

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000083

Date Listed: 2/24/05

Harry S Truman Nat'l Hist. Site (Boundary Increase), Jackson Co., MO

Property Name

County

State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Laura Feller
Signature of the Keeper

3/3/05
Date of Action

===== Amended Items in Nomination:

The correct Category of Property is ☒ district. ☒

The correct acreage is .63

This information was provided by NPS historian Laura Feller, who verified the information with the NPS regional office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harry S Truman National Historic Site (Boundary Increase)

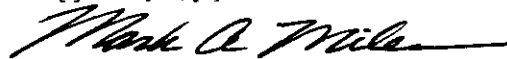
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 601 and 605 West Truman Road; and 216 North Delaware Street [] not for publicationcity or town Independence [] vicinitystate Missouri code 29 county Jackson code 095 zip code 64050

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

09/07/04
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [] entered in the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the
National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.
[] removed from the
National Register
[] other, explain
[] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/ Government**Periods of Significance**1900- December 26, 1972**Significant Dates**1900/ c. 191219151916/1928**Significant Person(s)**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Harry S Truman**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**See continuation sheet**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Please see continuation sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # MO-1909, MO-1910, MO-1911
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

National Park Service

Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .69 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Noland House

Zone	Easting	Northing
15	376868	4328133

Frank Wallace House

Zone	Easting	Northing
15	376959	4328172

George Wallace House

Zone	Easting	Northing
15	376950	4328176

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail Evans-Hatch and Michael Evans-Hatch

organization Evans-Hatch & Associates

date 2001

street & number 510 Duane Street

telephone 503-325-1313

city or town Astoria

state OR

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name/title Jennifer Brockmeier

organization National Park Service

date 2004

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telephone 402-661-1916

city or town Omaha

state NE

zip code 68102

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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National Park Service**Section number 7 Page 1**7. Description****Amendment**

Properties associated with President Harry S Truman in Jackson County, Missouri, were first listed in the National Register of Historic Places as "Truman, Harry S, Historic District, North Delaware Street area, Independence, 11/11/71, NHL, 71001066." The second entry came in 1978: "Young, Solomon, Farm, 12121 and 12301 Blue Ridge Extension, Grandview, 5/05/78, 780001650" and was upgraded to National Historic Landmark status on February 4, 1985, as the "Truman, Harry S, Farm." Also in 1985, the National Park Service unit comprised solely of the Truman home at 219 North Delaware Street, Independence, entitled "Harry S Truman National Historic Site" was listed (5/31/85: 85001248). This latter nomination is hereby amended to include documentation for 216 North Delaware Street (Noland house and landscape), 601 West Truman Road (Frank and Natalie Wallace house and landscape), and 605 West Truman Road (George and May Wallace house and landscape). Documentation approved in 1985 for the Harry S Truman Farm, which is now a component of the National Park Service, is added by reference to this amendment for the "Harry S Truman National Historic Site." The farm site was transferred from Jackson County, Missouri to the National Park Service in 1994.

The 1985 nomination for the Harry S Truman National Historic Site listed several contributing features: the home, the carriage house, the fence, the pergola, the birdbath, the secret service booth, the sundial, the flagpole, the gas lamp, and the cistern. The secret service booth was removed in the early 1960s, but is included as an archeological site. Since 1985, four features of the Truman property have been evaluated and are considered to be contributing features: the limestone foundation, the 'Private Drive' sign, the walkways, and the driveway.

Summary

The three properties added to the Harry S Truman National Historic Site and described in this nomination amendment include: the Noland house, the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, the George and May Wallace house and garage. All three tax lots also include landscape features that reflect the owners' preferences and lifestyles during the period of significance (1900-1972). All three properties are in one of Independence's oldest residential, tree-shaded neighborhoods with large fashionable homes which were once occupied by the city's most prominent citizens.

The two- and one-story Queen Anne style Noland house, directly across North Delaware Street and to the west of the Truman house, stands on a raised, terraced tax lot that is .19 acres. An alley bounds the Noland property on the south, a small parking lot for a 1924 brick apartment building is at the rear (west) property line, and three small Bungalow style dwellings, dating from 1924, stand to the north of the Noland house on three tax lots. A chain-link fence runs along the north and west property lines.

The two modest, wood-frame, Bungalow style Wallace houses and the May Wallace garage stand on parcels that are contiguous with the Harry S Truman property. The Wallaces' land, to the east of the Truman home, was originally part of the larger George P. and Elizabeth Gates property until 1915/1916 when George P. Gates gave each of his two grandsons lots on which to build their homes. The Wallace properties consist of two adjoining tax lots of about equal size, which together are slightly less than one-half acre. The Wallace properties, on nearly level ground, are enclosed by a chain link fence except along the northern property line. The black wrought iron fence circling the Truman property meets the George Wallace property, creating an enclosed space. The two Wallace houses and the Truman house are all part of the Wallace compound. (A complete legal description of these properties is given in the "Verbal Boundary Description" in Section 10 of this nomination amendment.)

All three properties received some alterations during the overall period of significance (1900-1972). However, since 1972, the three properties have retained their historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials,

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workmanship, feeling, and association.

Noland house (216 North Delaware Street)

The Late Victorian Queen Anne style Noland house is of wood construction and irregular in shape. The front (east) portion is two stories high. The rear (west) portion is one story. The foundation under the front section of the house is brick and mortar; the rear section stands on coursed limestone. Steps sheltered under a bulkhead on the south side of the house descend to the basement under the two story section of the house. Painted horizontal clapboards and corner boards sheath the exterior walls of the house. The composition-shingle-clad roof is predominantly a medium-pitch gable, with a medium-pitch gable and a nearly flat hip-roof section projecting from the south elevation of the house. A one story, L-shaped, hip roof porch wraps around the main façade, and an enclosed shed-roof porch extends from the south side of the rear one story section. Slightly overhanging eaves are boxed. Windows throughout are one-over-one, double-hung sash framed by plain boards and a slightly projecting lintel over their heads. Decorative Queen Anne style details include imbricate wood shingles in the gable ends of the main façade and the projecting gable on the south elevation. Small stain glass windows are set in the east and south gable ends and the first floor of the south side. A spindle-work frieze adorns the eaves of the wrap-around porch, which is supported by square boxed columns. Latticework encloses the space under the porch.

The interior of the Noland house consists of a total of seven main rooms, two bathrooms, a foyer, and a hall at the stairs between the first and second floors. The ground floor has a parlor, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, a bedroom, a small bathroom, and a foyer. The second floor is comprised of two bedrooms, a hall, and a bathroom. A right-angle dogleg stairway ascends from the first-floor foyer to the second-floor hall. A turned newel post is at the base of the stairs; turned balusters ascend the stairs to the second floor. The interior is distinguished by a decorative wood door and window molding with corner blocks and decorative metal hardware dating from the late 1800s. Floors are predominantly hardwood.

The Noland house has evolved into its present form and appearance over about 135 years. Although its precise developmental history is still unclear, it appears, from physical inspection and from property deeds, that the house is comprised of four sections built or moved to this site at four different times. The four sections include: the front two-story section, the middle one-story section (dining room), the rear one-story section (kitchen), and the projecting hip-roof two-story section on the south side wall. The two-story front section of the house was most likely completed between 1865 and 1868 by local carpenter Frederick Yeager. The middle and rear one-story sections of the house were probably added (by moving older structures to the site or building anew) to the two-story section around 1886-87. Queen Anne detailing of the main two-story section was most likely also made at this time. Independence building contractor James M. Adams may have completed this work. The projecting hip-roof two story section on the south side was most likely completed between 1908 and 1916. The rear porch was enclosed in the 1950s. Since then, the Noland house has received no additions or major alterations, except for the replacement of turned columns supporting the front wrap-around porch.

Landscape Characteristics- vegetation, chain-link fence, retaining wall, walkway:

Landscaping on the Noland property once included luxuriant ivy enveloping the wraparound front porch, large shrubs (including lilac and honeysuckle), and an array of flowering bulbs and perennial plants. "Trees (maple and paw paw) and lilac bushes grew larger in the yard and at the edges of the property. Bulbs and other perennial flowers probably continued to bloom in flowerbeds along the rear (west) property line and at certain places along the house foundation. A chain-link fence replaced the wood picket fence enclosing the yard, possibly in the 1950s or 1960s. Honeysuckle became established along this fence along the west and south property lines. Ivy began to proliferate on the retaining wall along the sidewalk across the front yard."¹

¹ Gail Evans-Hatch and Michael Evans-Hatch, *Farm Roots and Family Ties* (Oregon: Evans-Hatch & Associates, 2001),

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The house sits on a small lot, up on a terrace with a retaining wall constructed of coursed cut limestone blocks of varying sizes along the sidewalk (east property line) and along a portion of the alley (south property line). Currently, the north and south property lines are delineated by several large trees and shorter shrubs. The rear property line (west) is lined with a large, thick hedge. The back and side yards are shaded by several mature deciduous trees, including a group of five paw paw trees and a locust tree. There is a large maple tree in the front yard.

