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2010

Evaluations of Cultural Properties

Prepared by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

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Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) No 181bis

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Australia

Name of property: Tasmanian Wilderness

Location: State of Tasmania

Inscription: 1989

Brief Description:

In a region that has been subjected to severe glaciation, these parks and reserves, with their steep gorges, covering an area of over 1 million ha, constitute one of the last expanses of temperate rainforest in the world. Remains found in limestone caves in the interior attest to the human occupation of the area from the Pleistocene to the end of the Ice Age and near the coast there is evidence of more recent pre-European settlements.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

In 1982 and 1989, the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) was inscribed on the World Heritage List as a mixed property under cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi), and under all four natural criteria (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x). In 1989 there was an extension of the property, mainly to the north and east..

State of Conservation (SOC) reports of the property were presented to the World Heritage Committee in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995.

The State Party prepared a management plan for the property and it was presented to the World Heritage Committee as well as SOC reports in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2003.

During its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Committee (Decision 30COM 7B.32) requested, among others, the State Party to: "*submit a revised map of the World Heritage property, showing the areas of extended buffer zone and identifying other use zones directly adjacent to the boundary*".

A State of Conservation report was presented in January 2008.

A Reactive Monitoring Mission for Tasmanian Wilderness took place from 15 to 20 March 2008. It was made up of representatives from the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS. The mission report was reviewed at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008).

In its decision 32 COM 7B.41, the World Heritage Committee adopted the following recommendations:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add,*

2. *Recalling Decision 31 COM 7B.43, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*

3. *Takes note of the findings of the recent World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / IUCN monitoring mission to the property, and requests the State Party to:*

a) *institute a mechanism through the future Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) management plan reviews, and involving all relevant stakeholders, to monitor, assess and manage the ecological integrity of the TWWHA and adjoining reserves by considering activities related to forestry operations, road construction and regeneration fires in the areas adjacent to the property;*

b) *submit a proposal for modifying the boundaries of the TWWHA to include the adjacent 21 areas of national parks and state reserves, which are currently not a part of the inscribed World Heritage property but are covered by its management plan;*

c) *not to renew the existing leases for mineral exploration and exploitation within the property and immediately adjacent to it (such as in the Melaleuca Cox Bight area), after their expiry and to rehabilitate the areas concerned and to incorporate them into the World Heritage property. Further, no new mining licenses should be granted within the property or in the areas which are being recommended for addition;*

d) *maintain and improve the resourcing for the research, documentation, protection, monitoring and effective management for archaeological and Aboriginal cultural sites both those within the TWWHA and those in the adjacent forestry areas that reflect the wider context of Aboriginal land-use practices and are of potential Outstanding Universal Value;*

e) *manage the forestry areas outside the inscribed property in order to protect cultural sites of potential Outstanding Universal Value;*

f) ensure logging roads in areas adjacent to the TWWHA consider the ecological integrity, possible cultural sites and aesthetic values of the property, and reclaim roads no longer required;

g) prepare and implement a vegetation management plan covering the TWWHA and the adjoining forest reserves jointly by national parks and the forestry authorities, to address representativity of vegetation types and to reduce risks, particularly from fires and climate change;

h) implement the recommendations emanating from the recently completed 2008 review of the Tasmania Regional Forest Agreement;

i) establish an active programme for monitoring the impacts of climate change on the property and incorporate this programme into a risk-reduction strategy and action plan;

4. Also requests the State Party to revise the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property to include relevant recent natural and cultural knowledge available regarding the site, for approval by the World Heritage Committee;

5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider, at its own discretion, extension of the property to include appropriate areas of tall eucalyptus forest, having regard to the advice of IUCN; and also further requests the State Party to consider, at its own discretion, extension of the property to include appropriate cultural sites reflecting the wider context of Aboriginal land-use practices, and the possibility of re-nominating the property as a cultural landscape;

6. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2010, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including a revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and progress related to the above mentioned issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

Modification:

In February 2010, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a report entitled: "State party report on the State of Conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Australia) in response to World Heritage committee Decision WHC 32COM 7B.41".

This report included a request for a minor boundary modification.

The State Party's proposal is to extend the boundaries of the TWWHA by an additional 23,873 hectares. The existing property extends to 1.38 million hectares, or 20% of the State of Tasmania. The proposed extension thus represents a small proportional increase to the property of 0.0172%.

The proposed additions are 21 small areas around the eastern and southern boundaries that are part of national parks or state reserves and the Southwest Conservation Area south of Melaleuca to Cox Bight. The State Party considers that the addition of these adjacent formal reserves will increase the representation of tall eucalypt forests and cultural sites of significance to the Aboriginal community in the property. The areas have been chosen to reflect their significant eucalyptus stands as recommended by IUCN.

No information has been provided by the State Party as to the inclusion within these areas of cultural attributes of Aboriginal importance, not have the boundaries been justified in relation to cultural attributes.

The State Party has provided information on additional resources that are to be made available for the identification and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sources for the whole of the TWWHA and for Aboriginal capacity building.

The State Party has also endorsed the recommendations of the mission for enhanced protection measures for archaeological and Aboriginal sites within and adjacent to the TWWHA which they say are in line with Forestry Tasmania's Sustainability Charter. This includes measures to identify, protect and maintain Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage values in State forests and seek active consultation with the Aboriginal community to develop opportunities for collaborative management of Aboriginal sites and values.

The State Party report also gives reassurance that cultural sites adjacent to the property will be respected in the planning and management of forest harvesting operations, including logging roads.

The State Party has submitted a retrospective Statement of outstanding universal value for the Committee's consideration and this will be assessed by ICOMOS and IUCN.

Apart from the addition of the 21 adjacent formal reserves and the Southwest Conservation Area south of Melaleuca to Cox Bight, Australia restates that it does not propose to extend the boundary of the TWWHA further.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS considers that the proposed additions to the TWWHA property rationalise the boundary and are in line with the mission recommendations.

ICOMOS notes that the proposed modification to the boundary of the property includes only one significant Aboriginal site, Warragarra Cave (Mersey Block 1 or 2) and thus cannot be said to significantly improve coverage of Aboriginal sites.

ICOMOS is also aware that potentially significant sites lie outside the extended area and there thus seems to be some illogicality of the boundaries in relation to cultural sites. Pleistocene cave sites outside the boundaries, some of which are protected, should have been considered.

ICOMOS also considers that although a commitment has been given to increase resources for cultural heritage management the resources are small in relation to the size of the property and there is still a need to ensure that cultural heritage specialists are involved in the management of the property.

