

Chapter 3. Existing Conditions and Analysis

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a summary and analysis of the current condition of the cultural landscape and contributing, extant buildings at the Truman Farm. Narrative text, diagrams, and photographs describe the condition of the cultural landscape and buildings, and analyze and evaluate each characteristic. The cultural landscape is presented first, followed by the buildings.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Site investigations recorded the existing condition of the Truman Farm cultural landscape. Field reconnaissance occurred in December 2011. Documented features included those landscape characteristics noted below. The assessment is undertaken to understand the cultural landscape as a whole, and to identify and document those qualities that contribute to its historic character, and those individual features that contribute to its significance.

The existing condition of each landscape characteristic is evaluated using the following criteria.

Good – Those features of the landscape that do not require intervention. Only minor or routine maintenance is needed at this time.

Fair – Some deterioration, decline, or damage is noticeable; the feature may require immediate intervention. If intervention is deferred, the feature will require extensive attention in a few years.

Poor – Deterioration, decline, or damage is serious; the feature is seriously deteriorated or damaged, or presents a

hazardous condition. Due to the level of deterioration, damage or danger, the feature requires extensive and immediate attention.

The existing condition assessment and landscape analysis is presented for the following landscape characteristics.

Natural Systems and Features are those natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the Truman Farm. These include the native grasslands of western Missouri, the natural rolling topography, and the neighboring drainages of the Little and Big Blue Rivers, both which drain to the Missouri River.

Archeological Sites are the ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape, evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. The identification of archeological features is provided by the 1983 Archeological Survey and Testing Report, conducted by Robert Bray.¹

Land Use is the organization, form, and shape of the landscape in response to land use.

Spatial Organization is the arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical and overhead planes that define and create space, including the arrangement of topography, buildings, structures, and vegetation.

Topography and Landform is the three-dimensional configuration of

¹ Robert T. Bray, *Archaeological Survey and Testing at the Truman Farm Home and Grounds, Grandview, Missouri*. Kansas City: 1983.

the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation including cut slopes and rock outcroppings, fill slopes, and other man-made topographic features. The relationship of the farm to natural formations is included.

Views and Vistas are features that create or allow a range of vision, which can be natural, or designed and controlled.

Circulation are those features and materials that constitute systems of movement including vehicular routes such as the entrance drive and Blue Ridge Boulevard, and pedestrian routes.

Small Scale Features are the human-scaled elements that provide detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics. These include stone posts, light posts, and fencing.

Vegetation is indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials and gardens.

Utilities are the underground piping and overhead utilities that service the property. These include water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and electrical.

Assessment of Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. In addition to being listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must also have integrity, which is grounded in a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance. Integrity is defined by seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or the landscape where the historic event occurred.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape.

Setting is the physical environment of the cultural landscape.

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the particular period(s) of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form the cultural landscape.

Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

Feeling is the cultural landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Association is the direct link between the important historic event or person and a cultural landscape.

Summary of Integrity

The Truman Farm retains integrity in six aspects including location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association although the loss of farm acreage and some original historic fabric has diminished integrity for a few aspects.

The current acreage of the Truman Farm is less than the acreage owned at end of the period of significance, and substantially smaller than the acreage at the time Harry S Truman lived and managed the farm. However the core of the farm has been preserved.

At approximately 11 acres, the Truman Farm today comprises the key acreage associated with the farm life depicted in spaces, features and associations directly connected to Harry S Truman, 33rd

1 President of the United States.
2 The Truman Farm has integrity in
3 location and setting as it remains in its
4 original location and its contributing
5 features remain in their original
6 locations. The setting reflects the original
7 characteristics of the farm as reflected in
8 the extant historic residential area, farm
9 yards, and agricultural fields.

11 The residential area and farm yards are
12 approximately five acres in size, and
13 comprise the listing in the NRHP district
14 and NHL. The remaining six acres were
15 historically an agricultural field, modified
16 near the end of the period of significance
17 as President Truman sold this land for
18 planned commercial development. The
19 relationship of the residential area to the
20 farm yards, and the relationship of these
21 spaces to the agricultural fields remain as
22 they were historically.

24 Truman Farm also retains the original
25 relationship to commercial development
26 to the east where the remnants of Truman
27 Corners remain. At the end of the period
28 of significance, President Truman sold
29 farm land and influenced commercial
30 development on this property. The
31 setting of the Truman Farm has been
32 diminished on the north and south edges
33 by the addition of newer commercial
34 and residential development. The most
35 intrusive is the development to the north
36 on lands that were historically associated
37 with Vivian Truman's farm, President
38 Truman's brother.

40 Contributing features including the
41 Farm Home, Garage, sugar maple grove,
42 barnyard, foundations of the Solomon
43 Young Barn and granary, and small scale
44 features such as the stone posts that
45 remain in their original location and
46 relationship to one another. However,
47 the loss of historic structures such as the
48 Solomon Young Barn, granary and other
49 outbuildings, and fencing of farm spaces

1 such as the barnyard and garden has
2 diminished the feeling of the farm as it is
3 difficult to discern the three-dimensional
4 qualities of the farm and its spaces. The
5 removal and deposition of several stone
6 posts has obscured the relationship
7 between the original Farm Home and
8 adjacent agricultural lands, mainly Vivian
9 Truman's farm to the north.

11 Most contributing features retain
12 original historic fabric and materials,
13 and reflect the workmanship of the
14 historic construction. The brick and stone
15 Farm Home foundation, and the stone
16 foundation of the Garage retain their
17 original materials. The stone posts and
18 stone threshold (TF09) remain and are
19 of original construction of native local
20 stone often used in the area during the
21 period of significance. The Poultry House
22 and its concrete pad and fence remain
23 with original materials, and reflect the
24 workmanship of the period.

26 The greatest modifications to historic
27 materials and workmanship is
28 associated with the Farm Home, which
29 was significantly altered in the 1980s
30 during repair of the building. It appears
31 that much of the historic material was
32 removed and new materials installed. The
33 Farm Home reflects the workmanship
34 of the late 19th century, although it is
35 unknown if these elements are from the
36 historic period.

**1 Contributing Features,
2 Character-Defining Features, and
3 Non-Contributing Features
4**

5 Contributing Features are features that
6 contribute to the Truman Farm's historic
7 significance and include individual
8 elements and other characteristics that
9 remain from the period of significance.
10 Individual features that contribute to the
11 significance of the Truman Farm include
12 buildings, sites of former structures,
13 and small scale features built during the
14 period of significance.

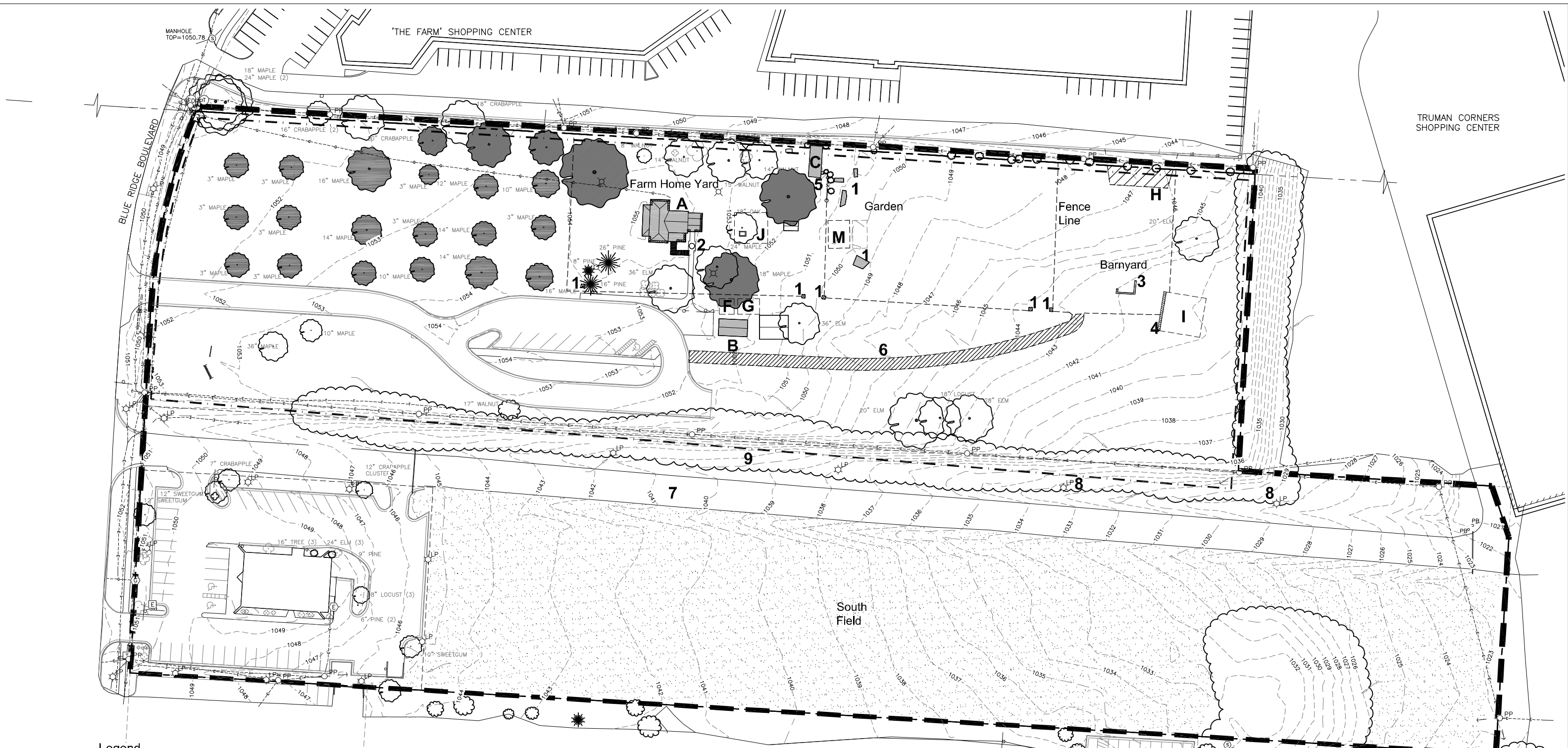
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16 Character-Defining Features provide
17 defining characteristics, but have been
18 identified as non-contributing. These
19 elements are important to the significance
20 of the Truman Farm and are features
21 that replaced historic features that were
22 present during the period of significance.
23 These more recent features are character-
24 defining elements of the Truman Farm as
25 the replacement or modification retains
26 the form, mass, scale, and/or material of
27 the original feature and they continue
28 to assist in maintaining the historic
29 character of the Truman Farm.

30
31 Non-Contributing Features are features
32 that have been added to the Truman
33 Farm since the end of the period
34 of significance, and do not assist in
35 maintaining the historic character of the
36 Truman Farm.

37
38 **Contributing Features**
39 Truman Farm Home (1895) (TF01)
40 Truman Farm Garage (c.1914) (TF02)
41 Truman Farm Poultry House (c.1900)
42 (TF03)
43 Smokehouse Site (c.1900-c.1940)
44 Coalhouse/Icehouse Site (c.1900-c.1940)
45 Solomon Young Barn Site (1867-1966)
46 Granary Site (c.1900-c.1960)
47 Small Barn Site (c.1900-c.1922)
48 Unknown Structure Site/Topographic
depression

1 Stone Posts (c.1920-1930) (TF04)
2 Truman Farm Well & Pump (TF05)
3 Concrete Foundation
4 Stone Threshold/Truman Farm Barn
5 Foundation (TF09)
6 Fence at Poultry House
7 Road Trace
8 1950s Roadway
9 1950s light posts
10 1950s slope
11

12 **Character-Defining Features**
13 Sugar Maple Grove
14 Pine trees at Farm Home
15 Canopy trees around Farm Home
16
17 **Non-Contributing Features**
18 Maintenance Shed (1995)
19 Smokehouse (TF07) (1985)
20 Privy (TF08) (1985)
21 Pin Oak Plaque (TF06)
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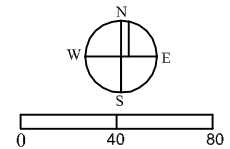


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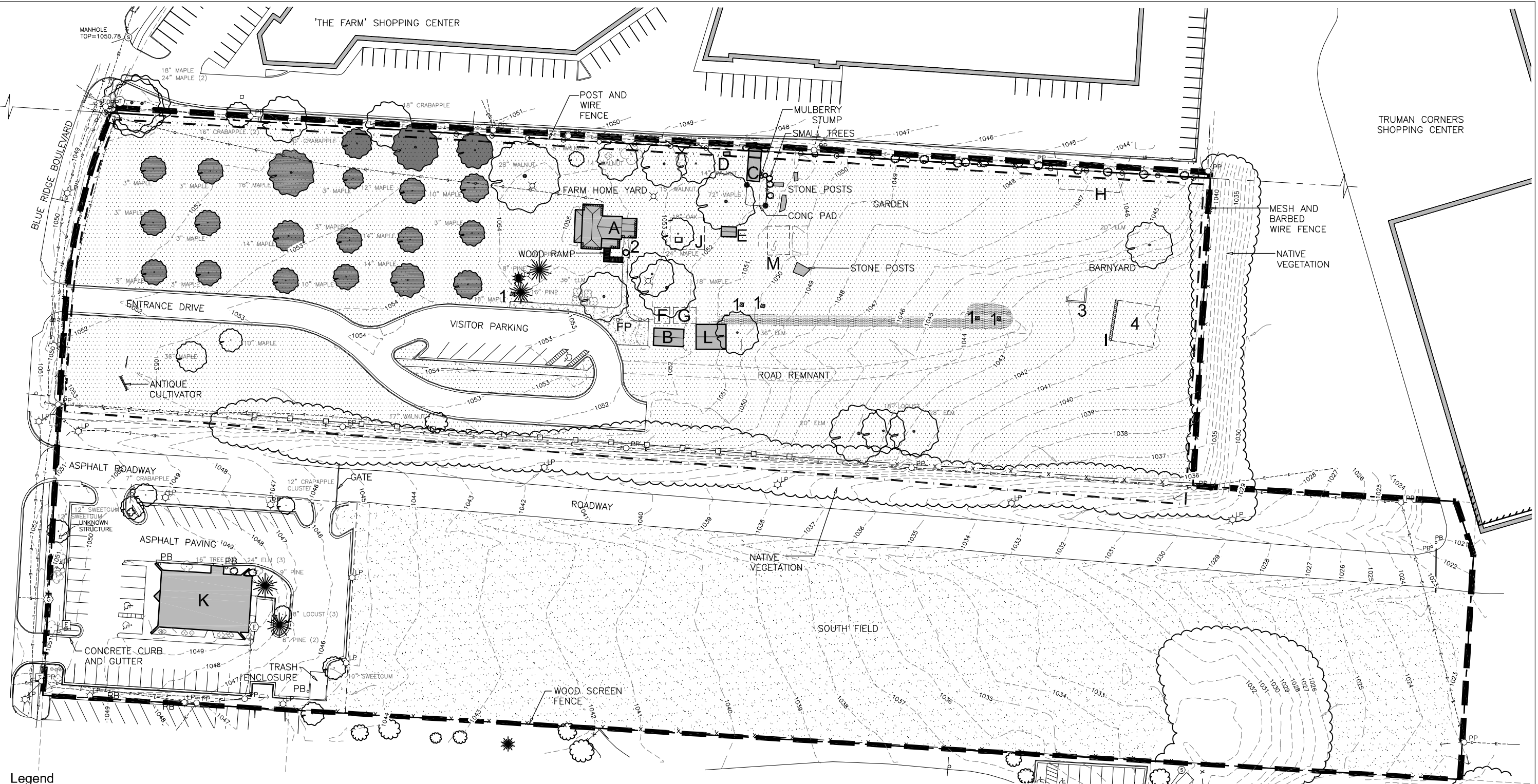
- A Truman Farm Home (1895) (TF01)
- B Truman Farm Garage (c.1914) (TF02)
- C Truman Farm Poultry House (c.1900) (TF03)
- F Smokehouse (c.1900-c.1940)
- G Coalhouse/Icehouse (c.1900-c.1940)
- H Solomon Young Barn (1867-1966)
- I Granary (c.1900-c.1960)
- J Small Barn (c.1900-c.1922)
- M Unknown Structure
- 1 Stone Posts (date unknown, c.1930-1940) (TF04)
- 2 Truman Farm Well & Pump (TF05)
- 3 Concrete Foundation
- 4 Stone Threshold/ Truman Farm Barn Foundation (TF09)
- 5 Fence at Poultry House
- 6 Road Trace

- NHL Boundary
- NPS Property Boundary
- Building
- Stone Column
- Fence Line (non-extant)
- 1950s Roadway
- 1950s Lightposts
- 1950s Slope

- Deciduous Tree
- Character-Defining Tree
- Character-Defining Evergreen Tree
- Solomon Barn/Footprint
- Field



DECEMBER 2012		HSTR 492 116050	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TRUMAN FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE		TITLE OF PROJECT TRUMAN FARM CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT TITLE OF DRAWING CONTRIBUTING FEATURES	
		NAME OF PARK TRUMAN FARM - HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE	
REGION MIDWEST		COUNTY JACKSON	STATE MISSOURI



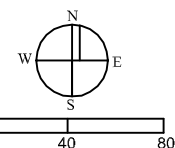
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- A Truman Farm Home (1895) (TF01)
- B Truman Farm Garage (c.1914) (TF02)
- C Truman Farm Poultry House (c.1900, moved c.1940) (TF03)
- D Privy (1985) (TF08)
- E Shed/Smokehouse (1985) (TF07)
- F Smokehouse (c.1900-c.1940)
- G Coalhouse/Icehouse (c.1900-c.1940)
- H Solomon Young Barn (1867-1966)
- I Granary (c.1900-c.1960)
- J Small Barn (c.1900-c.1922)
- K NPS Building
- L Maintenance Shed (1995)
- M Unknown Structure

- 1 Stone Posts (date unknown, c.1930-1940) (TF04)
- 2 Truman Farm Well & Pump (TF05)
- 3 Concrete Foundation
- 4 Stone Threshold/ Truman Farm Barn Foundation (TF09)

- - - - - NHL Boundary
- - - - - NPS Property Boundary
- Building
- Stone Post
- ⊗ Yard Light
- ⊙ LP Light Post
- Sign
- - - - - Overhead Electrical
- - - - - Underground Comm
- - - - - Contour
- Wood Post

- Deciduous Tree
- Sugar maple grove
- ⊗ Shrub
- ⊙ Evergreen Tree
- Non-Extant Building
- Lawn
- Field
- Concrete
- Mown Path
- Post and Wire Fence
- Barbed Wire Fence
- × Mesh and Barbed Wire Fence
- Pine Oak Plaque
- FP Flagpole



HSTR 492 116050

DECEMBER 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT TRUMAN FARM CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TRUMAN FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE	TITLE OF DRAWING EXISTING CONDITION PLAN
	NAME OF PARK TRUMAN FARM - HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
REGION MIDWEST	COUNTY JACKSON
	STATE MISSOURI

1 Natural Systems and Features

Existing Condition

Natural aspects of the greater Grandview area originally influenced the development and physical form of the Truman Farm. These include the native grasslands of western Missouri, the natural rolling topography, and neighboring drainages of the Little and Big Blue Rivers, both of which drain to the Missouri River. These natural aspects also include the underlying soils and geology.

