



Preservation Matters in Independence

*A Publication by the Independence Historic Preservation Division
Community Development Department*

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Also available at: <http://www.independencemo.org/comdev/HistoricPreservation.aspx>

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Greetings from the Heritage Commission

Independence enjoys a rich and enviable history. Each presidential election those who aspire to lead our nation travel here to bask in the shadow of Harry Truman; and this is only one aspect of our rich national history. The real question is: Do we as a community appreciate, enjoy, and respect our history and historical resources? The answer is a resounding YES based on the most recent citizen satisfaction survey by ETC Institute.

Here are the results in brief:

- 84% agreed it was important to preserve the City's historic sites.
- 89% agreed it is important to maintain the Square (the heart of much of the history).
- 86% thought it was important to preserve the City's historic neighborhoods.

- 79% are familiar with historic locations.
- 62% thought the historic sites are effectively promoted.

In short, there is little disagreement: our City's history and heritage is important to the community and its citizens. The challenge is how do we move from thinking our history is "important" to taking actions that reflect that widely held sentiment. Our community faces two major pending preservation challenges - each sufficient to put our interest and good intentions to the test.

The challenges are the Independence Square Courthouse and Swinney Hall located on Drumm Farm. Both buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both face deterioration from inadequate maintenance. Both desperately need major investment. Both offer interesting opportunities for contemporary reuse.

It is time to reignite a historic preservation ethic in the community - the same spirit that saved the Bingham-Waggoner, the Chicago and Alton Depot, the Vaile Mansion and other irreplaceable historic resources.

We dare not wait. We need to act clearly and decisively. Failing to do so, the next citizen survey will again reaffirm our civic sentiment that our history is important but when we look around two notable resources will either be gone or well on the way. These are community and public investments, even in these hard times, worth making. As citizens, we should be satisfied with nothing less.

*-Brent Schondelmeyer
Chair, Independence
Heritage Commission*

Roof Replacement at the Truman Home

In 1969, the Truman Home received a new asphalt roof after winter ice damage and a

severe July hail storm rendered the original 80-year-old slate roof unserviceable. The roof was again replaced in 1990 and required replacement again this past year.

The 2008 re-roofing project was precipitated by seasonal weathering and extreme heat cycles which occurred within the attic due to inadequate ventilation.

After first removing the extant shingles, the crew installed a titanium synthetic roofing underlayment. Replacement shingles were installed with a five inch exposure and were either sealed with an asphalt caulk or roof patch cement as the new shingles did not have adhesive strips on them. The replacement shingles were fabricated 2-tab asphalt shingles which had to be custom ordered as blanks which were then cut on site to replicate the size of the shingles being replaced.



All other existing salvageable fabric was

stabilized and reused, with the existing condition, initial design, and long-term maintenance in mind. Throughout the project, representative samples of historic materials were salvaged, inventoried and tagged. These samples were then turned over to the Truman Home's Museum Curator and stored for future reference and research.

During the replacement efforts only one roof section at a time was addressed due to rain delays. The crew started on the east elevation then moved around the Truman Home in a clockwise manner. The crew's work patterns were coordinated with Park Service Staff in order to minimally disrupt house tour traffic. With the exception of scaffolding, all other equipment was stored between the Truman and Wallace Carriage Houses to keep it hidden from visitors. Also addressed were lightning suppression rods which had to be removed then replaced as they moved from one section of the top of the roof to another. Two dormers on the east elevation mansard roof had no step flashing at the corner of the

dormer wall and the main roof slope. Rather than replicate the fashion in which the shingles on the slope were bent up under the shingles on the cheek wall, the crew instead trimmed the shingles at the wall and installed step flashing.

All date recordation of the project was stored in a CD-ROM format. The project ran from October 3-24, 2008.



This project was carried out by the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) located in Frederick, Maryland. The center is staffed by multi-skilled, long term, cultural resource maintenance experts who teach and mentor National Park Service employees who have responsibility for maintaining a variety of historic resources service wide.

*-Larry Villalva
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