Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

District of Columbia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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AND/OR HISTORIC:						
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"I dont think New York is the proper Hed Quarters," Andrew Carnegie wrote when he established the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "Washington under the eye of Root & Scott & at the Ear of Congress." Thus foundation headquarters was established in the Nation's Capital, at No. 2 Jackson Place, once the home of "a picturesque figure in American-Oriental affairs," Dr. Peter Parker. The endowment for peace was to remain at that address for 37 years.

According to the W.P.A. Guide to the city of Washington, No. 2 Jackson Place (now No. 700) is "a large, old-fashioned, red-brick building." Built in 1860, the modest town house is situated on the northwest corner of Jackson Place and Pennsylvania Avenue, and faces Lafayette Park. The three-story house with English basement is Italianate in style, and features a rather ornate, bracketed wood cornice. The trim is painted white and the brick laid in American bond. A sandstone segmental pediment with brackets frames the double doors at the front entrance, and the stair railing and steps, plain quoins, window sills and lintels are also of sandstone. A single bay window at the first-floor level and three blind windows characterize the Pennsylvania Avenue facade.

The original headquarters of the foundation was expanded in 1913 to include No. 4, and later, in 1918, No. 6 was added (now Nos. 704 and 708). Doors were cut through to connect the houses and this alteration is still evident. The Washington headquarters was never completely adequate for the Endowment's constantly expanding research and publication needs, and in 1948 the foundation for peace was reorganized and moved to New York City. In 1953 the Carnegie Endowment International Center was opened, a brand-new 12-story office building on United Nations Plaza.

Dr. Parker has been called the founder of medical missions in China.

See Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 28, ed. by
John B. Larner (Washington, D.C.: Columbia Historical Society,
1926) and Kenneth S. Latourette, "Parker, Peter," Dictionary
of American Biography, 1943, XIV, 234-35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration, <u>Washington</u>
City and Capital (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing
Office, 1937), p. 544.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known)	1911-1948	
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TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"All his active days [Andrew] Carnegie advocated world peace and arbitration; in his final years ... this became his absorbing interest." In 1910 Carnegie gave \$10 million to "hasten the abolition of war, the foulest blot upon our civilization," thus establishing the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "I am drawn more to this cause than to any," he once wrote. "Just as when young I became a rabid antislavery zealot, so in regard to war, far more heinous than owning and selling men is killing men by men." 2

Carnegie was particularly concerned with the notion of "national honor." What was a nation's "honor"? Should not "honor"--as well as disputes involving property--be subject to peaceful arbitration? The Endowment he founded was to bend all its efforts to universal and unrestricted arbitration, as well as to the study of the causes and conduct of war. It was, in this way, to serve as a practical instrument for the attainment of world peace.

The first national headquarters of the Endowment was established in Washington, at No. 2 (now No. 700) Jackson Place, a red brick town house with Italiante detail built in 1860. The house was "well adapted and admirably located" for the purposes of peace, close to the "Ear of Congress" as Carnegie wished. The Endowment occupied the house until 1948, when national headquarters was moved to New York City.

The work begun in 1910 continues today, its business chiefly that of research and education. As in the past, the Endowment continues to build its collection of books and documents relating to war and peace, and its publications can be found in libraries throughout the world. In the midst of many disheartening defeats, the Carnegie Endowment still pursues an elusive world peace: "what is hoped for is some small but

<sup>1</sup>Burton Jesse Hendrick, "Carnegie, Andrew," <u>Dictionary of American</u>
<u>Biography</u>, 1943, III, 505.

<sup>2</sup>Quoted in Joseph Frazier Wall, Andrew Carnegie (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), p. 886.

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89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion		National Register.
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8. Significance (page 1) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

demonstrable progress toward that goal and toward the development of institutions that will allow humanity not only to survive but to prosper....<sup>3</sup>

#### History

In 1910 Andrew Carnegie contributed \$10 million to the cause of peace, thus founding the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Carnegie was a slow convert to the cause. "We have already Peace Societies and Arbitration Societies," he wrote in 1900. "I do not see that it is wise to devote our efforts to creating another organization.... [I]f it were dependent on any millionaire's money it would begin as an object of pity and end as one of derision.... There is nothing that robs a righteous cause of its strength more than a millionaire's money."

Thus Carnegie was initially averse to associating himself with "Utopian schemes." Yet, writes one biographer, "in the decade from 1900 to 1910, opposition to war began to assume a saner aspect. The monstrous accumulation of European armaments ... gave the question a new and practical importance." In addition, the two Hague Conferences had at least set in motion thoughts of world organization; such goals as arbitration, international courts, and the closer and friendlier association of nations were attainable.