Grandview, Missouri is situated on rolling topography at elevations between 920 and 1,060 feet above sea level. The rolling topography descends toward the Big Blue River to the west, and the Little Blue River to the east. Both of these streams are approximately 805 feet above sea level, and both drain to the Missouri River, which lies to the north.

The area of the Truman Farm is relatively flat, situated at an elevation of 1,030 to 1,050 feet. The Truman Farm Home is situated on a slight rise, at an elevation of approximately 1,054 feet above sea-level with gentle topography sloping toward the southeast and west.

The geology of the Grandview area includes Iola limestone, uppermost member of the Kansas City Group, Middle Pennsylvanian System.²

Soils of the Truman Farm belong to the Sharpsburg-Grundy-Ladoga-Pershing association. All were derived ultimately from loess that once blanketed the area to a depth of many feet.³ The topsoil around

² Robert T. Bray, *Archaeological Survey and Testing*. This creates the characteristic soils and topography that resulted from the influence of Pleistocene glaciation about 400,000 years ago. Additional underlying strata include Chanute shale, Westerville limestone, Cherryville shale, Winterset limestone, Galesburg shale, Ladore shale, and Hertha limestone.

³ Bray, *Archaeological Survey and Testing*, 4.

the Truman Farm is 20 to 24 inches thick. Presumably, it is considerably less in those areas of the farm that were cultivated—particularly, on the gentle east slopes. Residual stones are very rare. These soils were formed under a prairie environment and are classed as high to very high in inherent fertility.⁴

The natural systems of the Grandview area created a unique system of adapted plants to the climatic region. The area is classified as part of the Glaciated Plains Natural Division, which roughly encompasses the northern one-third of the state of Missouri.⁵

Upland and bottomland deciduous forest and prairie were the main pre-settlement vegetation, with prairie comprising about 45 percent of this area. Woodlands suitable for forest interior breeding birds are rare except at a few of the region's state parks and conservation areas.⁶

The area, where undeveloped, supports tall grass prairie vegetation. Big bluestem, little bluestem, indiagrass, and switchgrass are the dominant species. Portions of the landscape support trees—red oak, white oak, and shagbark hickory are major species. Islands of tall grass prairie vegetation are common.

This diversity extends to animals as well. Historically, greater prairie-chicken, black-tailed jackrabbit, prairie king snake and a variety of other birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians have lived in the tall grass prairie and adjacent woodlands.⁷

⁴ Bray, *Archaeological Survey and Testing*, 4.

⁵ Missouri Department of Conservation, online Atlas.

⁶ Missouri Department of Conservation.

⁷ Ibid.



1 **Figure 3-1.** Northwest Missouri supports tall grass prairie vegetation interspersed with woodlands
2 that follow ridgelines and drainages. Big bluestem, little bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass are
3 the dominant grass species, and trees include red oak, white oak, and shagbark hickory. SS 12/6/11

4

1 The average annual precipitation is 90 to
2 105 centimeters. Maximum precipitation
3 is from late in spring through autumn.
4 Annual snowfall ranges from about 12
5 centimeters in the south to 45 centimeters
6 in the north. Average annual temperature
7 is from 13 to 17°C with the average
8 freeze-free period from 190 to 235 days.

9
10 The moderate precipitation is adequate
11 for crops and pasture most years, but
12 occasional summer droughts reduce
13 crop yields. In much of the area, shallow
14 wells are the principal source of water
15 for domestic use and for livestock, but
16 small ponds and reservoirs on individual
17 farms are increasingly important sources
18 of water for livestock. Deep wells, in
19 limestone areas, also provide water.⁸

20

21 **Analysis**

22 The natural systems of the Truman
23 Farm influenced the settlement of the
24 area by Solomon and Harriet Young, who
25 established their farm on the fertile soil of
26 the Great Plains. The extraordinarily rich
27 soils, long growing season and abundant
28 rainfall combined with the close proximity
29 of the railroads and the growing demands
30 of Kansas City made Jackson County
31 farmland among the most valuable in the
32 state.

33

34 Since the period of significance, the
35 natural systems have changed slightly.
36 Major changes are primarily associated
37 with change in land use, particularly,
38 the transition of agricultural land to
39 development.

40

41 The changes to the natural systems
42 include alterations to the natural
43 topography surrounding the Truman
44 Farm Home and alterations to vegetation.

45

46 While farming was the initial action that
47 altered much of the indigenous vegetation
48 and natural systems, it originally gently

49 ⁸ University of Missouri; *Cooperative Soil Survey*.

1 yielded to natural constraints, such
2 as steep embankments and natural
3 drainages which hindered farming
4 activities.

5

6 The natural climate dictated which types
7 of crops that could be grown, influencing
8 the development of the land as cropland
9 with crops such as wheat, oats, and corn.

10

11 Since the time farming ceased on the
12 Truman Farm, the property's vegetation
13 has naturalized on the east, north, and
14 south edges of the property, near the
15 fencelines.

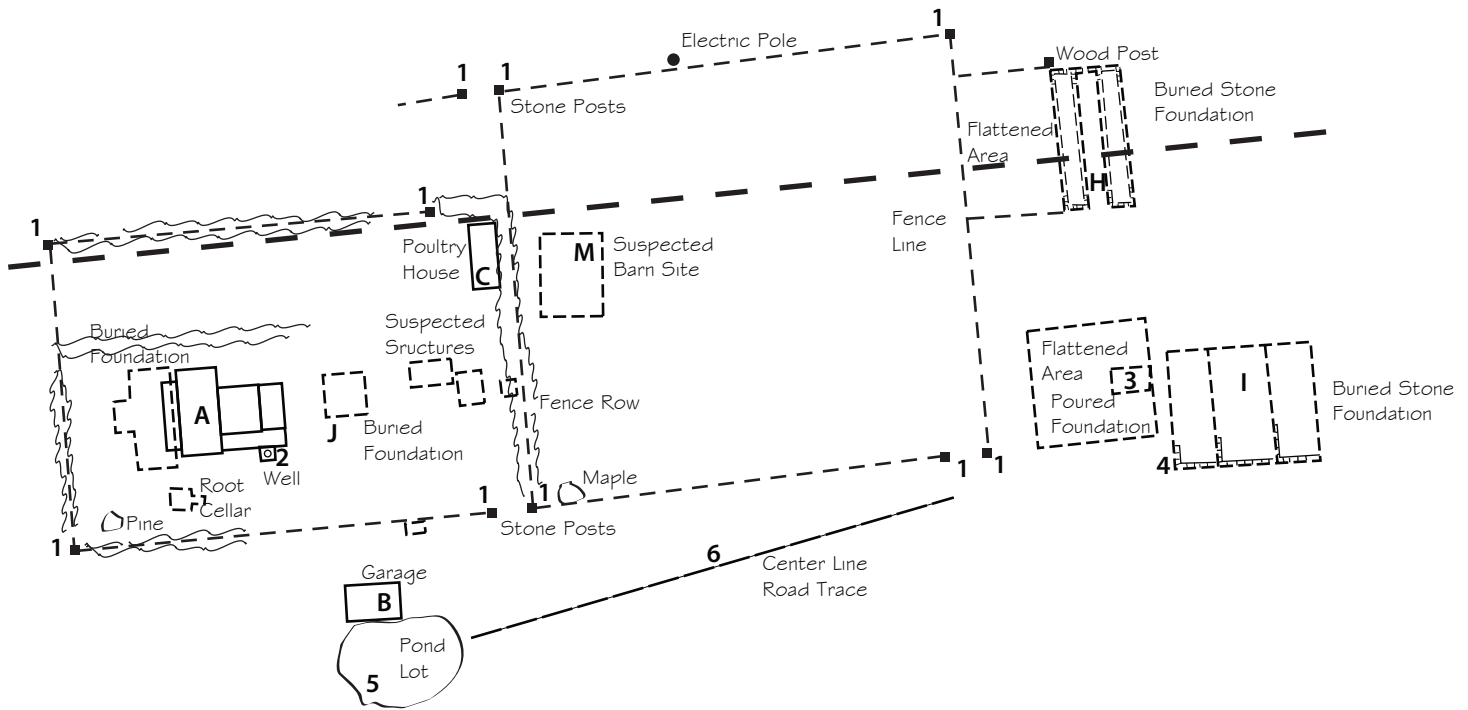
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17 The precipitation patterns of the
18 Grandview area, which included
19 occasional drought, influenced water
20 usage on the Truman Farm during the
21 period of significance and within the
22 larger community. This led to building
23 an on-site temporary pond south of
24 the Garage, as well as the use of rain
25 barrels around the Farm Home. In the
26 broader community, this led to building
27 reservoirs to store water.

28

29 The natural geology of the Grandview
30 area was beneficial to the development
31 of the Truman Farm. Rocks were used
32 to build foundations and footings for
33 the Farm Home and Garage—Hertha
34 limestone and Ladore shale were likely
obtained from the nearby river valleys.⁹

⁹ NPS, *CLI*, 58.



Legend

A Truman Farm Home (1895) (TF01)	1 Stone Posts (date unknown, c.1930-1940)(TF04)
B Truman Farm Garage (c.1914) (TF02)	2 Truman Farm Well & Pump (TF05)
C Truman Farm Poultry House (c.1900, moved c.1940)(TF03)	3 Concrete Foundation
M Unknown Structure	4 Stone Threshold/Truman Farm Barn Foundation (TF09)
H Solomon Young Barn (c. 1867)	5 Pond
I Granary (c. 1900)	6 Road Trace
J Small Barn (c. 1900-1922)	

1 Figure 3-2. Archeological survey and testing was undertaken in 1983. Through surface inspection, sub-surface probing,
2 and limited archeological excavation, archeologist Robert T. Bray identified thirteen features including the Solomon
3 Young Barn foundation and other barn foundations, as well as the foundation of the original Farm Home, and the road
4 trace of the original entrance drive. MB, Archeology Plan based on Bray, Archeological Survey and Testing 1983

¹ Archeological Sites

Existing Condition and Analysis

Several known archeological features exist within the Truman Farm. These are primarily in areas historically used as barnyards to the east of the Farm Home. Most are likely remnants of former barns or outbuildings.

Archeological survey and testing was undertaken in 1983 by Robert T. Bray, who identified 13 archeological sites and features below present grades.¹⁰ Using a combination of surface inspection, sub-surface probing, and limited archeological excavation, Bray identified archeological features that are evident (visible) in the landscape today and non-visible remains including buried stone foundations of the Solomon Young Barn, the small barn, and the original 1867 house.

- The original house foundation (built 1867 and burned 1894) was found west of the extant Farm Home, along with a root cellar that could have belonged to either house.¹¹ During dry weather, a foundation, likely from the original 1867 house, is evident in the grass to the west of the extant front porch.
- Small Barn - a buried stone foundation exists 18-feet east of the Farm Home, measuring approximately 17-feet square. Evidence indicates the barn was removed rather than burned. This foundation and the foundation of the first house appear similar in composition and construction.¹² This was likely the location of the small barn that is visible in several historic photographs (see Buildings and Structures) and was in use while Harry S Truman lived on the farm. This foundation is visible off the

northeast corner of the extant kitchen. It is approximately 10-feet from the Farm Home and the lines delineating what are believed to be the foundation are visible.

- Solomon Young Barn - is located on the northeast corner of the property. It is a foundation composed of massive, rough-hewn limestone blocks. All lines around the 59' x 27' foundation are an average of 24-inches wide, except for an open portion of 10-feet on the south end. Charcoal evidence indicated that this is the location of the Solomon Young Barn that burned in 1966.¹³ There was evidence of a flattened area just to the west of this foundation.
- Stone Foundation/Truman Farm Barn Foundation- Another foundation (TF09) is located in the southeast corner of the field. Bray identified it as the oldest of the three barns identified in his survey, and dated it to the mid-19th century, concluding that since portions of the foundation have been robbed it was possible that the stones were used in the foundation of a later barn.¹⁴ However, based on aerial and historic photographs from the 1940s and 1950s this is also the site of the granary. If Bray is correct in his dates, the granary may have been built c.1867, or it was built on top of the old foundation. While the remnant stone (TF09) may share an overlapping footprint with the granary site, the stone foundation is not necessarily a remnant of the granary. The granary was removed between 1959 and 1965.
- Concrete Foundation- A poured concrete foundation measuring 12' x 17' is east of the foundation. Bray dated the concrete foundation to the early 20th century. The interior of this

¹⁰ Bray, *Archaeological Survey and Testing*, 15.

¹¹ Ibid, 29.

¹² Ibid, 36-37.

¹³ Ibid, 42.

¹⁴ Ibid, 48.



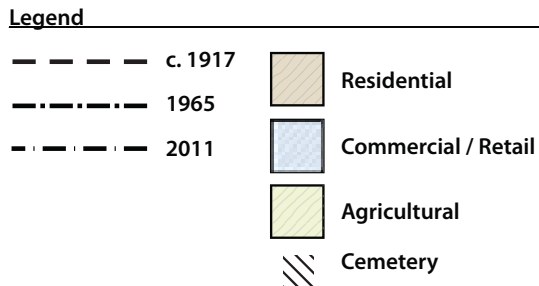
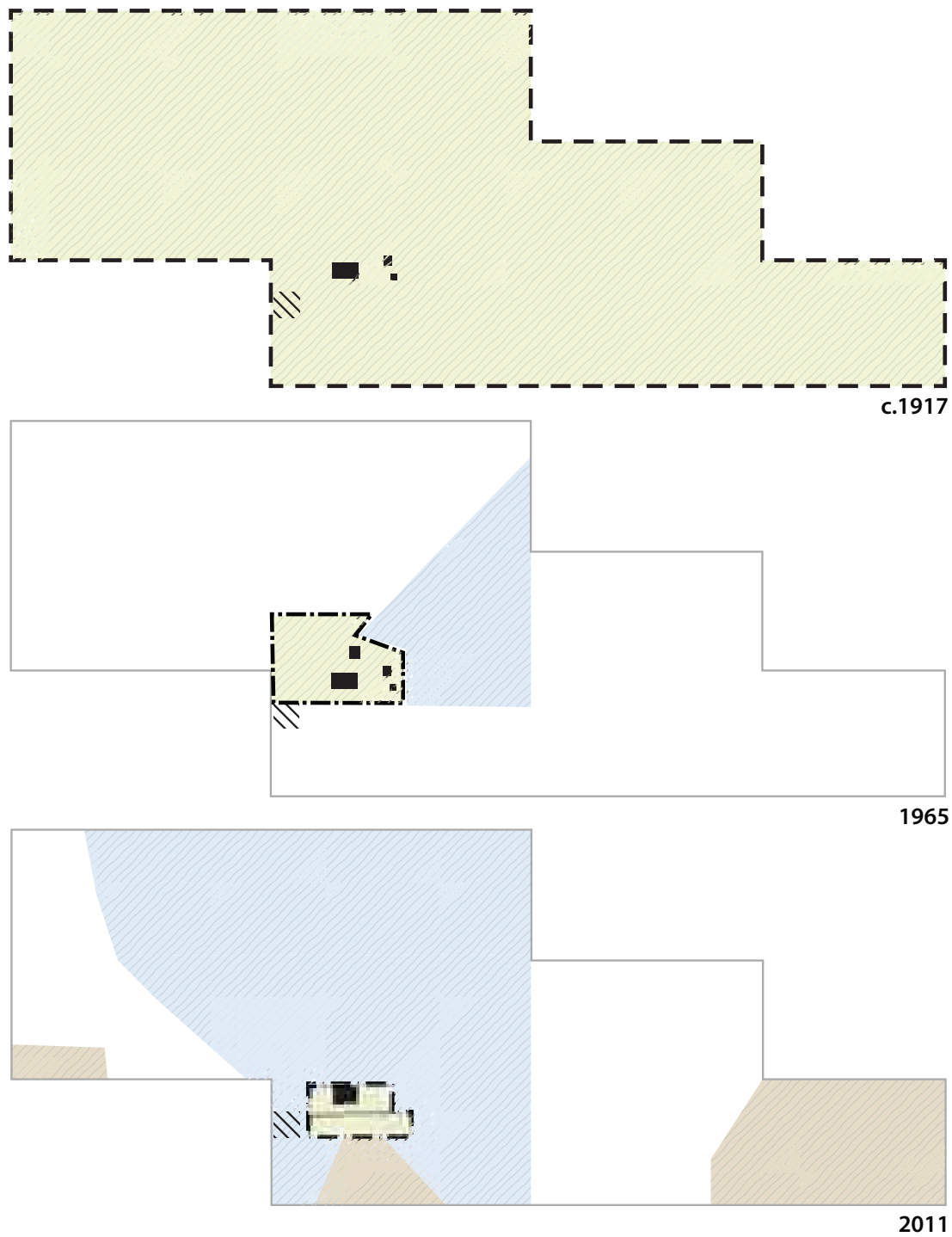
¹ Figure 3-3. The concrete foundation in the east field. It was possibly poured as a foundation for a hog
² house and is a contributing feature. SS 12/6/11