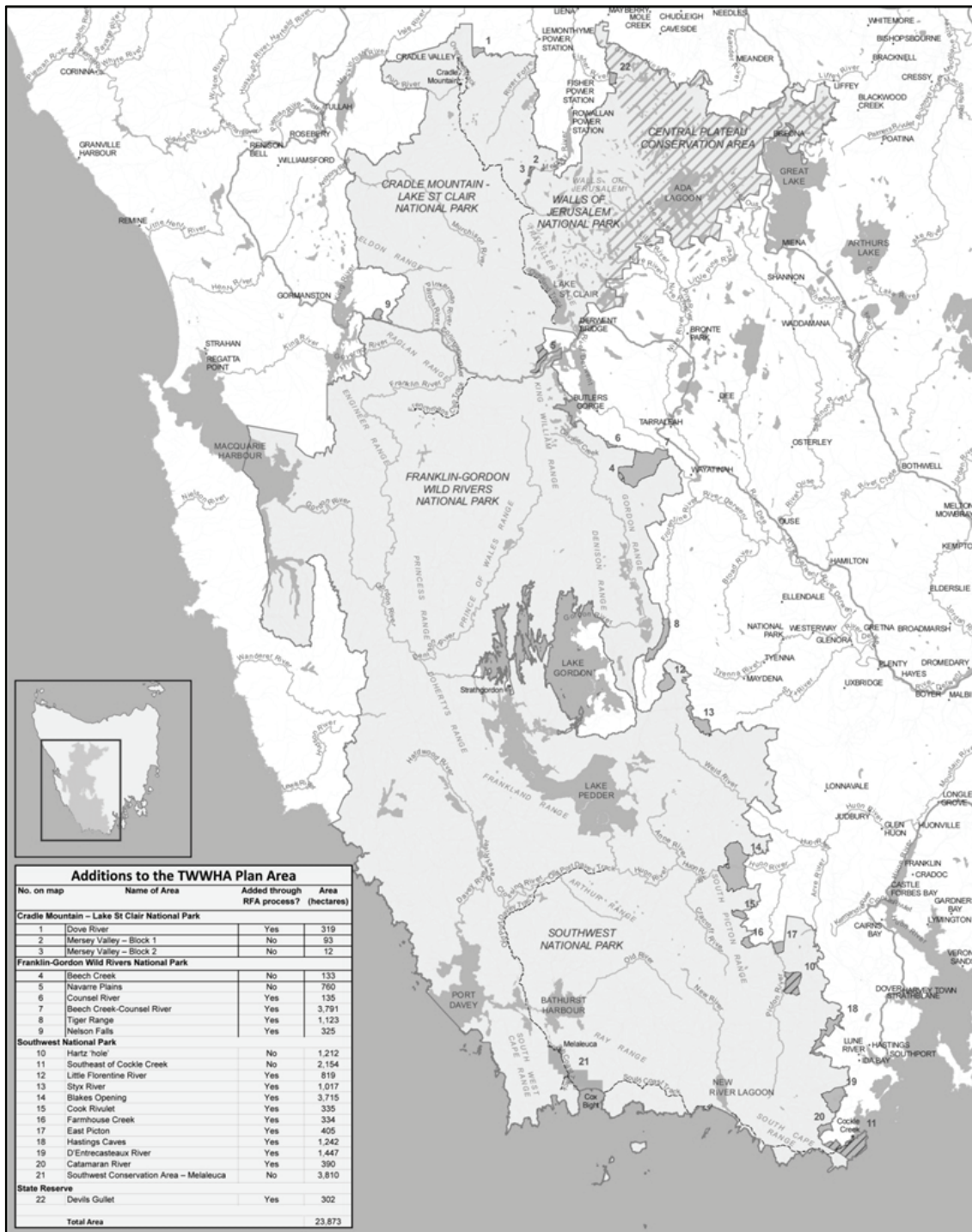
While ICOMOS is not against the extension of the property it considers that the proposal has been drafted from a natural perspective only. With a little more research and documentation and consideration of the disposition of cultural sites, ICOMOS considers that more satisfactory boundaries could have been drawn that would have respected both cultural and natural attributes and the mixed nature of the property.

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Tasmanian Wilderness, Australia, be **approved**.

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party be requested to consider further minor modifications to the boundaries to allow for inclusion of appropriate cultural sites, related to and complementing those within the property, with appropriate protection being put in place.

ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party be requested to augment its staff with cultural heritage specialists in order to ensure the adequate protection and management of cultural sites both within the property and immediately outside the boundaries.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Medina of Tunis (Tunisia)

No 36

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Tunisia

Name of property:

Medina of Tunis

Location:

Governorate of Tunis

Inscription: 1979

Brief Description:

Under the Almohads and the Hafsids, from the 12th to the 16th century, Tunis was considered one of the greatest and wealthiest cities in the Islamic world. Some 700 monuments, including palaces, mosques, mausoleums, madrasas and fountains, testify to this remarkable past.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The inventory included in the nomination dossier of the Medina of Tunis notes that no maps were submitted together with the dossier in 1978. It was indicated that the property comprised 270ha.

A letter dated 2 July 2004 sent by the *Institut National d'Archéologie et d'Art* to the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division, provided a "map for the Medina of Tunis showing the boundary of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List and the different levels of protection for the traditional urban fabric". This map shows 7 areas surrounded by an "area of environment", a larger zone of protection, identified as follows: historic area of the Medina of Tunis (A), Sidi El Bechír (B), Sebkha (C), El Morkadh (D), Bab Souika (E), Halfaouine (F) and Tronja (G), covering an area of about 70ha.

During the 1st cycle of Periodic Reporting (29 September 2000), it was stated that the buffer zone was not formally established. It was also indicated that the *Institut National du Patrimoine* and the *Association de sauvegarde de la Médina* were developing a safeguard plan.

The retrospective inventory process identified the information needs regarding the property and requested the State Party to clarify if the map submitted in 1984 was showing the boundaries of the World Heritage property and submit a large-scale topographic or cadastral map to show the boundaries of the inscribed property and the buffer zone. It was also requested that the size in hectares of both the property and buffer zone be provided.

