

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u>	
COUNTY: <u>Tulsa</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<u>APR 10 1975</u>

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Jones, Richard Lloyd, House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Westhope *use this*

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3704 S. Birmingham Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tulsa

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Tulsa CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 Hon. James R. Jones

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
M. Murray McCune

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3704 S. Birmingham Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tulsa STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tulsa County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Tulsa STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Special Westhope Survey

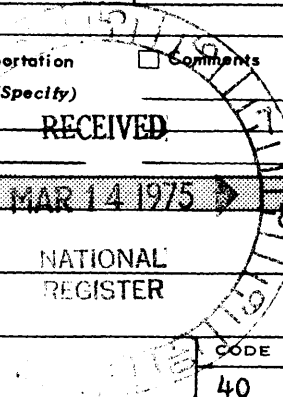
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 Civic Center

CITY OR TOWN: Tulsa STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	<u>Oklahoma</u>
COUNTY:	<u>Tulsa</u>
ENTRY NUMBER	<u>10093</u>
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Essentially Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Westhope is larger than most Frank Lloyd Wright-designed houses, containing 12,000 square feet of floor space. Yet it is unusual in that the scale of its interior spaces, unlike that of many houses of comparable size, makes them seem comfortable, whether accommodating one person or 400.

Basically, the house is a two-story affair with a basement. (See the following page for specific changes that have been made in the original Lloyd design.) The main floor family space is divided into foyer, living and dining areas, recreation room, game room, and a kitchen/pantry/breakfast area. Behind this is the master bedroom, study, two baths, and another bedroom. Beyond the pool and garage is a service apartment containing living/dining room, two bedrooms and a bath. The second floor contains four additional bedrooms, two baths. There is a third floor tower or lookout. The house has five fireplaces.

Outside, but still an integral part of the house, are such things as four-car garage, garden room, shop and workroom, pool, fountain, fish pond, formal garden areas, four patios, a covered entryway. The house has a steam convertor heating system, a chiller-circulating water system for cooling (not in the original house).

Interestingly enough, one of the few "failures" of Westhope (at least as recognized by the Jones family, if not by Wright!) concerned the glass cupola over the living room which was planned to give an open air circulation in hot weather. But the fittings on the cupola were constantly working loose. It should be recalled, however, that the house was built in the last years before air-conditioning. "Had it been constructed five years later," says Jenkin Lloyd Jones, son of the home's first owner, "I am sure that Wright might have made major changes since the free flow of air in and out would no longer have been necessary."

Of interest, too, though not necessarily germane to the brief for this nomination, are cost figures for Westhope. When Jones commissioned Wright to design the house in 1928 he suggested a \$40,000 figure. The master, quite typically, produced a house plan he estimated would cost \$65,000. And as cost over-runs were not unknown even then, Westhope finally ended up with a \$100,000-plus price tag!

Heating and lighting are integrated into the structure today. The original molds for concrete elements are still intact and were used for creating new grilles for air-conditioning.

Some original drapes are still being used. They were designed by Dorothy Liebes. A few examples of Wright furniture are also in the house. They include two desks, benches, book cases, a dining room divider and storage unit.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Tulsa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 10 1975

(Number all entries)

No 7. Description

Jones, Richard Lloyd, House

The following chart lists various features of the house. Some are as Wright designed them. Where changes have been made specific details are given.

