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Folder Title:

Hope Boyhood Home Dedication 3/12/99 - Boyhood Homes

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Harry S. Truman

government which subjected applicants to loyalty investigations. But Truman also believed there were limits to what the government could do. In September 1950, after the Hiss investigation, the Rosenberg Spy Case, and other Cold War incidents, Congress passed strict legislation (called the McCarran Internal Security Act) to monitor and control Communists in the United States. Truman vetoed the bill, although it was overridden.

Truman's last years in office were fraught with many problems. The war in Korea had dragged on for two years with no results, and the country was suffering from another bout with inflation. During 1951 some of Truman's advisors and appointees were involved in scandals which grabbed headlines. A freezer given to military aide Harry Vaughn by a grateful friend created a stir, and was followed by a tax-fixing scandal in the Revenue Department, and another in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. By 1952, Truman, who was personally untouched by the scandals, had had enough of Washington and decided not to run for another term.

Harry Truman retired to his home in Independence, Missouri, where the former President was a familiar sight around the small town. He wrote his autobiography, which was titled *Mr. Citizen*, and helped establish, fund, and run the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence. Outspoken to the end, Harry Truman died on December 26, 1972 at the age of 88 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Historical Landmarks

Birthplace of Harry S. Truman

1009 Truman Avenue

Lamar, Missouri

The corner lot, 80 by 150 feet, where the birthplace is located, was purchased by a Simon Blethrode in October, 1880 for \$78.20. When a house was built on the property, he sold it to John Anderson Truman, Harry Truman's father, for \$685.00 on November 14, 1882. After John Truman had married Martha Ellen Young in 1881, they set off on their own and moved to Lamar where John continued farming and dealing in livestock. He conducted his livestock business from a lot located diagonally across the street from his house which he purchased in March, 1883 for \$200.

Harry S. Truman



The small white frame house, 20 by 28 feet, has 6 rooms, 4 downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The house had no electricity, basement, running water, storage attic, clothes closets or bathroom. Beside the house is a woodshed, or smoke house, and the hand-dug 36 foot deep cistern. An outdoor toilet is at the rear.

Harry Truman was born in the downstairs southwest bedroom, May 8, 1884. That bedroom measures only 6 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 9 inches. On the day Harry was born, his father proudly planted an Austrian pine tree at the corner of the house and nailed a mule shoe over the front door to celebrate his first child's birth.

Harry was named for his uncle, Harrison Young. He was given the middle initial "S" but no middle name so that both grandfathers, Solomon Young and Anderson Shippe Truman, could claim that he was named for them.

When Harry was 10 months old the Truman family sold the home and stock lot across the street, March 3, 1885, for \$1600 and moved to Harrisonville, Missouri.

The United Auto Workers of America bought the house for \$6,000 in 1957 and donated it to the state. The house has been restored and redecorated with furnishings from the period of the Trumans' occupancy. It is now a State Historic Site operated and maintained by the Division of Parks and Recreation, State of Missouri.

Visitor's Information

When Truman was born, the population of Lamar was 800 and the house had no number on a street without a name. The street was later named Truman Avenue.

Open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:00 p.m.; closed January 1, Easter, Thanksgiving, December 25. Telephone: (417) 334-2279.

Admission: Free.

Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site is located two miles east of U.S. 71, one block off Highway 160 in Lamar, Benton County, Missouri.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

In an attempt at detente, Eisenhower invited the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, to tour the United States in 1959. The short period of friendliness that developed was called the "Spirit of Camp David," named for the President's Maryland retreat where some of his talks with the Soviet leader were held. But tensions returned after an American U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russian territory in 1960. The downing took place while the two leaders were holding a summit in Paris. Khrushchev immediately terminated conference and rescinded an invitation for a visit by Eisenhower to Russia.

In 1959 Fidel Castro overthrew the government of Cuba and aligned himself with Russia and Communist China. To respond to the Cuban threat to export Communism in the region, Eisenhower had Congress appropriate money for a "Marshall Plan" for Latin America.

