



The walking trail is made possible by the generosity of the donors listed on each plaque.

Truman Historic Walking Trail

In the early 1990s, the City of Independence developed plans for a series of historic walking trails to celebrate our rich heritage of memorable events and remarkable individuals. The Truman Historic Walking Trail is one of the series. From humble beginnings that envisioned marking eight or nine principle sites associated with the life of Harry Truman, the plan grew into a comprehensive trail comprised of 43 stops. The sites include homes of Truman's friends, associates and even two trees. To walk the entire trail is a healthy trip around the city. You may want to park and take in the sites out of sequence.

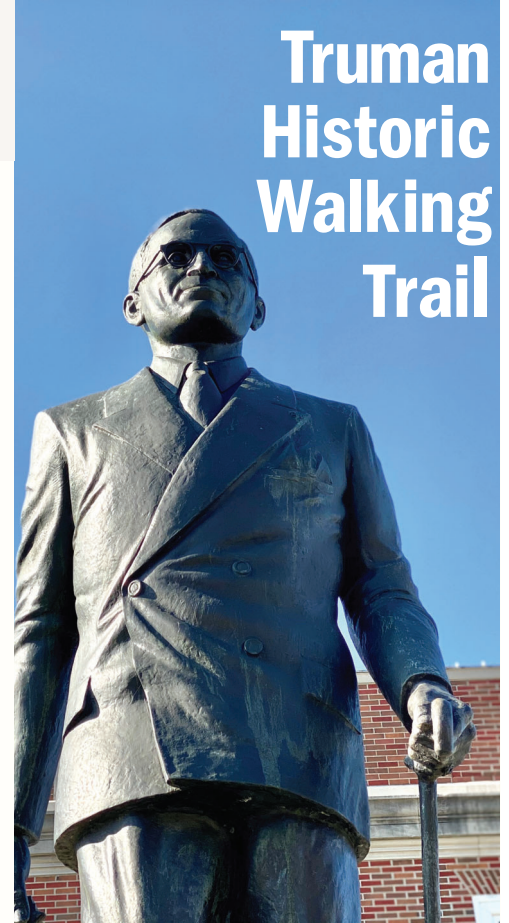
We hope you enjoy all of the sites as you take in more of President Truman's story.



For more information contact the

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VISIT INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

No one liked a good walk better than Independence's own, Harry S. Truman.

Throughout his life, President Truman would keep a fashionable pace everywhere he went. To honor his enduring love of walking and history, his hometown has put together the Truman Historic Walking Trail. Consisting of 44 memorable sites, the trail features important places in the life of America's 33rd President. Included along the way are landmarks and homes of Truman's friends and associates, each marked by a descriptive plaque noting the location's significance. Harry's pace may have been too fast to enjoy all the sites, but we invite you to join us for a delightful trip down memory lane.



1) Fire Station Number 1 223 N. Main St.
Originally constructed in 1928 by architect Hal Wheelock and contractor J.E. Dunn, Fire Station Number 1 was converted by the National Park Service to a ticket center and office building in 1983. The National Park Service continues to use the building as the visitor center for the Harry S Truman National Historic Site, also known as the Harry S. Truman Home.



3) Clinton's Drug Store 100 W. Maple Ave.
Former President Truman held his first job at the old Clinton's Drug Store on the Square. At the age of 14, he was "at work at 6:30 a.m. mopping floors, sweeping the sidewalk, getting everything in shipshape when Mr. Clinton came in," Truman explained in his memoirs. G.W. Clinton constructed the drugstore as a commercial block. After a fire destroyed the original building in 1906, Clinton's Drug Store relocated into the corner building that houses Clinton's Soda Fountain today.