A speech made by President Taft stimulated Carnegie's hopes that an endowment for education in the field of peace and arbitration might indeed prove successful. In previous arbitration treaties, questions involving "national honor" had been eliminated from disputes susceptible of legal adjudication. No nation, according to tradition, could let outside tribunals pass on matters in which its "honor"--an elusive term at bestwas involved. At a meeting of the New York Peace and Arbitration Society, however, Taft called the point in question, asserting, "I do not see any more reason why matters of national honor should not be referred to a court of arbitration than matters of property or of proprietorship." "

Report on the Fiftieth Anniversary Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (New York: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1961), p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Quoted in Wall, <u>Andrew Carnegie</u>, p. 885.

<sup>5</sup>Burton J. Hendrick, The Life of Andrew Carnegie (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1932), p. 337.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. Significance (page 2) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Andrew Carnegie had long viewed the question of "national honor" with contempt. "Honor," he once said, "is the most dishonored word in the language. No man ever touched another's honor; no nation ever dishonored another nation; all honor's wounds are self-inflicted." Carnegie's interest in an endowment for international peace now sprang to life and culminated in a gathering in Washington, D.C., on December 14, 1910, when he formally gave 26 trustees—each distinguished in law, education, science and public life—\$10 million for the creation of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In his letter of gift, Carnegie wrote: "I have transferd to you as Trustees of the Carnegie Peace Fund Ten Million Dollars ..., the revenue of which is to be administerd by you to hasten the abolition of internnational war, the foulest blot upon our civilization." Carnegie expected the Endowment to bend all its efforts to universal and unrestricted arbitration, and the first Board of Trustees set up the following objective: "To study the causes of war and practical methods of preventing it; to aid in the development of international law; to foster education on world affairs and promote friendly relations among the peoples of the world." Elihu Root became the first president of the Carnegie Endowment and served until 1925 when Nicholas Murray Butler succeeded him. James Brown Scott was appointed secretary and remained in that position for 30 years.

The business of the Endowment has been chiefly educational. The new foundation, in the words of Merle Curti, "was guided by a scholarly desire to promote international good will and peace through an appeal to the intellectual elite of all lands." The Endowment built up an admirable research library of 50,000 volumes at its Washington headquarters--books and documents covering the development of international law, the causes of war, and the record of peace efforts of the past. It sponsored exchanges of American and foreign professors and subsidized some of the more popular peace societies in this country and in Europe.

7<sub>Ibid</sub>.

8 <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 340. Carnegie's sympathy with the aims of the National Simplified Spelling Board is apparent; he thought of this organization, too, as an instrument of peace.

9 Peace or War: The American Struggle, 1636-1936 (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1936), p. 204.

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8. Significance (page 3) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Inasmuch as the Endowment's work has been almost entirely one of research and education, policies on specific issues have generally not been adopted, and the foundation has maintained a quite conservative image. With the coming of World War I, the Endowment took the view that there could be no lasting peace until Germany was crushed. According to Curti, "[w]ith so strong a pro-Ally commitment the Endowment was in no mood to help antiwar movements." The International Peace Bureau and the European peace societies were informed that they could no longer rely on Endowment support. By 1917 the ranks of all pacifist groups were much depleted. The Carnegie Endowment, long sympathetic with the Allies, finally frowned on all antiwar activity.

From the Endowment's very inception, Carnegie held a naive optimism about the endeavor, and provided that, after universal peace had been established, the endowment (which was to be perpetual) be devoted to the banishment of the next most degrading evil. That Carnegie's endowment has not ushered in a golden age of peace is obvious. Yet most of his associates hardly expected that it would. Nicholas Murray Butler wrote to Carnegie, emphasizing that "[t]he forces which stand as obstacles to the promotion of the peace of the world have their roots deep down in human nature, and the process of educating mankind and the public opinion of the nation... is going to be a long and arduous one." Thus, at least some were conscious of the severe limitations of Carnegie's beneficence.

Despite the continuing ravages of the "wild beasts" to which Carnegie alluded in his bequest, the Endowment patiently continues its work: collecting all ascertainable facts about war, its causes and conduct; presenting these to American citizens; studying methods of bringing nations closer to one another; and, above all, stimulating the "will to peace" as a successor to that "will to war" which explains so much human history. Pessimists, of course, maintain that the Endowment is fighting a losing battle, that it dreams the impossible. In 1940 a Washington, D.C. reporter called the Carnegie Endowment's Jackson Place headquarters "the loneliest house in Washington," "headquarters for a peace that has never been found, of a cause that today seems all but lost despite the spending of

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 229.

<sup>11</sup>Quoted in Hendrick, Life of Andrew Carnegie, p. 340.

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8. Significance (page 4) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

millions of dollars."  $^{12}$  Yet, as Carnegie biographer Burton Hendrick reminds us, "the fact that a vast organization circling the globe spends its time promoting the finest instincts of man rather than the lowest, can hardly count for nothing."  $^{13}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>A. A. Hoehling, "Carnegie Peace Foundation Striving in War-Torn World," Washington Star, July 15, 1940.

<sup>13</sup>Life of Andrew Carnegie, p. 341.