

# Chapter 4: Local Historic Landmarks and Districts

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**In this chapter you will find:**

**Individually Listed Historic Landmarks**

- Local Historic Landmarks Map

**Historic Districts**

- City Wide Historic District Map

**Truman Heritage District**

- History of the Truman Neighborhood
- Neighborhood Characteristics
- Truman Heritage District Map



Photograph on cover:  
Truman with Independence, Missouri sign, May 28, 1957, Harry S.  
Truman Library and Museum, 97-50 .

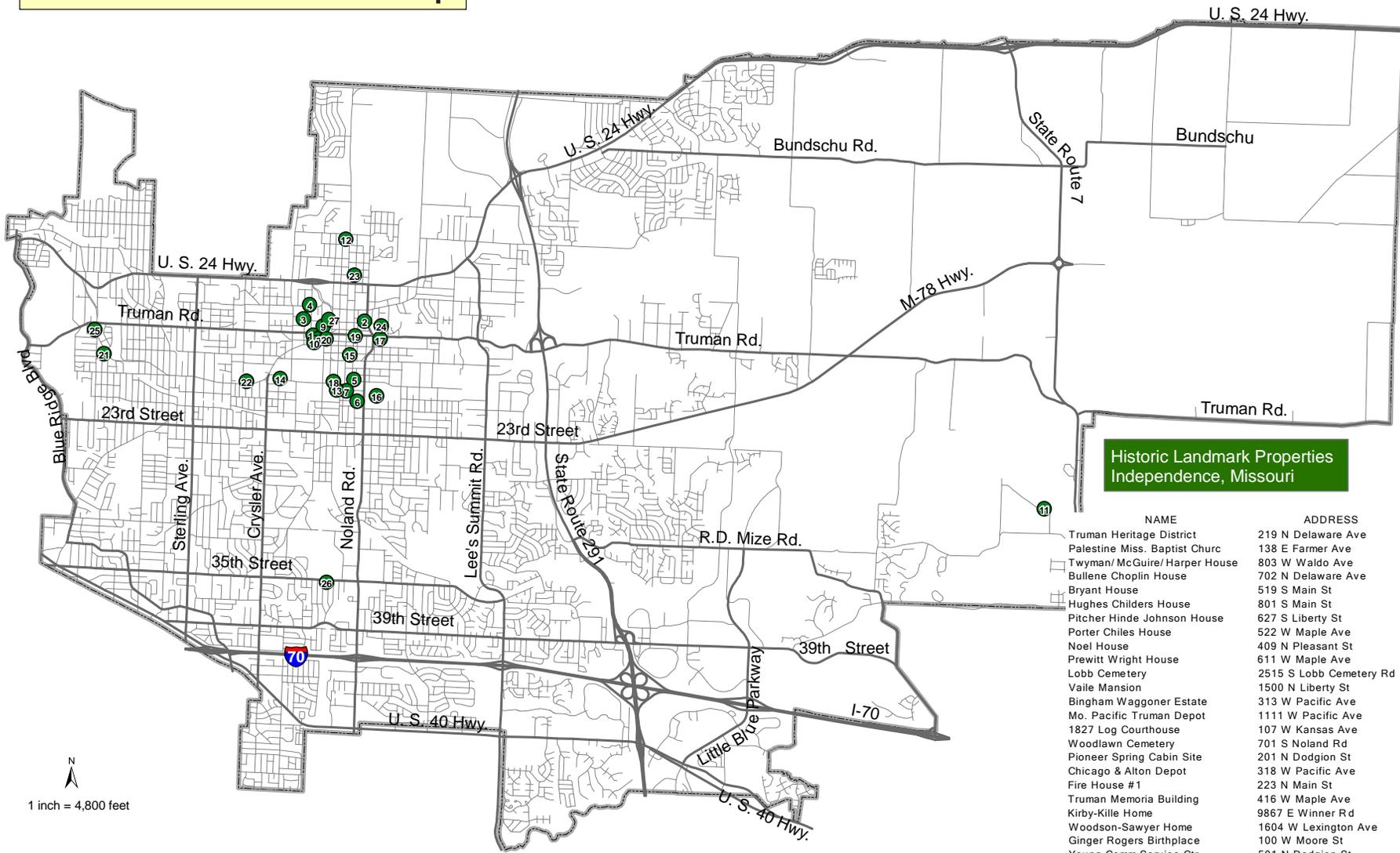
## Individually Listed Local Historic Landmarks:

- **1827 Log Courthouse** - 107 West Kansas
- **Bingham-Waggoner Estate** - 313 West Pacific Avenue - <http://www.bwestate.org/welcome.asp>
- **Bryant House** - 519 South Main
- **Bullene Choplin House** - 702 North Delaware
- **Chicago & Alton Depot** - 318 West Pacific - <http://www.chicagoalton1879depot.org/>
- **Fire House #1** - 223 North Main
- **Ginger Rogers Birthplace** - 100 West Moore
- **Harry S. Truman National Historic Site** - 223 North Main Street
- **Hiram Young Community Service Center** - 501 Dodgion
- **Hughes Childers House** - 801 South Main
- **Kirby-Kille House** - 9867 East Winner Road
- **Lobb Cemetery** - 2515 Lobb Cemetery Road
- **Missouri Pacific/Truman Depot** - 1111 West Pacific
- **Noel House** - 409 North Pleasant
- **Owens-McCoy House** - 410 West Farmer
- **Palestine Missionary Baptist Church** - 138 East Farmer
- **Pioneer Spring Cabin Site** - 201 North Dodgion
- **Pitcher Hinde Johnson House** - 627 South Liberty
- **Porter Chiles House** - 522 West Maple
- **Prewitt Wright House** - 611 Maple
- **Raasch House** - 9725 East Winner Road
- **Schowengerdt/Walker House** - 13407 East 35th Street South
- **Truman Memorial Building** - 416 West Maple - <http://www.indepmo.org/parksandrec/tmbhist.aspx>
- **Twyman/McGuire/Harper House** - 803 West Waldo
- **Vaile Mansion** - 1500 North Liberty - <http://www.vailemansion.org/Welcome.html>
- **Woodlawn Cemetery** - 701 South Noland
- **Woodson/Sawyer House** - 1604 West Lexington

\*\* Those properties underlined are also listed as National Register Properties (see Appendix C).

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND DISTRICTS

## Local Historic Landmarks Map



Historic Landmark Properties  
Independence, Missouri

NAME	ADDRESS	NUM
Truman Heritage District	219 N Delaware Ave	1
Palestine Miss. Baptist Churc	138 E Farmer Ave	2
Twyman/McGuire/Harper House	803 W Waldo Ave	3
Bullene Choplin House	702 N Delaware Ave	4
Bryant House	519 S Main St	5
Hughes Childers House	801 S Main St	6
Pitcher Hinde Johnson House	627 S Liberty St	7
Porter Chiles House	522 W Maple Ave	8
Noel House	409 N Pleasant St	9
Prewitt Wright House	611 W Maple Ave	10
Lobb Cemetery	2515 S Lobb Cemetery Rd	11
Vaile Mansion	1500 N Liberty St	12
Bingham Waggoner Estate	313 W Pacific Ave	13
Mo. Pacific Truman Depot	1111 W Pacific Ave	14
1827 Log Courthouse	107 W Kansas Ave	15
Woodlawn Cemetery	701 S Noland Rd	16
Pioneer Spring Cabin Site	201 N Dodgion St	17
Chicago & Alton Depot	318 W Pacific Ave	18
Fire House #1	223 N Main St	19
Truman Memoria Building	416 W Maple Ave	20
Kirby-Kille Home	9867 E Winner Rd	21
Woodson-Sawyer Home	1604 W Lexington Ave	22
Ginger Rogers Birthplace	100 W Moore St	23
Young Comm Service Ctr	501 N Dodgion St	24
Raasch House	9725 E Winner Rd	25
Schowengerdt / Walker House	13407 E 35th St S	26
Owens-McCoy House	410 W Farmer St	27