At the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009), the Committee adopted the following decision:

Decision 33 COM 8B.45:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*

2. *Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zones for the Medina of Tunis, Tunisia, back to the State Party to allow it to:*

a) *Clarify the areas of the proposed property boundary and that of the buffer zone in relation to those provided with a map of 1984 showing 7 areas surrounded by an "area of environment";*

b) *Review the existing proposal to delineate a buffer zone so as to ensure the proper conservation and protection of the property, taking into consideration its values and its integration with the setting;*

c) *Provide information on how the proposed area will be managed and the regulatory measures foreseen for the buffer zone. Information on how these measures articulate with other planning tools for the place and the mechanisms for implementation should be provided;*

d) *Consider requesting a mission to the property to consider the proposed boundaries in conjunction with the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, when completed.*

Modification

In February 2010, the State Party submitted a map showing the boundaries of the property and the proposed buffer zone. It indicated that the area of the inscribed property is 296ha 41a 39ca while that of the buffer area is 190ha 18a 91ca.

Although the original nomination could consider that the property consisted of seven serial sites with a protected area around them, in the current map it is included as a whole. However, because no precise boundaries were submitted at the time of nomination it is difficult to ascertain to which extent this constitutes a modification on the boundaries.

The inclusion of the seven sites inscribed as a series originally in 1979 and their immediate protection zone in the definition of the property itself ensures ICOMOS that the key elements of the property of Outstanding Universal Value are all included and interconnected by an urban fabric which now enjoys the same recognition and protection. The buffer zone proposed by the State Party adds to this protection and should, with the previous elements, enable effective protection and conservation of the property, while allowing for its values and integration in its environment. The fact that the limit of the proposed buffer zone and that of the inscribed property coincide at two points to the south of the Medina does not constitute a problem for ICOMOS, which considers that each of the seven sites inscribed in 1979 is well integrated inside the proposed boundaries, and that they are all surrounded by an urban fabric of sufficient density to ensure their protection.

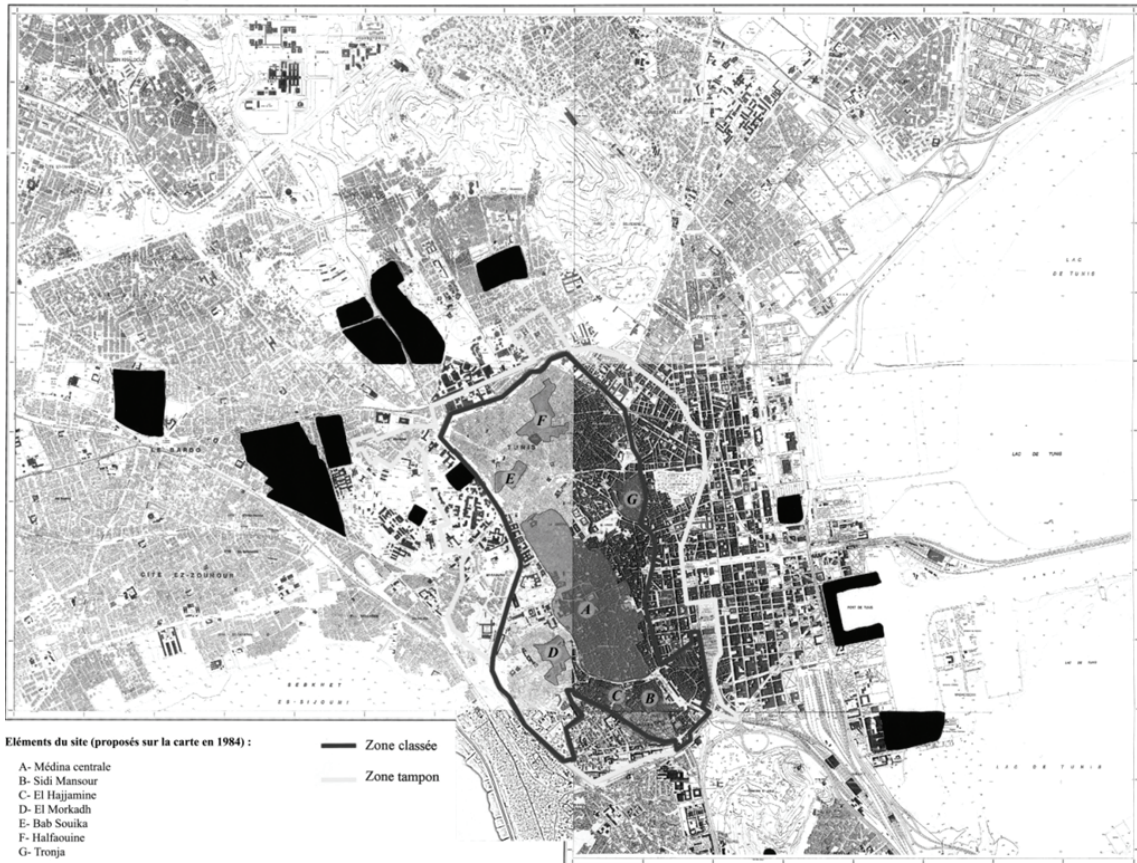
The State Party has also provided the following information and indications concerning the management of the site and regulatory measures:

The Medina of Tunis has been granted national statutory protection for 88 historic monuments. It also enjoys national protection for 5 monuments, 14 streets (including 3 souks) and one square. Its protection is ensured by the *Code du Patrimoine* (Law 94-35 of 24 February 1994), Law 2001-118 of 6 December 2001 on the protection of the archaeological, historic and traditional arts heritage, the statutory protection decrees and protection orders of around one hundred monuments, and by the *Plan d'aménagement urbain* of Tunis (PAU). The Medina of Tunis has a safeguard and management structure under the responsibility of the *Institut National du Patrimoine* and of an *Association de Sauvegarde de la Médina* which is under the Municipal Authority of Tunis.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed boundaries for the Medina of Tunis, Tunisia, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Medina of Tunis, Tunisia, be **approved**.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Amphitheatre of El Jem (Tunisia) No 38

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Tunisia

Name of property:

Amphitheatre of El Jem

Location:

Governorate of Mahdia

Inscription: 1979

Brief Description:

The impressive ruins of the largest colosseum in North Africa, a huge amphitheatre which could hold up to 35,000 spectators, are found in the small village of El Jem. This 3rd-century monument illustrates the grandeur and extent of Imperial Rome.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The decree n°103 dated 16 December 1920 established the protection of the monument and its surroundings against modern constructions by creating a building free zone with a radius of 300 m around the property. In the nomination file, a *plan d'aménagement de la ville d'El Jem* was included where the uses are established for the surrounding area.