After his two terms were up Ike retired to the Gettysburg home he and Marie had purchased in 1950. He spent his days writing his memoirs, painting, fishing, and living to see the completion of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Center and Library at Abilene, Kansas. Dwight Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969 at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., and was buried at Meditation Chapel, at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene, Kansas.

Historical Landmarks

Birthplace of Dwight David Eisenhower
Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park
208 East Day Street
Denison, Texas

Eisenhower's ancestors were German and Swiss immigrants who came to America in the 1730's to seek religious freedom. His parents, David Jacob Eisenhower and Ida Elizabeth Stover Eisenhower belonged to the River Brethren, or the Church of the Brethren in Christ. They opposed war or any kind of violence.

Dwight David Eisenhower was born on October 14, 1890 in a modest two-story frame house in Denison, Texas. His parents named him David Dwight but called him Dwight. By the time he reached high school, he had reversed his names. About two years after his

Dwight D. Eisenhower

birth, the family moved to Abilene, Kansas. He was the only one of seven boys born to the Eisenhowers who was born in Texas. Recognition of his birthplace was late in coming. Even Eisenhower was unaware of the house since he listed Tyler, Texas as his birthplace upon entering West Point. During World War II, the principal of Lamar Elementary School in Denison initiated the research which identified his birthplace. Subsequently, the house was restored and with the surrounding city block, it was turned into a park.

Although a quilt in the bedroom where the future president was born is the only authentic Eisenhower possession in the house, the furnishings were chosen to be representative of the 1890's. The exterior has been restored and a railed upstairs porch which had been part of the house when built circa 1880 was reconstructed.

Visitor's Information

Open: daily, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., June-August; 10:00 a.m.-noon, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., September-May, closed January 1 and December 25. Telephone (903) 465-8908.

Admission: adults, \$1.00; ages 6-11, \$.50.

Denison is north of Dallas on U.S. Route 75 and the Birthplace Park is on East Day Street at the corner of Lamar Avenue.

Fort Sam Houston Museum Building 123 Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Dwight D. Eisenhower lived at Fort Sam Houston twice, 1915-1917, and 1941. The earlier of his two principal residences is designated as the Eisenhower BOQ (building 688), and in June 1941 when he was transferred to Fort Sam Houston as 3d Army Chief of Staff, Colonel and Mrs. Eisenhower moved into Quarters 179 on Artillery Post Road. Both are marked on historic tour literature distributed to visitors by the Fort Sam Houston Museum. While visitors are welcome on the post, none of these buildings are open to the public. Visitors may drive by and take pictures, however.

Lyndon Baines Johnson

which claimed that the fall of South Vietnam to Communism would lead to the submission of other nations in the region.

By 1966 the war had been reduced to a stalemate and Johnson was unable to bring North Vietnam to the peace table. He unilaterally stopped the bombing of North Vietnam several times as an incentive for talks. By 1968 many Americans had grown weary of the conflict and protests against the war were growing. The Tet Offensive, which in January gave the North Vietnamese a temporary hold on much of South Vietnam, further eroded support for U.S. involvement. In an early Democratic primary, Minnesota Senator Eugene McCarthy, an anti-war candidate, won a sizable portion of the vote. On March 31, 1968, Lyndon Johnson appeared on national television to announce that he would not seek or accept his party's nomination for another term. During that speech he also announced a de-escalation of the war and a moratorium on bombing above the 20th parallel. This last point eventually led to the beginning of peace talks in Paris in May.

Lyndon Johnson retired from the presidency to the LBJ Ranch in Texas, where he spent some of his time writing his memoirs. He died on January 22, 1973.

Historical Landmarks

Birthplace of Lyndon Baines Johnson

LBJ Ranch Unit

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

Stonewall, Texas

The first child of Rebekah Baines and Sam Ealy Johnson, Jr., Lyndon was born on August 27, 1908, at a farm on the banks of the Pedernales River near Stonewall, about a mile east of the present LBJ Ranch site, in Gillespie County, Texas. Two of his sisters, Rebekah Luruth and Josefa Hermine, were also born in this home, a modest two-story structure that was the smaller of two on their grandparents' farm. In 1913, when Lyndon was five years old, the family moved to Johnson City, about 13 miles to the east, in Blanco County. In 1922, the birthplace home which had been built by Lyndon's grandfather about 1899, was sold by Sam Johnson and after passing through the hands of various owners, it was torn down in the 1930's.