4) Historic Truman Courthouse 112 W. Lexington Ave.
Built from the bricks of prior courthouses and a perfect example of the Colonial Revival architectural style, the Historic Truman Courthouse—also known as the Jackson County Courthouse—was the backdrop for Truman's entrance into politics. In 1922, Truman was elected county judge, and in 1926, he became the presiding judge. Truman oversaw renovations on the building beginning in 1932, dedicating the new

and improved courthouse in the early fall of 1933. Today, visitors can tour Truman's former office and courtroom on a free guided tour.

5) Truman Barbershop 417 W. Maple Ave. (Private)
In 1965, George and Doris Miller expanded their home to include the barbershop as an extension of the house, moving the shop from its original location at 214 N. Main St. Doris Miller was Bess Truman's hairdresser, and George Miller was Truman's barber, responsible for his weekly trims.

6) Truman Memorial Building 416 W. Maple Ave.
On July 4, 1926, Truman, a World War I veteran, dedicated the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. The brick structure—now known as the Truman Memorial Building—served as Truman's primary voting place and the location of his only press conference in Independence as president of the United States. Many documents written by and relevant to Truman are still housed here today. Designed by Alonzo H. Gentry and constructed by M.T. Colgan, the Memorial Building operated as a community center until 1996 and again beginning in 2002. Today, it continues to serve to honor veterans and as a community center for the people of Independence.

7) First Presbyterian Church 100 N. Pleasant St.
"When we moved to Independence in 1890, my mother's first thought was to get us into a good Sunday school," former President Harry S. Truman

recalls. Truman also met Bess Wallace, the future Mrs. Truman, at the church during Sunday School. First Presbyterian Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by Nier, Hogg, and Byram and built by Christian Yetter and J.W. Adams in 1888.

8) Bundschu House 601 W. Maple Ave. (Private)
Anton J. Bundschu, the owner of Bundschu's Department Store, resided here with his family beginning in 1890. His department store was located on the Square, and many local families, including his neighbors, the Trumans, shopped at the store. After the death of his parents, Henry Bundschu, a good friend of Truman, took ownership of the house, renovating it in 1907. After watching his dear friend serve eight years in the White House, Henry Bundschu remarked, "I used to say that Harry Truman lived around the corner from me; now there isn't a day that goes by that I don't tell myself, 'You live around the corner from Harry Truman, and don't you ever forget it!'"

9) Ginkgo Tree 611 W. Maple Ave.
Harry S. Truman was quite fond of taking strolls through his hometown of Independence. Each time he strode down Maple Avenue, Truman passed by this ginkgo tree, which he quickly came to love. During his walks, he would pause to pat the tree and tell it that it was "doing a good job."

10) Joseph T. Noland House 216 N. Delaware St.
Now owned by the National Park Service, the Noland House was previously home to Truman's aunt, uncle, and three cousins from 1900 to 1986. The two older daughters, Ethel and Nellie, were close in age to Harry and Bess, resulting in great friendships between the four. The Noland family lived directly across from the Truman Home, where Harry and Bess Truman lived together once they were married.



11) Harry S. Truman Home 219 N. Delaware St.
After graduating from high school and the death of her father, Bess Truman moved into her maternal grandparents' house, located at 219 N. Delaware St. On the weekends, Truman would visit his cousins, the Noland, who happened to live across the street from Bess. One evening, Harry was tasked with returning a plate to the family, and upon his return to the Noland House a few hours later, it was apparent a courtship had begun. After Harry and Bess were married, Harry moved into the home, now known as the Truman Home. Bess Truman maintained ownership of the house until her passing in 1982, at which point she left it to the National Park Service.

12) Leonard/Chopin House 304 N. Delaware St. (Private)
In 1921, the Chopin family purchased the Leonard/Chopin House, built in 1853, and lived here for more than 70 years. Linda Chopin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chopin, worked at Noland Elementary School as a second-grade teacher in the 1960s. The Chopins were close friends of the Trumans and had a large porch on which television photographers would stand to capture photos of the Truman family when they visited Independence.

