0056545 NHL	2-23-74

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Harry S. Truman Historic District	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: North Delaware Street area (see continuation sheet)			
CITY OR TOWN: Independence			
STATE Missouri	CODE 29	COUNTY: Jackson	CODE 095

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder's Office, Jackson County Courthouse Annex			
STREET AND NUMBER: 306 West Kansas Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Independence	STATE: Missouri	CODE 29	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

E Missouri	
COUNTY Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

2. Boundaries of the Harry S. Truman Historic District

The district is bounded on the south by Lexington Avenue, between Union Street on the west and Pleasant Street on the east.

From the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Union Street the western boundary extends north along Union Street to a paved alley 250 feet north of the intersection of Union Street and Truman Road; thence east along the alley to a point approximately 175 feet west of North Delaware Street, at the juncture with the rear property line of the lots along the western side of North Delaware; thence north along the rear of the Delaware Street lots, or 175 feet west of Delaware Street in the urban renewal area, to the southern boundary of the Truman Library grounds.

From the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Pleasant Street, the eastern boundary of the district extends north along Pleasant Street to the intersection of Pleasant Street and Maple Avenue; thence east along the north side of Maple to the eastern property line of the World War Memorial Building; thence north and west again to Pleasant Street, circumscribing the War Memorial Building; thence continuing north along Pleasant Street to its intersection with Truman Road, and east 25 feet to the paved alley on the north side of Truman Road. North along the alley to Farmer Avenue; thence west along Farmer to its juncture with the rear property lines of the lots along the eastern side of North Delaware, approximately 175 feet east of Delaware Street; thence north along the rear of the Delaware Street lots, or 175 feet east of Delaware Street in the urban renewal area, to the southern boundary of the Truman Library grounds.

The district is bounded on the north by the Truman Library grounds.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian
☐ 15th Century

☐ 16th Century
☐ 17th Century

☐ 18th Century
☐ 19th Century

☒ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1919 - Present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☐ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☒ Political

☐ Religion/Phi.

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

President Truman's biographer, Jonathan Daniels, has observed that Truman the man matches the sturdy Midwestern character of North Delaware Street and the neighborhood which, more than any other, suggests the life and career of the former Chief Executive.¹ Many of Mr. Truman's childhood memories cluster about the area, and from 1919, shortly before his political career began, until the present, Truman and his wife have made their home at 219 North Delaware. Beginning as a county official, Truman became successively a U.S. Senator, then Vice-President, before entering the White House. His Presidential career itself was laced with reactions and observations formed in the political arena of Independence and surrounding Jackson County. In the eighteen years since his Presidency ended, many American leaders, including Presidents Johnson and Kennedy, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and former Chief Justice Earl Warren, have visited Mr. Truman at his Independence home or at his offices in the nearby Truman Library. Today the flavor of the district is still very much that of Truman's active political life and even of earlier years, when the neighborhood nurtured a future President.

In 1895, when Truman was eleven years old, his family settled only two blocks from North Delaware, at 909 West Waldo. They moved again while Truman was a youth, but he returned frequently to the area to visit friends and relatives, and to pursue his courtship with Bess Wallace. Upon his marriage to her on June 28, 1919, Truman became a permanent resident of North Delaware Street.

Elected to the position of county judge (an administrative rather than a judicial post) in 1922, with the substantial support of his comrades-in-arms of the 129th Field Artillery, Truman began his political ascendancy. Daniels cites the importance of this wartime connection in The Man of Independence, stating that it constituted Truman's first political base.² Truman himself writes that he entered politics "partly as a result of my

¹Daniels, The Man of Independence, pp. 158-9.

² ibid., p. 121

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Jackson	
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Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Continued

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war services, at the urging and with the help of my war companions."³ The World War Memorial Building a block from the Truman house is a tangible reminder of this aspect of Truman's life and career.

In 1926, Truman was elected to the more prestigious office of presiding judge of the county court, and in 1934 he became Missouri's junior Senator. Although for the next eighteen years Truman resided chiefly in Washington, he was at his Independence home on June 24, 1950, in the midst of his second Presidential term, when he was informed by telephone of the Communist invasion of South Korea.⁴

Returning to Independence in January 1953, at the end of his Presidency, Truman established a suite of offices first in Kansas City, then later at the Harry S. Truman Library which was dedicated in 1957 as a repository for the Presidential papers. The brisk, early-morning walks he had begun in Washington continued in Independence. For some time after the completion of the library, he arrived at his offices there on foot, up Delaware Street, by eight each morning. Often he spoke to visiting groups of students in the library auditorium. Mr. Truman continues to answer a voluminous correspondence, and in the 1950's he wrote his memoirs amid the setting which has been the physical nucleus of both his personal and his long and influential political life.