On 9 June 1988, in response to a questionnaire entitled *Information update on the cultural sites inscribed on the World Heritage List*, the State Party reported that: *The buffer zone around the amphitheatre did not undergo any attack since the proposal for an inscription. However it is advisable to announce that if the adjustment of this space is practically finished in the southern sector or in a good way of completion on the north side, it is not the same for the two east and west sectors, where the extension of the buffer zone and development of the building encounters very complex land and social problems.*

During the 16th session of the World Heritage Committee (16 COM, Santa Fe, 1992), the State Party reported that new constructions would be prohibited by order of the President within a radius of 100 meters around the

amphitheatre (16 COM p.13). However, this was not established formally as a buffer zone. It was also considered that new construction detracted from the authenticity of the property and its character.

The retrospective inventory process identified gaps in information and requested the State Party to submit the largest scale topographic or cadastral map available showing the boundary of the inscribed property and its buffer zone and to indicate the size in hectares of the property and the buffer zone.

At the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009) the State Party presented a plan showing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone. The inscribed property covers an area of 1.37ha, and the proposed buffer zone an area of 26.41ha. The circular shape of the proposed buffer zone (radius of 300 meters from the centre of the amphitheatre) does not allow for the urban fabric or cadastral boundaries, but as it is relatively large, it includes the area immediately around the property.

During the session, the World Heritage Committee adopted the following recommendation:

Decision 33 COM 8B.42:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*

2. *Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zones for the Amphitheatre of, Tunisia, back to the State Party to allow it to:*

- *provide information on the institutional arrangements and regulatory measures to manage and control development within the proposed buffer zone.*

Modification

On 1st February 2010, the State Party provided the following information and indications concerning the protection of the property:

A presidential decree limits the height of buildings to 5m within a radius of 100 meters from the centre of the amphitheatre, and all rehabilitation, redevelopment or construction applications in this zone must be approved by the services of the Institut National du Patrimoine.

The *Plan d'aménagement de la ville d'El Jem* provides for restricted areas in the buffer zone, and in the archaeological zones (in which all interventions must be preceded by a historic and archaeological study), and for vision cones to preserve urban perspectives (limiting height to 6.40 meters).

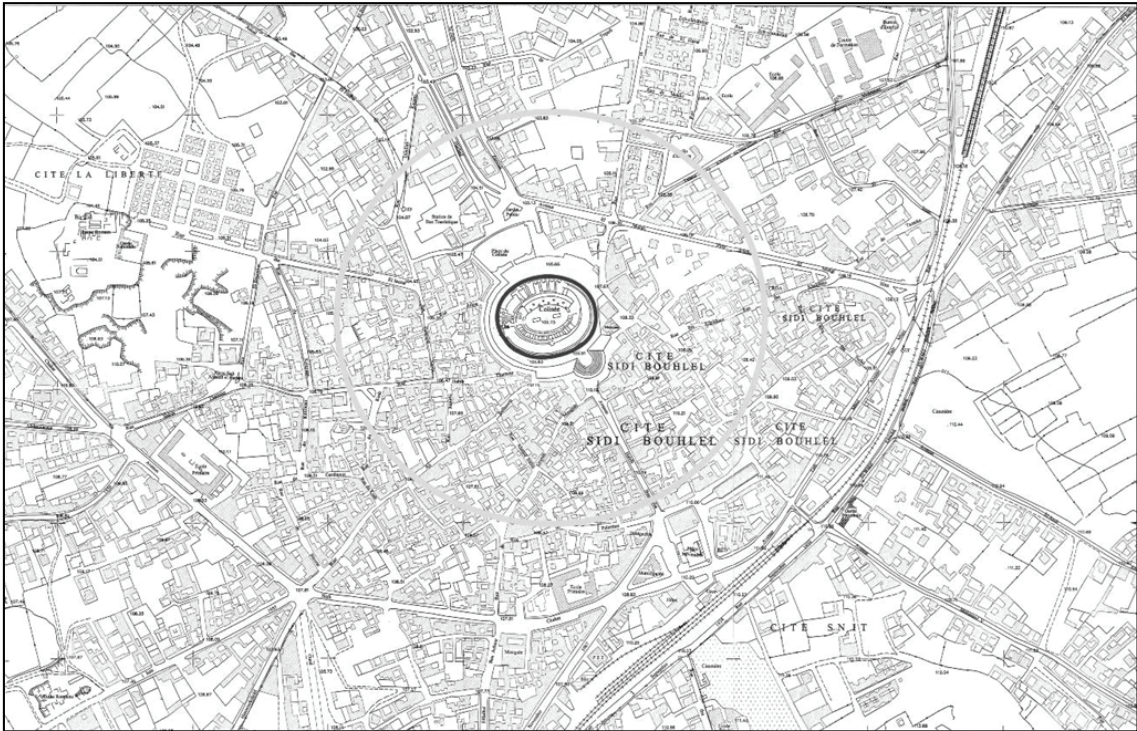
The heritage code (Law 1994-35 of 24 February 1994 on the protection of the archaeological, historic and traditional arts heritage) grants the state a right of inspection for all interventions around the monument (restricted area) and guarantees compliance with the provisions indicated above.

The preservation and management of the Amphitheatre of El Jem is carried out by a management unit run jointly by the *Institut National du Patrimoine* (responsible for scientific and technical matters) and the *Agence de Mise en Valeur du Patrimoine et de Promotion Culturelle* (in charge of the promotion and commercial management of the site).

ICOMOS considers that this information is satisfactory.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Amphitheatre of El Jem, Tunisia, be **approved**.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Kerkuane (Tunisia) No 332bis

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Tunisia

Name of property:

Punic Town of Kerkuane and its Necropolis

Location:

Cap Bon, Governorate of Nabeul

Inscription: 1985, 1986

Brief Description:

This Phoenician city was probably abandoned during the First Punic War (c. 250 B.C.) and as a result was not rebuilt by the Romans. The remains constitute the only example of a Phoenicio-Punic city to have survived. The houses were built to a standard plan in accordance with a sophisticated notion of town planning.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The Punic town of Kerkuane was inscribed in 1985 and the nomination was revised in 1986 to include the Necropolis. At the time of nomination only basic maps were submitted. In maps subsequently submitted the delimitation of the archaeological site and particularly of the Necropolis was not precise. The retrospective inventory process highlighted this situation and requested the State Party to verify the coordinates of the serial property and to submit revised topographic maps with precise scales or a cadastral map showing the limits of the inscribed property, as well as the indication of the surface in hectares for both elements and the proposed buffer zone.