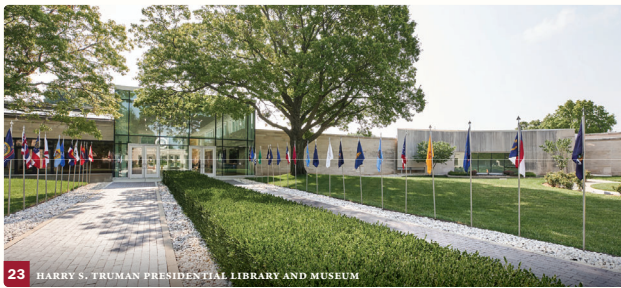
13) Buchanan House 310 N. Delaware St. (Private)
The Buchanan House, built in 1926 for Ella W. Buchanan, was purchased in 1945 by Poindexter, or P.D., and Pearl Bush. Their twin daughters, Elizabeth and Virginia Bush, were a year ahead of Margaret Truman in school, and the three were best friends. Elizabeth recalled that "[we] used to ride our bikes together [and] had a play or two that we performed." After her marriage to

Carl H. Sapper Jr., Elizabeth lived in the Buchanan House with her husband until they sold it in 1992.

14) Compton House 318 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Robert L. McBride was perhaps one of the most influential architects and builders in Independence during the early 1900s. In 1895, McBride created his own business, building several homes, schools, and even the 1910 Independence City Hall. The Compton House is among the homes he built, using stone to construct the house. Polly Compton lived here in the 1960s and 1970s, and his legacy continues with his soda company, Polly's Pop, which he started in 1923. In 2016, the local McClain Restaurant Group revived the bubbly business on the Square.

15) Clark House 416 N. Delaware St.
Although there is no plaque installed at this location and details are very limited, Stop 15 is believed to be the Clark House, where Christian Casper lived in 1920. Casper and his partner, Walter Shimmfessell, constructed the Clinton and Casper/Shimmfessell blocks, replacing the original Clinton's Drug Store where Harry S. Truman worked in his youth. Casper's daughter, Adelaide, eventually married Dr. Thomas Twyman, Truman's childhood doctor, and the couple moved into the Clark House sometime after.

16) Kelly/Etzenhouser House 426 N. Delaware St. (Private)
The foursquare craftsman-style home was originally built for the Baldwin family. The Kelly family began living in the house in 1910 while Charles Kelly served as a Jackson County sheriff. Later, the Etzenhouser family moved into the home. Madeline Etzenhouser, a local teacher, helped to stop the attempted kidnapping of Margaret Truman prior to the 1930 election.



23 HARRY S. TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

17) Sawyer/Jennings House 510
N. Delaware St. (Private)
Constructed in 1887, the home was owned by Aaron F. Sawyer, a partner in the locally owned and operated Chrisman-Sawyer Banking Company. The house is one of the many residences former president Harry S. Truman would pass during his famed strolls through Independence. Lock H. Sawyer, son of Aaron Sawyer, eventually sold the Queen Anne-style house to the Jennings family after the death of his mother. The Jackson County Historical Society honored the site in 1976.

18) Bostian House
602 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Originally owned by Maria J. Fletcher, the 1887 Queen Anne-style home was purchased by the Bostian family in 1905. William Bostian served in WWI with Harry S. Truman, although they were not in the same unit. The family continued living in the home until Mrs. Bostian died in the 1950s. The house is located across the street from the Sawyer/Jennings Home and is one of the oldest houses in Independence.

19) Bess Truman Home
610 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Bess Truman's childhood home once featured a large oak tree in the yard, and she spent her days playing underneath it. The Wallace family lived here until the passing of Mr. Wallace in 1903. After her husband's death, Mrs. Wallace relocated her children to her parents' home, where Bess eventually lived with her husband, Harry S. Truman.