The circulation around the property includes a set of steps leading up to the front door and a concrete walkway leading around the south side of the house to the back door.

Frank and Natalie Wallace house (601 West Truman Road)

The Frank and Natalie Wallace house is a small, one-story, wood-framed, Bungalow style house, clad in wood shingles. Its hip roof is accented by a hipped roof front dormer and a dominant, brick wall chimney that projects up through the west overhanging eaves of the roof. The broad roof overhang has enclosed rafters, and projects out to cover the full-width front porch. The portion of the roof that covers the porch is supported by square brick columns with capitals. The front porch includes a three-foot high solid wall constructed of coursed brick. The west wall of the house is accented by a slightly projecting bay window. Most of the windows are three-over-one, double-hung sash. A porch area on the southwest corner of the house has been enclosed in recent years.

The interior is enhanced with many details typical of the twentieth century Bungalow style houses in this area. It has hardwood floors, wood baseboards, a brick fireplace, decorative wood ceiling beams in the living and dining rooms, and locally made brass hardware throughout.

Currently, the Frank and Natalie Wallace home is unoccupied, but is reserved as housing for a park law enforcement officer. Recently, lead paint was removed on the interior and exterior surfaces, and a new coat of paint was applied.

Historically, the backyard had thriving vegetation. There was a single row of hollyhocks along the back property line. There were thick hedges along the east and south property lines. The plantings created a secluded, private place where the Wallaces could relax without the constant stares from people passing by.²

Around 1946, a chain link fence was installed around the two Wallace homes in order to give the two families some privacy. In 1949, a wrought iron fence was put in surrounding the Truman home on the north, south, and west sides.³ The fence created a private space for the family and kept out curious onlookers. There is a clear separation of property between the two Wallace homes, but the flow of people and conversations was easy due to a gate in the fence and the low lying shrubs between the two homes.

Renters of the house from 1963 to 1968 noted the thick vegetation enveloping the back yard. There were lilacs across the yard along the fence, a scattering of rose bushes, and lily of the valley on the east side of the house.⁴

Doris Hecker was a long time renter of the house from 1973 to the early 1990s. "When Doris moved in, her back yard resembled a jungle. Fenced with chain link on all three sides, the yard was overgrown with honeysuckle bushes which attracted droves of bees and provided ideal nesting sites for birds. The honeysuckle vines (which

205.² Evans-Hatch, 2001, 249.³ Ibid., 249.⁴ Ibid., 249.

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produced yellow and white blooms) literally choked all three sides of the yard making it a secluded area away from the remaining family compound. There were also mock orange and purple and white lilac bushes. The vegetation climbed to a height of 12 feet and grew four to five feet out from the fence. It was so overgrown she was afraid to step out into the yard."⁵

In 1973, Ms. Hecker asked Bess Truman and May Wallace if she could remove much of the overgrown vegetation. In 1974, evergreen bushes were removed along the east foundation wall to make room for a new gravel driveway. Additional work was done around the yard during this time. Water was seeping into the basement, so the foundation was dug out, a layer of tar was applied, and gravel was laid along the foundation wall. Hexagonal steps that were covered over the previous year from the vegetation removal were replaced with plain concrete blocks.⁶

Landscape Characteristics- vegetation, chain-link fence, walkway:

Currently, the landscaping of the front yard is dominated by mature shrubs (spirea) planted along the porch foundation. There is a lilac bush at the southeast corner of the house. The west side yard and the rear yard are completely enclosed by a four-foot-high chain link fence. Honeysuckle is growing over the chain-link fence that separates Frank Wallace's yard from George Wallace's yard.

Circulation components consist of a concrete walkway up to the front stoop, as well as a concrete path on the west side of the house leading to the backyard. There is a gate in the fence on the west side of the house to allow easy access between the two Wallace homes.

George and May Wallace house and garage (605 West Truman Road)

The George and May Wallace house, built in 1916, is a modest wood-frame Bungalow style one story residence, L-shaped in overall form. An open porch extends across the entire width of the main façade. A small bay window projects from the south wall. The foundation is poured concrete, nearly totally concealed. Exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles stained green. A substantial exterior brick wall chimney adorns the west side wall. Windows throughout are nine-over-one, double-hung sash with plain board surrounds. The roof, clad with composition shingles, is a gable over the original 1916 main portion of the house, with a hip-roof addition (1928) extending from the southwest rear corner of the house. Decorative features of this Bungalow house include broad overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, and with knee braces and a wide verge board in the gable end of the main façade. A short wood lattice balustrade is above the roof eaves of a small projecting bathroom at the rear (south) of the house.

The interior of the George and May Wallace house consists of five major rooms: a living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. There are also two bathrooms, accessed from the bedrooms. The interior is distinguished by wood floors and baseboards, brick fireplace, built-in bookcases, decorative wood ceiling beams in the living room, and some of the original hardware on doors and windows. A basement is accessed through a door in the kitchen.

In 1922, a gravel driveway and garage were built for May's car. The original wooden door was in two sections and swung outward. Later, they were replaced with a modern, single garage door that opened upward. In the 1950s, the garage was extended in the back about eight to ten feet to accommodate longer cars.⁷

⁵ Ron Cockrell, *Cultural Landscape Report* (Omaha: National Park Service, Midwest Region, 1989), 186.

⁶ Evans-Hatch, 2001, 250.

⁷ Ibid., 286-8.

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The George and May Wallace house received the L-shaped addition (containing two bedrooms) in 1928. At a later date, the small recessed porch on the southeast corner of the house was enclosed and incorporated into the kitchen. The house has changed little since the enclosure of the small rear porch.

Currently, the George and May Wallace house is used as office space for the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services. The one-car garage behind the home is used as storage space for maintenance supplies and tools.

George and May planted various trees, shrubs, and flowers around their property. There were a few maple trees along the front yard lining Blue Avenue (later Van Horn Street, then Truman Road). In the 1920s, there were pussy willows along the east side of the garage, as well as an Elderberry bush. Peonies lined the east and west sides of the driveway shared by the Trumans. Yellow and white honeysuckle vines grew along the fence at the east and south boundaries of the property, as well as on a trellis located at the east end of the porch. Lilacs, mock orange, and Euonymus were growing along the east and south edges. At the southeast corner of the back yard and the east side of the garage were mint and lily of the valley. Around World War II, Van Horn Street (now Truman Road) was widened and the line of maple trees along the northern property line was removed.⁸ In the 1970s, a climbing rose bush was planted on the west side of the property. In 1976, May's nephew (Bill Carnes) planted a maple in the back yard along the Wallace's driveway. Also at this time, May planted a maple tree in the front yard. In the 1980s, the mint and lily of the valley was removed from the east side of the garage. The honeysuckle was also removed from the trellis.⁹

Landscape Characteristics- vegetation, chain-link fence, walkway, gas lamp:

Today, mature shrubs (mostly spirea) encircle the foundation of the house. Shrubs also line the driveway leading from Truman Road, and include mock orange, lilac bushes, and a few small trees. A large maple tree stands in the front yard, while a large hackberry tree stands along the southern edge of the house. Lawn fills most of the front, side, and rear yards.

A fence encircles the house and yard along the east, south, and part of the west property lines, establishing a mostly enclosed space. The shared driveway between the George and May Wallace property and the Truman property signifies the close relationship between the families.

Circulation patterns include a concrete walkway leading from the city sidewalk up to the front porch. A walkway leads around the west side of the house, meeting up with the driveway shared by the Truman house. There are small, round, concrete blocks in the grass leading from the front steps to the gate in the black iron fence, which leads onto the Truman property. Octagon-shaped concrete blocks lead from the back door (south side) to the gate between the two Wallace properties. Rectangular concrete blocks also lead from the back door to the driveway.

In the front yard there is a small circular fixture that used to hold a gas lamp. The lamp is currently in storage at the park.

⁸ Evans-Hatch, 2001, 258, 286.

⁹ Ibid., 288.

