

Truman Heritage District Design Guidelines Manual



A Guide to Preservation Standards for Designated Historic Properties in the Truman Neighborhood

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

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**City of Independence,
Missouri**

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Introduction

Since its establishment in 1974 the Truman Heritage District, its historic buildings, and the valuable landscape that exists throughout have continually been recognized as among the most significant elements in Independence history. Protecting and preserving the irreplaceable character of the Truman Heritage District has become a City, State and National effort, which in turn has resulted in: the creation of the Independence Heritage Commission, the development and revision of a city-wide Historic Preservation Ordinance, and the initiation of a design review process.

The design review process calls for the evaluation and approval of all public and private projects that could have an impact on the integrity of the Truman Heritage District, for example: demolition, new construction, rehabilitation and even some minor alterations to the buildings and landscape within the district boundaries. The process applies to owners of all types of properties including institutional, commercial, religious and residential. When used effectively, the design review process is the best way for partners in our community to preserve the integrity of Independence landmarks and historic districts. In an effort to enhance the efficiency and the effectiveness of project review, the Independence Heritage Commission has called for the development of a Truman Heritage District Design Guidelines Manual to be made available for use by property owners, preservation staff, the Heritage Commission, and other interested parties.

A design guidelines manual is a set of written standards intended for use by property owners, residents, city planners and preservation commissions when planning rehabilitation and redevelopment projects in designated historic areas. The guidelines identify those characteristics that are unique to the Truman Heritage District and should therefore be preserved during rehabilitation, and respected when new construction or demolition is being proposed. In addition, they address those design elements to be given consideration during the project planning and review process. Written in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the national model for appropriate treatment of historic buildings, these guidelines are designed to give you a better understanding of how and why rehabilitation standards apply during the design review process

The responsibility of maintaining the unique character of a historic property during modern times is a challenging one. Recognizing the needs and life-styles of those who own and live in historic buildings, this manual can assist property owners and preservationists in making renovations that are both sympathetic to the historic character of your property, and convenient for you. Most importantly, the sensitive application of these guidelines will help to preserve and enhance the distinctive elements of the Truman era, and the features that first attracted you to this significant historic district of Independence.