



Harding Home Presidential Site  
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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Restoration work will temporarily close Harding Home**

If you haven't visited the Harding Home recently – or ever – you may want to make time to tour President Harding's home this summer before the Home closes its doors for a makeover.

The site will shorten its 2017 visitor season to accommodate the start of restoration work in the fall. Instead of remaining open through early November, the Home will close for tours after September 3. It will remain closed throughout 2018 and reopen on May 4, 2019. Restoration tours, however, will be conducted periodically during 2018 to allow the public access to the restoration process. The Press House, which currently houses the small gift shop area and visitor services, will remain open during the regular season hours. It will offer visitors a virtual tour of the Home and access to a limited collection of historical objects.

Site Manager Sherry Hall emphasized that the presidential site will continue to serve the public, even when tours of the Home cannot be conducted. "We will staff the Press House through November 5 and throughout 2018," she said. "We will conduct our full program schedule, which includes the Harding Symposium, the Harding Home Waffle Breakfast and other events. The public will hear a lot from us."

The restoration uses 1920, the year of Warren G. Harding's front porch campaign and election to the presidency, as its benchmark. The work, headed by the Ohio History Connection, will return the Home and grounds to the way they looked when crowds of five- to 10,000 people routinely filled Mount Vernon Avenue during the three-month presidential campaign. The last restoration was completed in 1965 by the Harding Memorial Association and focused on the look of the Home in the 1890s.

"The Hardings lived no differently in their home than most of us do," Hall said. "If you live in a house for 30 years, you're bound to re-arrange furniture, replace wallpaper or change paint colors over time. We know that Mrs. Harding, for example, had fresh wallpaper installed just prior to the campaign, so we'll be reproducing that paper."

Some of the restoration, too, includes work which will not be readily visible to visitors. The electrical system will be updated, cracks in the plaster walls and ceilings will be repaired, and other structural upgrades will take place after careful inspection. An additional room will be built onto the rear of the Home. The room, built for the 1920 campaign, offered additional food preparation and storage area for the adjacent small kitchen. The Harding Memorial Association removed the room during the 1965 restoration.

The restoration is a cornerstone of a larger project, Harding 2020. In addition to the restoration, the project calls for construction of a Harding Presidential Center. The Center will feature event space, an exhibit gallery, archives and library and visitor amenities.

Here is a look at what visitors can expect:

### **2017**

May 6 – Harding Home site opens for the visitor season. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

September 3 – Last open day for Harding Home

November 5 – Press House closes for season

### **2018**

Harding Home closed for restoration

May 5 to September 30 -- Press House open to visitors, Wednesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

June – Groundbreaking for Harding Presidential Center

### **2019**

May 4 – Restored Harding Home opens to public. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

September 29 – Harding Home and Press House close.

### **2020**

April 4 – Harding Home Presidential Site (with restored Home and new Harding Presidential Center) opens to public. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10-5 p.m. year-round.

Date TBA – Dedication of Harding Home Presidential Site