1 foundation was filled with a pavement
2 of rocks. “Function of the structure
3 was uncertain, but it was probably
4 a hog house. Time of use was almost
5 certainly Truman period.”¹⁵
6

7 • Barnyard- A flattened, somewhat
8 depressed yard lay mostly west of
9 the buried concrete foundation. It
10 was presumably fenced, the east line
11 tied into the northeast and southeast
12 corners of the concrete foundation. The
13 west fence line would have coincided
14 with the north-south fence line
15 between the two stone gate posts on
16 the south and the stone fence post on
17 the north.¹⁶ There is no other evidence
18 that a hog house existed in this
19 location, a plan based on oral history
20 from John Truman (Harry Truman’s
21 nephew) noted that a scale once sat in
22 this general location. It is possible that
23 the concrete foundation was poured as
24 a level space for the scale.
25
26
27

15 Ibid.

16 Bray, *Archaeological Survey and Testing*, 48.



¹ Figure 3-4. Land use has changed from all agricultural in 1917 to mostly commercial in 2011. By
² 1965, only 40 acres of the Truman Farm remained. MBD

1 Land Use

2 Existing Condition

3 The Truman Farm is managed as the
4 Grandview Unit, Harry S Truman
5 National Historic Site. The current land
6 use is a historic site with associated
7 maintenance, administration, and visitor
8 facilities. The site's museum program
9 preserves and maintains museum
10 collections inside the Farm Home that
11 includes both original Truman family
12 artifacts and period pieces transferred
13 from Jackson County, Missouri to the
14 National Park Service. As part of the
15 Harry S Truman National Historic Site
16 (NHS), the Truman Farm serves as a
17 destination and connecting point to other
18 portions of the NHS, located 20 miles to
19 the north in Independence, Missouri.

20 The Truman Farm property includes
21 11.19 acres of land and is divided into
22 three parcels, Tracts 1, 2 and 3. Each
23 of the three parcels lie adjacent to the
24 east side of Blue Ridge Boulevard. The
25 northern parcel (Tract 1) is approximately
26 5.25 acres in size and is the setting of
27 the Truman Farm Home, built in 1894
28 to 1895. Tract 1 was sold by the Truman
29 family in 1983 to Jackson County and is
30 now owned by the National Park Service
31 who acquired the property in 1994. In
32 2009 the NPS acquired Tract 2, an open
33 field to the south of the Farm Home,
34 which was also previously Truman family-
35 owned land. In 2011, the NPS acquired
36 Tract 3 to the west, another previously
37 Truman family-owned parcel, to keep the
38 three parcels under the same ownership
39 and possible use for parking facilities.
40 Current zoning is Residential - Improved
41 Land, according to Jefferson County,
42 Missouri records. Adjacent parcels are
43 zoned Commercial-Improved Land, and
44 Commercial-Vacant Land.

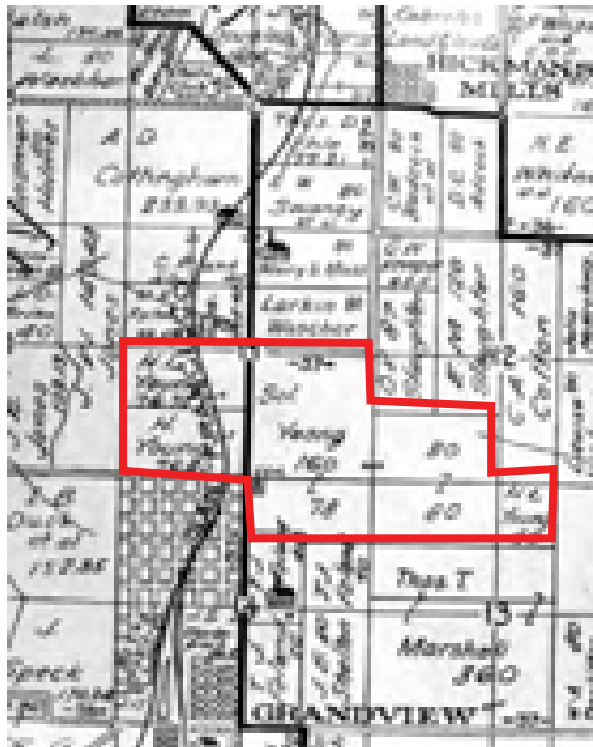
45
46 The property interprets the farm's history
47 as related to President Harry S Truman,
48 focusing on interpreting, guiding, and



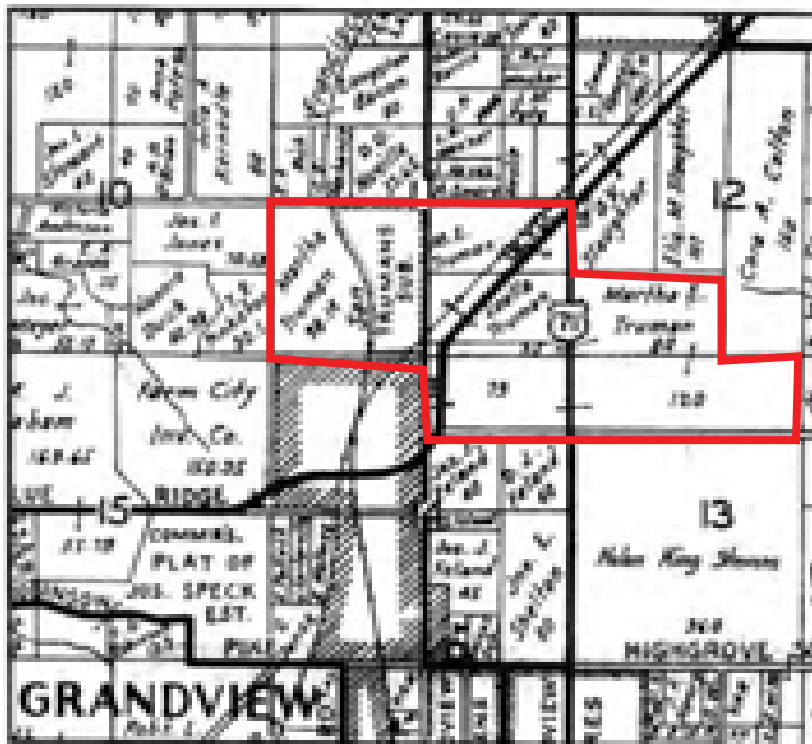
Figure 3-5. The existing land use of the Truman Farm is a historical site with associated visitor facilities and development related to administrative and maintenance activities. SS 12/6/11

1 allowing enjoyment of the cultural
2 attraction and adjacent park-like setting.
3 Maintenance storage is located in a shed
4 behind the Farm Home, and a sales area
5 is located within the Farm Home kitchen.
6
7 Visitor facilities include parking and
8 interpretive activities that provide
9 information by way of interpretive
10 signage, brochures, cell-phone tours, and
11 guided tours (limited to six people at a
12 time). The property is open to visitors
13 daily year-round, for self-guided activities.
14 The Farm Home is open to visitors Friday
15 through Sunday, Memorial Day to Labor
16 Day with guided tours given by park
17 staff who interpret the life and times
18 of President Harry S Truman while he
19 lived and worked on his family farm. The
20 various outbuildings are also used to
21 interpret these themes, as are the sugar
22 maple grove and pines near the Farm
23 Home, and the open field to the east.

24 Analysis



c.1893



c.1925

- 1 Figure 3-6. A plat map dated 1911 indicates that Solomon Young owned 398 acres and Harriet Louisa
- 2 Young owned 193.55 acres. Active farming of the land occurred between 1844 and 1965. Crops grown
- 3 included oats, wheat, corn, and clover. Land was also used to graze cattle. By the 1920s, land uses
- 4 began to change with the Trumans selling 200 acres to develop Truman's Subdivision, located
- 5 between Grandview Road and the K.C. Southern & San Francisco Railroad. Evans-Hatch, Plat Map,
- 6 296, 1911.

The land use of the Truman Farm has changed since the period of significance. It is no longer an active farm nor in agricultural use. The greatest changes in land use occurred during the period of significance as land was sold and rights-of-way given, resulting in a dramatic reduction in farmland and the development of the previously farmed parcels into commercial land uses.

Between the years of 1844, when Solomon Young purchased the first 398 acres of land, and 1965, the area was agricultural. Over the course of time, the extent of agricultural land owned or operated by Harry S Truman's family varied. By 1893, the year Harry's maternal grandfather Solomon Young died, Mr. Young had acquired at least 1,500 acres of land (likely not contiguous). Records from 1911 indicate a much smaller land ownership, in which Solomon Young owned 398 acres and Harriet Louisa Young, Harry's maternal grandmother, owned 193.55 acres, for a combined 591.55 acres.¹⁷ Active farming by the family waned after 1919, but was continued by Harry Truman's brother and nephews in certain parcels, while other portions were leased, continuing the agricultural use.

Between 1906 and 1917 when Harry S Truman lived and worked on the farm, the operation was a full agricultural operation with cropland and lots for raising animals including barns, barnyards, and pastures. Near the Farm Home were barnyards and structures for raising chickens, a vegetable garden and an orchard. Although these activities have ceased, these areas remain.

While Harry S Truman worked on the farm he and his father practiced crop rotation—first wheat, then clover, corn,

oats, and back to wheat.¹⁸ The practice of crop rotation conserved the soil and increased its quality, improving crop yields. Presumably, his brother and nephews continued this practice. Since the land use has changed from agriculture to commercial and residential, the practice of alternating crops is no longer apparent in the landscape.

Beginning in 1922, with the sale of 200 acres, the Truman family began the first of several transactions that would transition the farm from agricultural to commercial development. Rights-of-way for the Blue Ridge Boulevard, K.C. & Grandview Railroad, and Highway 71 were given to expand transportation to Grandview during the 1920s.

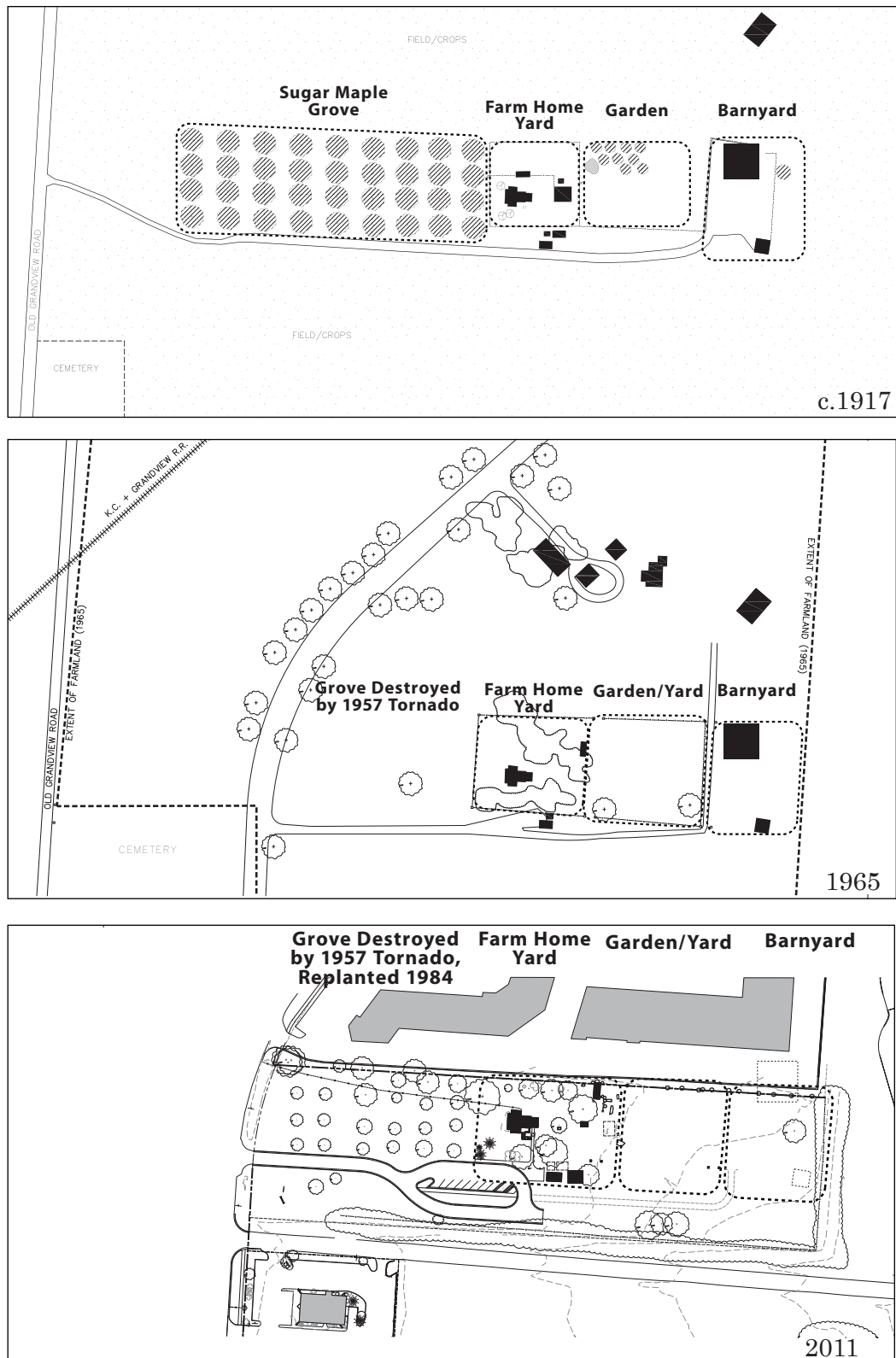
By the mid-1950s the Trumans began to sell parcels of the family farm to developers. Grandview and Kansas City were growing in population, and the Truman Farm was adjacent to several major thoroughfares. The land along those corridors was easily developed into new shopping malls that serviced the growing numbers of suburbanites.

Harry S Truman played an active role in the selling of the farm for commercial development and embraced the new land use with enthusiasm. He even offered his planning advice to the developers of Truman Corners, and was present when the shopping center was inaugurated in 1957.

By 1965, approximately 40 acres remained in agricultural use. Since that time it decreased until Jackson County purchased the farm in the 1980s, at which time only 5.2 acres remained.

¹⁷ Plat map, c.1911 Berry Publishing Company, HST Archives, Grandview Farm Verticle File. The date on this map is likely earlier than 1911, as Solomon Young died in 1893.

¹⁸ Figure 2-8, Crop Rotation Maps.



1 Figure 3-7. Historically, the Truman Farm was divided into five discrete spaces: 1. Sugar maple grove
2 2. Farm Home Yard 3. Garden 4. Barnyard and 5. adjacent fields/crops. The original spaces of the
3 farm remain from c.1917 but are not as clearly defined, especially after the loss of the garden, the
4 original sugar maple grove, and the Solomon Young Barn in 1966, and the fences which segregated
5 the spaces. MBD

¹ Spatial Organization

² Existing Condition

³ The Truman Farm is spatially arranged
⁴ with the historic Farm Home at the
⁵ center. The replica sugar maple grove is
⁶ on the west, and fence lines define the
⁷ property on the east, north, and south.
⁸ Adjacent commercial development on the
⁹ north, and along Blue Ridge Boulevard
¹⁰ create an edge and enclosure.

¹¹ The Farm Home is the dominant building,
¹² with the other buildings providing a
¹³ supporting role.

¹⁵ The spatial organization has five basic
¹⁶ spaces: the sugar maple grove closest to
¹⁷ Blue Ridge Boulevard; the Farm Home
¹⁸ and yard adjacent; the yard east of the
¹⁹ Farm Home; and the eastern portion
²⁰ which is an open lawn framed by trees;
²¹ and the open field on the south.

²³ The existing sugar maple grove is
²⁴ composed of six rows of trees arranged in
²⁵ four evenly spaced rows that extend from
²⁶ the Farm Home to Blue Ridge Boulevard.
²⁷ The grove is a buffer between the Farm
²⁸ Home and commercial development across
²⁹ Blue Ridge Boulevard.