³Truman, Mr. Citizen, p. 61

⁴Alfred Steinbert, The Man from Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962), p. 376.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harry S. Truman Historic District centers about the residence of former President Truman, and forms a corridor along North Delaware Street linking the house with the Truman Library, which adjoins the district on the north. Extending from the library grounds approximately .7 of a mile south to Lexington Avenue, the district also protects the historic character of the neighborhood most closely related to the life of the thirty-third President. The southern portion of the district, around the Truman residence, is extended to incorporate sections of Pleasant Street, Truman Road, and Maple Avenue in order to preserve the environs of the house, and streetscapes as well as individual structures associated with Mr. Truman.

While the upper part of the district has been altered by urban redevelopment, that portion below College Avenue largely retains the physical character familiar to Truman during his years in the White House and the career that preceded them. The district is chiefly residential, with a sprinkling of public edifices, and most of the buildings range in date from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Large deciduous shade trees lining the streets and scattered about the ample lawns of the residences still distinguish most of the district.

In addition to its national historical importance, the Truman House itself is one of the earlier and architecturally more substantial structures in the area. An asymmetrical, two-and-a-half story frame Victorian dwelling, the house occupies a rectangular lot, approximately 175 by 225 feet in size, on the corner of North Delaware Street and Truman Road. Behind the main house, at the southeast corner of the lot, stands a large frame carriage house now converted into a garage and approached either from a drive off Truman Road or by means of an alley leading to North Delaware Street. The tall iron fence surrounding the Truman property was erected in 1947, at the suggestion of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, to protect the house and grounds from souvenir hunters.¹ The antique-style gas lamp to the left of the entrance walkway beyond the iron gates is of recent vintage.

Stylistically, the house is an eclectic mixture of Late Gothic Revival, bracketed, and modified Eastlavian decorative elements. A combination hip-and-gable roof, pierced by tall arched attic dormers, covers the structure. The most notable features of the facade are the porch, with its elaborate wooden jigsaw trim, and the massive, highly-ornamented bay which projects to

¹Harry S. Truman, Mr. Citizen (New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1960), p. 31.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description

Continued

page 1

the south of the centrally placed front door. Flanking the middle section of the tripartite windows of the bay are narrow sashes filled with colored glass. The balustraded porch extends from the main entrance around the north side of the house. There is a smaller porch, similarly treated, on the south side.

The ground slopes eastward toward the rear of the dwelling, from which projects a low, two-story ell containing the kitchen. A porch, resting on high brick piers and partially screened for use as a summer retreat and dining area, extends along the south side and across the back of this wing. A wooden lattice conceals the area under the porch except at the eastern end, which is left open to facilitate storage beneath.

The broad lawn surrounding the house is dotted with large oaks and informally-planted shrubbery and flowerbeds. From the steps at the foot of the back porch, a walk extends to the driveway leading from Truman Road to the garage.

Precisely when the house was constructed is uncertain. County records reveal that George P. Gates, Mrs. Truman's maternal grandfather, purchased the lot on June 20, 1867. Gates, a founder of the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company in Independence, is said to have built the residence at the time of the purchase. Its architectural style, however, would indicate that the house assumed its present appearance several years later. Mrs. Truman, née Elizabeth Wallace, has lived in the house since about 1903 when, following the death of her father, she and her mother, Mrs. Margaret Gates Wallace, came to live with Mrs. Wallace's parents. In 1924, five years after her daughter's marriage to the future President, Mrs. Wallace acquired the interests of the other Gates heirs in the house, and following her own death in 1952, the dwelling became the property of her daughter and son-in-law, the Trumans.² In 1955, the Trumans refurbished and partially modernized the interior for the sake of convenience. More recently, the polychromatic slate roof which covered the house and front porch has been replaced by asbestos shingles. These are the most significant changes made to the house within the past score of years.