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National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 1**8. Statement of Significance****Summary**

The Noland house, the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, and the George and May Wallace house and garage were acquired by the National Park Service in 1991. All three homes are nationally significant because of their association with the life of Harry S Truman, thirty-third president of the United States. Throughout his presidency and life, Truman placed the highest value on his close relationship with his family. The Noland house at 216 North Delaware Street, directly across the street from the Truman house, was the home of Margaret Ellen Noland, Harry's aunt, and Nellie and Ethel Noland, Harry's cousins, from 1900 until 1971, when Ethel Noland died. Harry Truman spent many hours with the Noland family when living in Independence as a young man. The Noland house served as Truman's base of operations for courting Bess Wallace when he lived and farmed on the Young-Truman farm in Grandview, from 1910 until his entrance into World War I. Truman's association with his favorite aunt and cousins was intimate throughout his presidency (1945 to 1953). He wrote and visited the Noland family often during trips home to the "Summer White House." He assigned Ethel Noland with the task of researching and communicating the Truman family history to the news media and other interested persons.

The Frank and Natalie Wallace home and the George and May Wallace home and garage at 601 and 605 West Truman Road, respectively, are also nationally significant for their association with the life and presidency of Harry S Truman. Truman's association with Bess Truman's brothers, Frank and George Wallace, began around 1910 when Truman began courting his future wife. Not long after, Frank and George married and built their homes (in 1915 and 1916) on small lots behind the Gates-Wallace house. In 1919, Harry Truman married Bess and moved into the Gates-Wallace home. The two Wallace couples and the Truman family lived in these three houses, contained in the so called "Wallace compound," for the rest of their lives (except for the Trumans' residence in Washington between 1935 and 1953). The two Wallace couples enriched and supported the Truman family and their activities in numerous ways, before, during, and after Harry Truman was president. The two Wallace couples played an important supportive role for the Truman family when they came home to the "Summer White House" in Independence from Washington, D.C. The Wallace compound, and the Wallace couples occupying it, provided a respite and retreat from Truman's worldly responsibilities.

These four buildings have retained their integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association during their period of significance, extending from 1900 to 1972. Relatively modest alterations have been made to the exterior roofing materials and the interior kitchens and bathrooms. All three homes are notable for the numerous interior features, dating from the period of significance, that remain intact. Although some landscaping features around all three homes have deteriorated or been destroyed in recent years, sufficient historical information exists to restore the landscaping of these properties to its period of significance.

Noland house (216 North Delaware Street)**Introduction**

The Noland family played an important role in the life of Harry S Truman. Margaret Ellen (Ella) Noland, the sister of Truman's father, remained Harry Truman's favorite aunt throughout his life. Aunt Ella's daughters, Nellie and Ethel Noland, who were around Harry Truman's age, became his closest young playmates, school study partners, confidantes, friends, observers, and supporters of his political career. Ethel Noland, the family genealogist and scribe, played an invaluable role in recording the Truman, Young, and Noland family histories for Harry Truman during his years in the public spotlight, for the news media and for the general public interested in learning about the ancestors and the life of an uncommon ordinary man.

The Queen Anne style house at 216 North Delaware Street, directly across the street from the Gates-Wallace-

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Truman house, was, between 1900 and 1986, the home of three generations of the Noland family. It served as the site for spontaneous and planned Noland and Truman family gatherings and festivities. It became Harry Truman's base of operation for his courtship of Bess Wallace, as well as for his social and business pursuits in Independence, especially during his years as a farmer in Grandview. During his presidency, Harry Truman continued his close relationship with the Noland family through regular letters and family visits.

Margaret Ellen (Ella) Truman

Margaret Ellen (better known as "Ella") Truman, the older sister of John Anderson Truman, Harry S Truman's father, was born on May 6, 1849. In early 1852 (or slightly later)¹⁰, when young Ella Truman was about three years old, the Truman family moved to a farm on the north side of the Missouri River in Platte County, Missouri, between present day Parkville and Barry in Pettis Township. Ella Truman's family remained in Platte County for the next sixteen years until 1868.

In 1867 or early 1868, about two years after the war ended, Ella Truman and her parents and siblings moved back to Jackson County, and took up residence in Holmes Park, then between the infant Kansas City and the small farming community of Grandview, about twelve miles away. Ella Truman joined the Blue Ridge Baptist Church in 1868, the same year in which Joseph T. Noland joined. On December 18, 1870, Ella Truman married Joseph Tilford Noland at the home of Ella's parents in Hickman Mills.¹¹

Joseph T. and Ella Truman Noland Family, 1870-1900

In 1883, Joseph and Ella Noland decided to move the family into Independence, which offered "educational advantages unsurpassed by any city in the [W]est."¹² Soon Joseph Noland became fully engaged in real estate, buying land and building homes all around Independence, as well as outlying farming areas.

Life changed dramatically for the Noland family when the real estate market in Independence turned sharply downward around 1890. By then it had become apparent that the small rail line between Kansas City and Independence was not going to support the speculative growth that had brought about the 1880s boom; many people demanded that their invested money be returned. "Along with a great many other people the Noland family went very flat, indeed, financially", Ethel Noland remembered many years later. "Out of the crash we had only one house left It was a place out on West White Oak Street, and we moved out there."¹³

Noland Family at 216 North Delaware Street, 1900-1906

At the turn of the century, the Noland family moved into the two-story Queen Anne style house at 216 North Delaware Street, directly across the street from the Gates family residence at 219 Delaware Street. According to Ethel Noland, then sixteen years old, she and her parents and sister, Nellie, moved into the North Delaware Street house in August 1900. For the next eight years, Joseph and Ella Noland rented this house from Anthony and

¹⁰ Margaret Ellen Truman's granddaughter, Ardis Haukenberry, reported many years later that the Truman family was still living on the south side of the Missouri River as late as the winter of 1855-56. Helen Ardis Ragland Haukenberry, handwritten history of Ragland-Haukenberry families on "First National Bank Safe Deposit Co." stationery, Gentry Collection, Jackson County Historical Society. Also see, "Rough Winter? Here's the 1855-56 Version," newspaper clipping, file for 216 North Delaware, Community Development Department, City of Independence, Independence, Missouri.

¹¹ Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 20-21, 38; Mitchell, *First Baptist Church, Independence Missouri, 1845-1945*, 84; *Kansas City Times*, 10 May 1945.

¹² *History of Jackson County, Missouri*, reprint, 238.

¹³ Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 44, 60, 63, 66.

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Maria Slack before Ella Noland bought it, in July 1908, for \$2,300. The Slacks had owned the property since December 1865. They probably substantially transformed an older dwelling on the site, around 1886-1887, into the modestly decorated Queen Anne style house that the Nolands rented and later bought. Between 1904 and about 1921, the four Nolands shared the house with young widow Ruth Noland Ragland and her three small children.¹⁴

The Noland and Truman Families Visit

The Noland house itself became a gathering place for friends and family during these years, and a place where Nellie and Ethel Noland developed an endearing and enduring relationship with their cousin Harry S Truman. After the Nolands moved to 216 North Delaware Street, the Truman family, living then on nearby West Waldo, was only about three blocks away. "We saw each other very often," Ethel Noland recalled, "because going uptown . . . and going to [high] school [located at Pleasant and West Maple] he had to pass here every day."¹⁵ During the 1900-1901 school year, Harry and Bessie (as she was known by many) Wallace, who were in the same class and attended the same high school, would often meet in the Noland house to study with the Noland sisters, who had graduated just ahead of their cousin Harry.¹⁶

Looking back at the early 1900s, a half century later, Harry S Truman also recalled that he had spent a lot of time with his Aunt Ella and her three daughters. In his *Memoirs*, Truman explained that he started going to his Aunt Ella's house to study algebra and Latin about twice a week with cousins Nellie and Ethel, who had both graduated from high school by the end of 1900. "Nellie would translate my Latin lesson for me when I was in high school, and I would escort Ethel to parties and learn how to be polite from her. Incidentally," Truman noted, "my beautiful young lady with the blue eyes and golden hair" joined in these playful sessions at the Noland house. "We (Nellie, Ethel, Harry, and Bess) were always just good playmates and good comrades," Ethel Noland characterized their relationship many years later.¹⁷

The Nolands and Harry Truman, 1906-1923

Harry Truman remained an extended member of the Noland family during his years from 1906 to 1917 on the Young-Truman farm, about twelve miles from Independence.

Visits to the Noland house took on a special meaning when 216 North Delaware Street became the base of operations for Harry's courtship of Bess Wallace, who lived directly across the street at 219 North Delaware Street. Harry's reintroduction to Bess Wallace, with whom he had little or no contact since they had graduated from high school together in 1901, began in 1910 with the cake plate incident. The Noland house provided the setting for this memorable story, which, over the years, reached almost mythic proportions in the annals of Truman family folklore.