¹ The existing Farm Home yard is a small
² open yard surrounding the Farm Home.
³ The trees are planted less formally and
⁴ frame the Farm Home.

⁶ The easternmost portion of the property
⁷ is the barnyard which is currently an
⁸ open lawn defined by the Poultry House
⁹ on the west, and the topographic slope
¹⁰ on the east, with a fence and naturalized
¹¹ vegetation growing along the fenceline.

¹³ Analysis

¹⁴ The original spaces of the farmstead
¹⁵ remain as they did during the period of
¹⁶ significance and in the same relationship
¹⁷ as existed historically. The spaces are
¹⁸ not as clearly defined today as they were
¹⁹ historically. Fences, vegetation, and
²⁰ structures that originally defined the
²¹ spaces no longer remain.

²³ The sugar maple grove, west of the Farm
²⁴ Home, was planted by Solomon Young
²⁵ in the late 1800s. The original trees
²⁶ were destroyed by a tornado in 1957. In
²⁷ 1984 the grove was replanted and trees
²⁸ added to follow the general pattern of the
²⁹ original grove as it existed east of Blue



³¹ **Figure 3-8.** The Farm Home yard remains similar to its appearance during the period of significance,
³² with mown lawn and few ornamental plantings. However, the fence that once separated the space
³³ from other farm spaces is gone and the division of space between Farm Home yard, garden, and
³⁴ barnyard have become blurred. SS 12/6/11



¹ **Figure 3-9.** The farm historically was divided into discrete spaces. The sugar maple grove is the furthest west,
² then the Farm Home yard, garden, and barnyard on the east. The sugar maple grove was replanted in 1984 and
³ retains a similar spatial orientation to the Farm Home; other spatial relationships have become diminished due
⁴ to the loss of the garden and its vegetation and fences which helped to define spaces. Today, it is difficult to dis-
⁵ tinguish the barnyard, particularly since none of the barns are extant. HSTL 83-127, c.1920/1930; SS 12/6/11
⁶

1 Ridge Boulevard. Additional trees were
2 added in 2011 to replace those that had
3 died. The tree pattern resembles that of
4 the original Solomon Young grove but
5 has fewer trees. The scale, mass and
6 pattern of the existing grove resembles
7 the ordered, historic grove but does not
8 extend to Grandview Road, as it did
9 historically.

10
11 During the period of significance, the
12 Farm Home yard was a separate and
13 distinct space, as it is today. It is defined
14 by the sugar maple grove on the west,
15 Poultry House on the east, and evergreen
16 trees on the south, as it was historically.
17 The NPS boundary fence defines the Farm
18 Home yard on the north. At the center,
19 is the Farm Home. The fencing that
20 enclosed and defined the yard is no longer
21 extant. The yard is also slightly smaller
22 than its historic size as the north fence
23 was originally approximately five feet to
24 the north.

25
26 Within the Farm Home yard, pine trees
27 were historically on the southwest and
28 northwest corners of the Farm Home.
29 Today there are only trees on the
30 southwest corner. Historically, domestic
31 activities took place in the Farm Home
32 yard. The yard reflected a simplicity and
33 utilitarian style with few ornamental
34 plantings and space for outdoor gathering,
35 raising chickens, and space for domestic
36 needs such as storage for coal and ice.

37
38 The Farm Home was originally one
39 of several large buildings. The others
40 were large barns. As the farm changed
41 over time, the barns were constructed,
42 modified, dismantled, and destroyed.

43
44 The arrangement of the farm changed
45 over time during the period of significance
46 as buildings and structures were added
47 and removed, and vegetation was planted
48 and matured. By 1965, much of the
49 vegetation around the Farm Home yard
had become overgrown, creating a more

1 enclosed yard. The 1980s building and
2 landscape repair removed much of the
3 overgrown vegetation and more or less
4 restored the historic appearance of the
5 Farm Home yard. The restoration also
6 included the addition of the outhouse and
7 smokehouse (non-contributing) to evoke
8 the farm landscape. These features are
9 not located in historically accurate sites
10 and distract from the historic spatial
11 arrangement.

12
13 The garden, east of the Farm Home,
14 was historically the kitchen garden and
15 orchard. Later (c.1940) the garden was
16 used for growing crops. The garden was
17 enclosed by fencing connected to the stone
18 posts (two extant and two non-extant).
19 After the 1940s and into the 1960s, based
20 on aerial photographs, the fencing was
21 removed resulting in one yard extending
22 from the barnyard to the Farm Home
23 yard.

24
25 The garden remains today but is not
26 legible as the orchard, garden, and
27 fencing no longer remain, two of the stone
28 posts have been removed, and there is no
29 vegetation. Historically, the garden was a
30 discrete, separate area.

31
32 The barnyard is the easternmost space of
33 the Truman Farm. During the period of
34 significance, it was filled by the Solomon
35 Young Barn which was built in 1867 and
36 burned in 1966. The barnyard was defined
37 on the southeast corner by the granary,
38 and was enclosed by fences and stone
39 columns. The barnyard space remains,
40 but the loss of the Solomon Young Barn,
41 granary, fencing, and one of the stone
42 posts, makes it difficult to distinguish it
43 as a space. Other changes to the space
44 include trees and native understory
45 vegetation that have naturalized on
46 the east boundary, which was not there
47 historically. The vegetation encloses the
48 barnyard, which was historically open on
49 all sides with views to the surrounding
land.



¹ Figure 3-10. The barnyard is the easternmost space on the Truman Farm today. Historically, the
² barnyard was dominated on the north by the Solomon Young Barn (top) built in 1867 which burned
³ in 1966 and was removed. Today, the space remains, however the loss of the barn, granary, and
⁴ fencing makes it difficult to identify the space as a barnyard (bottom). Trees and native understory
⁵ vegetation have naturalized along the east boundary. HSTL 84-17, c.1906; SS 12/6/11
⁶



¹ Figure 3-11. The Farm Home yard space remains, defined by the sugar maple grove on the west, Poultry
² House on the east, and evergreen trees on the south. At the center, is the Farm Home. Missing is the
³ fencing that enclosed the yard. HSTL 72-3594, c.1911; SS 12/6/11
⁴



1 **Figure 3-12.** The Farm Home is set on a small level plateau with the grade
2 descending gradually in all directions. SS 12/6/11

¹ Topography and Landform

² Existing Condition

³ The Truman Farm is atop a topographical
⁴ rise located between the Blue River
⁵ and Little Blue River, situated at
⁶ approximately 1,054 feet above sea level.

⁷ The extant farm property consists of a
⁸ small plateau on the north and a level
⁹ field on the south. Between the two is
¹⁰ a steep slope varying from 4:1 to 3:1. A
¹¹ swale occurs along the west edge of the
¹² property, along Blue Ridge Boulevard.
¹³

¹⁴ The north edge of the property is a steep
¹⁵ slope (30%+/-) descending to the adjacent
¹⁶ shopping mall parking lot and access
¹⁷ drive. The east edge of the property is
¹⁸ similarly steep, with a steep gradient
¹⁹ descending to the Truman Corners
²⁰ Shopping Center and the Little Blue
²¹ River beyond.
²²

²³ The north area of the property is
²⁴ relatively flat with few topographical
²⁵ changes. The sugar maple grove, west of
²⁶ the Farm Home, is on a relatively level
²⁷ ground, as is the east side of the Farm
²⁸ Home. The south portion of the site is a
²⁹ relatively flat and evenly graded field.
³⁰

³¹ To the east of the Farm Home has more
³² topographical variation.

- ³³ • Two distinct depressions occur
³⁴ approximately 100' east of the Farm
³⁵ Home, south of the Poultry House.
³⁶ The easternmost depression is
³⁷ approximately 8' x 14' and the second,
³⁸ 6' x 10'. Both are approximately 6 to 8
³⁹ inches in depth.
- ⁴⁰ • A roadway trace exists from the
⁴¹ parking area to the eastern field. It is
⁴² level, about 8' wide.
- ⁴³ • A slight circular depression occurs
⁴⁴ southeast of the Garage.
⁴⁵
⁴⁶
⁴⁷

¹ Analysis

² The topography of the farm remains
³ similar to that which existed at the end
⁴ of the period of significance. The northern
⁵ part of the property is a level plateau, set
⁶ the field to the south.
⁷

⁸ The north, east, and south edges of the
⁹ north area slope down significantly. These
¹⁰ slopes were built at the time the buildings
¹¹ and roads for adjacent development were
¹² built.

- ¹³ • Two edges, the east and south,
¹⁴ were graded c.1955 as part of the
¹⁵ development of Truman Corners, a
¹⁶ project heavily influenced by President
¹⁷ Truman. The south field was graded as
¹⁸ part of this development, as was the
¹⁹ road. This parcel was never developed.
- ²⁰ • The north edge was graded in the
²¹ 1980s as part of a parking lot and
²² access drive.
²³

²⁴ The west portion of the property, from
²⁵ the Farm Home to Blue Ridge Boulevard,
²⁶ slopes at a slight gradient from the Farm
²⁷ Home to the street. The sugar maple
²⁸ grove is set on this gentle slope.
²⁹

- ³⁰ • East of the Farm Home are two
³¹ distinct depressions located east of
³² the Farm Home. These depressions
³³ are of unknown origin. Bray, in his
³⁴ archeological report, hypothesized that
³⁵ a barn once stood in this location but
³⁶ little other evidence exists. It is also
³⁷ possible that a hog shed or other small
³⁸ structure stood in this location.
- ³⁹ • The roadway trace likely dates from
⁴⁰ the period of significance. Historic
⁴¹ photographs indicate carriages and
⁴² wagons along this roadway between
⁴³ the Farm Home and barns. Aerial
⁴⁴ photographs also document its
⁴⁵ existence through 1959. After this date
⁴⁶ it faded and likely due to the removal



1 Figure 3-13. A slight roadway trace exists between the parking area and the eastern field (upper left). The
2 north portion of the property is level with its edges sloping down significantly. On the south, this slope con-
3 nects to the south field. On the north and east, it slopes down to adjacent properties. The slope at the north
4 edge of the site was built in the late 1980s with adjacent commercial development (upper right). A steep
5 slope was built in the late 1950s separating the farm from the future development (bottom). SS 12/6/11

6

- 1 of the barns the roadway was no
2 longer needed.
3 • The slight circular depression
4 southeast of the Garage was likely the
5 location of a pond, of unknown dates.
6 It appears in photographs from the
7 1980s, prior to repairs completed to
8 the Farm Home and landscape.



1 Figure 3-14. The view of the Farm Home from the entrance drive (top) and Grandview Road (bottom left) is similar
2 to how it appeared during the period of significance, however adjacent development and the realignment of the
3 entrance drive have altered portions of the view. The view from the Farm Home and the well and pump historically
4 offered expansive views of the surrounding countryside. Today it retains an openness across the site but views are
5 truncated by adjacent vegetation along the site's perimeter. BN 11/23/11; TB 12/6/11; SS 12/6/11

1 Views and Vistas

2 Existing Condition

3 The Farm Home is the most dominant
4 feature of the Truman Farm. Views of the
5 Farm Home are apparent from Blue Ridge
6 Boulevard, the entrance drive, and from
7 many locations across the property. Views
8 from the Truman Farm include those from
9 the Farm Home, the eastern field, and
10 across the property.

11 Views into the property include those from
12 Blue Ridge Boulevard and the entrance
13 drive. The view of the Farm Home from
14 Blue Ridge Boulevard is somewhat
15 obscured by the adjacent commercial
16 properties on the north and south. A full
17 view only occurs directly west of the Farm
18 Home. At this point, the Farm Home is
19 clearly visible from the road, and along
20 the entrance drive in which the Farm
21 Home dominates the view.

23 From the Farm Home, views occur to the
24 west, east, and south to the Farm Home
25 yard and lawn beyond. The west side of
26 the Farm Home offers views to the sugar
27 maple grove, and the original entrance
28 to the farm with its two stone posts on
29 Grandview Road.

31 Analysis

32 Historically, views to the Farm Home
33 and farmstead were different from those
34 present today, primarily due to the farm
35 being much larger in acreage and few
36 buildings or trees existed to obscure the
37 view across the landscape.

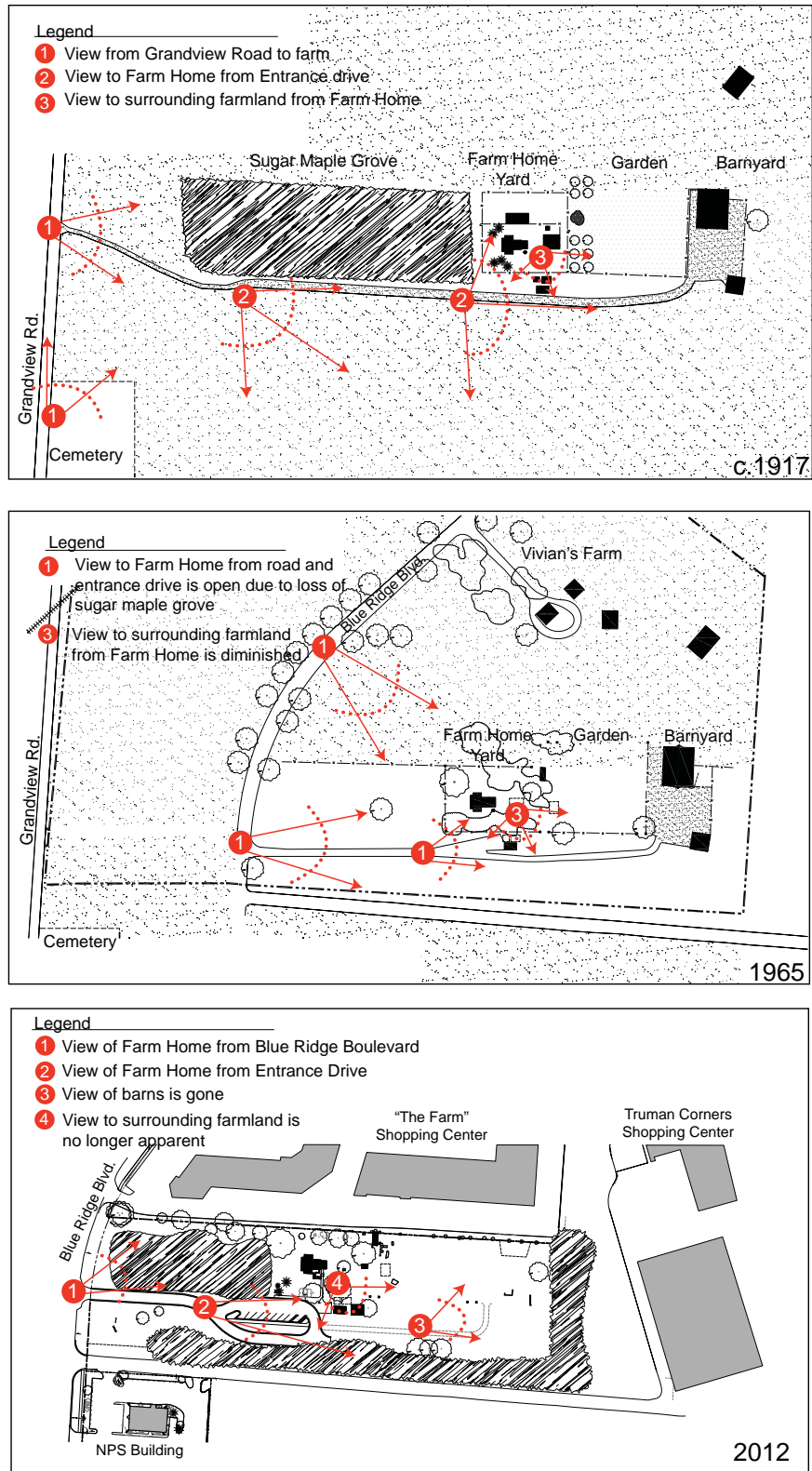
39 Before the construction of the 1950s
40 commercial development, the sugar maple
41 grove and Farm Home were the dominant
42 features. Historically, as one traveled
43 along Grandview Road, the entrance to
44 the Truman Farm would have been highly
45 visible due to this large grove of trees
46 and buildings surrounded mainly by open
47 fields. Today this role of the grove is not

1 as apparent due to adjacent development
2 that has altered the views to and from the
3 farm.

5 Intentionally planted, the views to the
6 grove from Grandview Road and the
7 entrance drive set up a sequence of entry.
8 Upon entering the entrance drive, the
9 sugar maple grove served as the backdrop
10 on one side, contrasted by open cropland
11 on the other. The Farm Home, framed by
12 the trees, in the distance, with barns and
13 outbuildings beyond. This view remained
14 until the original trees were destroyed by
15 a tornado in 1957. This altered the visual
16 relationship between the Farm Home and
17 adjacent cropland, resulting in an open,
18 exposed view between the road and Farm
19 Home. With the replanting of the sugar
20 maple grove in 1984, the visual character
21 of the farm and entrance drive was
22 restored in part.

24 Views from the Farm Home have also
25 changed since the period of significance.
26 The Farm Home, built in 1895, was set
27 upon a small topographic rise, giving it
28 a view of the surrounding open farmland
29 to the north, south, and east. During the
30 1950s, these views began to change, as
31 agricultural land changed to commercial
32 development and buildings replaced
33 the once open landscape. As parcels of
34 the farm were sold, the views to the
35 surrounding countryside became less
36 extensive. As farming operations ceased,
37 trees were grown into areas previously
38 cultivated.