20) Thice/Twachman House 618
N. Delaware St. (Private)
Originally built for the McDavitt family, the English cottage-style home is thought to have been constructed prior to 1916. The Thice family purchased the home in 1946. Mr. Thice served as the city attorney for Independence for several years. During his walks, Truman would frequently pass by the residence.

21) Bullene/Choplin House 702 N.
Delaware St. (Private)
This 1887 Queen Anne home is an architectural staple in Independence. Thomas Chapman Bullene was a partner of the Bullene, Moore, and Emery department store, located in Kansas City. Robert R. Choplin purchased the house in 1919, more than 30 years after its construction. Josephine Choplin, daughter of Robert Choplin, worked to restore the home, complete with stained glass windows, a corner tower, a bay window, and a wrap-around porch. Truman would often walk by the house during his strolls through Independence.

22) The Neck Neighborhood
Bess Truman Parkway
The "Neck" was an interracial neighborhood comprised of working class African Americans and whites. Some of the residents worked in the homes of Independence's prominent residents. In 1962, the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority determined this area was blighted and launched an urban renewal project that resulted in the clearance of all of the homes. Despite attempt by local advocates, the neighborhood was destroyed. McCoy Park and Bess Truman Parkway are all that remain.

23) Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum
500 W. U.S. 24 Highway
Originally built between 1956 and 1957, the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum has undergone several rounds of renovations over the years. The most recent renovation—and the largest at \$30 million—began in 2019, reopening on July 2, 2021. The Truman Library also serves as the final resting place of Harry, Bess, and Margaret Truman.

24) Stewart House
635 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Byron A. Stewart, an attorney and owner of the local electric company, lived in this home for several decades after its original construction in 1937. Truman frequently passed by the residence while strolling around Independence.

25) Sea/Hare House
633 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Built in 1937 for Hiram and Julie Sea, the Tudor Revival-style home was sold to the Hare family in 1951, where they lived until 2001. The site is one that Truman would often pass during his walks through the neighborhood.

26) Mize Peters House
631 N. Delaware St. (Private)
In 1924, Mize R. Peters, a childhood friend of Harry and Bess Truman, moved into the home—constructed in 1905—and lived here for nearly 30 years. During that time, he helped manage a local drugstore. Lucy Peters, Mize's wife, was also a member of Bess' bridge club.

27) Fullerton House
627 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Originally built in 1918 for the Abraham Myers family, the Fullerton House was home to three families before the Fullertons moved in. William B. Fullerton was a well-known architect in Independence, designing post-WWII modern and contemporary-style buildings in the area. This was one of the many residences Truman would pass during his jaunts through the city.

28) Allen House
619 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Phog Allen coached at William Chrisman High School (formerly known as Independence High School) before becoming one of the first basketball coaches at Kansas University. His teams won 24 conference championships and three national titles. The Trumans were classmates with Allen.

29) Spargo House
601 N. Delaware St. (Private)
One of the more modern residences on the trail, the split-level Spargo House was built on the old P.D. Bush home in 1968 for Stanley and Dorothea Spargo, where they lived into the 1970s. The home is a prime example of urban renewal, a campaign that Truman supported.

30) Duke House
511 N. Delaware St. (Private)
After the Hickerson family moved out of the 1885 Italianate-style home in 1914, William B. Duke moved in. Duke lived on the property through the 1920s and again in the 1940s. Louise Duke, William's wife, played in Bess Truman's bridge club.

31) Burrus House
503 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Built in the 1870s, the Italianate-style Burrus House is one of the oldest homes on the street. Olney and Sadie Bell Burrus moved into the home in 1924. Rufus Burrus was a close friend of former President Harry S. Truman and the attorney for the Truman family.

32) Bridges House
423 N. Delaware St. (Private)
Joseph E. Bridges—city council member, school board member, and local grocery store owner—lived in this home with his family for forty years. The family occupied the home from the early 1910s until the 1950s. Mr. Bridges was a strong supporter of Truman and his ideas.