Other buildings in the area have varying degrees of association with the Trumans. To the east of the Truman lot, at 601 and 605 Truman Road, are the unpretentious brick bungalows of Mrs. Truman's late brothers, George and

²Synopsis of records related to the Truman house in the Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Missouri, compiled for the Harry S. Truman Library, 1971.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY	
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7. Description

Continued

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Frank Wallace. Across Delaware Street and slightly south of the Truman house, at number 216, lived Mr. Truman's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Noland, and their daughters, the Misses Nellie and Ethel Noland. Miss Ethel Noland, the family genealogist, occupied the house until her death in August of 1971. In her autobiography, Souvenir, Margaret Truman Daniel recalls that during her childhood in the Truman house, most of her close relatives "lived almost within shouting distance."³

Adjoining the Truman property on the south is the Ogden residence from which, writes Mrs. Daniel, a network of strings and wires was strung to the rear upstairs sleeping porch of the Truman house in order that the daughters of the two households could exchange messages.⁴

On the eastern end of the block occupied by the Truman house, at the corner of Truman Road and Pleasant Street, is the site of Central High School, from which both President and Mrs. Truman were graduated. The building burned early in this century, and another school now occupies the site. Across the street, at the corner of Pleasant and Maple Avenue, stands the municipally-owned World War Memorial Building. Erected in 1926 as a civic auditorium dedicated to those from Independence who served in the First World War, the structure has for many years been Mr. Truman's regular voting place, as well as the scene of at least one of the former President's press conferences. Prior to the completion of the Truman Library in 1957, the Presidential papers were stored here for a time.

Diagonally across the street from the War Memorial Building stands the First Presbyterian Church, a well-preserved and little-altered brick Victorian structure dating from 1888, where Mr. Truman attended Sunday School and first saw his future wife. "That is where I met the beautiful blue-eyed golden-haired young lady, Virginia Elizabeth Wallace," Truman recalls in his book, Mr. Citizen. "I sat in front of her, and now and then she used to tap me over the head with a ruler."⁵

³Margaret Truman, Souvenir (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1956), p. 17.

⁴ibid., p. 30.

⁵Truman, Mr. Citizen, pp. 128-9.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Continued

page 3

Along Maple Avenue and the north side of Lexington Avenue, at the southern end of Delaware Street half a block from the Truman residence, the streetscape is composed of unpretentious dwellings, including that of Judge Henry Bundschu, a Republican friend of Truman's,⁶ and the Chrisman School, attended by Margaret Truman, at the corner of Maple Avenue and Union Street. For many years, a pair of three-story brown brick apartment buildings on Maple Avenue, known respectively as "The Maples" and "Maplewood", have marked the southern terminus of North Delaware Street.

The most conspicuous change in the character of the area immediately surrounding the Truman house has been the construction in 1967 of a modern office building by the Church of the Reformed Latter Day Saints at the northwest corner of Delaware Street and Maple Avenue, next to the Noland house. This edifice replaces a late nineteenth-century Romanesque-style Methodist Church and incorporates a portion of the church's much later educational building. In the same block, at 224 North Delaware directly opposite the Truman house, a former residence has been federally acquired as headquarters for the Secret Service unit detailed to watch the Truman house.

Among the substantial middle and upper-middle class dwellings along Delaware Street north of the Truman house are the homes of longtime associates and of families that Truman knew in his youth. These include the imposing Sawyer house, 510 North Delaware, and the Burrus house, at 503 North Delaware. The house at 610 North Delaware marks the site of the home of Mrs. Truman's Wallace forebears, and a great oak at the southwest corner of the lot next to the street survives from the childhood scene recalled by the former President, who lived on nearby Waldo Street between 1895 and 1901. Some new construction has occurred in this block of Delaware, bounded by Farmer and College Avenues. In the one block north of College, most of the older houses have given way to new ones, while the area beyond Nettleton Avenue and south of the U.S. Highway 24 overpass has been cleared by urban renewal officials. Delaware Street runs beneath the overpass and ends at the former Slover Memorial Park, now part of the Truman Library Grounds.