40 The growth of trees and the adjacent
41 development has altered the expansive
42 views across the broader landscape that
43 were once apparent from the Farm Home,
44 and today, there are few, if any, views that
45 capture the historic sense of openness.



1 Figure 3-15. Views historically were open across the large acreage of the farm, while the sugar maple
2 grove directed views along Grandview Road and the entrance drive. The loss of the sugar maple
3 grove opened the views to the Farm Home in 1965, just as commercial development encroached upon
4 the views to surrounding farmland. Today, views are obstructed by vegetation and adjacent buildings.
MBD

1 Views across the Farm Home yard and
2 barnyard remain similar to those that
3 existed historically. The views today are
4 truncated by trees on the east and south
5 sides of the property and trees growing
6 between the north and south portions of
7 the property. These trees did not occur
8 historically. Views would have extended
9 beyond the current farm boundary and
10 the view between the north and south
11 portions of the property would have been
12 open.



1 Figure 3-16. Views from the farm have changed
2 since the period of significance. The sugar
3 maple grove stood out against the agrarian
4 landscape (top). During the 1950s, these views
5 began to change, as agricultural land changed to
6 commercial development and buildings replaced
7 the once open landscape. HSTL 84-12-3, c.1920



1 Figure 3-17. Vehicular access to the property is from Blue Ridge Boulevard, via a 20-foot wide asphalt entrance drive
2 that leads to a parking area located just southwest of the Farm Home (top). Concrete paths connect the parking area
3 with the Farm Home. A wood accessible ramp provides access into the Farm Home. SS 12/6/11
4

1 Circulation

2 Existing Condition

3 Circulation at the Truman Farm includes
4 vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Vehicular
5 access to the property is from Blue Ridge
6 Boulevard, along a twenty-foot wide
7 asphalt entrance drive that leads to a
8 parking area located just southwest of the
9 Farm Home.

10 The parking area is a circular drive with
11 angled parking, consisting of nine parking
12 spaces including one accessible space,
13 an accessible aisle, and an accessible
14 sidewalk ramp. The asphalt drive and
15 parking area include a shallow concrete
16 drain pan and curb. The southeast corner
17 of the drive does not have a curb, which
18 allows maintenance vehicles access to
19 the east portion of the property. Another
20 service parking space is located on a
21 concrete pad just west of the Garage, and
22 is approximately 32' x 20.'

24 A road remnant occurs south of the
25 entrance drive, connecting Blue Ridge
26 Boulevard, ending at Tract 3, and
27 extending east to Truman Corners
28 Shopping Center to the east. This road is
29 in poor condition and access is restricted
30 by a gate approximately 250 feet east
31 of Blue Ridge Boulevard. The west road
32 portion forms part of the circulation
33 system of Tract 3.

35 Concrete paths connect the parking
36 area with the Farm Home. One path
37 parallels the parking area on its north
38 side for approximately 90-feet, connecting
39 to another path that extends from the
40 parking area to the south side of the Farm
41 Home. This path is approximately four-
42 feet wide, and provides a route for visitors
43 to access the Farm Home.

45 An accessible route into the Farm Home is
46 provided by the wood ramp that connects
47 with the covered porch of the Farm Home,

1 entering into the dining room. The ramp
2 is in good condition, as are the concrete
3 paths. The remainder of the pedestrian
4 circulation is informal throughout most
5 of the site and no other developed paths
6 exist.

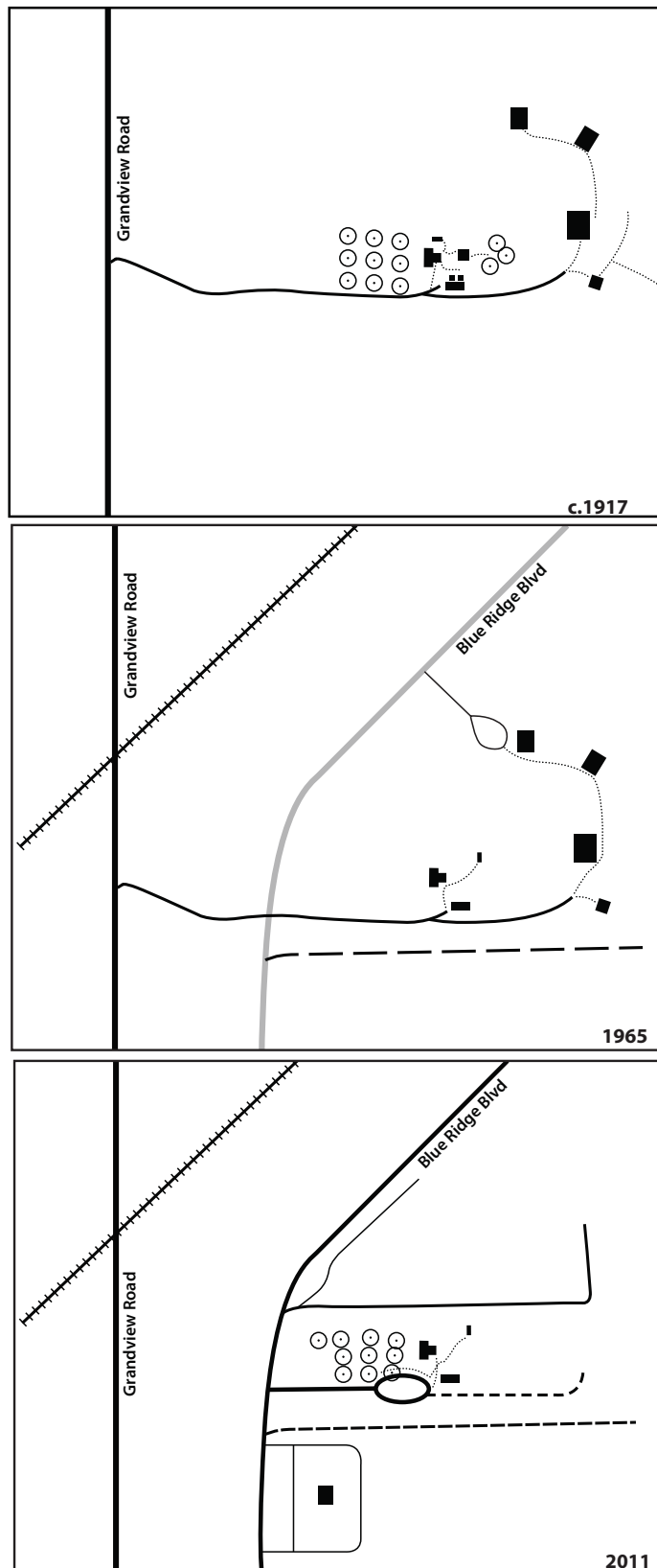
8 Additional circulation includes the
9 vehicular and pedestrian circulation
10 within Tract 3. This consists of two access
11 points from Blue Ridge Boulevard that
12 then form a circular drive in front of and
13 around the building on Tract 3. Parking is
14 available for more than 40 vehicles with
15 two accessible spaces, an accessible aisle,
16 and accessible sidewalk ramps. A concrete
17 sidewalk at the west and south edges of
18 the building connect the parking area
19 with the building's entrance.

21 Analysis

22 The circulation patterns that exist today
23 at the Truman Farm somewhat follow
24 historic routes, although the scale and
25 surfacing of drives and paths today differ
26 from those that existed during the period
27 of significance. A large parking area exists
28 in an area historically open farm land.
29 In addition, other circulation routes exist
30 that were used historically but are not
31 currently in use.

33 Vehicular access from Blue Ridge
34 Boulevard dates from 1929 when the road
35 was built bisecting the Truman property.
36 Prior to this, access to the farm was from
37 Grandview Road further to the west.
38 Construction of Blue Ridge Boulevard
39 across the property shortened the length
40 of the entrance drive, divided the sugar
41 maple grove, and became a dominant
42 feature and edge.

44 The asphalt driveway and parking area
45 were built in the mid-1980s by Jackson



1 Figure 3-18. In 1917, circulation included a dirt entrance drive from Grandview Road and a network
2 of informal paths. The Trumans granted a right-of-way to the Kansas City & Grandview Railway
3 company in 1927. By 1965, the entrance to the farmstead had shifted to Blue Ridge Boulevard.
4 Today, the entrance drive is different from its historic material and alignment, and does not extend
5 to the barnyard as it did historically. MBD



Figure 3-19. Historically, a path connected the Garage to the Farm Home (top). By c.1960, a raised, likely paved, pathway connected the two. Later a concrete pad occurred directly south of the Farm Home (middle photos). The concrete pad is now gone. The path from the parking area to the back door of the Farm Home remains in essentially its historic alignment (bottom). HSTL 029005, c.1940; HSTL 61-66-02, c.1961; Al O'Bright 8/83; SS 12/6/11

1 County to provide visitors access. The
2 large parking area encroaches on the farm
3 landscape, disrupting the bucolic setting.
4 This drive somewhat follows the historic
5 alignment of the original entrance drive.
6 However, during the period of significance
7 the drive was located further south
8 and did not have a large circular drive
9 or parking area. Historically the need
10 for parking was minor, provided in the
11 Garage which Harry S Truman moved to
12 the site in 1914.

13
14 The existing access road that connects
15 Blue Ridge Boulevard with the Truman
16 Corners Shopping Center was built in
17 c.1955 as part of the shopping center
18 development, which included plans to
19 develop the south field. These were never
20 actualized the road remains as built. Over
21 time it has deteriorated and is in poor
22 condition.

23
24 The concrete walkways that connect the
25 parking area with the Farm Home were
26 added in the 1980s. Historically, a path
27 connected the Garage to the Farm Home.
28 The Farm Home yard was fenced as early
29 as c.1906, and a gate in the south portion
30 of the fence provided access to the Garage.
31 This pathway was not paved, and the area
32 around the well was packed dirt until
33 c.1960, according to historic photographs
34 that indicate a raised pathway, likely
35 paved.¹⁹

36
37 Photographs from the 1980s taken prior
38 to repair work, indicate a large concrete
39 pad covered the well and formed a paved
40 area on the south side of the Farm
41 Home. This has since been removed and
42 replaced with the existing concrete paths.
43 Photographs from the 1980s also indicate
44 a concrete pad in front of the Garage, but
45 it is unknown when this first was built.

46
47 The concrete sidewalk along the parking
48 area was built in the 1980s and is

49 ¹⁹ HST Archives, photograph 61-66-02.



¹ Figure 3-20. Circulation patterns had begun to change around the farm by the 1920s with the
² addition of Blue Ridge Boulevard, Highway 71, and the Kansas City and Grandview Railroad.
³ They would be further altered during the 1950s as farmland was sold to make way for commercial
⁴ development. HSTL c.1955



3 **Figure 3-21.** Historically, the entrance road continued
4 beyond the Garage, past the kitchen garden, to the
5 barnyard (top). Today, this road is barely visible as it
6 was allowed to fade once farming waned and the barns
7 were removed (bottom). HSTL 80-8, c. 1910; SS 12/6/11

8

1 not historic. The accessible ramp was
2 added in 1996 and provides wheelchair
3 accessibility between the parking area
4 and Farm Home.

5

6 Historically, pedestrian circulation around
7 the farm was likely relatively informal.
8 Paths would have existed from the Farm
9 Home to the Poultry House, around the
10 well and pump, to the kitchen garden and
11 orchard, and to the barnyard. Pedestrian
12 routes would have been shared with
13 drives for carriage access, and later
14 vehicles.

15

16 Archeological evidence and historic
17 aerials indicate that historically the
18 entrance road continued beyond the
19 Garage, and the kitchen garden to the
20 barnyard between the Solomon Young
21 Barn and the granary. This road was
22 likely present from Solomon Young's time
23 on the farm (1867) and appears clearly in
24 an aerial photograph from 1959. It likely
25 faded after farming activities ceased and
26 the Solomon Young Barn burned in 1966.
27 Traces of this road are visible today.

28

29 Other paths and dirt drives connected the
30 barnyard and Solomon Young Barn with
31 the hay barn and milk barn to the north
throughout the period of significance.
These paths have been completely
removed due to the development of the
shopping center north of the Farm Home.



1 **Figure 3-22.** There are five standing stone posts built of coursed limestone and mortar with concrete
2 caps. The posts occur along an east west line south of the Farm Home and historically supported
3 fences and gates. SS 12/6/11; BN 11/23/11

1 Small Scale Features

2 Existing Condition

3 Several small scale features exist within
4 the Truman Farm. These include extant
5 features from the period of significance
6 and those of contemporary construction
7 that facilitate interpretation of the site.
8 Important small-scale features include
9 the Truman Farm Well and Pump (TF05),
10 stone columns (TF04), and fencing.

11 Truman Farm Well and Pump (TF05)

12 To the immediate south of the Farm
13 Home, a white hand-pump set atop a
14 well is set into the concrete sidewalk.
15 The concrete sidewalk widens around the
16 pump to six by eight feet, and the pump
17 is mounted on a raised circular concrete
18 platform measuring approximately
19 eighteen inches.
20

21 Stone posts (5 standing; 5 overturned) 22 (TF04)

23 There are five stone posts standing at the
24 Truman Farm, built of coursed limestone
25 and mortar with concrete caps. Iron
26 hardware is evident on most of the posts.
27 The five standing posts occur along an
28 east west line south of the Farm Home.
29 Four are set into two pairs, and one is
30 separate from the others, set southwest
31 of the Farm Home. These posts are
32 described as Posts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
33

34 Post 1 is approximately thirty-two inches
35 square and five feet in height. It has two
36 metal pipes, one on the east side and the
37 other on the north that extend to the full
38 height of the post.
39

40 The other stone posts are set in pairs. The
41 west pair, Posts 2 and 3, are spaced 14-
42 feet apart. Each post is 32-inches square
43 and five feet in height. Post 2 has an iron
44 post on its west side with an attached
45 remnant of wire fencing. The east side
46 of the post has a recessed space in the
47 stonework, approximately 30-inches



1 Figure 3-23. The Truman Farm Well and Pump is
2 immediately south of the Farm Home. The pump is
3 not original, is of a slightly different style and faces
4 a different direction from the one that stood in this
5 location historically. SS 12/6/11



1 **Figure 3-24.** Fences enclose three sides of the Truman Farm and include three fence types. A post and wire fence is on
2 the north edge (top), and around the Poultry House (middle); a post, mesh, and barbwire fence occurs at the east and
3 southeast edges (bottom left), and post and barbwire fence at the south edge (bottom right). SS 12/6/11
4

1 above the ground. Post 3 has an iron post
2 and remnant wire fencing on its east
3 and north sides. It also has an iron eye,
4 2-inches in diameter and three feet above
5 the ground on its south side. On the west
6 side of Post 3 are two iron hinges.

7
8 The east pair, Posts 4 and 5, are in
9 alignment with and located 171 feet
10 directly east of Posts 2 and 3. Posts 4 and
11 5 are approximately 32-inches square,
12 and 5-feet in height. Post 4 has an iron
13 pole on its west side and a recess in the
14 stonework on the east. Post 5 has two
15 hinges on its west side and two more on
16 its east side. The north side of Post 5 has
17 two iron eyes, similar to Post 3.

18
19 Remnants of other stone posts exist on
20 the property. A pile of limestone boulders
21 is clustered just north of Post 3, and the
22 remnants of five stone posts are also
23 evident. These are described as Posts 6, 7,
24 8, 9, and 10, although they are no longer
25 standing.

26
27 Posts 6 and 7 are closest to Post 3 in a
28 cluster of debris and are both broken
29 into large pieces. The largest piece of
30 Post 6 measures 34-inches by 33-inches
31 and is 39-inches long. An iron pole flanks
32 one side. Two other pieces nearby are
33 approximately 12-inches high, with one
34 measuring 35-inches square and the other
35 18-inches by 24-inches. Within this same
36 stone debris are remnants of Post 7. Part
37 of this post is set upright and is 35-inches
38 square and 27-inches in height; the other
39 portion of this post is 13-inches in height
40 and 35-inches square.

41
42 Further north are Post 8 remnants. This
43 post is broken into two pieces. The largest
44 piece is 55-inches long and 35-inches
45 square at one end, and 31-inches square
46 at the opposite end. The other portion
47 of Post 8 measures 35-inches square by
48 12-inches in height.

1 Remnants of Post 9 are just north of Post
2 8. This post is also broken into two pieces.
3 The largest piece is 54-inches long, with
4 varying widths (between 30-inches and
5 38-inches) on its sides. An iron pole runs
6 parallel to the longest side. The smaller
7 portion of this post measures thirty-four
8 inches square by fifteen inches.

9
10 Post 10 is located northeast of Post 9. It
11 is cracked in half, along the line of iron
12 reinforcement. In total, it is 83-inches
13 long and varies in width from 36-inches
14 by 27-inches on one end to 33-inches by
15 27-inches on the opposite end. This post
16 also has a fragment of iron post, about
17 three feet long, on one side.

18 19 Fences

20 Fences enclose the boundary of the
21 Truman Farm NHS. These include three
22 different fence types—post and wire
23 (north boundary and around Poultry
24 House); post, mesh, and barbwire (east
25 and southeast boundaries); and post and
26 barbwire (between the north and south
27 portions of the property).

