

Pro Football Hall of Fame

The Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, honors the accomplishments of great professional football players. Those who visit the Hall of Fame also learn about the history of pro football in the United States.

The Hall of Fame is located in the Ohio city because Canton has been associated with football since the 1920s. The American Professional Football Association, which eventually became the National Football League, was founded in Canton on September 17, 1920. In addition, the Canton Bulldogs were an early football power. Jim Thorpe, a famous professional player, was on the Bulldogs' team for several years beginning in 1915. The Bulldogs were NFL champions in 1922 and 1923.

Canton residents began a campaign in the early 1960s to have their city designated as the home of the Hall of Fame. When the National Football League chose Canton for the Hall of Fame in the summer of 1962, city leaders launched a fund-raising campaign and received more than \$370,000 in donations to build the original buildings. On September 7, 1963, the Hall of Fame opened, boasting two buildings with 19,000 square feet of display and administrative space. On the day the facility opened, the first 17 players were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Since it opened, the Hall has expanded several times, bringing in more displays. The Hall now boasts five buildings and more than 80,000 square feet of display space. If you take a trip to the Hall of Fame, you will want to visit the two large galleries where you can learn about the players who are honored as Hall of Famers. Another highlight is the Game Day Stadium, where you can watch the *100-Yard Universe* film. The film has state-of-the-art sound, film, and video. Other displays tell the history of the sport and its special events, such as the Super Bowl.

Unit 11

- The Pro Football Hall of Fame has evolved into a massive center. What impact do you think that has had on Canton, Ohio?

- What kinds of character traits do you feel Hall of Famers possess?

- As a tourist, your surroundings may feel alien to you. Have you ever regretted being somewhere and not going to the local attraction?