At the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009), the Committee adopted the following decision:

Decision 33 COM 8B.46:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zones for the Punic Town of Kerkuane and its Necropolis, Tunisia, back to the State Party to allow it to:

a) Clearly delineate an area that promotes the integration between the two components of the inscribed serial property to adequately protect and conserve the property. Current land uses and cadastral plans should be considered for the delimitation of the buffer zone;

b) Provide information regarding the administrative and regulatory measures for the buffer zone as well the prescribed policies for its management.

Modification

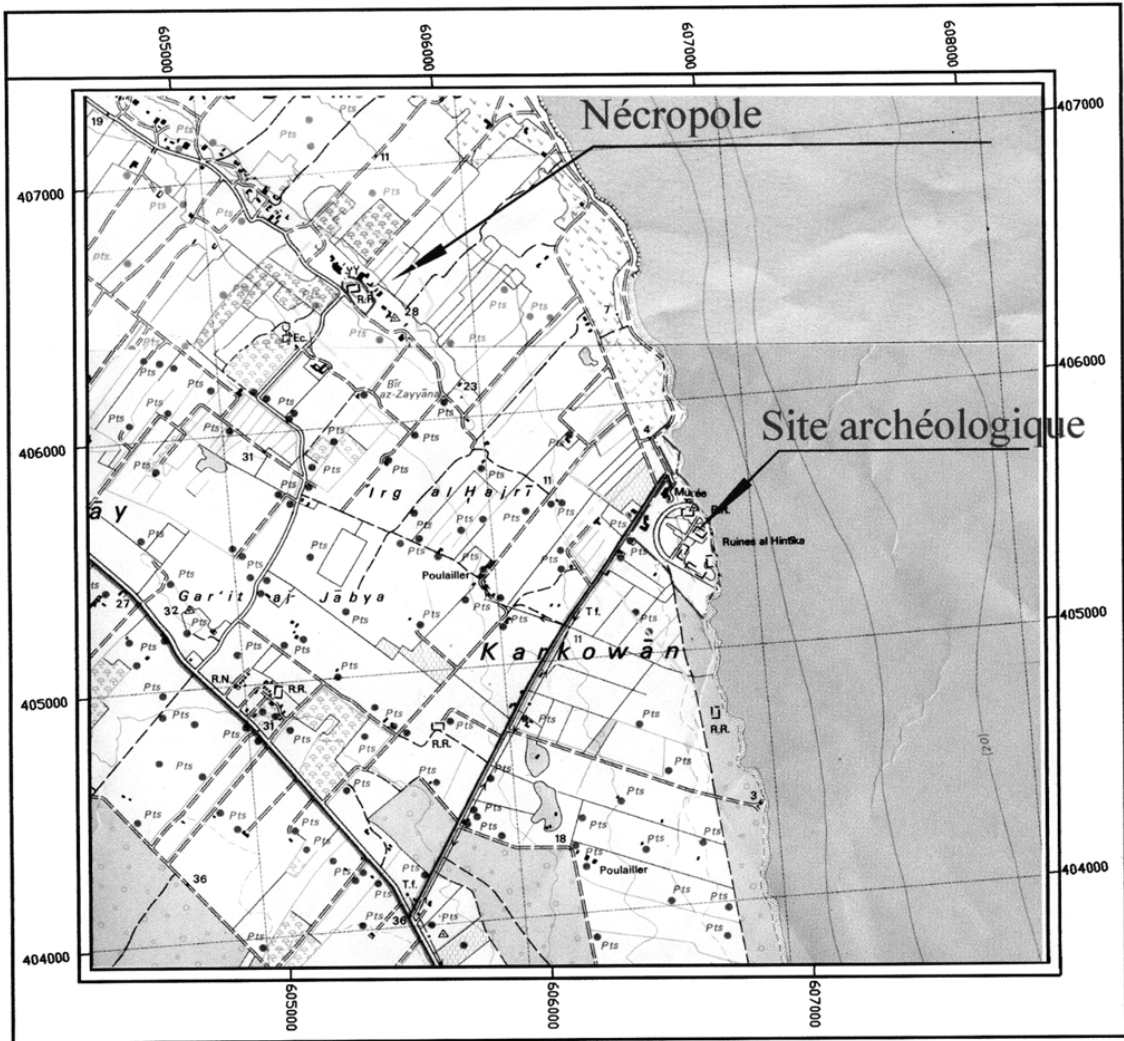
In February 2010, after studying the recommendation made by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party again submitted its original proposal for the boundaries of the two components of the property and their buffer zones, taking the view that it is difficult to consider for the time being a boundary which includes both components of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List. The State Party also provided information about the administrative and regulatory measures, and submitted a map indicating the boundaries of the inscribed property and the two buffer zones. The State Party estimates that the surface area of the inscribed property is 11.19ha and that of the two proposed buffer zones 61.17ha.

ICOMOS considers that the information provided about the administrative and regulatory measures are adequate, but that the plan provided by the State Party and examined by ICOMOS included a scale of 0 to 100 meters which did not correspond to the actual scale of the plan, while the proposed buffer zones (yellow line about 150 meters from the boundaries of the inscribed property) did not allow for the ownership boundaries, or the cadastral or parcel indications.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zones for the Punic Town of Kerkuane and its Necropolis, Tunisia, be **referred back** to the State Party to allow it to:

- Provide a plan to scale clearly delineating the buffer zones so as to adequately protect and conserve the property. Current land uses and cadastral plans should be considered for the delimitation of the buffer zones.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Medina of Sousse (Tunisia) No 498

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Tunisia

Name of property:

Medina of Sousse

Location:

Governorate of Sousse

Inscription: 1988

Brief Description:

Sousse was an important commercial and military port during the Aghlabid period (800–909) and is a typical example of a town dating from the first centuries of Islam. With its Kasbah, ramparts, medina (with the Great Mosque), Bu Ftata Mosque and typical ribat (both a fort and a religious building), Sousse was part of a coastal defence system.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The Medina of Sousse was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988. In 1992, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee noted that the property comprised both public and private property and was under town-planning regulations based on those at Tunis. The place maintained economic and domestic life, with a majority of residential areas and shops and public activities in about one-sixth of the districts. Challenges were faced in balancing function, the needs of the inhabitants and heritage concerns as well as the implementation of existing regulations. Additional concerns were raised regarding legislation for town planning and legal measures to control new construction and interventions at historic buildings.

The retrospective inventory process identified information needs, in particular the precise definitions of the boundaries of the property and the lack of a defined buffer zone. The State Party was asked to submit the largest scale topographic or cadastral map available to depict the boundary of the inscribed property and its buffer zone and to indicate in hectares the size of the property and its buffer zone.