28
29 Fence 1 was installed after the 1994
30 transfer of property to the NPS. The post
31 and wire fence along the north property
32 boundary separates the farm from the
33 shopping center. The fence is supported
34 by wood posts and rails at the corners and
35 where adjacent to the Poultry House with
36 regularly spaced metal posts in between.
37 The wood posts are 62-inches in height,
38 and the wire mesh fence is approximately
39 50-inches tall. This fence extends from
40 approximately 130 feet northwest of the
41 Farm Home to the northeast corner of the
42 property for a total length of 625 feet. It
43 is interrupted by the Poultry House as
44 this structure extends across the property
45 boundary for about one foot. The fence is
46 in good condition.

47
48 Fence 2 is a post and wire fence that
49 frames the concrete pad of the Poultry



¹ Figure 3-25. Small scale features within the Truman Farm include features of contemporary
² construction that facilitate interpretation of the site, such as yard lights, signage, and the flagpole
³ (top). An antique hayrake near the entrance is the only piece of farm equipment on display at the
⁴ farm (bottom). SS 12/6/11; BN 11/23/11

House. This fence is 28-feet long and is supported by two wooden posts, one at the south end, one at the northwest corner. The east end of the fence connects to the Poultry House. Another wood post is located across the concrete pad from the fence with only a set of metal hinges on its west side. This wire fence is of a denser weave than others on the property. In several places it does not reach its full height, likely damaged due to overgrown vegetation. There are three small trees (likely volunteers) at the northeast corner, and they are displacing the wood post. This fence is in poor condition.

Fence 3 is a wood post, wire mesh and barbwire fence that defines the east and southeast boundary of the Truman Farm. This fence is supported by wooden posts at property corners, and has wire mesh at the bottom with barbed wire strands at the top. Metal posts support this fence at regular intervals. Portions have fallen or have been damaged by falling tree branches and dense volunteer overgrown vegetation. The corner posts at the southeast property corner differ from others on site. They are not turned posts, but are untreated, natural wood, reinforced with two metal cross-pipes.

Fence 4 is a post and barbwire fence that occurs between the north portion of the property where the Farm Home is set and the south portion that is a field. It is also overgrown with dense vegetation and portions of it have been damaged. It extends for approximately 470 feet.

Concrete pad near Poultry House

Located immediately south of the Poultry House is a concrete pad measures 16-feet by 19-feet. Poured as one slab, it is cracked across its length and width and at the edges closest to the building. It is framed on one side by a post and wire fence and on the other by the Poultry House.

Interpretive signage consists of four signs including the entrance sign and a brochure stand. The main entrance sign at the edge of the Truman NHS at Blue Ridge Boulevard, and two interpretive signs are located near the Farm Home. The interpretive signs are relatively new additions and function to orient the visitor to the property and its history. A small stand with interpretive brochures is located along the concrete sidewalk from the parking area to the Farm Home.

Pin oak plaque (TF06)

A bronze plaque occurs under a pin oak tree in the Farm Home yard. It was placed in 1987 by the National Association of Retired Federal Employees to honor the United States Constitution.

Yard Lights (4)

Four yard lights are located at the corners of the Farm Home with lighting directed toward the building. These lights are approximately 9-inches tall, set on a small concrete base.

Flagpole

The flagpole is located to the south of the Farm Home and just west of the Garage on the concrete pad in front of the Garage. It is unknown when the flagpole was installed.

Farm equipment

Adjacent to the entrance sign is a rusted hayrake. It is the only piece of antique farm equipment on display.

Analysis

The only small scale features that date from the period of significance are the stone posts and the well. During the period of significance, numerous small scale features existed, including the original iron pump, rain barrels around the Farm Home, fences, additional stone posts, and other miscellaneous features that have disappeared since farm operations ended.



¹ Figure 3-26. A well has existed immediately south the Farm Home since the first Farm Home was
² built in 1867. Originally, water was drawn by a windlass and bucket (top), by 1912 the windlass was
³ removed and a pump had been installed (middle and bottom). HSTL 84-12-09; HSTL 83-126; HSTL
⁴ 84-18; HSTL 84-21; HSTL 2006-77

1 Today, many small scale features within
2 the Truman Farm are contemporary
3 features that assist with interpreting
4 the historic site but are not contributing
5 features.

6
7 Truman Farm Well and Pump (Well 1867;
8 Pump 2007) (TF05)

9 One of the most prominent small scale
10 features is the Truman Farm Well
11 and Pump that has changed in style
12 and appearance since the period of
13 significance.

14
15 A well has existed in the same location
16 as the exiting pump since the first house
17 was built in 1867. Originally, water was
18 drawn by a windlass and bucket, but by
19 1912 the windlass was removed and a
20 black pump added. In May of 1912 Harry
21 S Truman notes in a letter to Bess that he
22 had painted the pump handle white, after
23 running into it in the dark.

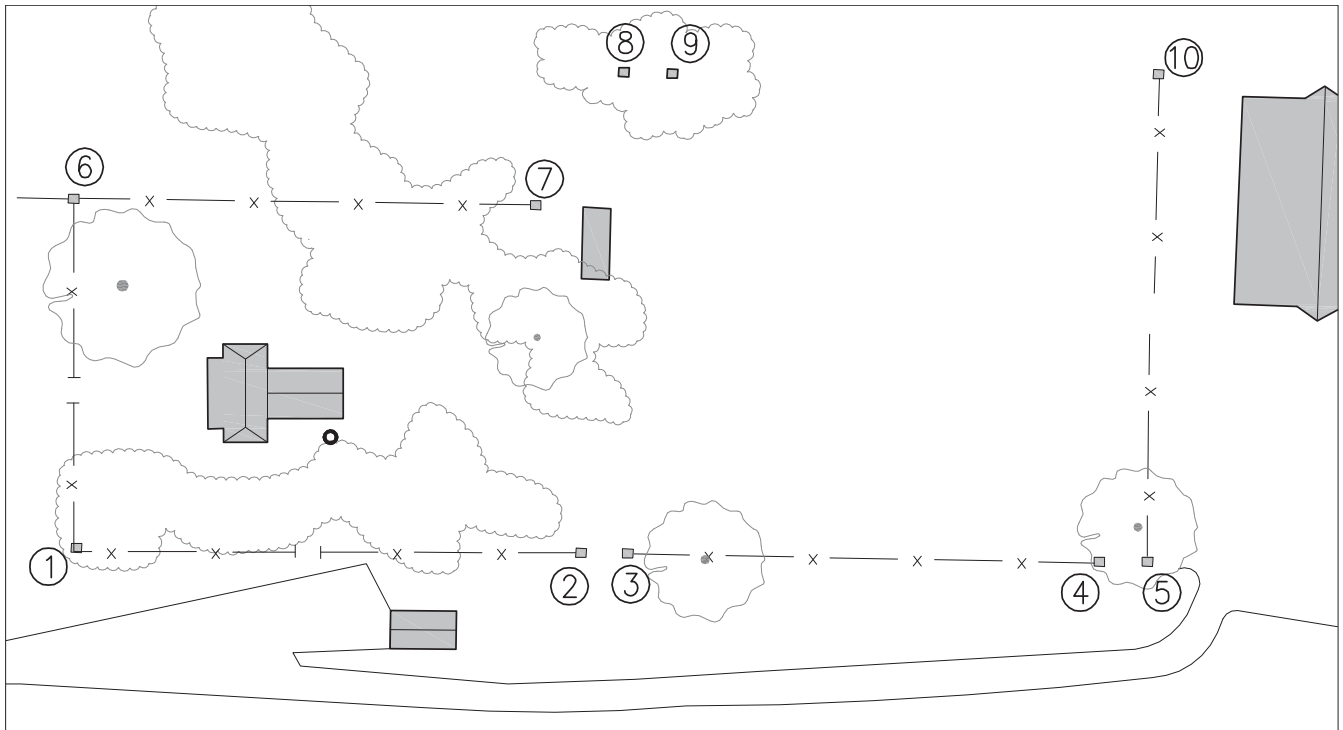
24
25 After the Farm Home was connected
26 to running water in 1949, the well was
27 no longer needed for domestic use. The
28 original pump was removed by the 1960s
29 and the well covered by a concrete pad.

30
31 Between 1984 and 1995 a replica of the
32 white pump was placed over the well,
33 with a bronze plaque in memory of Harry
34 S Truman (now in the museum collection).
35 In 2003, the pump handle and pump
36 were stolen, and it was replaced with the
37 current pump and handle in 2007. This
38 pump is oriented slightly different from
39 how it appeared historically. The pump
40 handle is oriented to the north as it was
41 historically, but the spigot faces south
42 where as historically it was to the east.

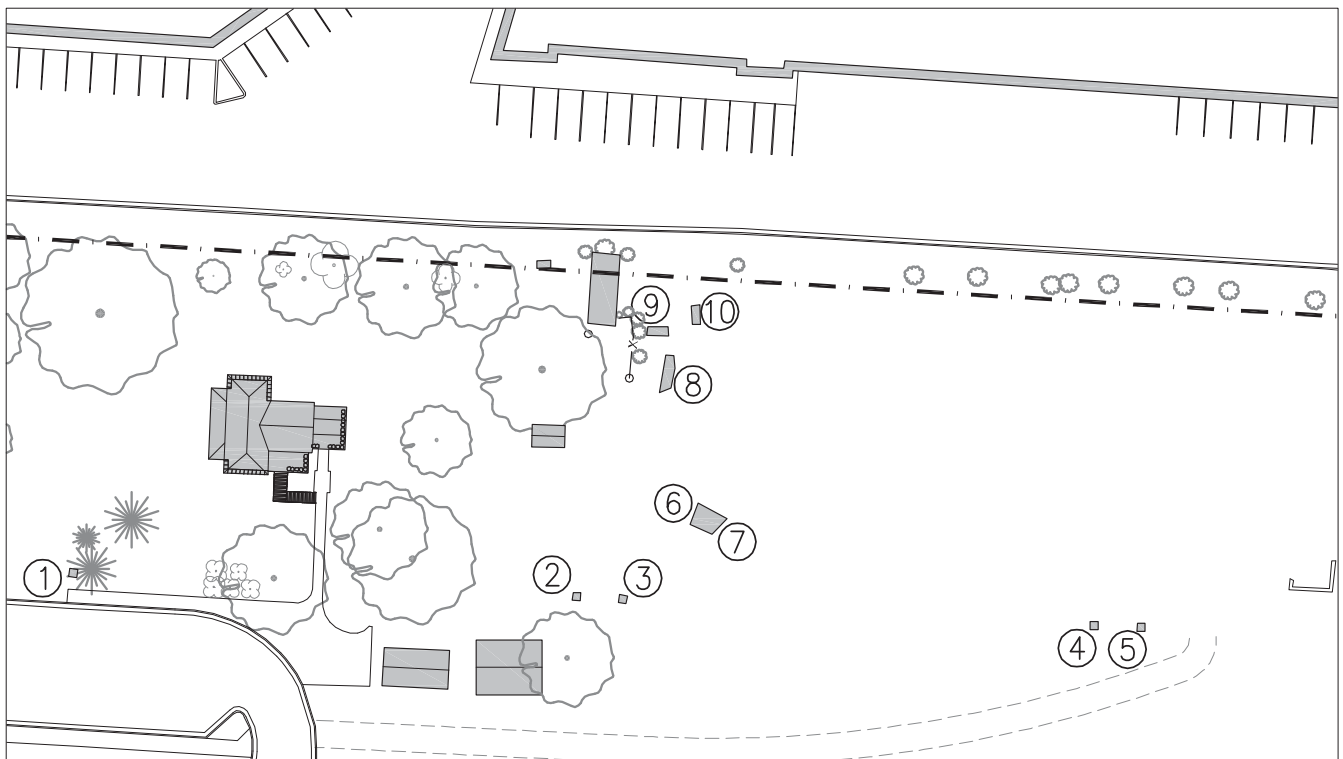
43
44 The pump is not a contributing feature,
45 but assists in telling the story of the
46 farm landscape, since numerous family
47 photographs taken around the well
48 indicate that in some respects, this
49 was the center of domestic life on the



3 **Figure 3-27.** The Farm Home received running
4 water in 1949 and the well was no longer
5 needed for domestic use. After the period of
6 significance, the pump was removed and the
7 well was covered with a concrete pad. Today's
8 pump is a replacement sited similarly to how
9 it appeared historically. Al O'Bright 8/83, SS
12/6/11



1965



PRESENT

Figure 3-28. The stone posts at the Truman farm likely date from c.1920 to 1930. After the shopping center to the north of the farm was developed in 1987, several of the stone posts (Posts 6 through 10) were removed and placed, on their sides, on the farm property. MBD

1 farm. The well retains its place, and is
2 a contributing feature to the cultural
3 landscape.

4
5 Stone posts (c.1920-1930) (5 standing; 5
6 overturned) (TF04)

7 The stone posts date from the period of
8 significance and are contributing features.

9
10 It is unknown when the stone posts were
11 built. In 1911 Truman referred to stone
12 posts in a letter to Bess but it is uncertain
13 where they were located, as they could
14 have been elsewhere on the 300 acre farm.
15 The stone posts don't appear clearly in
16 historic photographs until the 1930s and
17 1940s.

18
19 The stone posts were placed to anchor
20 the corners of fences that defined the
21 Farm Home yard, garden, and barnyard
22 spaces. As farming activities ceased in the
23 1950s, fences were not maintained and
24 eventually were removed. After the period
25 of significance, the stone posts remained
26 but fences were covered by naturalized
27 vegetation and the historic divisions of
28 the farm were less clear. Today, the stone
29 posts are a striking component of the
30 property but their context and association
31 with the fences and the spaces they
32 denoted is less evident.

33
34 Posts 1 to 5 are in their original locations.
35 The other five posts (Posts 6 to 10) were
36 removed during the 1987 construction
37 of the Truman Farm Shopping Center
38 on land that was historically Vivian
39 Truman's farm. These posts were placed
40 in the field east of the Farm Home. Posts
41 6 through 10 are broken and lying on
42 their sides and it is somewhat difficult to
43 distinguish one post from another. The
44 posts are contributing features of the farm
45 landscape.

46 Fences

47 Fence 1 is a newer fence built by
48 NPS employees in 1994 to deter foot
49

1 traffic across the property and to deter
2 vandalism along established foot paths
3 across the property. It is non-contributing.

4
5 Fence 2 is likely from the period of
6 significance. The Poultry House was
7 moved c.1930 to 1940, and the concrete
8 pad was likely poured at this time. By the
9 1980s, this area was well overgrown with
10 vegetation which was cleared after the
11 repairs to the Farm Home. This fence is a
12 contributing feature.

13
14 Fence 3 is of an unknown date. No fence
15 existed in this location during Harry S
16 Truman's time at the farm. It is possible
17 that the fence dates from the 1950s after
18 Truman Corners shopping center was
19 developed.

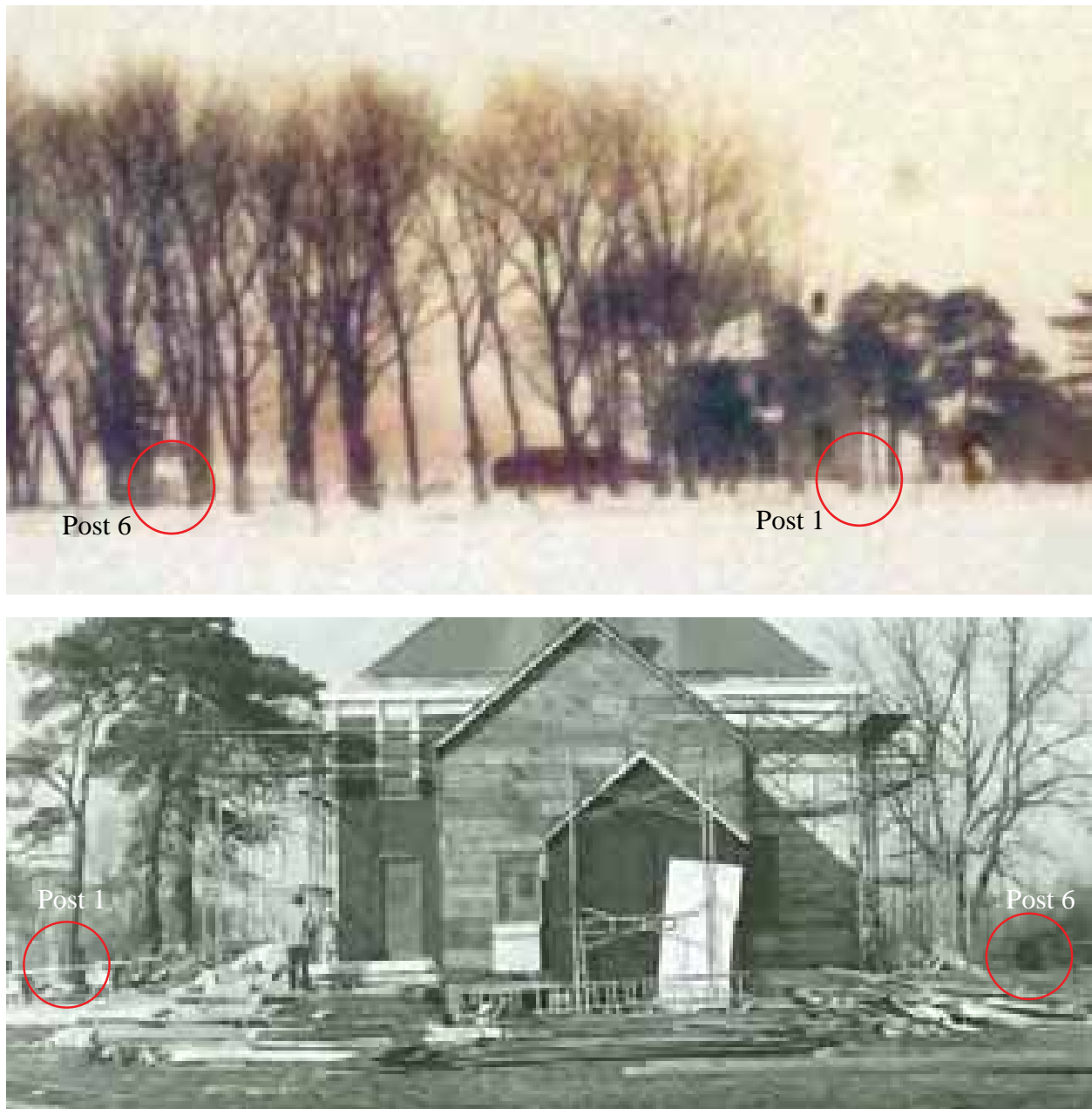
20
21 Fence 4 may have been added in the late
22 1950s after Truman Corners shopping
23 center was developed.