"Yes," Ethel Noland affirmed many years later, "that's one legend that's true." Noland went on to tell the story. "Mrs. Wallace was very neighborly and she loved to send things. Oh, we did back and forth. She would send over

¹⁴ Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 63, 68; "Anthony T. Slack and Maria M. Slack, his wife, to Margaret Ellen Noland;"

warranty deed, July 20, 1908, Book 281, p. 416, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Missouri; Haukenberry, "Childhood Memories of North Delaware Street," Truman National Historic Site; Haukenberry interview, 2 March 1984, 20;

Independence, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory, Company, 1924).

¹⁵ Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 69.

¹⁶ Palmer interview, 18 January, 1962, 8.

¹⁷ Harry S Truman, *Memoirs, Vol. I Year of Decisions*, 115, 122; Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 71.

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a nice dessert or something, just to share it, and here was a plate. We hadn't taken it back and I said [to Harry], 'Why don't you take that plate home; it's been around here a few days; "I certainly will,"¹⁸ Harry announced. And with that, he seized the cake plate "with something approaching the speed of light" and walked across the street to 219 Delaware Street, Margaret Truman wrote in her biography of her father. Bess Wallace happened to open the door after hearing the front doorbell ring; their courtship began soon thereafter.¹⁹

Now the Noland house became not only a place to enjoy the conviviality and close friendship of his cousins and his Aunt Ella, it also became the staging ground for Harry's courtship of Bess Wallace. Harry now visited the Nolands much more often. Harry's Aunt Ella Noland later remembered that he composed a special piano piece, which he played at the Nolands, whose dominant theme sounded something like the special whistles that Bess Wallace and her friends used to signal each other.²⁰ "He could stay here very easily, which he did, sometimes two or three times a week," Ethel Noland recalled years later. "He'd come here first and get all freshened up before he went to see his lady love," Ardis Ragland Haukenberry remembered from her teenage years living in the Noland house.²¹

During Harry Truman's two years in the army, he wrote to the Noland family often, as he noted in his frequent letters to Bess Wallace, to whom he was by then engaged.²² A month after his return to Independence from the war, in June 1919, Harry and Bess were married. Not long after that, the newlyweds took up residence in the Gates-Wallace house across the street from the Noland house. Although greatly involved in the daily lives of the Wallace family-- Bess's mother, who lived with the Truman couple, and her two brothers who lived with their wives in separate Bungalow style houses next door to the large Gates-Wallace house-- Harry often dropped in on the Nolands. Holidays continued to be a special time for Noland family visits. Harry began his regular practice of walking across the street on Thanksgiving and Christmas to spend time with the Nolands at 216 North Delaware Street.

The Nolands and the Truman Family

The relationship between the Noland family and Harry Truman remained close throughout Truman's life. Ella Truman Noland remained Harry's favorite aunt. Harry Truman and Nellie and Ethel Noland continued to be as adults what they had been as children-- the best of friends and comrades. Although Truman certainly enjoyed maintaining a close association with many family members, the Noland family remained his dearest relatives.

Noland House- Transition to National Park Service

Harry's favorite cousins continued to live at 216 North Delaware until the end of their days. Nellie passed away in the home in 1958 at the age of 77. Ethel also passed away in the home, 13 years later, at the age of 88. In 1973, __ after having sat vacant for two years, the Noland home passed to Ardis Haukenberry, Nellie and Ethel's niece. After she passed away in 1986, the house went to John Southern, her nephew. There were a series of renters at the house from 1986 until 1991, when John Southern decided to sell the property to the National Park Service. Since then, the home has sat vacant, with minor stabilization efforts. There are current plans to restore the home and provide visitor services.

¹⁸ Noland interview, 9 September 1965, 103.

¹⁹ Margaret Truman, *Bess W. Truman* (New York: Macmillan, 1986), 30.

²⁰ Alfred Steinberg, *The Man From Missouri: The Life and times of Harry S. Truman* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962), 28.

²¹ Haukenberry interview, 14 June 1983, 6.

²² Robert H. Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1983), 286.

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National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 5**The Frank and Natalie and the George and May Wallace Families and houses (601 West Truman Road and 605 West Truman Road)**Introduction

Frank and George Wallace were the grandsons of George P. and Elizabeth Gates, a prominent flour milling family in Independence, and the sons of David and Madge Gates Wallace. Frank and George Wallace were two of Bess Wallace Truman's three younger brothers. Frank and George, born in Independence in 1887 and 1892, respectively, lived their entire lives in Independence, except for one year spent in Colorado Springs, Colorado, immediately after their father's suicide in June 1903. Frank and George lived all of their adult lives on land that was originally part of the 219 North Delaware Street property. In 1915 and in 1916, George P. Gates gave Frank and then George half of one tax lot as a wedding gift. This land had been previously used as a garden and grazing area behind the elder Gates's house. The Frank and Natalie Wallace house at 601 West Truman Road was completed in the fall of 1915. The George and May Wallace house at 605 West Truman Road was built in the fall of 1916.

The association between the two Wallace brothers and their wives and Harry Truman began when all three young men were courting their future wives. Soon after Truman's marriage to Bess Wallace in 1919, he moved into the Gates house at 219 North Delaware, thus bringing him into close regular contact with the two Wallace couples. Throughout their lives, the three couples shared a mutually supportive environment in what became known as the 'Wallace compound,' which included all three of their homes. During the Trumans residence in Washington, D.C., between 1935 and 1953 and particularly during the Truman presidency, the two Wallace couples supported the Truman family in numerous ways. The Wallace compound became a greatly valued place of retreat and refuge for the Truman family when they spent time at the "Summer White House" at 219 North Delaware Street.

David and Madge Gates Wallace

Madge Gates was not yet twenty-one years old when she married tall, handsome, popular twenty-three year-old David Willock Wallace on June 13, 1883. Although George P. Gates took a dim view of the match because he feared that David Wallace might be unable to support his wife's expensive tastes, he consented to the marriage when the couple threatened to elope. The wedding ceremony took place in the Presbyterian Church in Independence. The Gates held a reception for the newlyweds at their home on North Delaware Street.²³

Following the marriage, David Wallace continued working as the deputy recorder of marriage licenses in Independence. The young couple took up residence at 117 West Ruby Street, off of Crysler Street and southwest of the courthouse square, about two miles from the Gates house. Their first child, Elizabeth Virginia (Bess) Wallace, was born February 13, 1885. Two years later, on March 4, 1887, Madge Wallace gave birth to her first son, Frank Gates Wallace.²⁴

By that time, there were already ominous signs of financial strain in the Wallace marriage. In the first year of marriage, David Wallace mortgaged the Ruby Street house to secure a \$700 loan. In 1885, the year of Bess Wallace's birth, David Wallace wrote to President Grover Cleveland, addressing him as "dear sir and friend," and asked him for a job in the customs house in Kansas City, which presumably paid a higher wage. Cleveland's secretary declined his request. Financial problems continued. The young Wallace family moved into George and Elizabeth Gates's recently enlarged house at the corner of North Delaware and Blue Avenue, around the time of

²³ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 3; Ron Cockrell, "The Summer White House," *Jackson County Historical Society*, 26: 2 (Fall 1984), 11-12.

²⁴ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 3.

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Frank Wallace's birth.²⁵ In 1887, David Wallace sold the Ruby Street house for a profit. In the late 1880s, David Wallace's financial situation may have improved slightly. In 1888 and again in 1890, he ran for Jackson County deputy treasurer and won both times. Perhaps somewhat encouraged by his political success and growing popularity, around 1890 David Wallace bought a large house at 608 (later renumbered 610) North Delaware Street, two blocks from the Gates house, in the town's most fashionable neighborhood. Financial problems besieged the Wallaces again in 1892 when David Wallace's second term as Jackson County treasurer expired, and the factionalized Democrats did not offer him another position. The Wallace's third child, George Porterfield Wallace, was born on May 1, 1892, just a few months before David Wallace became unemployed for nearly a year.²⁶

Finally, in late 1893, David Wallace managed to secure an appointment as a U.S. deputy surveyor of customs for the port of Kansas City, and left elective politics forever. His salary of \$1,200 in 1894 was a respectable sum, but not enough to support three children and a wife with expensive tastes and little apparent awareness of her husband's financial straits. Added to continuing money problems were conflicted feelings of joy, increased financial burden, and grief. A daughter was born in early May 1898, but lived only a day, according to the *Jackson Examiner*. "The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Wallace, born Monday, died Tuesday night."²⁷ For David Wallace, who played with and adored his children, as well as for his wife, the loss of a daughter must have been a devastating tragedy.