Lyndon Baines Johnson

In 1964, Johnson family interests repurchased the site and commissioned a reconstruction. The house is a typical Texas farmhouse of the late 19th century. An open central hallway, or "dogtrot," runs between two large rooms on the east and west sides. In the outer wall of each room is a stone fireplace with a wooden mantel. An ell to the rear of the western room contains a dining room, old kitchen, and a modern kitchen that did not exist in the original house. Furnishings include Johnson family items or period pieces.

Visitor's Information

See following information on the LBJ Ranch Unit in the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park which includes his birthplace.

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park Stonewall, Texas and Johnson City, Texas

The National Historical Park, administered by the National Park Service, covers 717 acres of land and consists of the LBJ Ranch Unit near Stonewall and, 15 miles east, the Johnson City Unit.

The LBJ Ranch Unit contains the Birthplace House; Junction School; Texas White House and associated structures; the operating ranch with fields and pastures, show barn; cattle pens, and registered Hereford cattle; and the Johnson Family cemetery.

Junction School Stonewall, Texas

This is the one-room country school where young Lyndon began his formal education in 1912 at the age of four. Fifty-three years later in 1965, Johnson returned to the Junction School to sign into law the highly significant Elementary and Secondary Education Act. To witness this special occasion, the President invited his first teacher, Miss Katy Deadrich, whom he flew to the site from her home in California. Later he purchased the one-room school through the National Park Foundation for donation to the National Park Service.

Gerald Ford faced a tough fight for the Republican nomination in 1976, barely beating Ronald Reagan at the convention that year. While campaigning he survived not one but two assassination attempts, both by women. In the general election he faced a heretofore unknown Georgia politician named Jimmy Carter. Ford's performance in several televised debates, as well as the country's desire, after Watergate, for new faces in Washington, cost him the election. He was the first sitting President in 44 years to be rejected by the electorate.

Since leaving office Ford has served on the board of directors of several corporations, wrote his autobiography, and opened a presidential library in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1982 his wife Betty, whose courage after breast cancer helped thousands of women face their own cancer ordeal, helped found a center for the treatment of alcoholism and drug abuse.

Historical Landmarks

Birthplace of Gerald R. Ford

*3202 Woolworth Ave.
Omaha, Nebraska*

The ornate Victorian house on Woolworth Avenue was one of the finest homes in Omaha. The 3-story house reflected the status of its wealthy occupants, the King family. The King's only son, Leslie, married Dorothy Gardner. In the summer of 1913, the young couple lived in this house with the senior Kings, awaiting Dorothy's first child, who was born on July 14, 1913.

Shortly after his birth the new mother took her son to live with her parents in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The King marriage ended in divorce and in 1916, Dorothy remarried. The 3-year old boy was adopted by his stepfather and became Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr.

In 1971, the birthplace home was razed following a fire. In 1974, following Ford's succession to the presidency, an Omaha businessman, James M. Paxson purchased the property, intending to build a memorial. Based on the winning plan in a design competition, a garden scene of walkways and shrubbery mark the original elements of the former home. An architectural firm added a colonnade modeled after the south portico

Gerald R. Ford

of the White House, thereby linking the President's birthplace to his home in Washington, D.C. A kiosk, representing the stately turret of the original home, contains birthsite information as well as presidential mementoes.

Mr. Paxson donated the birthsite and gardens to the City of Omaha in 1977. The following year a Betty Ford Memorial Rose Garden containing 400 rose bushes of many varieties was added on an adjacent lot to honor the former First Lady and represent another link to the White House.

Visitor's Information

Open daily during daylight hours.

Admission: Free

To reach the Birthsite, take I-480 to Woolworth Avenue exit west.

Gerald R. Ford Boyhood Home 649 Union Avenue S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan

Ford lived in this 3-story frame house from 1923 to 1930, through his junior year in high school, with his mother, adoptive father, and three step-brothers. The house was built around 1910 in a prosperous middle class residential neighborhood. The house exemplifies middle-class housing of its time in the United States and reflects the economic and social context of Ford's formative years in a Middle Western city.