33) Mitchell House
414 N. Pleasant St. (Private)
In 1916, Reuben B. Mitchell purchased the residence, circa 1905. Mr. Mitchell bought into the C. Ott and Sons Funeral Home, helping to run the business. Truman would often pass by the residence during his strolls.

34) Noel House
409 N. Pleasant St. (Private)
Constructed in 1890 by the Hearne family, the property was sold to Maggie and James Noel by Maggie's

unt, Maggie was a good friend of Bess Truman and a member of her bridge club. The family continued living here for almost 100 years.

35) Palmer House
406 N. Pleasant St. (Private)
Originally home to the school superintendent of Independence, William L.C. Palmer, and his wife, Ardella Palmer, the property was owned by the family for more than 100 years. Heavily involved in education in Independence, both Mr. and Mrs. Palmer taught the Trumans while they were in school.

36) Jackson House
300 N. Pleasant St. (Private)
Nathaniel and Annie Jackson owned this 1873 home at the turn of the 20th century. Mr. Jackson worked as an electrical engineer in Independence before transitioning into insurance work. Truman often passed by the home during his walks. Close to 100 years after its original construction, the home was renovated in 1973.

37) First Baptist Church
500 W. Truman Rd.
Originally constructed by the Randalls, a family who owned and operated a construction business in Independence, the First Baptist Church was built in 1895. Truman was known to walk by the church during his strolls.

38) Minor House
314 N. Spring St. (Private)
Home of the Minor family for 82 years, the house is an exceptional display of several architectural styles in Independence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Built in 1885, the house is a blend of Victorian, Italianate, Second Empire, and Stick styles. Grace and Eleanor Minor were good friends of the Trumans.



Looking for shorter, more focused tours or prefer to listen to Truman's story? Scan this code to check out the National Park Service's cell phone tours.

39) DeWitt House
412 N. Spring St. (Private)
Originally constructed in 1885, the property fell into the possession of Roger J. and Mary Mildred DeWitt in 1935. Truman often passed by the residence during his walks. The DeWitt family went on to invest in the Vaile Mansion, restoring it before donating the property to the City of Independence in the early 1980s.



40) Trinity Episcopal Church
409 N. Liberty St.
Built in 1881, the Trinity Episcopal Church served as the setting for Harry and Bess Truman's wedding in 1919. The church was decorated with "garden flowers in pastel shades." Fred Wallace gave Bess away at the altar, which was covered in "daisies, hollyhock and larkspur with tall cathedral candles." Reverend John V. Plunkett officiated the ceremony.

41) George Wallace House
605 W. Truman Rd. (Private)
George Wallace, a handyman and brother of Bess Truman, and his wife, May Wallace, the family spokesperson after Truman became president, moved into the green bungalow in 1916. The property on which the home was built was originally part of the backyard of the Truman Home.

42) Frank Wallace House
601 W. Truman Rd. (Private)
Frank Wallace, brother of Bess Truman, built the brown bungalow on what was originally property of the Truman Home. Frank's grandfather divided the backyard of his property amongst George and Frank Wallace as wedding gifts, allowing them each a 50-foot lot. The three couples—Frank and Natalie, George and May, and Bess and Harry—remained great friends, sharing the land together.

43) Truman Boyhood Home
909 W. Waldo Ave. (Private)
From 1896 to 1902, the young Harry Truman grew up at the Queen Anne house, circa 1886. After the family lost the house in 1902 due to money troubles, the area surrounding the property quickly transformed from that of a rural town to a more urban city. The property shrank over time as the garden and carriage houses were sold.

44) Harpie Club
101 N. Main St. (Upper Floors Private)
Formed in 1924, the Harpie Club, previously known as the Harmonica Club, had approximately 17 active members. The members of the club were primarily veterans, government employees, and Truman's closest friends and neighbors. The club met regularly, playing poker and enjoying drinks weekly, before disbanding in the 1960s.

