

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Payne</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.3.40.0003</b>	DATE <b>3/24/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Thorpe (Jim) House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**704 E. Boston**

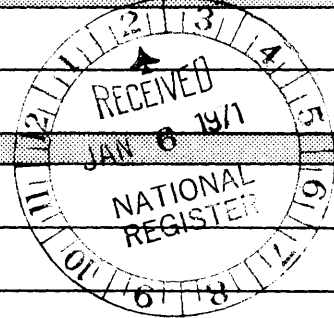
CITY OR TOWN:  
**Yale**

STATE  
**Oklahoma**

CODE  
**40**

COUNTY:  
**Payne**

CODE  
**119**



**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Sports</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Oklahoma City**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

CODE  
**40**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Payne County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Stillwater**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

CODE  
**40**

COUNTY:  
**Payne**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Thorpe (Jim) House**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Oklahoma City**

STATE:  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

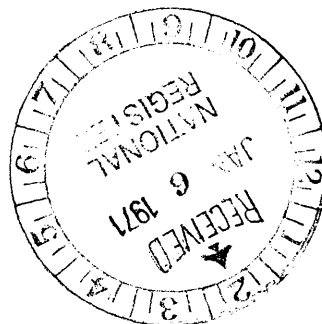
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jim Thorpe house, on the east side of Yale (704 E. Boston), is a one-story, clapboarded affair painted gray. Not unlike countless other frame bungalows across the country, it is strongly representative of the modest middle-class society that produced it. Built in the winter of 1916-1917, it is small-town, mid-America housing of the early 20th century. Modest by today's standards -- five rooms and a bath, front and back porches -- its size, style and construction, as well as its uneven lawn, scraggly shade trees and dusty street in front, combine to stamp it average for its day.

The site was bought from a developer in August 1916 for \$175. The builder sold house and lots in February 1917 for \$2,400. Jim Thorpe and his wife bought it in September from the new owner for \$2,800. In 1924 the property was put in the name of the Thorpe's three small children, subject to supervision of the Secretary of the Interior and the Shawnee Indian Agent. It was the only house the famed Indian athlete ever owned in Oklahoma.

The Thorpes left Yale in 1923. Afterwards the house was sold. In 1968 it was purchased by the Oklahoma Historical Society to serve as a museum and memorial. The interior has been redone, the walls repaired and repainted, everything restored as nearly as possible to the way it was when the Thorpes lived in it. Much of the original furniture has been located and is in storage awaiting opening of the home to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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) 1916 to 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Sports</u>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

James Francis ("Jim") Thorpe, described by King Gustav of Sweden as the world's greatest athlete - this at the 1912 Olympics at Stockholm after the Sac and Fox Indian had become the first competitor ever to win both the pentathlon and the decathlon - was born in 1888 near Prague, Oklahoma. He died in 1953, at 64, in Los Angeles. But from 1917 to 1923, while starring in both professional football and baseball, he lived in Yale, Oklahoma, in a modest bungalow that is believed to be the only house he ever owned.

It was at Pennsylvania's small Carlisle Institute that Thorpe first achieved fame as a super-athlete. With Glenn S. ("Pop") Warner as coach, he and his teammates regularly whipped teams of many of the big colleges and universities around the country. As a halfback, Thorpe won All-American honors in 1911 and 1912. Against a powerful Harvard team in 1911, he scored all of Carlisle's points - with a touchdown and four field goals - in his team's 18-15 victory. Olympic honors and world-wide recognition followed in 1912.

Then it was disclosed that in 1909 and 1910 he had played semi-pro baseball in unknowing violation of the Olympic code of strict amateurism. He was declared ineligible, stripped of his medals, which were sent along to the second-place winners. His name and achievements were expunged from the Olympic record books. Also forfeited were the two gem-studded silver trophies, each weighing 280 pounds, that had gone to him as winner of the pentathlon and decathlon. (They are now on display in Lucerne, Switzerland, and Thorpe admirers in both Oklahoma and Pennsylvania have attempted to get them for exhibit. The athlete's daughter, Gail, has already donated her father's pre-Olympic medals to the Oklahoma Historical Society.)

Between 1913 and 1919 Thorpe played professional baseball as outfielder for New York, Cincinnati, and Boston of the National League. Beginning in 1915 he also played professional football

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Encyclopedia International, Vol. XVIII, 1964, p. 101.

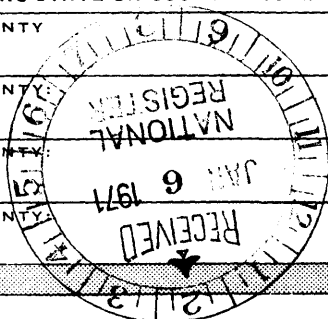
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 06' 49"	96° 48' 38"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. o. 5 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: January 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Society

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 [Signature]

Title Liaison officer for Oklahoma

Date DEC 2 1970

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

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
MAR 24 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date MAR 3 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Payne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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91.3.40.0003	3/24/71

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

THORPE (JIM) HOUSE

for Canton (Ohio) and several National Football League teams. At various times he competed successfully as boxer, wrestler, bowler, swimmer, golfer, and marksman. In an Associated Press poll in 1950 he was voted the greatest male athlete of the first half of the 20th Century. His portrait is one of four, painted by Oklahoma artist Charles Banks Wilson, to hang in the rotunda of the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

A Jim Thorpe Athletic Award Committee, with headquarters in Yale, has been established to recognize and reward Oklahoma highschool seniors for the kind of athletic excellency Jim Thorpe epitomized. Athletic directors at leading Oklahoma universities are among the directors of this organization. Medals, trophies and cash college scholarships will be awarded, although full details of the program remain to be worked out. The Oklahoma Legislature has designated Yale the official hometown of Thorpe and it has charged the Award Committee with establishment and operation of an Oklahoma Athletic Hall of Fame.