Visitor's Information

The house is privately owned and visiting is not permitted.

James Earl Carter

Historical Landmarks

Birthplace of James Earl Carter

Plains Nursing Center, Inc.

225 Hospital Street

Plains, Georgia

Jimmy Carter was the first president to be born in a hospital. His birth took place on October 1, 1924, in the Wise Hospital, a one-story building completed in 1921, with attractive open columned porches and a Spanish tile roof. Significant changes have occurred over the years. Grey-black fiberglass shingles have replaced the red tile roof, the open porches and columns have been removed to provide a weatherproof area but giving the building a box look; and the Wise Hospital is now used as a nursing home.

Before she died, "Miss Lillian," President Carter's mother, visited the nursing home to show the staff which room was the "birthing room." She pointed out a room on the northwest wing which was left in its original condition after that visit. It is the first room on the left where the hall narrows to its original width. No plaque designates the location and the room is kept locked.

Visitor's Information

Visitors are allowed in the nursing home but not in the birthplace room.

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

Plains, Georgia

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, which is operated by the National Park Service, has been set aside to commemorate the life of the 39th President and to preserve the town of Plains, Georgia. The rural southern culture of Plains that revolves around farming, church and school had a large influence in molding the character of Jimmy Carter which in turn shaped his political policies.

Ronald Reagan

of men apparently acting without the knowledge of the President. Eventually, NSC aide Oliver North and national security advisor John Poindexter were convicted for their roles in the scheme. These convictions were later reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1989, following the election of his Vice-President, George Bush, to the presidency, Ronald Reagan retired to his home in Bel Air, California. He continues to speak on various issues, and is an occasional spokesman for foreign companies. In March of 1991, ten years after he was shot by a handgun, Reagan made a dramatic appeal for the passage of the Brady Bill (named after his press secretary), requiring a seven day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun.

Historical Landmarks

Birthplace of Ronald Wilson Reagan

111 Main Street

Tampico, Illinois

In 1906, John Edward Reagan and Nelle Clyde Wilson moved 26 miles from Fulton, Illinois to Tampico, Illinois; a small town in the rural northwestern part of the state. They lived in a five-room apartment, without toilet facilities, above a bakery in a two-story brick building. There were two bedrooms and one was used by Nelle as a sewing room. Ronald W. Reagan, the youngest of their two sons was born here on February 6, 1911.

A few months after Ronald's birth, the family moved to a white-frame residence, called Burden House after its owner, in another part of town. The structure had been built in the 1870's but it had modern plumbing and an indoor toilet. Burden House is privately owned and visiting is not permitted.

Visitor's Information

The birthplace apartment has been restored with furnishings of the period.

Open daily, Memorial Day-Labor Day, 10:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Telephone: (815) 438-2815.

Ronald Reagan

Admission: adults, \$1.00, under 16, \$.50.

Tampico is about 125 miles west of Chicago and approximately 50 miles east of Davenport, Iowa, near State Route 172.

Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home 816 South Hennepin Avenue Dixon, Illinois

On December 6, 1920, when Ronald was 9 and his brother Neil was 11, the Reagan family moved to Dixon, Illinois. Ronald and his older brother shared one of the three upstairs bedrooms. Their parents shared another room, and the third was used as a sewing room by Nelle Reagan who supplemented the family income by doing alterations and mending. In addition to the kitchen, the downstairs of the house had a sitting room, a parlor, and a dining room.

The house was conveniently located for the family as the boys attended school just 3 1/2 blocks north on Hennepin Avenue. Reagan remained in Dixon for the next eleven years until he was 21.

Visitor's Information

From 1920-1923, Ronald Reagan attended the South Side School, later known as South Central School. Currently under renovation, the school will be the home of the Dixon Historical Center, which is scheduled to open in 1992. It will show the way classrooms appeared in the 1920's, when Ronald Reagan attended there, and contain a museum with displays on the life of Ronald Reagan.

Reagan's Boyhood Home has been restored to its 1920 condition and contains furniture typical of the period.

Open December-February, Sunday, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Monday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; March-November, Sunday, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.