24
25 Non-contributing Features

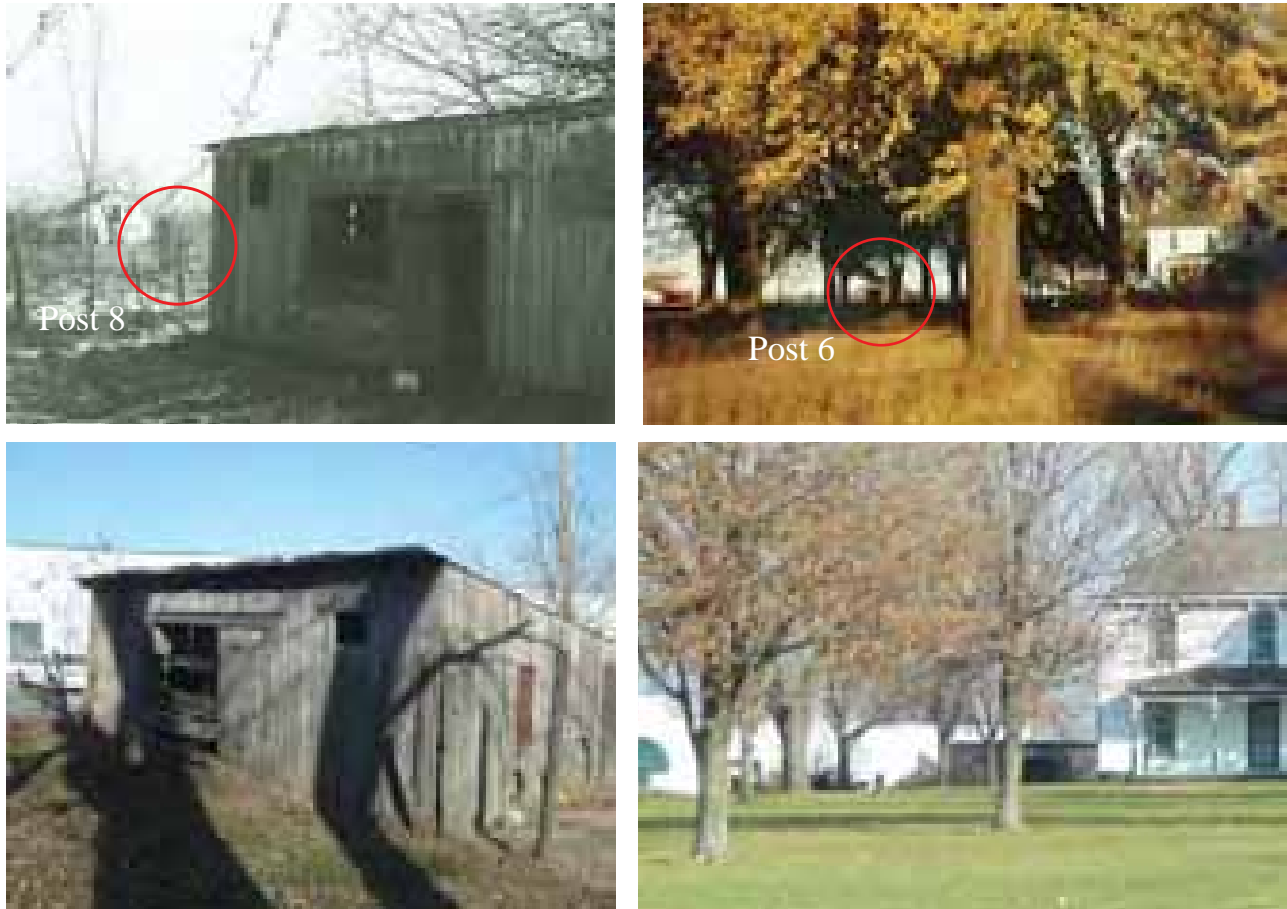
26 The newer small-scale features including
27 the interpretive signs, yard lights,
28 flagpole, antique farm equipment, water
29 pump, and faucet are all non-contributing
30 features as they are not from the period of
31 significance.



¹ Figure 3-29. Five posts were removed during the 1987 construction of the Truman Farm Shopping Center on the
² land north of the Truman Farm that was historically Vivian Truman's farm. They were placed in the field east of
³ the Farm Home. Posts 6 through 10 are broken and lying on their sides. SS 12/6/11



¹ Figure 3-30. During the period of significance Posts 1 and 6 supported a fence that framed the front of
² the Farm Home yard (top). At some point the fence was removed but the stone posts remained into
³ the 1980s (bottom). In 1987, the north post, Post 6, was removed for development of the adjacent
⁴ property. HSTL 2 83-127, c.1920-1930; Jill O'Bright 2/84



¹ Figure 3-31. During the period of significance, the stone posts marked the corners of different portions of
² the farm. Along with fences, the posts defined the spatial organization of the property. Post 8 historical-
³ ly was located north of the Poultry House and defined the garden (middle left). It was removed in 1987
⁴ (lower left). Post 6 was located northwest of the Farm Home (middle right) and defined that portion
⁵ of the Farm Home yard. The post is no longer extant (bottom right). Jill O'Bright 2/84; SS 12/6/11; BN
⁶ 11/23/11



¹ Figure 3-32. The stone posts were placed to anchor the corners of fences which distinguished the
² Farm Home yard, garden, and barnyard spaces. As farming activities ceased, fences were not main-
³ tained and eventually were removed and (Posts 8 and 9, top). After the period of significance, Posts
⁴ 2 and 3 remained but were obscured by overgrown vegetation (middle). The extant Posts 2 and 3 are
⁵ a striking component of the cultural landscape but their context and association with fences and the
⁶ spaces that they denoted has been lost (bottom). Bill Curtis 1974; Al O'Bright 8/83; SS 12/6/11

⁷



1 **Figure 3-33.** Volunteer grasses grow taller along the north boundary fence (upper left). A few trees
2 remain from the period of significance, including a 72" maple (upper right), while the few ornamental
3 plantings include spirea (middle right) and grapevines along the north fence (lower right). A native
4 pin oak is located just behind the Farm Home, planted in 1987 (lower left). SS 12/6/11
5

1 Vegetation

2 Existing Condition

3 The vegetation of the Truman Farm
4 consists primarily of mown grass and
5 deciduous trees associated with the Farm
6 Home and overgrown vegetation along the
7 property lines.

8 The sugar maple grove of 18 trees is
9 located between the west facade of the
10 Farm Home and Blue Ridge Boulevard.
11 This grove contains evenly spaced rows
12 of trees of various ages all are in good
13 condition. In 2011, several trees were
14 planted to fill in gaps in the rows.
15

16 In addition to the sugar maple grove,
17 other tree species include crabapple, elm,
18 walnut, oak, and pine. Southeast of the
19 Farm Home is a grouping of three pine
20 trees varying in height and diameter
21 from 26-inches in diameter to 8-inches
22 and approximately 30-feet high to 12-feet
23 high. These trees are in fair condition.
24

25 The other trees are in fair to poor
26 condition. The 72-inches in diameter
27 maple near the Poultry House, likely
28 established during the period of
29 significance, is in fair condition. A native
30 pin oak is east of the Farm Home, planted
31 by the National Association of Retired
32 Federal Employees in 1987 and is in good
33 condition.
34

35 Ornamental plantings are sparse, but a
36 few deciduous shrubs are near the Farm
37 Home, including spirea north of the home
38 and lilacs to the south.
39

40 Several vines grow along Fence 1, along
41 the north property line. These are
42 primarily grape vines. Mixed into the
43 vines are tall grasses and small trees.
44

45 A grape vine is on the fence that
46 surrounds the concrete pad at the Poultry
47



1 Figure 3-34. Mown lawn covers most of the property.
2 Volunteer vegetation grows along fence lines (top and
3 middle). A thick line of trees that have been extensively
4 pruned to accommodate power lines occur along the
5 fence line between the north and south portions of the
6 property (bottom). SS 12/6/11; BN 11/23/11



1 **Figure 3-35.** During the period of significance, the adjacent land was under agricultural
2 use and the vegetation varied from season to season and mostly consisted of cereal crops
3 and pasture grass, which contrasted with the vegetation planted around the Farm Home
4 - the maple grove and pine trees -which were both northwest and southwest of the Farm
5 Home (top). Today, the agricultural land with its low-growing grasses and crops is gone,
6 while the trees around the Farm Home have been replanted and reflect the historic plant-
7 ing pattern (bottom). HSTL 72-3585, c.1912-1920; SS 12/6/11

1 House. Larger volunteer shrubs and
2 trees occur at the base and foundation
3 of the Poultry House. A large stump is
4 located to the east of the Poultry House.
5 This may have been a mulberry tree that
6 was threatening the foundation and was
7 removed.
8
9 Naturalized, volunteer vegetation
10 grows along the east boundary of the
11 property and continues down the slope to
12 Turman Corners. This area is dense with
13 undergrowth and overcrowded tall trees.
14 Along the fence to the south of the Farm
15 Home dense brush is accompanied by a
16 thick line of trees runs east west. These
17 trees have been extensively pruned to
18 accommodate overhead power lines. As a
19 result, these trees are in poor condition.
20
21 Lawn covers most of the property,
22 occurring underneath the sugar maple
23 grove, extending to the foundations of the
24 Farm Home and other outbuildings, and
25 in the field east of the Farm Home.
26
27 A few bare spots in the lawn exist in the
28 east field. Grasses grow taller along fences
29 and the south field is primarily grass.
30

31 **Analysis**

32 The vegetation of the Truman Farm has
33 changed since the period of significance,
34 although certain vegetative patterns
35 remains similar to those that existed
36 historically. These include the pattern of
37 the sugar maple grove, trees around the
38 Farm Home and fields.
39
40 During the period of significance, the
41 land surrounding the Farm Home and
42 barns was cultivated. The vegetation
43 varied from season to season and mostly
44 consisted of cereal crops and pasture
45 grass. Naturalized vegetation likely grew
46 along fences, natural drainages, and
47 roadways. Today, the surrounding land
48 has largely been replaced by commercial
49 development. Naturalized vegetation still

1 grows along fences and ditches although
2 these features are not in the same
3 locations as they were historically.
4
5 In 1867, Solomon Young planted a large
6 sugar maple grove to the west of the Farm
7 Home. The trees were planted in evenly
8 spaced rows and extended from the front
9 of the Farm Home to Grandview Road.
10 The original trees were destroyed in 1957
11 by a tornado. The grove was replanted in
12 1984 by two local girl scout troops who
13 planted twenty 10-foot sugar maple trees
14 in a pattern similar to the original but
15 not in the exact locations. Some of these
16 trees died, and the grove was replanted in
17 autumn of 2011 with ten 3-inch maples.
18 Although none of the original maple
19 trees planted by Solomon Young remain,
20 the trees that currently stand continue
21 the historic pattern. The sugar maple
22 grove is a character-defining feature that
23 contributes to the historic character of the
24 Truman Farm.
25
26 The other tree species, crabapple, elm,
27 walnut, oak, and pine, are likely not
28 from the historic period. The exception
29 is the large maple tree in the back of the
30 Farm Home yard. The three pine trees
31 are not from the historic period but are
32 in a historic location. During the period
33 of significance pine trees also grew
34 northwest of the Farm Home.
35
36 The area immediately adjacent to the
37 Farm Home was historically relatively
38 kept free of ornamental plantings
39 and a lawn was grown right up to the
40 foundation of the Farm Home. Martha
41 Ann Swoyer, Harry Truman's niece,
42 remembers Martha Ellen Truman
43 growing nasturtiums and cockscomb "in
44 that old foundation that was out the back
45 there in the yard."²⁰ There is no evidence
46 of these plantings today.
47
48 Historic photographs indicate two rose
49

20 MAS Interview, HSTR #1991-5



¹ Figure 3-36. In 1867, Solomon Young planted a large sugar maple grove to the west
² of the Farm Home that extended along the entrance drive to Grandview Road.
³ This grove of trees was destroyed in 1957 by a tornado and was replanted in 1984.
⁴ Although none of the original maple trees planted by Solomon Young remain, the
⁵ trees that currently stand resemble the design of the original grove. HSTL 84-9,
⁶ c.1940; BN 11/23/11

1 arbors grew along the fence that framed
2 the Farm Home yard. One grew over the
3 west gate and the other over the south to
4 the side entrance of the Farm Home yard.
5 These rose arbors were present between
6 the 1920s and 1950s, based on historic
7 photographs, which roughly corresponds
8 to the time that Mary Jane and Martha
9 Ellen lived in the Farm Home. The rose
10 arbors are not extant and no indication of
11 their presence remains.

12
13 Little evidence exists of the other
14 plantings that are known to have existed
15 historically near or around the Farm
16 Home. The existing lilacs and spirea may
17 have been added by the Williams family
18 during the time they leased the property
19 from the Trumans, 1956 to 1982.

20
21 After 1965, the vegetation around the
22 Farm Home appeared to be more dense
23 and overgrown. During the 1980s Farm
24 Home repairs, the property was cleared of
25 much of the overgrown vegetation. This
26 more open appearance occurs today, and
27 is in keeping with the historic appearance
28 of the Farm Home.

29
30 The Trumans kept a vegetable garden
31 and an orchard east of the Farm Home.
32 It is unknown exactly where each were
33 located, but it is likely they were between
34 the Farm Home yard and the barnyard.
35 Written documentation notes the Truman
36 family grew fruits and vegetables for their
37 own use. These included apples, peaches,
38 grapes, blackberries, strawberries. A
39 kitchen garden with assorted vegetables
40 and a large asparagus patch was planted
41 just east of the east Farm Home yard
42 gate. Based on an aerial photograph this
43 garden was gone by the mid-1940s. It is
44 possible that due to the financial troubles
45 around this time and Martha Ellen and
46 Mary Jane moving into Grandview, that
47 the garden fell into disrepair. There is
48 no surface evidence of the orchard or the
49 kitchen garden today.



1 Figure 3-37. Rose arbors grew along the fence that
2 bordered the Farm Home yard. One was over the
3 south gate (top). These rose arbors were present
4 between the 1920s and 1950s, but today no indica-
5 tion of their presence remains (bottom). HSTL
6 84-82-1, c.1930; SS 12/6/11



¹ Figure 3-38. The Farm Home yard historically had of short mown grass with few ornamental
² plantings. Pine trees grew in the front and shade trees grew in the back (top). By the 1980s
³ vegetation was overgrown and enclosed the Farm Home yard (middle). Today the yard is clear of
⁴ brush and the vegetation more closely resembles the period of significance. HSTL 029005, c.1940; Al
⁵ O'Bright 8/83; BN 11/23/11

1 Naturalized vegetation grew along the
2 east and south property boundaries after
3 the adjacent parcels were sold in the
4 1950s. This vegetation did not exist his-
5 torically. This edge was historically where
6 the barnyard met cropland or pasture
7 grass.

9 The mown lawn covering the majority
10 of the property is similar in appearance
11 to the historic vegetation, especially
12 underneath the sugar maple grove and
13 around the Farm Home. However, there
14 is more mown lawn today than occurred
15 historically. The garden historically had
16 small trees and vegetables. In the 1940s
17 and mid-1950s, this area was used for
18 cropland.

20 Vegetation of the barnyard during the
21 period of significance was sparse as the
22 area was for animals and was likely
23 packed earth. Historic photographs and
24 Harry S Truman's writings indicate that
25 there was a large sycamore tree to the
26 east of the Solomon Young Barn. This tree
27 is non-extant.

29 The south field was cultivated for most
30 of the period of significance. In the late
31 1950s it was graded and made level for
32 a never completed development. Since
33 that time, grasses have been allowed
34 to cover its surface, as it appears today.
35 Despite the change of vegetation type,
36 the openness and uniform vegetation in
37 this field is consistent with its historic
38 appearance.