Within a few blocks of the Truman Historic District stand three of the former President's boyhood homes, at 909 West Waldo, 619 South Crysler, and 902 North

6

Jonathan Daniels, The Man of Independence (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1950), p. 122.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Continued

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Liberty. Other Truman sites in the vicinity include the Jackson County Courthouse, remodelled to its present appearance during Truman's term as presiding judge; the Missouri Pacific Railroad Station which was the scene of the affectionate welcome-home ceremony tendered to the ex-president in January 1953; and the diminutive Trinity Episcopal Church where both President and Mrs. Truman and their daughter, Margaret, were married.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Harry S. Truman Historic District			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
See Form 10-300 for boundary description			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Independence			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri		Jackson	
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series (Independence, Mo. Quadrangle)			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

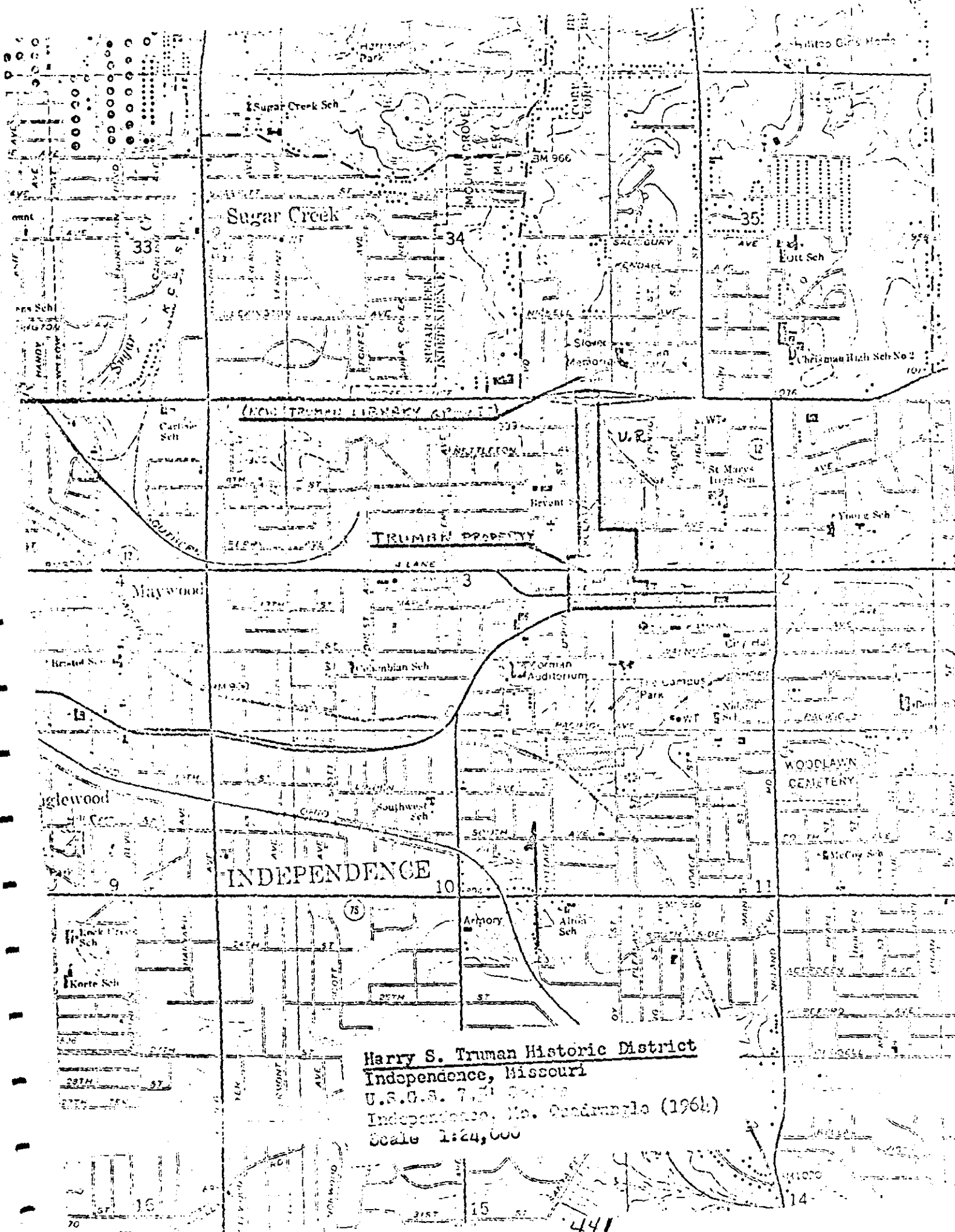
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			



Harry S. Truman Historic District
Independence, Missouri
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series
Independence, Mo. Quadrangle (1964)
Scale 1:24,000