At the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009), the Committee adopted the following decision:

Decision 33 COM 8B.44:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B et WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zones for the Medina of Sousse, Tunisia, back to the State Party to allow it to:

- a) Consider the enlargement of the buffer zone so as to effectively and adequately conserve and protect the property. The State Party may wish to extend the buffer zone to 200m beyond the ramparts, where possible, thus following the requirements of the Heritage regulations and the listing of the ramparts as "monument historique" (Decree of 25 January 1922);*
- b) Precisely identify regulatory measures to mitigate the impact of interventions at historic monuments and of new developments on the integrity of the property. Intersectorial management arrangements should also be explored to ensure the implementation of said regulations by all stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of the property.*

Modification

In February 2010, the State Party submitted a cadastral map showing the precise boundaries of the inscribed property and the proposed buffer zone. The inscribed property has an area of 32.61ha and the buffer zone 62.25ha (including the inscribed property). The buffer zone is a polygon whose distance from the inscribed property varies from a few meters to more than 270 meters, and which allows for the urban fabric and cadastral configurations. ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone should enable effective and adequate conservation of the property.

The State Party has also submitted details about control measures to reduce the impact of interventions at historic monuments and intersectorial management arrangements to ensure that regulations are applied. It states that the Institut National du Patrimoine has set up a management unit for the Medina of Sousse comprising an architect / team leaders, a heritage conservationist, an administrator, a technician and two full-time inspectors based in the Medina, together with two construction superintendents. This unit is in charge of managing the Medina and establishing intersectorial discussions with the local authority and preservation associations.

ICOMOS considers that the details provided are satisfactory

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Medina of Sousse, Tunisia, be ***approved***.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Kairouan (Tunisia) No 499

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Tunisia

Name of property:

Medina of Kairouan

Location:

Governorate of Kairouan

Inscription: 1988

Brief Description:

Founded in 670, Kairouan flourished under the Aghlabid dynasty in the 9th century. Despite the transfer of the political capital to Tunis in the 12th century, Kairouan remained the Maghreb's principal holy city. Its rich architectural heritage includes the Great Mosque, with its marble and porphyry columns, and the 9th-century Mosque of the Three Gates.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

The nomination file for the property included a map of Kairouan marking the boundaries of the property in a thick pencil line. The site is a serial property that includes the Medina, the Zawiya de Sidi Sahab and the Aghlabid Basins. Although the limits could be identified, a precise delimitation was needed. The retrospective inventory process further underscored the need for updated topographic maps or cadastral maps to clearly show the boundaries of the three inscribed elements that constitute the World Heritage property as well as the delimitation of the buffer zone. Indications on the precise size of the property and the buffer zone were also requested.

ICOMOS has examined a map submitted by the State Party in February 2009, indicating the boundaries of the inscribed zones and of the proposed buffer zones. The total area of the property was 54ha and that of the proposed buffer zones 73.04ha.

At its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), the World Heritage Committee adopted the following recommendation:

Decision: 33 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*

2. *Decides not to approve the minor modification of the boundaries of Kairouan, Tunisia;*

3. *Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zones for Kairouan, Tunisia, back to the State Party to allow it to:*

- a) *Review the existing proposal to delineate a buffer zone so as to ensure the proper conservation and protection of the Property. The buffer zone should also seek to integrate the three components of the World Heritage property;*
- b) *Provide information on the criteria for defining the buffer zone, existing regulations and measures to secure protection and arrangements for effective management.*

Modification:

The State Party has submitted a map indicating the limits of the property inscribed, whose total area is now 106.2ha, which corresponds to the area of the property inscribed in 1988. The area of the proposed buffer zones is 154.37 ha.

The boundaries proposed correspond to three separate buffer zones which apply respectively to the three components of the property inscribed, that is:

- a) The medina and its outskirts
- b) The mausoleum of Sidi Sahib
- c) The Aghlabid basins

In response to the Committee's recommendation that a single buffer zone should be considered for the three components of the property, the State Party has explained that the intermediate zones between the three components of the property have been developed in the recent past, which is not conducive to their inclusion in a single buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that the three proposed buffer zones should provide effective protection. The buffer zone for the Medina and the Mausoleum of Sidi Sahib has a radius of around 200 meters; that of the Aghlabid Basins ranges from a few meters to 145 meters, but is the result of the division into parcels of the *Plan d'aménagement* which follows the main thoroughfares around the park.

The *Plan d'aménagement de la ville de Kairouan* (which is currently under review) allows for these buffer zones, prohibiting any building to a height of above 7 meters. The Medina, the Mausoleum of Sidi Sahib and the Aghlabid Basins are listed monuments and are thus protected by the decree of 10 April 1912 and have a

protection zone of 200 meters, doubled by an unbuildable zone (decree of 31 March 1914).

The Medina of Kairouan has an administrative entity inside the Institut National du Patrimoine, staffed by around one hundred people who manage the town's heritage and its conservation. For the last two decades, this team has been carrying out works for the rehabilitation of the urban fabric and the historic monuments. More than 80% of the town's monuments have been surveyed, and technical dossiers are available for them. The Medina of Kairouan preservation project is allocated an annual budget from the entry charges for the town's historic monuments and museums. It ensures the continuity of restoration and rehabilitation works in the Medina and its outskirts.

ICOMOS considers that the existing regulations and arrangements seem to be adequate to ensure effective protection and management of the property.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed boundaries for the Medina of Kairouan, Tunisia, be ***approved***.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zones for the Medina of Kairouan, Tunisia, be ***approved***.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Historic Monuments of Dengfeng (China) No 1305rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

Historic Monuments of Dengfeng in "The Centre of Heaven and Earth"

Location:

Dengfeng, Zhengzhou City, Henan Province,
People's Republic of China

Brief description:

Eight clusters of buildings spread out over 40 square kilometres around the lower slopes of Mount Songshan, and adjacent to Dengfeng city, include three Han Que gates - remains of the oldest Chinese state religious buildings, the tower of Songyue temple - the oldest Buddhist pagoda in China, the Zhongyue Temple - one of the earliest Taoist temples, the Shaolin Temple - with its stone pagoda forest and association with martial arts, the Songyang Academy -with perhaps the oldest extant cypress trees, the Huishan Temple, and, slightly set apart to the south-east, the Zhougong Sundial Platform and Dengfeng Observatory.

Many of the buildings were built under the patronage of Chinese Emperors who through nine dynasties offered sacrifices to Songshan as the central sacred mountain of China. The buildings variously reflect the perceived centre of heaven and earth, the power and influence of the mountain as a centre of mountain worship, and the birthplace of Chan (Zen) Buddhism.