¹ Figure 3-39. A few historic photographs indicate that the garden had an orchard and asparagus patch
² (top right). The garden was fenced between the Farm Home yard and barnyard. Today, there is no
³ surface evidence of the garden or the orchard. HSTL 62-290, c.1920; HSTL 84-12-10, c.1906; HSTL
⁴ 72-3577, c.1906



1 **Figure 3-40.** Historically, vegetation varied from season to season, mostly consisting of crops
2 such as oats, wheat, corn, clover, as well as pasture grass. Naturalized vegetation likely
3 grew along fences, natural drainages, and roadways. Today, mown lawn covers most of the
4 property, and is similar in appearance to the short crops that once covered the landscape.
5 The seasonality associated with the cropland is no longer apparent. HSTL 62-288, c. 1940;
6 TB 12/6/11



¹ Figure 3-41. Photographs noted the following from top left clockwise to lower right: Existing Pole
² Mounted Transformer; Existing Main Electrical Panel; Existing Building Floodlight; Existing Aban-
³ doned Electrical Service; late 1950s Historic Cobra Head Light; Existing Flagpole. JB 12/6/11; TB 12/6/11

1 Site Utilities

Existing Condition & Analysis

The Truman Farm has several existing site utilities including electrical, telecommunications, water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer. Adjacent utilities include sanitary sewer. The locations of these utilities are noted on the Existing Utilities Plan.

Electrical

Farm Home

Electricity was originally brought to the property between 1925 and 1930. The entire electrical service to the Farm Home was replaced and upgraded in 1984.

Overhead power lines occur along the north property line and along the top of the slope between Tracts 1 and 2. The existing power supply is from a pole mounted 10KVA 240/120v utility transformer on the north side of the property, with a feed down a utility pole to the pole mounted electrical meter. The electrical meter, kilowatt hour style meter #12278336, is at the base of the pole. The power feed is then routed underground into a panel located within the basement stair entry. The electric utility is Kansas City Power & Light. The service panel is a 100 amp, 240/120v, 1 phase service and the panel is a 24 circuit Cutler Hammer load center with a 100 amp 2 pole main circuit breaker disconnect. The panel schedule indicates four spare breakers. Four bussed space poles were observed at the bottom of the panel. The panel serves all equipment within the building as well as four landscape lights. One branch circuit feeds the newer maintenance shed.

An abandoned rusted electrical exterior disconnect and meter socket located at the base of a utility pole exists between Tract 1 and Tract 3.

1 Condition Assessment

2 Condition: Fair

3 Existing electrical infrastructure appears
4 to be sized appropriately for the loads
5 served, and the equipment is in fair
6 condition with another 10 to 15 years of
7 remaining useful life.

9 *Exterior Lighting*

10 Exterior lighting consists of four
11 incandescent low efficient grade-mounted
12 landscape lights aimed at each of the four
13 building facades. Fixtures are controlled
14 by an analog 24 hour timeclock located
15 adjacent to the electrical panel. There
16 are also three 30-foot tall cobra head style
17 street lights along Blue Ridge Boulevard
18 providing light along the roadway. Five
19 light poles occur along the north side of
20 the asphalt driveway in the south field.
21 Tract 3 has seven exterior light poles that
22 illuminate the parking area.

24 Condition Assessment

25 Condition: Poor

26 Exterior-grade, façade bullet landscape
27 lights mounted at grade appear to be
28 in working order, as do the street lights
29 along Blue Ridge Boulevard. These
30 fixtures use low efficient incandescent
31 sources.

33 There is minimal site lighting, which
34 provides a low level of safety and security
35 for the property.

37 The existing photocell that controls the
38 exterior lighting could be removed, and
39 the lighting fixtures could be controlled
40 with a new digital astronomical timeclock
41 that would not require any exterior
42 equipment for control.

44 In order to provide a low energy and
45 significantly reduced maintenance
46 solution, façade lighting to illuminate



Figure 3-42. Telephone Pedestal Location JB
12/6/11

the Farm Home could be replaced with smaller, energy efficient LED fixtures. These would provide similar illumination levels as the existing sources. Façade lighting could include optics to reduce light spill to the sky past the building.

Adding LED flagpole uplighting would allow for the flag to remain on the flagpole during non-daylight hours to comply with the United States Flag Code.

New site lighting would add security and safety for the property, particularly near the standing stone posts, Garage, tool shed, and chicken coop. Lights could be low level lights with full cutoff optics.

New lighting between Tract 3 where future visitor facilities are anticipated and the Farm Home would add security and safety. Lights could be low level lights with full cutoff optics. Any fixtures should have a similar color temperature to be within 200K correlated color temperature amongst all fixtures and sources.

Telecommunications

The Farm Home is served from an AT&T phone utility pedestal located at

the northwest corner of the property. Underground phone utility lines route along the north property line to an exterior building mounted demark enclosure where two phone lines are routed into the basement.

Telephone service occurs within Tract 3 along its South property line, connecting to the existing building.

Condition Assessment

Condition: Fair

Existing phone line and line for remote dialer are in working order. NPS standard is to locate exposed low voltage cabling in EMT conduit. The existing phone system does not currently have spare capacity for additional lines.

There is potential for additional lines and/or data connections are to be added if required.

Gas

The property is provided with natural gas from Missouri Gas Energy. A 6-inch steel gas main is located adjacent to and west of Blue Ridge Boulevard. Missouri Gas energy indicated gas is available at a pressure of approximately 30 PSI.

Water System

Public water service is available to the property from Jackson County Public Water District Number 1.

Water utility mapping obtained from the District identifies several water mains in the vicinity of the property. An 8-inch main exists under the roadside ditch on the east side of Blue Ridge Boulevard. A 6-inch fire hydrant lateral extends from the main to a fire hydrant located in the Truman Farm parking area, due south of the Farm Home. A water meter and service line extends north from this lateral toward the Farm Home. This water line is within a 20-foot wide

1 easement held by Jackson County. A
2 second 8-inch main is located north of and
3 parallel to the north property line.

5 The District reported static pressure
6 of 60 PSI in the main along Blue Ridge
7 Boulevard. It was also reported that
8 fire hydrants in the area can provide
9 1,100 gallons per minute (GPM) at the
10 minimum acceptable residual pressure.

12 While both domestic and fire water
13 service appears adequate, the following
14 recommendations should be considered.

16 The fire hydrant coverage for the Farm
17 Home appear to be adequate. One fire
18 hydrant is located in the parking area.
19 Another is north of the property, on the
20 adjacent land. The hydrants should be
21 tested for adequate pressure and fire
22 flows.

24 Another fire hydrant is located
25 approximately 180 feet northwest of the
26 building on Tract 3, on the east side of
27 Blue Ridge Boulevard. One more hydrant
28 exists to the south, also on the east side
29 of Blue Ridge Boulevard. The distances
30 to these hydrants generally meet
31 International Fire Code (IFC) regulations.
32 The hydrants should be tested for
33 adequate pressure and fire flows.

35 **Sanitary**

36 Sanitary sewer service is available for
37 the Truman Farm and is provided by the
38 City of Grandview. The Farm Home is
39 not connected to a sanitary sewer service
40 line at this time. City sewer mapping
41 identifies an 8-inch vitrified clay sewer
42 main on the west side of Blue Ridge
43 Boulevard. This main is located near the
44 top of the system and was reported to
45 have adequate capacity.

47 Sanitary sewer service to Tract 3 is
48 assumed to connect to a similar main in
49 Blue Ridge Boulevard, also provided by
the city.



2 **Figure 3-43.** Existing culvert beneath the
entrance drive at Blue Ridge Boulevard. MT
12/6/11

3 There have been no reports of inadequate
4 sewer operation for the existing building
5 on Tract 3. The City of Grandview noted
6 there are no concerns of sanitary sewer
7 mains within this area reaching or
8 exceeding allowable capacity.

10 A sewer drain problem was observed in
11 the basement of the Truman Farm Home.
12 The following are recommendations for
13 the Truman Farm Home sewer drain.

15 The Truman Farm does not have
16 plumbing fixtures, so the sewer drain
17 in the basement primarily functions as
18 a drain for heater condensation. NPS
19 staff reported that the drain works
20 under most conditions. However, in some
21 instances following prolonged or repeating
22 rain storms and soil saturation, water
23 infiltrates and builds up in the basement
24 floor area. Apparently, this drain has
25 limited capacity and may drain to a
26 drywell. It was reported that basement
27 flooding has occurred to a two to three-
28 foot depth. This drain should be scoped
29 to determine if it has a proper outfall or
30 drains to a drywell. To reduce the chances
31 of recurring flooding in the basement, the
32 existing drain should be replaced with
33 a gravity driven pipe to an appropriate
34 discharge location. This would typically
35 be an interior drain plumbed to a sanitary

sewer main. However, since there is no running water in the Farm Home, an outfall extending to lower adjacent grade to the south may be possible.

Storm Sewer and Drainage

The Farm Home is located at the high point of the property. From there, the site generally drains to the northwest and southeast. The 1950s roadway slopes toward the east with ditches located on the north of the drive aisle. The building on Tract 3 is also located at the high point of this tract, and the surrounding parking area slopes away from the building in a radial pattern.

A roadside ditch occurs along the western frontage of the Truman Farm and conveys runoff from the western portion of the site northerly to and along Blue Ridge Boulevard.

A culvert transmits drainage under the entrance drive. However, the pipe ends are buried due to sediment deposition and overgrown grasses at either end of the culvert.

City of Grandview storm sewer mapping shows one storm inlet on the east side of Blue Ridge Boulevard, just north of the property. Captured stormwater runoff in the roadside ditch flows through a 15-inch pipe to the west side of Blue Ridge Boulevard where it follows existing flow patterns.

No additional storm sewer pipes or structures appear within the site.

Pavements and landscaping around the building in Tract 3 have good slopes away from the building, but are generally in need of repair.

The slope of the existing grade adjacent to the Farm Home is slight, but does drain stormwater away from the building. The

Poultry House does not have positive drainage in all directions away from its perimeter. The storm culvert beneath the entrance drive is clogged and does not convey stormwater from one side of drive to the other. The following recommendations should be considered for the on-site storm drainage.

Good engineering practice generally requires the siding or skirting of a structure to be a minimum of 6-inches above the finished grade along with a ten percent slope away from the building for approximately ten 10-feet. There are several areas around the perimeter of the building where the siding or porch rim-joint skirts are within 2-inches of the adjacent ground, and should be re-graded to provide the minimum separation of 6-inches between the top of the ground and bottom of siding. Since there has been reported basement flooding, coupled with perimeter slopes being less than desired, a perimeter drain should be installed approximately 10-feet from the building. The drain should be set under a depressed swale to promote rapid drainage away from the building. This perimeter drain could be routed south toward an outfall on the south field, where the grade is substantially lower. This would be a great improvement and would potentially mitigate suspected saturated soil conditions.

The roof downspouts of the Farm Home typically have leaders that route captured drainage in a radial direction away from the building. These leaders should be extended to at least 10-feet from the building. The downspout on the north side of the Farm Home is disconnected from the gutter. It should be reconnected, and its outfall extended at least 10-feet from the Farm Home. If a perimeter drain were installed, as described above, the downspouts could be connected to the perimeter drain where the runoff could be

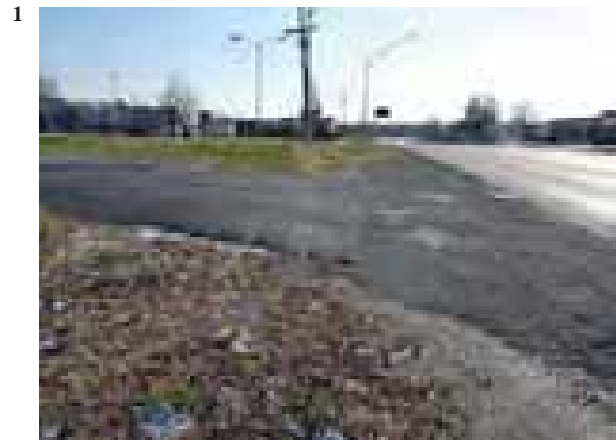
1 conveyed well away from the Farm Home
2 by a larger gravity driven pipe.
3

4 Existing grades around the Poultry House
5 do not shed stormwater runoff away from
6 west side of the structure. Correcting the
7 adverse grading should be considered but
8 may alter the appearance of the structure
9 base, or the immediate site. Re-grading
10 around the structure should be explored.
11 Another alternative would be raising the
12 structure approximately 6-inches above
13 adjacent grade and placing it on a new
14 concrete foundation.
15

16 The Garage is supported on helical piers,
17 so none of the structure is touching the
18 ground. If this were to change, or if the
19 structure were placed on the ground, in
20 the same location, re-grading around the
21 building would be necessary to provide
22 positive drainage.
23

24 The parking area and drive aisle shed
25 stormwater to the east toward a grassed
26 area. This grassy area drains south
27 over a steep hill into the south field.
28 Higher velocity flows down this hill are
29 eroding the hillside. If the parking area
30 were to remain, water quality measures
31 and erosion control would be necessary
32 and would likely negatively impact the
33 historic setting and topography. A small
34 water quality pond near the east end of
35 the drive could be considered with a small
36 release outlet and installation of riprap
37 armoring down the hillside to mitigate
38 additional erosion. If this parking area
39 was removed, these measures would not
40 be required.
41

42 The existing drainage culvert located
43 beneath the entrance drive, within
44 the city Right of Way, has not been
45 maintained and is partially buried
46 at both ends. Since the culvert has a
47 limited amount of cover, remediation
48 could include replacement with a new
49 12-inch Class V reinforced concrete pipe.



2 Figure 3-44. Entrance drive at Blue Ridge
Boulevard. MT 12/6/11



4 Figure 3-45. North drive at Tract 3. MT 12/6/11



6 Figure 3-46. South drive at Tract 3. MT 12/6/11



Figure 3-47. Parking area. MT 12/6/11



Figure 3-48. Parking area in Tract 3. MT 12/6/11

1 Re-grading the ditch to facilitate better
2 conveyance to the north is recommended.

4 ***Geothermal System***

5 A geothermal heat recovery system was
6 installed c. 2008 at the property. The
7 geothermal well field exists on the north
8 side of the parking area and as evidenced
9 by pavement and sidewalk cuts. There
10 are Five 1-inch diameter geothermal wells
11 each approximately 300-feet deep. The
12 wells are headered together and combine
13 into 1-1/2" mains. The supply and return
14 lines are each 1-1/2-inch in size into and
15 out of the Farm Home. The estimated
16 location of the well field and pipes
17 connecting the well field to the building is
18 shown on the Existing Utilities Plan.

20 ***Access and Parking***

21 Vehicular connections to Blue Ridge
22 Boulevard on the west side of the
23 property. The City of Grandview engineer
24 indicated the driveway connections are
25 located along the crest of a vertical curve.
26 Consequently, sight distance in both
27 directions is adequate. Full movement
28 access is permitted at each driveway.

30 The city engineer indicated that long
31 term city plans include adding a fifth lane
32 to Blue Ridge Boulevard, although the
33 timing and location for adding that lane is
34 yet to be determined, and no master plan
35 has been developed at this time, as the
36 noted proposed roadway improvements
37 for Blue Ridge Boulevard are still in the
38 preliminary stages.

40 The city also intends to construct curb
41 and gutter along the east side of Blue
42 Ridge Boulevard and add inlets and
43 eliminate the existing roadside ditch. The
44 city will be making these improvements,
45 exclusive from any of the development
46 associated with the NPS property. A
47 schedule for these improvements was not
48 identified.

1 The existing entrance drive, is in poor
2 condition and is showing signs of severe
3 deterioration. Existing concrete sidewalks
4 are in good to moderate condition. The
5 1950s roadway is also in a poor condition
6 with multiple areas that have degraded
7 over time, exposing the top course and
8 sub-grade materials. Asphalt and concrete
9 within Tract 3 is also in poor condition.
10 Most of the parking area is displaying
11 alligator cracking and severe spalling
12 near the building entrance.

13
14 The existing driveways and drive aisles
15 are in poor condition and show signs
16 of severe wear and degradation. The
17 following are recommendations to be
18 considered for the remediation of the
19 asphalt drives and concrete walks.

20
21 The entrance drive has wide cracks and
22 alligator cracking along most areas which
23 indicates poor sub-grade preparation.
24 If this drive remains, the asphalt will
25 need to be fully removed and replaced,
26 and consultations with a geotechnical
27 engineer will be necessary for proper
28 reconditioning of the sub-grade along
29 with a new asphalt design section. If this
30 paving were to be removed, consultation
31 with a geotechnical engineer will be
32 needed for best practices in protecting the
33 below-grade geothermal system.

34
35 The 1950s roadway is severely
36 deteriorated and unacceptable for
37 regular vehicular use. The driveway
38 is barricaded at both ends to restrict
39 access. If this roadway were considered
40 for future vehicular use, full removal
41 and replacement of the asphalt will be
42 necessary.

43
44 If Tract 3 becomes new park facilities, the
45 asphalt parking and concrete sidewalks
46 should be fully replaced as they are in
47 poor condition. The sidewalks exhibit
48 severe spalling and deterioration.



Legend

Truman Farm Boundary (current day)

1965 Boundary (approximate)

1906 to 1917 Boundary

Study Area

Truman Farm House

Cemetery

A north arrow pointing upwards with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'E' on the right, and 'W' on the left. Below it is a scale bar with markings for 0, 400, and 800 feet.

DECEMBER 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT TRUMAN FARM CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT		
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TRUMAN FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE	TITLE OF DRAWING LANDUSE		
	NAME OF PARK TRUMAN FARM - HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE		
	REGION MIDWEST	COUNTY JACKSON	STATE MISSOURI