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Present</u>
Exterior Walls	Exposed concrete block	Waterproofed, but near original color
Windows	Steel and glass	Same
Roof	Concrete, with roof terrace tiles, caulked	Built up roof
Gutters	None	Added as part of roof
Floors	Colored concrete	Same
Interior Walls	Concrete block, natural plaster	Block painted and antiqued to imitate original color; plaster painted off-white
Heating	Steam radiators	Same
Cooling	None	Ducts concealed with grilles made from original patterns
Grounds	Pool, patio, drive	Pool reconditioned, sections of patio added; planter boxes added
Electrical	Special lights and FLW pole lights	Same
Plumbing	Special length tubs, all colored fixtures	Same, plus new plumbing in kitchen and laundry
Additions		Outdoor west patio covered to make family room

Note: It is believed that the additions and modernizations in no way detract from the house. Students of Wright are unable to identify the bulk of the changes considered necessary to make the house more usable.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1929 to the present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Construction</u>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Techniques</u>                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Westhope is one of only three Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structures in Oklahoma. Best known is the striking Price Tower in Bartlesville, built in 1956 and already in the National Register. Though considerably older, Westhope is still "under age" so far as the Register's 50-year age limit is concerned. However, the request that this restriction be waived is based on the same consideration as that advanced for the Price Tower: its outstanding quality.

The noted American architect Pietro Belluschi makes this unequivocal statement: "I can only say that there is no question in my mind that the house should be registered as a National Landmark and preserved as an irreplaceable heritage. It will be a long time, if ever, before another work of that quality will be produced in our country."

This judgment holds despite an admitted failure or two. Wright designed the house for his cousin, Richard Lloyd Jones. (It was commissioned in 1928, constructed by Mueller, builder of Tokyo's Imperial Hotel. It remained in the Jones family until sold in 1964 to its present owner, who made the changes noted in No. 7.) And even Mrs. Jones, who was no great admirer of her eccentric cousin-in-law, could pay wry tribute to his genius. Her son recalls the story this way.

"Since (Wright) couldn't afford a laboratory to experiment with materials he shamelessly tried them out at the expense of his clients. Not all such experiments were happy. When he built the Tulsa home for my parents he tested a new theory in roofing. It was an immediate failure and during a heavy rainstorm, with runnels pouring through the ceiling and onto the new carpet, my mother, who had a high immunity to Frank's charms, shrugged her shoulders and said: 'This is what we get for leaving a work of art out in the rain!'"

Despite a failure or two, then, Westhope remains just that, "a work of art." As such, National Register status is respectfully requested. Mr. Belluschi is undoubtedly justified in questioning that its equal is likely soon, if ever, to be produced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Jones, Jenkin Lloyd, "A Special Kind of Man," Dimensions, newsmagazine of the Arkansas Chapter of American Institute of Architects, April 3, 1969

Wahl, Raymond Jontomas, An Analysis of Westhope, The Richard Lloyd Jones House by Frank Lloyd Wright, University of Tulsa, 1967, a Master's Thesis

Belluschi, Pietro, letter to M. Murray McCune, Oct. 31, 1974

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

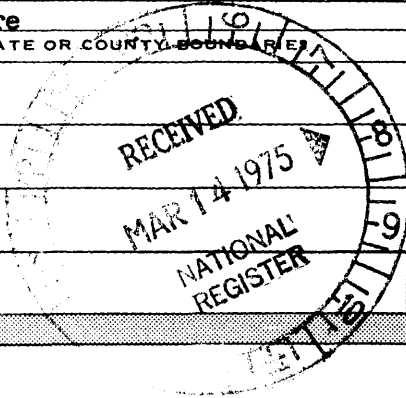
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	06'	35"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	95°	57'	14"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

NO  
V.M.  
CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **January 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Jean W. D. [Signature]*

Title *SPO for Oklahoma*

Date *10 March 1975*

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*K. R. [Signature]*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *4/10/75*

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **APR 9 1975**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Tulsa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 10 1975

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Jones, Richard Lloyd, House

As for the restoration, it was undertaken only after a thorough study of Frank Lloyd Wright's characteristics of this era. Students of his work are unable to identify most of the changes. Incidentally, original prints of the plans, some original drawings, and an original rendering are all in the house.

Because of poor photography the house has never been properly recognized as an outstanding example of Wright's Usonian period. However, those who have made comparisons of the master's works, consider Westhope one of his best. It has stood the test of time and still responds well to the demands of a current life style.