Category of property:

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of eight *groups of buildings*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 29 November 2001

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:

21 January 2008
21 January 2010

Background: This nomination was referred back at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009):

Decision: 33 COM 8B.13

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1,*

2. *Referred the nomination of Historic monuments of Mount Songshan, China, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*

a) *Consider further the relationship between some of the nominated sites and the central China sacred mountain, Mount Songshan and;*

b) *Consider how a nomination of some of the selected sites together with part of the mountain might reflect their value as an ensemble that manifests the power and influence the mountain had in constitutional, religious and ceremonial terms and how the simple worship of nature was transformed into a force that legitimized imperial power, under the guidance of Confucian thought;*

c) *Consider nominating the Observatory on its own as a site associated with technological development and the development of scientific ideas;*

3. *Recommends that, as the collection of ancient trees is a key quality of the area, greater recognition, survey and research should be provided to establish its cultural value as part of any future nominated ensemble;*

On 21 January 2010 the State Party submitted a third volume of supplementary information. This volume is entitled Historic Monuments of Dengfeng in "the Centre of Heaven and Earth" and provides a new overall justification for the property with further justification for the criteria, and also includes a further comparative analysis, comments on authenticity and integrity, a paper on the concept of the Centre of the Earth in the History of Chinese Astronomy and a detailed comparative analysis for the Dengfeng Observatory.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes. ICOMOS also consulted the International Astronomical Union on the observatory and IUCN on the ancient trees.

Literature consulted (selection):

Chang, Chia-t'ai, *Shaolin Temple*, 1983.

Shahar, Meir, *The Shaolin monastery: history, religion and the Chinese martial arts*, 2008.

Xu, Wenbin, *Sichuan Han dai shi que: Stone que: towers of Han dynasty in Sichuan province*, 1992.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 12-16 September 2008

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 9 October 2008 on the coordinates of the nominated property, on how the overall nomination of the five sacred mountains of China will be related to the current nomination, and on the identification of ancient trees. The State Party replied on 13 November 2008 with 24 pages of supplementary information and the responses were included in ICOMOS's first evaluation report to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009).

ICOMOS sent another letter to the State Party on 19 December 2008 to clarify the information already supplied, in particular how *'Mount Songshan gave birth to the concepts of "Central State" ... and "Central Plain"'*.

The State Party responded on 2nd March 2009 with a second volume of supplementary information amounting to 36 pages. This included different justification for the criteria and a shift in the overall justification for the nomination away from the initial idea of Mount Songshan and religious sacrifice being the underpinning of the nominated sites, to an emphasis on the links to Dengfeng city and the idea of its association with the centre of heaven and earth.

This second volume of supplementary information requested two changes to the nomination: the name should be changed from Historic Monuments of Mount Songshan to Historic Monuments of Dengfeng in "the Center of Heaven and Earth"; and the Observatory, a component part of the serial nomination, should be described as Zhougong Sundial Platform and Dengfeng Observatory.

This second volume of supplementary information submitted by the State Party was almost a new nomination in the way it changed the focus of the serial property. In its first evaluation ICOMOS considered that more time than was available to it at a late stage in the nomination process, was needed to assess adequately this very different proposal and accompanying supplementary information through expert study. ICOMOS recommended that the Committee should defer the nomination in order to allow the State Party to articulate more clearly the justification for Outstanding Universal Value.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

In the central plain of China, Mount Songshan, the central sacred mountain, rises to 1,500 metres. The six main peaks of Mount Songshan stretch for 64km between the cities of Luoyang and Zhengzhou. The slopes rise steeply from the valley and are thickly clad with trees. On the lower slopes between two of the

peaks, Mount Shaoshi and Mount Taishan, are eight clusters of buildings, spread over an area of around 40 square kilometres.

The eight clusters of buildings or sites, totalling 367 structures, and spread out over 40 sq km, include three Han Que gates - remains of the oldest Chinese state religious buildings, the tower of Songyue temple - the oldest Buddhist pagoda in China, the Zhongyue Temple - one of the earliest Taoist temples, the Shaolin Temple with its stone pagoda forest and association with martial arts, the Songyang Academy with perhaps the oldest extant cypress trees, the Huishan Temple, and, slightly set apart to the south-east, the Zhougong Sundial Platform and Dengfeng Observatory.

Each of the collection of ritual, scientific and educational buildings belongs to different cultural and/or religious schools and they do not have a single common theme. They are variously related to the perceived centre of heaven and earth, a circular area some 40 km in diameter centred between two peaks of Mount Songshan and including Dengfeng city, to the power, influence and attraction of Mount Songshan as a centre of mountain worship, to the centre of oriental Confucian culture, and to the birthplace of Chan (Zen) Buddhism.

From ancient times the idea of the 'round heavens and square earth', was a crucial part of the idea of cosmic structure in China. Heaven and earth were separate but connected to each other and the link between was seen as either big trees or high mountains. This concept played a role in the development of Chinese astronomy and also influenced political, cultural and religious progress. It also prompted the search for the centre of the flat earth. There were several contenders. One was Luo, later renamed Luoyi in present day Luoyang. This was identified in the Zhou Dynasty (c 11th century BCE-221 BCE) and became its capital.

The location in Luoyi was not accepted by all and various other hypotheses emerged. One, the Gai Tian hypothesis, related the centre to beneath the north star and identified it as Mount Kunlun. A later hypothesis, the Han Tian, that emerged in the Western Han Dynasty (206BCE -25CE), was related to the idea that the distance between stars and the centre remained the same, and thus only astronomy conducted at the centre of the earth was reliable. Based on this hypothesis, Luo Xiahong and fellow astronomers took observations but these are not recorded.

Later scholars took up the Han Tian hypothesis and offered two sites: Luoyi and Yangcheng. The latter came to have greater influence in the history of Chinese astronomy. Yangcheng is present-day Gaocheng in Dengfeng (20km south-east of Mount Songshan). The two sites relate to different interpretations of the *Rites of Zhou* in which Emperor Zhou set out the length a shadow should reach at the summer solstice as a way of identifying the centre. Later scholars interpreted his criteria to equate to Yangcheng rather than his own

capital Luoyi. Surveys conducted by Guo Shoujing in the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368) to reform astronomy used Yangcheng as a base and an observatory was constructed and poles erected for measurement at what is now Dengfeng.

