

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Carnegie Institution Administration Building

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1530 "P" Street, N. W.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

District of Columbia 11

001

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER Administrative Offices

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carnegie Institution of Washington

STREET & NUMBER

1530 "P" Street, N. W.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

District of Columbia

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

6th and "D" Streets, N. W.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

District of Columbia

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none known

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carnegie Institution Administration Building was designed by the firm of Carrère and Hastings in 1910 and was partially remodeled and added to under the direction of William Adams Delano in 1937. Constructed in the Beaux Arts style, of Indiana limestone, the front facade has a monumental portico, surmounted by a balustraded flat top roof, supported by Ionic columns, with four double columns at center, two single columns at each end.

The cornice is classical with traditional Greek ornament. A flight of broad steps, framed by urns on pedestals, leads from 16th Street to the large bronze entrance doors (seldom used). The flanks of the original building are constructed on a raised, rusticated basement level, with three large window openings above, with pedimented lintels. The upper level has three simple windows. The original building was basically square, with projecting pavilions on the sides, two stories on a raised basement. The 1937 back wing, is similar in material and design, although less ornate in treatment. It also has a rusticated basement, high first story windows, and simple second story windows.

The 16th Street entrance leads into a two-story rotunda, framed by large Corinthian columns and winding side staircase. The building houses a 450-seat auditorium, and many spacious offices and meeting rooms, most of which are only infrequently used at the present time. Since World War II the institution has provided free office space for several scientific societies while they were establishing themselves. Currently a few administrative workers for the institution have offices in the building, but all research work is conducted at laboratories located elsewhere in Washington, D. C., Maryland, California, and Chile.

*[Faint handwritten notes and signatures]*

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1910, 1937-8

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Carrore and Hastings, 1910

William Adams Delano, 1937-8

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building has housed the administration of a unique organization since the early years of its existence. Founded with the realization that basic scientific research is essential to human well-being, the Carnegie Institution of Washington is an early example of farsighted American philanthropy.

Andrew Carnegie was not only one of the shrewdest industrialists of post-Civil War America, but he was the most generous of them with the proceeds of his genius. His philosophy of life, probably unique among his peers, was responsible for the multitude of varied projects which he founded and supported, all directed towards the betterment of human existence.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington is an admirable example of Carnegie's farsighted generosity. Endowed with a \$10 million gift in 1902, the institution shows its benefactor's understanding of the necessity of basic scientific investigation to the enrichment of human existence. Heretofore, few philanthropists had been interested in endeavors which promised no practical results which could reflect to their founder's credit.

Following his retirement in 1901, Andrew Carnegie settled down to the enjoyment of apportioning his wealth. He sought the advice of eminent men in reaching his decisions, but he took care to screen out their more selfish suggestions. The establishment and endowment of the Carnegie Institution of Washington bespoke its benefactor's philosophy of life. The institution was chartered "to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner investigation, research and discovery and the application of knowledge to the improvement of mankind." Carnegie chose Daniel Goit Gilman, the recently retired president of Johns Hopkins University, to administer the institution.

The contributions of the Carnegie Institution of Washington have been varied. Carnegie himself took the most pride in the Mount Wilson Observatory. Other natural science departments worked in the fields of geophysics, plant biology, embryology, and genetics. The Department of Historical Research, under the direction of J. Franklin Jameson, the editor of the American Historical Review, enable American historians to readily locate essential archival materials. Today, the institution has limited its activities to basic research in the physical and biological sciences, trying to avoid duplicating the work of any other institutions.

History from original Historic Sites Survey report by Steven Lewis, 1964.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Carnegie Institution. Carnegie Institution of Washington. (Washington, D. C., n. d.).  
 Federal Writers' Project. Washington: City and Capital. (Washington, 1937)  
 Green, Constance. Washington: Capital City, 1879-1950. (Princeton, 1963)  
 Kendrick, Burton J. The Life of Andrew Carnegie. 2 vols. (Garden City, N. Y., 1932).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 2 3 4 4 0	4 3 0 8 4 7 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As seen on the enclosed plat map, the boundary of the Carnegie Institution national historic landmark, beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of 16th and "P" Streets. N.W., follows the south curb of "P" St. in an easterly direction for about 200 feet; thence south along the property line for about 100 feet; thence west for about 100 feet; thence south for about 65 feet; thence west for about 100 feet along the property line and then to the curb of 16th St.; ~~thence north along the east curb of 16th St. for about 165 feet to the beginning point.~~

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; Steven H. Lewis, 1964.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey Division, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 "L" Street, N. W.

202/5235464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington,

District of Columbia

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 designated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

**Landmark**  
**Designated**  
 JUNE 23, 1968  
**Boundary Certified:**  
*[Signature]*  
 DATE: Dec 15, 1978

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)