1 inch = 4,800 feet



DATE: December, 2010

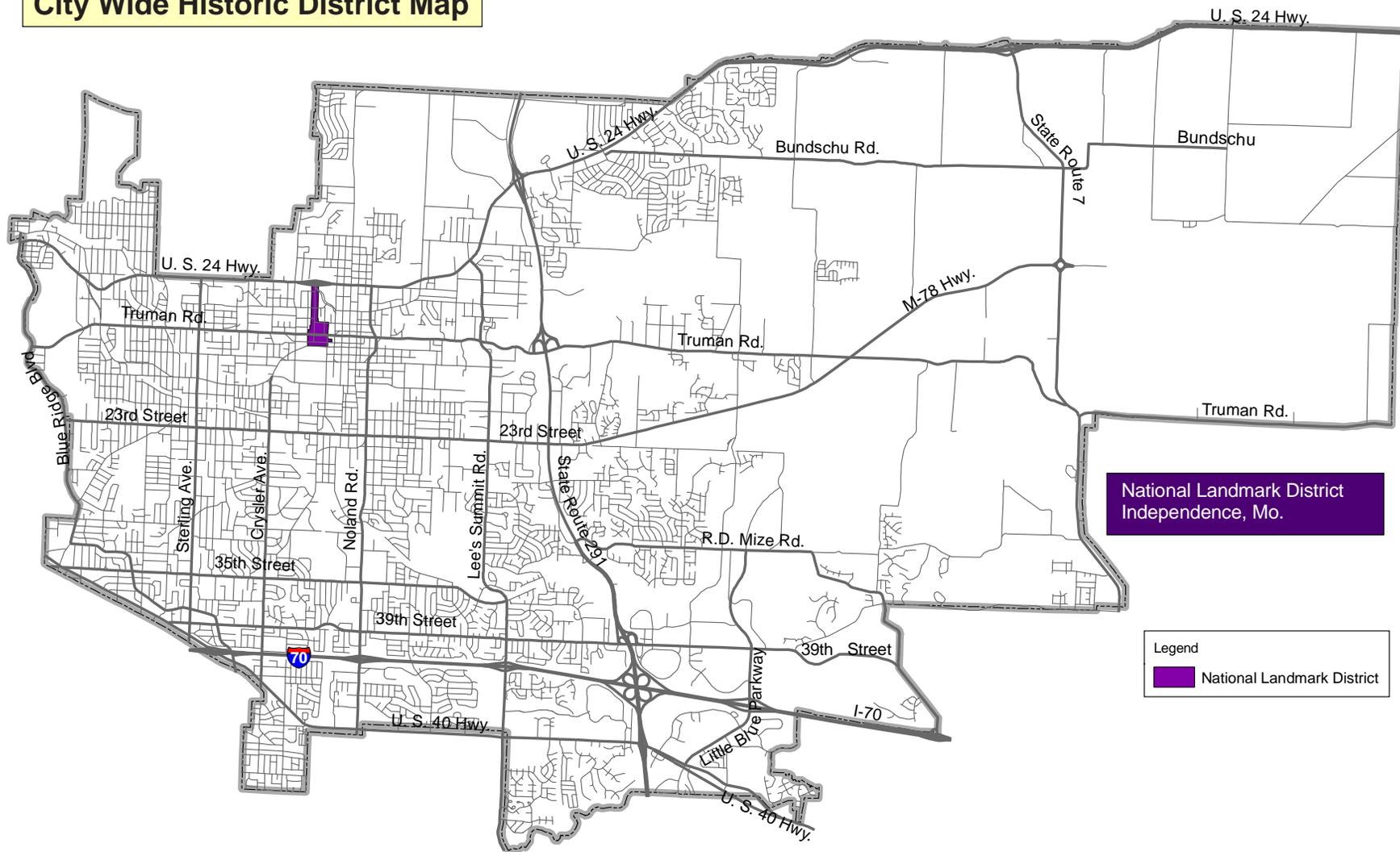
## Historic Districts

- Truman Heritage District - Area along North Delaware Street and Maple Avenue. (Rough boundaries are from West St. Charles Street to, North McCoy Street to, Lexington Street to, North Union Street to the West.)

\*\* Those districts underlined are also listed as National Historic Districts.

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND DISTRICTS

## City Wide Historic District Map



National Landmark District  
Independence, Mo.

Legend  
National Landmark District



1 inch = 7,400 feet  
December 16, 2010

## Truman Heritage District Period of Significance: 1850-1972

*“I tried never to forget who I was  
and where I’d come from and  
where I was going back to.”  
- Harry S. Truman*



President Truman walking on North Delaware Street, date unknown

Harry S. Truman’s Midwestern, small-town values came from both family and community influences. His roots were strong, guiding him as President of the most powerful nation in the free world; then pulling him back to Independence, and the quaint little neighborhood that he called home. His neighborhood walks and friendliness are legendary. The neighborhood houses, streets, sidewalks, and setting all continue to tell the story of “the man from Independence”.

Harry S Truman walking in what is now known as the Truman Heritage District, Date Unknown.  
Image courtesy of the City of Independence and Jackson County Missouri Historical Society

# TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT

## History of the Truman Neighborhood

The Truman Heritage District was locally designated by the City of Independence in 1973. The district is architecturally significant due to its establishment in the mid-nineteenth century as a neighborhood of stately homes and for its historical affiliation with the Truman family and their influence on the area. The irregular shaped district is roughly bordered by Lexington Avenue to the south, St. Charles Avenue to the north, Union Street to the west and Pleasant Street to the east. Unlike many historic districts throughout the country, properties