Through this time of anxiety and grief, David Wallace's personal problems continued. Around 1900, when the Wallace's last child, David Frederick, was born, David Wallace attempted to start an importing business in Kansas City, a logical adjunct to his customs job. His efforts went nowhere and probably put him deeper in debt.²⁸

An end to all of David Wallace's seemingly insurmountable problems finally came on June 17, 1903, four days after his twentieth wedding anniversary and two days after his forty-third birthday. Early that morning, he arose, opened the drawer of a writing desk in the bedroom, and reached for a revolver. He walked into the bathroom, placed the muzzle just behind his left ear, and pulled the trigger.

Shattered, stunned, and even shamed and disgraced by her husband's suicide, Madge Wallace and her four children, who were instantly "flung from the top of Independence's social hierarchy to the bottom," took refuge in her parents' house at 219 North Delaware Street. The grief-stricken family, however, could not be comforted for long by retreating into George and Elizabeth Gates's house. Instead, the family decided to retreat from Independence. Within days, Madge and her children, Bess, Frank, George, and David Frederick, boarded the Missouri Pacific's *Santa Fe*. The next day they got off the train at Colorado Springs. For nearly a year, the Wallace family stayed with Gates family relatives in Colorado. Madge Wallace and her four children returned to Independence one year later, in mid-1904, and moved into the home of George and Elizabeth Gates at 219 North Delaware Street- permanently.²⁹

Frank Wallace

Frank Wallace, the second child of Madge Gates and David Wallace, was born in Independence on March 4, 1887. Not long after the Wallace family returned to Independence from Colorado, Grandfather George P. Gates may have helped Frank get a job at the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company. In 1905, at age eighteen, Frank worked as a clerk for the company. In September 1911, after apparently considering other employment or

²⁵ *Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: R. S. Dillon and Company, 1888).

²⁶ Jeff Wade, "The President's Mother-in-law: An Impossible Old Woman?," *Newsletter from Harry S Truman National Historic Site*, 14 (Winter 1998), 1; Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 3-4, 6-7.

²⁷ *Jackson Examiner*, 7 May 1898.

²⁸ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 11-15.

²⁹ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 19; May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 44.

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investment opportunities in Mexico, Kansas City, and Memphis, Tennessee, he landed a new job in the Independence-Kansas City area, most likely as a clerk. By 1914, he was listed as a bookkeeper in the Independence city directory. Frank worked as a clerk/bookkeeper when he began courting Natalie Ott (born 1891), probably sometime after she returned from her extended trip to Europe in early 1912. By the time Frank and Natalie met, Frank was taking on the characteristics of sobriety and dignity that would characterize his demeanor as an adult.³⁰ They were married in the First Presbyterian Church in Independence on April 6, 1915.

George Wallace

George Porterfield Wallace, the third child of David and Madge Wallace, was born on May 1, 1892. He was probably born at 608 North Delaware Street, where the Wallace family lived for several years in the 1890s. George attended elementary school in Independence. He graduated from the old Independence High School (later William Chrisman High School) in 1912 at age twenty. The traumatic death of his father when George was only eleven years old, and his family's subsequent move to Colorado for a year, may have slowed his progress in school. Despite this tragic incident (or perhaps because of it), as a young man George developed a reputation for his friendly, smiling public face.³¹ He married Mary Frances (May) Southern (born 1894) on October 24, 1916.

Transfer of Land and the Construction of two Wallace houses

On March 15, 1915, just three weeks before Frank and Natalie Wallace married, George P. and Elizabeth Gates sold the couple the eastern 50 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition for \$1.³² On August 22, 1916, George P. and Elizabeth Gates sold the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition to George P. Wallace for \$1 "and other valuable considerations." This deed gave George and May Wallace the right to maintain and use the sewer line to the Gates house, which ran across their new property. In 1926, George and May Wallace bought, for \$1, the western-most fourteen feet of lot 1 from Madge Wallace, who acquired the property after both of her parents died.³³

Both Wallace houses were constructed on land once used for a small pasture and a garden. Many years later, May Southern Wallace recalled that a fence enclosed an area behind (east of) the Truman house in which the cow grazed. A garden occupied a plot along Truman Road, where the two Wallace houses were later built.³⁴

Throughout Independence and across the country, Bungalow style dwellings were built in great profusion in the 1910s and 1920s, at a time when their design characteristics reflected people's belief in the healthful qualities of nature and the desire to make the outside natural world more a part of interior spaces. A local Independence builder named Shaupe (who probably built the George and May Wallace house) may have constructed Frank and Natalie Wallace's house. Frank and Natalie Wallace's house was not built until the summer of 1915; Frank and Natalie rented an apartment for a few months after their marriage until their new house was completed.³⁵ The young Wallace couple probably moved into their brown one-story Bungalow style home at 601 West Truman Road in the late summer or early fall of 1915.

³⁰ *Hoye's Kansas City Directory, Including Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City, Kansas, Independence, Missouri, Argentine, Kansas, Rosedale, Kansas* (Kansas City: Hoye's Directory Company, 1905); Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess*, 34, 39, 47; *Independence City Directory*, Vol. XLI, 1911 (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1971); Sue Gentry, interview by Jim Williams, 18 June 1991, transcript of taped interview, 31, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

³¹ "George Wallace Dies," *Kansas City Times*, 25 May 1963; Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 27, 31.

³² General Warranty Deed, No. 100759, Jackson County Courthouse.

³³ General Warranty Deed, No. 109271, and also Warranty Deed, No. 219645, both in Vertical Files: "Gates Family," Harry S. Truman Library.

³⁴ May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 7.

³⁵ May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 42; May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 4.

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The George and May Wallace house was completed a year later. Work began in late August or early September. George Wallace, always interested in lumber and woodworking, supervised its construction. The second Wallace house was also built in the Bungalow style. Upon completion, the exterior siding was stained a deep pine green. The George and May Wallace house was slightly smaller than the neighboring Frank and Natalie Wallace house. It had only four rooms-- a combined living and dining room, a bedroom (now the present dining room), a kitchen, and a small sleeping porch. The new house was wired with electricity when the newlyweds moved into the house in the fall of 1916. A coal furnace initially provided heat for the Wallace house. The new house was connected to city water.³⁶

Daily Life with Frank and Natalie Wallace

Frank Wallace continued to work as a bookkeeper after his marriage to Natalie Ott. When the United States entered the First World War, neither Frank nor George enlisted in the service. Frank continued his daily ritual of stopping by 219 North Delaware and spending half an hour with his mother on his way home from work.³⁷

By the late 1910s, Frank Wallace was employed by the Simons-Shields Lonsdale Grain Company. He held this job until around 1925, when he began working as a bookkeeper for the Independence Ice and Creamery Company, operated by Natalie's father, Albert Ott, and her uncle, Henry Ott. Over the next eight years, Frank worked his way up in the administration of the company. In the late 1920s, he was the assistant manager of that company, and by early 1933, had become its president.³⁸

Daily Life with George and May Wallace

After his marriage to May Southern, George continued to work as a clerk at the Hutig Mill Works Company, manufacturer of doors and sashes. Well known in the family for his ability to work with wood and also to fix nearly anything that needed it, George seemed well suited to work in an environment with wood and machines. For years, he rode the streetcar everyday to the mill in Fairmount.³⁹ George Wallace's job with Hutig Works Company came to an abrupt end around 1928 when the company closed down. "Hutig went broke and we went broke with them," May Wallace reported many years later.⁴⁰ This "enforced vacation between jobs," as May Wallace described it, probably lasted for several weeks.⁴¹ By 1930, George Wallace was working as a salesman. However, like so many people during the Great Depression of the 1930s, it appears that he struggled to stay employed and started new jobs frequently in the early 1930s. In 1934, George Wallace worked as an assistant manager. By the end of 1934, before Harry Truman left his position as judge of eastern Jackson County, Truman helped George Wallace get a job with the Jackson County Highway Department. For the next twenty-seven years, Wallace worked first as an engineer, and then as a maintenance superintendent for the Jackson County Highway Department. He retired from this position in 1961.⁴²

³⁶ Ibid., 8, 14, 29.

³⁷ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, quote from 66; 60-61, 65.

³⁸ *Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1920 and 1924); *Polk's Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1926 and 1928, 1930, 1932, and 1934); May Wallace interview, 20 December 1985, 12, 28; "Old Waggoner-Gates Flour Mill Threatened After 50 Years' Life," c. May 1933 Vertical File: Waggoner-Gates Mill, Harry S. Truman Library.