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Harry S. Truman Historic District
North Delaware Street Area
Independence, Missouri

One of Harry Truman's biographers, Jonathan Daniels, has observed that the former President's sturdy Midwestern character matches that of North Delaware Street in Independence, Missouri, the neighborhood which more than any other suggests his life and career. As a boy, Truman lived a few blocks away, and from 1919--shortly before his political career began--until the present, Truman and his wife have made their home at number 219 North Delaware. Starting as a county official, Truman became successively a U.S. Senator, then Vice-President, before entering the White House in 1945. His presidential career itself was laced with reactions and observations formed in the political arena of Independence and surrounding Jackson County. Since the Truman Presidency ended, many American leaders, including former Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and former Chief Justice Earl Warren, have visited Mr. Truman at his home or at the Truman Library, the repository of the Presidential papers.

The historic district includes the length of North Delaware Street, bounded by the grounds of the Truman Library on the north and Lexington Avenue on the south. In addition to the century-old Truman residence itself, the oak-shaded, predominantly residential neighborhood includes public structures variously associated with Truman, as well as the homes of longtime Truman associates. Despite the changes wrought by an urban redevelopment program along the upper portion of Delaware Street, the flavor of the area is still very much that of Truman's active political life and even earlier years when it nurtured a youth who would become President.

* * * * *

NSHSB: 12-7-71
R S G

Common Name	Generic Name	Minimum Width of Parkway	Minimum Spacing In Yards	Minimum Spacing in Pkwy.
Maple, Red	Acer rubrum	6'	50'	75'
	var. Armstrong	4'	10'	30'
	var. Columnare	6'	20'	40'
	var. Doric	6'	10'	30'
	var. Gerling*	6'	25'	40'
	var. Tilford*	6'	35'	40'
Maple, Sugar, (Hard & Rock)	Acer Saccharum	15'	45'	80'
	var. Columnare	12'	15'	35'
	var. Globosum*	12'	10'	25'
	var. Green Mountain	12'	35'	60'
Maple, Tartarian*	Acer tartaricum	12'	20'	40'
Oak, Northern Red	Quercus rubra	9'	65'	80'
Oak, Red	Quercus borealist	9'	65'	80'
Oak, Scarlet	Quercus coccinea	20'	65'	80'
Oak, Shumard	Quercus Shumardii	9'	75'	90'
Pagoda Tree	Sophora japonica	6'	40'	65'
Pear, Callery	Pyrus calleryana	9'	25'	45'
	var. Bradford	9'	25'	45'
	var. Chanticleer*	12'	15'	60'
Pine, Austrian (syn. European Black)	Pinus nigra	15'	50'	75'
Pine, Eastern White	Pinus strobus	20'	50'	75'
	var. fastigiata	12'	15'	50'
Pine, Scotch	Pinus sylvestris	20'	50'+	75'
Plum, Prissord* (purple leafed) and its hybrids	Prunus cerasifera' atro- purpurea	12'	20'	45'
Redbud, Eastern*	Cercis canadensis	15'	20'	50'
Russian, Olive* (syn. Oleaster)	Eleagnus angustifolia	6'	30'	50'
Sassafras	Sassafras albidum officinale	9'	45'	60'
Serviceberry, Allegany*	Amelanchier laevis	15'	35'	60'
Serviceberry, Apple*	Amelanchier grandiflora	12'	25'	50'
Serviceberry, Shadblow	Amelanchier canadensis	9'	45'	60'
Silverbell, Carolina*	Halesia carolina	9'	30'	50'
Silverbell, Mountain	Halesia monticola	9'	50'	60'
Spruce, Serbian	Picea omorika	20'	35'	75'
Sycamore, American not to be colonated or mass planted	Plantanus Occidentalis	12'	65'	75'
Tulip Tree (syn Tulip Popular and Yellow Popular)	Liriodendron tulipifera	12'	60'	75'
Wing-Nut, Caucasian	Pterocarya fraxinifolia	9'	65'	75'
Yellow-wood	Cladrastis lutea	20'	45'	75'

SECTION 2. If any section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, on Article 7 of Chapter 14 of the Independence City Code, should be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the validity for any other part of this ordinance, or Article, which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

SECTION 3. That all other parts and provisions of the Independence City Code remain in full force and affect, unless previously or subsequently amended or repealed.

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