achieve their historic significance in the Truman Heritage District based upon their date of construction, culminating at the death of Harry S Truman in 1972. As a result, buildings and structures constructed up to, and including, 1972 are considered contributing to the local district and are reviewed as significant historic properties by the Heritage Commission. As a whole, the neighborhood's features, including houses, garages/carriage houses, streets, sidewalks, retaining walls, mature trees, and overall setting all contribute to the story of the district as well as Truman's legacy.



View down North Delaware Street, Independence, 2010

The 1971 designation of the Harry S. Truman National Historic Landmark District was the first recognition to honor the national significance of Truman's neighborhood. His community was described in the designation report as "...the physical nucleus of both his personal and his long and influential political life." It was the goal of the protection of this legacy that led to the local designation of the Truman Heritage District in 1973. Although the integrity of the heritage district has fluctuated due to political and economic pressures and inconsistent public policy, the intent of the district remains the same: to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood and its landscape.

The evolution of the Truman neighborhood as a residential suburb, situated just west of the Independence Square, began in 1847 with the platting of the first subdivision, J.F. Moore's Addition to Independence. The subdivision

## TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT

included 18 lots bound between Tanyard Road (now Truman Road) on the north, Union Street on the west, Lexington Avenue on the south, St. Charles on the north, and Lots 38 & 39 of Old Town Independence (current location of the First Presbyterian Church and the Palmer Senior Center) on the east. In 1852 J.F. McCauley's Addition was platted north of Tanyard between Hickman Street (now Waldo Avenue) on the west and Farmer Street on the east. At this time, Delaware Street developed and evolved as the foundation of the Truman Neighborhood.