³⁹ *Independence City Directory*, Vol. XLIX (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1914, 1920, 1924); *Polk's Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1926, 1928); May Wallace interview 17 and 23 February 1988, 46.

⁴⁰ May Wallace interview, 23 February 1988, 94.

⁴¹ May Wallace interview, 20 July 1983, 24; *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1928.

⁴² *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1946, 1950, 1954, 1957; "George Wallace

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National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 9The Wallace Couples' Association with Harry and Bess Truman

1919-1935. Harry Truman's close association with Frank, Natalie, George, and May Wallace became more intimate after Harry married Bess Wallace in the summer of 1919 and became officially part of the Wallace family. Soon after the Trumans returned from their honeymoon, Harry Truman became physically closer to the Wallaces when he moved in with Bess in the Gates house at 219 North Delaware, just a few feet west of the two Wallace brothers' homes. When Harry Truman and Eddie Jacobson opened their haberdashery in Kansas City, Frank Wallace loaned them money to launch this business venture.⁴³ When Harry decided to enter politics by running for the eastern judgeship of Jackson County in the fall of 1921, both Frank and George Wallace lent a hand with Truman's campaign. Frank, a staunch Democrat and, at that time, the leader of the Fourth Ward of Independence, began taking Harry around the ward and introducing him to people. In 1922, he introduced Harry to Rufus Burrus, an Independence attorney (1921-1980s) and assistant county counselor (1927-1941), who became Harry and Bess Truman's long-time friend and legal counselor.⁴⁴

The Truman family's practice of sharing meals with Frank, Natalie, George, and May Wallace in one of the Wallace or Truman houses or outside probably began not long after the two Wallace houses were completed in the mid-1910s. Customarily, George and May Wallace would have Sunday dinner, promptly at 1:00 p.m., every other week with the Trumans in the big house.⁴⁵ Summertime picnics were a favorite activity of both Wallace couples and the Truman family. Frank and Natalie Wallace's backyard was often the site of these gatherings. "We always had picnics down in Mrs. Frank Wallace's yard," recalled May Wallace. "She had a flat place over there where we always had family picnics."⁴⁶ Frank and Natalie's backyard, enclosed by thick shrubbery, provided privacy for outdoor picnics that was always appreciated, especially after Truman became president in 1945.

The birth of Margaret Truman to Harry and Bess, in 1924, added a new dimension to the Truman's association with the two Wallace couples. Since the Wallaces had no children of their own and lived on property adjoining the Truman house, Frank, Natalie, George, and May treated Margaret like a surrogate daughter. They enjoyed constant contact with Margaret as she grew from an infant to a young adult. When Margaret was about four or five, she began paying visits first to Natalie, and then to May in the late afternoon, asking for sweets at both aunts' houses. These little forays, unfortunately for Margaret, did not continue for long. Bess Truman, suspicious of her daughter's loss of appetite at dinner, soon learned about her sweet treats at the homes of both Aunt Natalie and Aunt May (or Aunt "Beufie" as Margaret called her), and asked her two sisters-in-law to refrain from giving Margaret any food on her late afternoon visits. Shoes were another matter. Many, many times, Margaret, who loved shoes, was allowed to play shoe store when she came to visit May Wallace.⁴⁷

1935-1953. During the vice-presidential and presidential years from 1944 to 1953, Frank, Natalie, George, and May Wallace became more than close family members and neighbors; increasingly they supported the life and activities of the Trumans when they came home to Independence. When the Trumans returned for visits, the two Wallace couples often greeted the Trumans at the Kansas City airport or at the Independence railroad station and accompanied them home.

If the Trumans planned a one-or two-day visit, the presidential family often stayed at Frank and Natalie's house, which was slightly larger than neighboring George and May's house. The Trumans felt it was impractical to open

Dies," 25 May 1963.

⁴³ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 85; Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess*, 480.

⁴⁴ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 86-87; Rufus B. Burrus interview, 22 November 1985, 18.

⁴⁵ Steve Harrison, Report of conversation with May Wallace on her ninety-first birthday, 9 July 1985, Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

⁴⁶ May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 50.

⁴⁷ Wallace, "May Wallace - Her Story."

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up their own large house at 219 North Delaware during short visits. Frank and Natalie Wallace opened their home to the Trumans for overnight accommodations on numerous occasions after Truman became president. In early June 1945, when Bess, Margaret, and Madge returned to Independence for a visit, Margaret stayed with Frank and Natalie Wallace on their first night home. In late March 1946, on their return from visiting relatives in Denver, Bess and Madge Wallace stayed one night with Frank and Natalie Wallace before continuing on to Washington the next day.⁴⁸

When the Trumans came home for longer visits, George and May often took primary responsibility for preparing the "big house" at 219 North Delaware for the Trumans' arrival. They opened and aired the house out, sometimes brought in a few groceries, and closed up the house after the Trumans departed. George Wallace, the family "fixer," took care of draining all the water pipes in the big house in the fall when the Truman family was away in Washington, D.C.

After Harry Truman became president, May Wallace became a liaison between the Wallace family and the press. Although Truman depended on Ethel Noland to answer all questions relating to the Truman family genealogy, May became the principal Wallace family member to report on the Trumans' activities.⁴⁹ "After Mr. Truman became president, she was wonderful, because I could always find out what was going on," chuckled Sue Gentry, reporter for the *Independence Examiner*. "She was loyal to the *Examiner*, and I would find out some things that some other papers wouldn't."⁵⁰ May Wallace's father, William Southern, was the editor of the *Independence Examiner*.⁵¹

Harry Truman's interest, concern, and devotion to the Wallace family were clearly expressed in numerous ways over the years. In late May and early June 1946, a year after Truman became president, Harry and Bess Truman held their first family reunion in the White House. The president's *Sacred Cow* airplane flew Mary Jane Truman, all three Wallace brothers and their wives, and Fred and Christine Wallace's family to Washington.⁵² Also, in the spring of 1946, not long after Harry and Bess Truman had moved into the White House, Bess invited the Tuesday Bridge Club members to come to Washington for a four-day weekend. Natalie and May Wallace joined the other club members for the trip to the capital city for sightseeing and bridge games in the White House.

The Death of Frank and Natalie Wallace

Frank Wallace's health began to decline around 1950. His poor health was mostly related to heart and, possibly, blood pressure problems, aggravated by heavy smoking. Family members, including Harry S Truman, expressed concern and tried to help. In the fall of 1950, Truman encouraged the new regional director of the General Services Administration (GSA) in Kansas City to hire Frank when that new GSA office opened. "I'm afraid he'll [Frank will] go back to the 'Mill' and kill himself with worry," Truman wrote in September 1950.⁵³ Shortly afterward, Frank Wallace began working for the GSA. But within weeks he resigned due to continued poor health.⁵⁴ By the summer of 1951, Frank's health had not improved. At Truman's insistence, Major General Wallace Graham, the White House physician, conducted tests and prescribed medications for Frank Wallace, aimed at addressing his heart problems and persistent coughing.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ "A Visit By Mrs. Truman", *Kansas City Times*, 26 March 1946.

⁴⁹ "May Wallace Dies at 98," *Independence Examiner*, 18 May 1993.

⁵⁰ Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 20.

⁵¹ Evans-Hatch, *Farm Roots and Family Ties* (Oregon: Evans-Hatch & Associates, 2001), 264.

⁵² "Home in White House," *Kansas City Times*, 29 May 1946.

⁵³ Harry S Truman to "Don S. D.," 9 September 1950, Family Correspondence, President's Secretary's Files, Harry S. Truman Library.

⁵⁴ Jess Larson to Frank Wallace, 5 December 1950, Family Correspondence, President's Secretary's Files, Truman Library.

