Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Robert Simpson Woodward

AND/OR COMMON
1513 16th Street NW.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1513 16th Street NW. — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Washington — VICINITY OF

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
D.C.	11		

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	XXOCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	XX PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Robert N. Meyers, President, Christian Service Corporation

STREET & NUMBER
1509 16th Street NW.

CITY, TOWN — STATE
Washington — VICINITY OF — D.C. 20005

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
6th and D Streets NW.

CITY, TOWN — STATE
Washington — D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE
__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	XX ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X_ALTERED interior	_MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	-XX unrestored- UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1513 16th Street NW., Washington, D.C., the home of Robert S. Woodward from approximately 1904 to 1914, is a four story brick row house. The roof is terra cotta and the building is faced with stone. The date of its construction, the architect, and the builder are unknown. The arched entrance as well as the curved bay that extends to the third story indicate that the almost Romanesque row house was constructed in the 1880's or 1890's. The building is not mentioned in any survey of Washington, D.C., architecture and thus appears to be of no architectural significance or importance.

Robert S. Woodward lived in Washington, D.C., from 1883 to 1893 and again from 1904 to his death in 1924. His exact address during the first period is unknown. When he returned to Washington in 1904 as president of the Carnegie Institution, he moved into 1513 16th Street and lived there until approximately 1914. From 1914 until his death in 1924 he lived in an apartment on Connecticut Avenue. Although the association with 1513 16th Street is not long, it is typical of a man who often moved. "Woodward's home in Washington," one source says, "was ever the meeting place for scientic and other folk."

The integrity of 1513 16th Street is not whole. A firescape down the front facade is an intrusion. On the other hand the front elevation has not been altered or changed. The interior has been divided into apartments.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	XX SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1904-1914 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robert Simpson Woodward was born July 21, 1849, at Rochester, Michigan, a small village 30 miles south of Detroit. His parents were progressive and public minded farmers who took an active interest in the education of their children. After attending the Rochester Academy Robert entered the University of Michigan where he graduated in 1872 with a degree in civil engineering.

Upon graduating from Michigan Woodward went to work for the United States Lake Survey and spent the next ten years working in triangulation along the Great Lakes. From 1882 to 1884 he served with a government commission that observed the transit of Venus. On the basis of this experience in astronomy Woodward's next employeer was the United States Geological Survey. Woodward served with the Survey from 1884 to 1890 first as an astronomer and then as its chief geographer. It was during this period with the United States Geological Survey that Woodward made his most important contributions to science. In 1900 he switched over to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Although he only served with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey for three years, he made an important contributions to the techniques of base line measurement by showing that with proper calibration steel tapes could be used for making accurate long distance measurements.

In 1903 Woodward left government service and accepted the position of professor of mechanics and mathematical physics at Columbia. He remained at Columbia for the next 12 years teaching and also serving as the dean of the College of Pure Science. By 1904 Woodward had acquired a reputation as a versatile scientist and an able administrator. When the Carnegie Institution was established in 1904, the trustees sought a man with both scientific and administrative experience to be its first president. Woodward's credentials filled both categories and in 1904 he moved back to Washington, D.C., as the first president of the Carnegie Institution. Woodward served in this position from 1904 to 1920. After retiring from the Carnegie Institution in 1920, he lived quietly in Washington. He died June 29, 1924.

Robert S. Woodward's reputation in the history of science in America rests on his contributions as a scientist and as an administrator. In 1906 J. McKeen Cattell, a noted psychologist, published the first edition of todays multi-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Hunter Dupree, Science in the Federal Government, (Cambridge, 1957).

"Robert Simpson Woodward," Dictionary of American Biography, 20, (New York, 1936).

F. E. Wright, "Robert Simpson Woodward," National Academy of Sciences Biographical Memoir Series, 19 (Washington, 1938).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	323430	4308440
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mr. James Sheire, Historian

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Historic Sites Survey - National Park Service — 7/30/75

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Washington — D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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 evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE — DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

volume American Men of Science, A Biographical Directory. Of the approximately 4,000 scientists listed in the directory in 1906, 1,000 names were accompanied by a star. The star indicated that these men were considered by their peers to be, "the students of the natural and exact sciences in the United States whose work is supposed to be the most important." Robert S. Woodward received four stars for his contributions to astronomy, geology, physics, and mathematics. Although Woodward was not considered among the leading scientist in any one of these disciplines, he made contributions to each and was the only scientist honored with more than two stars.

Woodward's most important contributions to science were to geology. During the seven years from 1883 to 1890 that he worked for the United States Geological Survey, he published important papers dealing with the free and conditioned cooling of a homogeneous sphere. He then applied this data to the determination of the cooling of the earth and to the determination of the age of the earth. Although the results Woodward's research in geophysics did not stand the test of time, his application of mathematics, astronomy, and physics to the problems of geophysics stimulated new approaches to the study of geology. As he once wrote, "The earth, its shape, its size, its mass, its precession and rotation, its internal heat, its earthquakes and volcanoes, and its origin and destiny are to be classed with the leading questions for astronomical and mathematical research."[1]

As an administrator Woodward remembered for his 16 years of service with the Carnegie Institution. The Carnegie Institution was the first of the great foundations that have played such a significant role in the history of scientific research in America. During Woodward's tenure as president of the Institution, he was instrumental first, in the formulation of the policies which guided the Institution's own research program and, second, in the establishment of guildelines for awarding Institution grants. The policies and guidelines of the Carnegie Institution became a model which other foundations followed when they set up their own scientific programs.

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[1] F. E. Wright, "Robert Simpson Woodward," National Academy of Sciences Biographical Memoir Series, 19 (Washington, 1938), p. 1.

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Robert S. Woodward House

Robert S. Woodward served science in America as both a scientist and as an institution builder. His career is an illustration of the emergence at the turn of the 20th century of the scientist as a member of the country's decision making elite. As science became ever more complex and science and technology played an ever greater role in shaping American reality, men who understood science, because they were scientists themselves, were called upon not only for advice and opinions but also to lead important institutions and organizations. With men like Charles D. Walcott of the United States Geological Survey, Willis R. Whitney of the General Electric Research Laboratory, and John J. Carty of the Bell Labs, Robert Woodward in his years as president of the Carnegie Institution was an example of the ever increasing importance of the scientist in the nation's governmental, industrial, and philanthropic bureaucracies.

Woodward received numerous honors and awards. He belonged to the leading societies such as the National Academy of Sciences and served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Mathematical Society, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Washington Academy of Sciences. He was an editor of the prestigious periodical Science and also of the Annals of Mathematics. He published more than 100 papers in various journals and with Mansfield Merriman edited a standard textbook, Higher Mathematics (1896).