Due to economic and political uncertainty leading up to and following the Civil War, growth during the 1850's and 1860's slowed. During the Reconstruction Era (c. 1865-1880), however, the Truman neighborhood experienced prosperity and widespread growth. Neighborhood churches were erected along Delaware and Rock (now Maple) Streets and notable residences, including the Gates-Wallace house (now the Truman Home), were constructed by those able to re-build their fortunes.

Between 1880 and 1890, Independence experienced a building boom that resulted in the platting of eleven major subdivisions within the Truman neighborhood. The finest Victorian mansions were constructed for some of the most wealthy and influential families in all of Independence. Earlier estates like the Truman Home were remodeled to stay current with the latest building trends and architectural styles. Queen Anne, Italianate, and Second Empire influences were seen throughout the district. Two significant buildings that remain today from that era are the First Presbyterian Church (100 N. Pleasant Street), built in 1888, and the First Baptist Church (500 W. Truman Road, then Blue Avenue) built in 1894.



President Truman walking with reporters, 1949, Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 60-410-08.

## TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT

Following the turn of the twentieth century, Independence's prosperity spread to larger segments of the population, resulting in the construction of more practical, less architecturally detailed houses. Within the Truman neighborhood, previously undeveloped additions boasted new American Foursquares and Colonial Revival homes, larger lots were subdivided, and stately homes were demolished to make way for the construction of smaller, more pragmatic houses. By 1915 the Craftsman Style Bungalow was gaining in popularity, a trend that would continue throughout the 1930's in this district. The city's increasing population brought new demands for multiple-unit housing that offered "modern" amenities, the convenience of a location near town, and easy access to public transportation. To meet these new demands, many of the larger homes in the neighborhood were converted to rooming houses, and by 1930 three modern apartment buildings were built along Maple Avenue and Van Horn Road (now Truman Road).

The introduction of institutional buildings to the neighborhood began in 1901 with the construction of Central High School at the northwest corner of Maple Avenue and Pleasant Street. Central was replaced by Chrisman High School (located on West Maple near Union) in 1918 and became the Junior High; and in 1919 a public library was built directly to the north on the corner of Pleasant and Van Horn Road. In 1926, two nineteenth century homesteads were demolished to make way for the construction of a number of filling service stations at the southeast corner of the neighborhood, clinching the transition of this once suburban setting to a more urban appearance. Slowly but surely, the City's commercial growth had finally

### Truman Heritage District Neighborhood Characteristics:

- *Mature Street Trees - Historic Landscaping*
- *Architectural Diversity*
- *Authenticity of Materials*
- *Nostalgia*
- *Stone Retaining Walls*
- *Detached Garages Toward Back of Property*
- *Green Spaces*
- *Separation of Residential & Commercial Properties*
- *Truman Legacy*
- *Walkability*



View down West Maple Avenue, Independence, 2010

## TRUMAN HERITAGE DISTRICT

reached the eastern edge of the Truman neighborhood.

Post World War II through the final years of the Truman legacy in the early 1970s saw perhaps the most visually impactful development of the Truman neighborhood. This period ushered in the construction of Truman's Presidential Library on 24 Highway, just north of the Truman Heritage District boundaries. It also saw Urban Renewal projects, including the demolition of over 200 city lots of predominantly African-American housing known as the Neck, to accommodate the creation of McCoy Park and Bess Truman Parkway. All dramatically altered the historic character of the area.

Preserving Truman's heritage by protecting the character of his historic neighborhood begins with understanding the story told by the district and the significance of its historic architecture. The quality and diversity of the buildings and the overall streetscape amenities concentrated within this historic district are defining elements of the Truman era. Maintaining the integrity of these features, both individually and as a whole, is key to maintaining the integrity of the entire neighborhood.



Looking North on Delaware Street.  
Truman W-811, Photo courtesy of the  
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.



Noland Home, 216 North Delaware Street. April 10, 1967,  
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 67-7886.



Truman Home, 219 North Delaware. Winter view of the Truman  
Home, ca. 1947, Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 60-415-05.