⁵⁵ Wallace H. Graham to Natalie Wallace, 10 August 1951, Family Correspondence, President's Secretary's Files,

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Natalie Wallace, her husband's primary caretaker, probably suffered physically from the strain of his care for a number of years. She herself became ill in the spring of 1960, and was taken to the Independence Hospital on May 6th. After about a week of observation, she underwent major surgery. Her recovery was progressing normally when in the late morning of May 26th she died unexpectedly at age sixty-eight.⁵⁶ Frank's demise came less than three months later. Frank Gates Wallace died in the Independence Hospital on August 12, 1960. He was seventy-three. Over 200 Truman and Wallace family and friends attended his funeral service.⁵⁷

Frank Gates Wallace's will specified that undivided interests in the Wallace house property at 601 North Delaware should go to four nieces and nephews: Margaret Truman Daniel, Marion Wallace Brasher, David Wallace, and the guardian of Charlotte Margaret (Margo) Wallace. Since the four relatives lived several hundred miles from Independence, they all chose to sell their quarter interest in the property. In early 1962, Harry and Bess Truman and George and May Wallace each bought an undivided one-half of the four separate interests, valued at \$2,875 each. Thus, the Trumans and the Wallaces each paid a total of \$5,750 to keep the Natalie and Frank Wallace property a part of the family compound.⁵⁸

The Death of George and May Wallace

After George Wallace retired in 1961 at age sixty-nine as maintenance superintendent at the Jackson County Highway Department, he and May enjoyed relaxing and visiting friends. In December 1962, George became seriously ill, and over the next five months he was hospitalized several times. In early April 1963, he entered the hospital for the last time. On May 24, 1963, George Wallace died at the Independence Hospital at age seventy-one.

After Harry Truman died in 1972, May Wallace also provided an important supportive role for Bess Truman, who continued to live in the big house next door. In 1986, Margaret Truman Daniel wrote of the two women's increasingly close and meaningful relationship as members of their family died and they both aged. "One of the happiest things about Mother's last years was the presence of her sister-in-law, May Wallace, who lived only a few dozen feet away in her house. . . She visited Mother frequently and was a cheerful, attentive link to the past. On Mother's ninety-sixth birthday, in 1981, May was the spirit behind a festive party."⁵⁹ Bess lived another year and a half; May Wallace carried on alone for another decade.

May continued living at 605 West Truman Road for nearly eight more years. When she was in her early nineties, May Wallace showed clear signs of aging. Her nephew, William Carnes, began attentively looking after her needs. Then in November 1989, at age ninety-five, May Wallace left her house for the last time, when she was hospitalized after a fall in her home. On May 18, 1993, May Wallace died at the Independence Regional Health Center at age ninety-eight.⁶⁰

Truman Library.

⁵⁶ "Mrs. Wallace in Hospital," *Independence Examiner*, 6 May 1960; "Mrs. Frank Wallace Dies", *Independence Examiner*, 26 May 1960.

⁵⁷ "Services for Frank Wallace to be Monday," *Independence Examiner*; 13 August 1960; "Frank Gates Wallace," *Kansas City Times*, 13 August 1960.

⁵⁸ "Last Will and Testament of Frank G. Wallace;" "Final Settlement Approved," Probate Court of Jackson County, and Warranty deeds for the sale of property from Margaret Truman and Clifton Daniel, David F. Wallace, Marion Wallace and Richard J. Brasher, and Charlotte Margaret Wallace's guardian (Harry F. Murphy) to Harry and Bess Truman and to George and May Wallace.

⁵⁹ Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 431.

⁶⁰ "May Wallace Dies at 98;" "May Wallace Recalled as Helpful Source for Decades," *Kansas City Star*, 29 May 1993; "Acquisition of Wallace/Haukenberry Properties," c. 1990, Historian's Files, Truman National Historic Site.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 12Disposition of the Two Wallace houses

Following the death of Natalie and Frank Wallace in 1960, Bess Truman and May Wallace rented the house out. Doris A. Beebe, a nurse, became the first renter, who lived in the Wallace house from late 1960 to mid-1963. James Stone, a Missouri Pacific Railroad employee, and his wife Clare Stone, a teacher, rented the house from mid-1963 to late 1967 or early 1968. For about one year beginning in early 1968, a young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Taylor, rented the Wallace house for about \$100 a month. In 1969, John M. Stone, a claims examiner working for the Social Security Administration, and his wife Virginia, moved into the Wallace house at 601 West Truman Road. The Stone couple remained there into 1972.⁶¹

Probably in the summer of 1972, when Harry Truman was hospitalized, first after a fall and then for gastrointestinal problems, a medical corpsmen stayed in the Wallace house. It provided immediate access to the Truman house in case medical help was needed. Following Truman's death in December 1972, Bess Truman and May Wallace put Frank and Natalie's house up for sale. Doris P. Hecker wanted to buy the house, and was disappointed when the families decided not to sell the property. Hecker then received a call from a Secret Service agent who asked if she might be interested in renting the house.⁶²

In February 1973, Doris P. Hecker began renting the Frank and Natalie Wallace house. During Hecker's long tenure there Bess Truman died in 1982, leaving Margaret Truman Daniel as half owner of the property, along with May Wallace, who continued to own the other half. May Wallace, in April 1989, signed a quit claim deed transferring her share of the Frank and Natalie Wallace house to Hecker for \$1.⁶³ Doris Hecker, however, never realized her long-term desire to own the Frank and Natalie Wallace property. In early 1990, Ms. Hecker was hospitalized for pneumonia, and on January 12, 1990, she died.⁶⁴ The National Park Service acquired the property in February 1991. The National Park Service converted the Frank and Natalie Wallace house to government-furnished quarters for a park law enforcement ranger.

After May Wallace was hospitalized in November 1989 and soon afterward moved to a nursing home, the Wallace and Daniel families determined that May would never be able to return to her home. They then initiated discussions with the National Park Service about selling the Wallace house. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1991, and were given the keys to the house in September of that year. Currently, the May and George Wallace house is being used as interpretive staff offices and work areas.

⁶¹ *Polk's Independence City Directory* for 1968 lists a "John Taylor" at 601 Truman Road (*Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

⁶² Ron Cockrell communication with Doris Hecker, memorandum of telephone conversation, 13 December 1986, Truman National Historic Site.

⁶³ "Quit Claim Deed," April 1, 1989, No. I1902P 779, both in Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

⁶⁴ *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1980, 1985, 1986-87, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993. "Acquisition of Wallace/Haukenberry Properties," no date, Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 10 Page 1**10. Geographical Data****Acres of Property**

The total area of all three parcels is 0.63 acres, which includes 0.19 acres of the Noland house, 0.22 acres of the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, and 0.22 acres of the George and May Wallace house and garage.

Verbal Boundary Description

This amendment pertains to two discontinuous parcels. One parcel is comprised of two tax lots adjacent to each other, and sharing a boundary with the Truman house property. The second parcel consists of a single tax lot that is immediately west of the Truman house, separated only by a small, two-lane, residential street. The contiguous parcel (comprised of two tax lots) is occupied by the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, at 601 West Truman Road, and the George and May Wallace house, at 605 West Truman Road. The second, discontinuous, parcel is occupied by the Noland house at 216 North Delaware Street.

The Noland parcel at 216 North Delaware Street encompasses part of lots 4 and 5 in Moore's Addition to the City of Independence. It is located in section 3 of township 49 north, range 32 west of the 5th principal meridian in the City of Independence, County of Jackson, State of Missouri. The legal description of this parcel is presented in metes and bounds. That legal description is presented below, under "Legal Descriptions."

The Frank and Natalie Wallace property at 601 West Truman Road adjoins the George and May Wallace parcel. The Frank and Natalie parcel encompasses the east 57.09 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition. The George and May Wallace parcel at 605 West Truman Road encompasses the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of lot 1, less the east 7.09 feet, in Moore's Addition, plus the west 14.18 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition. The overall dimensions of the two Wallace properties are 116.99 feet by 165 feet. Both of these parcels are located in section 3 of township 49 north, range 32 west of the 5th principal meridian in the City of Independence, County of Jackson, State of Missouri. This two-tax-lot parcel shares a boundary with the Truman house property. The west boundary of this parcel is the east boundary of the Truman property. The legal descriptions of these two tax lots are presented below, under "Legal Descriptions."

Boundary Justification

The two parcels described in this National Register amendment to the Truman National Historic Site encompass three tax lots (described above), whose residents were related to and associated with Harry S and Bess Truman during the properties' period of significance (1900-1972). One parcel is directly across North Delaware Street from the Truman house. It has one house, which was occupied by the Noland family, Harry Truman's aunt and three cousins, from 1900 to 1971, when the last Noland cousin died. The other parcel containing two tax lots and two houses and a garage, were owned and occupied by the brothers-in-law and their wives of Harry S Truman (the Frank and Natalie and the George and May Wallace houses). The period of significance for these homes extends from 1915/1916 (when they were built) to the death of Harry S Truman in December 1972. This parcel adjoins the Truman property along its eastern boundary.

The boundaries of the two parcels included in this amendment, taken together with the existing boundaries of the Truman house property, create a single, spatially unified area interrupted only by a small, two-lane residential street. The boundaries suggested by this amendment include buildings that have retained integrity of place, setting, architecture, and landscape features that are either as they were during the period of significance, or could be easily restored. Fee simple title for both parcels (all three tax lots) is vested in the National Park Service, and that agency has been diligently dedicated to a regimen of maintenance and repair designed to guarantee architectural and landscaping integrity.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 10 Page 2

Legal Descriptions⁶⁵**The Noland house, 216 North Delaware Street:**

A part of Lots 4 and 5 in James F. Moore's Addition to the Town of Independence, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, described by metes and bounds as follows: Beginning at a point where the West line of Delaware Street intersects the North line of the alley running East and West through said Moore's Addition as now located, said point being the Southeast corner of said Lot 4, thence North on the East line of said Lot 4, 50 feet, thence West to a point 15 feet East of the West line of said Lot 5, thence South 50 feet to the North line of said alley, thence East to the place of beginning. Except that tract described as follows: The East 25 feet of the West 40 feet of the South 50 feet of Lot 5, James F. Moore's Addition to the Town of Independence, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, and further except that tract described as follows: All that part of Lot 5, James F. Moore's Addition to the Town of Independence, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, described as follows: Beginning at a point 63.36 feet East and 117.22 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Lot 5; thence West 23.36 feet; thence South 50 feet to the North line of a 16.5 foot alley; thence East along the North line of said alley to a point due South of point of beginning; thence North to a point of beginning. Said tract contains 0.19 of an acre, more or less.

The Frank and Natalie Wallace property, 601 West Truman Road

East 57.09 feet of Lot 1, James F. Moore's Addition, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri according to the recorded plat thereof. Subject to easements, reservations and restrictions of record.

The George and May Wallace property, 605 West Truman Road

All of the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of Lot 1, except the east 7.09 feet thereof, in James F. Moore's Addition to the City of Independence, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof. Also: a tract of land situated in Section 3, Township 49 North, Range 32 West, 5th Principal Meridian, City of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, described as follows: The west 14.18 feet of Lot 1 of James F. Moore's Addition to the City of Independence, Missouri.

⁶⁵ The legal descriptions presented here are quoted from deeds conveying the properties. Capitalization and punctuation are presented here as they appear in the deeds.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Additional Documentation, Page 1**Additional Documentation: Photographs****Noland House, Truman National Historic Site**

(216 North Delaware Street)

Jackson County, Missouri (applies to all photographs)

Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR (applies to all photographs)

June 2000 (applies to all photographs, except where noted)

Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site (applies to all photographs)

Looking west, main façade.

No. 1 of 17

Noland House, Truman NHS

(216 North Delaware Street)

Looking northwest; main façade and south side.

No. 2 of 17

Noland House, Truman NHS

(216 North Delaware Street)

Looking northwest; main façade and south side.

No. 3 of 17

Noland House, Truman NHS

(216 North Delaware Street)

Looking southwest; main façade and north side.

No. 4 of 17

Noland House, Truman NHS

(216 North Delaware Street)

Looking east; rear and south sides.

No. 5 of 17

Noland House, Truman NHS

(216 North Delaware Street)

Looking east; rear and north sides.

No. 6 of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman NHS

(601 West Truman Road)

Looking southeast; main façade and east side.

No. 7 of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman NHS

(601 West Truman Road)

Looking southwest; main façade and west side.

No. 8 of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman NHS

(601 West Truman Road)

Looking northeast; west and south rear sides.

No. 9 of 17

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Additional Documentation, Page 2

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman NHS

(601 West Truman Road)

Looking north; rear and east sides.

No. 10 of 17

Frank & Natalie and George & May Wallace Houses, Truman NHS

(601 West Truman Road, right, and 605 West Truman Road, left)

November 2000

Looking northwest; rear sides and yards of both houses.

No. 11 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman NHS

(605 West Truman Road)

Looking southwest; main façade and east side.

No. 12 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman NHS

(605 West Truman Road)

Looking southeast; main façade, east side, and rear addition.

No. 13 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman NHS

(605 West Truman Road)

Looking north; rear south side and east side.

No. 14 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman NHS

(605 West Truman Road)

Looking east; west side.

No. 15 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman NHS

(605 West Truman Road)

Looking north; south (rear) and west sides of rear addition.

No. 16 of 17

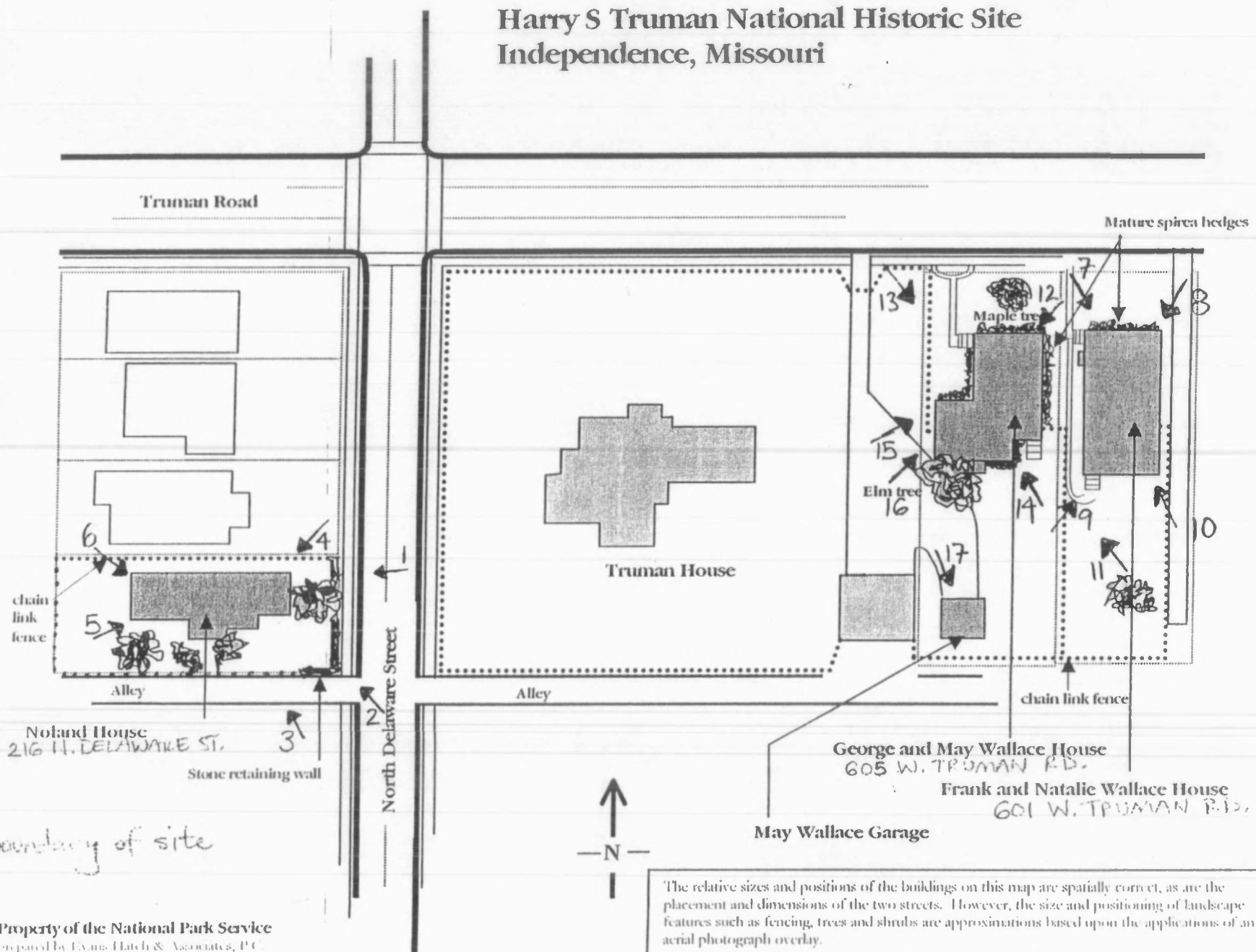
May Wallace Garage, Truman NHS

(605 West Truman Road)

Looking south; main façade and west side of garage.

No. 17 of 17

Harry S Truman National Historic Site Independence, Missouri



INDEPENDENCE QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

376 377 25' 00" 378 379 2 820 000 FEET 94°22' 30" 39°07' 30"



HARRY S TRUMAN
NATIONAL HISTORIC
SITE

NATIONAL REGISTER
AMENDMENT

INDEPENDENCE, MO
64050

JACKSON COUNTY

UTM REFERENCE

15/6367272/428000

