The concept of the centre of heaven and earth is evidenced in murals, stone engravings, and stele inscriptions. Literary references reveal the long academic debate about the concept. Some scholars from the northern Song Dynasty (960 and 1279), also related it to nearby Mount Songshan, and this is now acknowledged as the natural component of the centre of heaven and earth, and thus the central sacred mountain. The supplementary information provides a plan showing the area considered to be the centre of heaven and earth, centred around the Huishan Temple between the two peaks of Mount Songshan, rather than on Dengfeng Observatory (although in the nomination dossier it is suggested that the Observatory was at the actual centre).

The concept of the centre persisted in astronomical thinking until the Ming Dynasty (1365-1644) when western ideas about a spherical earth were adopted. Nevertheless the general concept persisted as it was linked to the idea of the centre of national power.

The area around Yengcheng has been considered through Chinese history as the Zhongyan (Central Plain) and from where the country developed and expanded to become Zhongguo – the state located at the centre of the world. The Xia Dynasty, the first Chinese dynasty that ruled from around 2,000 BCE to around 1,600 BCE, was said to have its capital in Yengcheng – although its precise position has not been established. Even though the capitals of later dynasties were located elsewhere, the association between Dengfeng and the centre of the country, and of the world, persisted. The third volume of supplementary information provides a diagram of the circular area considered to encompass the centre of heaven and earth. This is a circle approximately 40km in diameter, centred roughly on the Songyue Temple between two peaks on Mount Songshan, and including Dengfeng city.

Songshan was revered as a holy mountain where immortals lived, and where emperors offered sacrifices to heaven and earth, to communicate with gods, and to pray for the stability of their country. An inscription records Emperor Wu offering sacrifices there after conquering the Shang Dynasty. By no later than the early Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century BCE-771 BCE), sacrifices had begun to be offered to the mountain.

From then on, and reinforced by Emperor Xuandi of the Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE) designating in 61 BCE Mount Songshan as the central of the five sacred mountains, (the others being Taishan in the east, Hengshan Bei in the north, Huashan in the west, and Henshan Nan in the south), emperors continuously

offered sacrifices. Between King Wu of the Zhou Dynasty and the end of the Qing Dynasty in AD 1912, 68 emperors are recorded as having visited or offered sacrifice to Mount Songshan.

In Chinese feudal society imperial rulers exercised tight control over cultural and religious schools and used them to reinforce power and social order. In the Han Dynasty, Confucianism was adopted as the over-arching school. The simple worship of nature was transformed into a force that legitimised imperial power, under the guidance of Confucian thought. Two of the three Han Que gates provide physical evidence of buildings associated with imperial sacrifices to the mountain with vivid depictions of the festivities associated with rituals. When Taoism and Buddhism emerged, the struggles between them were 'coordinated' by Imperial power. The sequence of buildings in and around Mount Songshan associated with the formation of Taoism into a religion (the Zhongyue Temple) and with Buddhism (the Shaolin Temple, the birthplace of Chan Buddhism) is seen to reflect the jostling for Imperial favour as well as the institutionalisation of sacred rites.

Mount Songshan is symbolically referenced in the layout of three of the sites (Zhongyue Temple, Taishi Que, and Shaoshi Que) through the axial alignments of monuments to the mountain peaks, through inscriptions on steles and temple headboards, through pictorial stone engravings, in murals and also through literature, poetry and songs.

The nominated buildings were initially constructed over a span of eighteen centuries between 118 AD and the 20th century. The Tishi, Shaoshi and Qimu Gates have survived since Han times, while Zhongyue Temple and Songyang Academy, initially built in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), were reconstructed over succeeding centuries, lastly in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912). The Zhougong Sundial Platform was constructed in the 8th century while the Dengfeng Observatory was built between the 13th and 16th centuries.

Many of the buildings were constructed as a result of imperial patronage, using top designers and craftsmen and following the best building standards and forms that could only be used in the highest status structures in the hierarchical system.

Collectively the nominated buildings are said to reflect the power and influence the area had in constitutional, religious, ceremonial, educational and astronomical terms.

In architectural terms, the Buddhist pagodas of the Songyue and Shaolin Temples have come to be seen as models, copied within China and further afield.

Within some of the sites are a collection of ancient trees, including around fifty that are considered to be over 2,000 years old, and a few that are reputed to have an age as high as 4,000 years.

Although the concepts of Dengfeng being the centre of heaven and earth and the birthplace of Chinese civilisation and of Mount Songshan being revered as a sacred mountain underpinned the imperial patronage and the development of temples and other buildings, neither the city nor the mountain itself form part of the nominated property. At a later date the mountain may be nominated as part of an extension of Mount Taishan to encompass the five sacred mountains, (as indicated on the current Tentative List of China).

The property consists of 367 structures within the following eight sites:

- *Taishi Que Gates and Zhongyue Temple*
- *Shaoshi Que Gates*
- *Qimu Que Gates*
- *Songyue Temple Pagoda*
- *Architectural Complex of Shaolin Temple (Kernel Compound, Chuzu Temple, Pagoda Forest)*
- *Huishan Temple*
- *Songyang Academy of Classical Learning*
- *Zhougong Sundial Platform and Dengfeng Observatory*

These will be considered separately:

Taishi Que Gates and Zhongyue Temple

The Taishi Que Gate (Que gates are those erected in front of a tomb or temple) was originally one of a pair of buildings at the foot of Huangghai peak of Mount Taishi that flanked the entrance to Taishi temple, used for sacrifices to the mountain. Built in 118 AD the gate is of grey stone but in imitation of a wooden structure, and carved in low relief on all four sides with vivid and dramatic images of beasts, spirits, and trees, that were perceived to have the power to ward off evil spirits. Although much weathered, one inscription which remains legible contains a eulogy to the central sacred mountain. The gate is protected by a shelter building.

Thirty-four ancient stone Han Que Gates remain in China, of which three are at Mount Songshan; the remaining ones were erected for private tombs. The three gates within the nominated property are the only surviving ceremonial structures from the Han era.

The Zhongyue temple replaced the Taishi temple at the end of the original track from the Taishi Que gate, a simple narrow earth route flanked by cypress trees. The Zhongyue Temple was originally constructed in the 5th century when Kou Qianzhi reorganised Taoist preaching and formalised Taoism as a religion. It has been rebuilt many times but its layout can be attributed to the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234). Its buildings relate to its last reconstruction in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) in what is known as the 'official architectural style' of that dynasty. Some buildings were reconstructed in the 20th century. There are 39 buildings, arranged in multiple courtyards along a central axis, many decorated with

carvings and glazed tiles. The Junji Hall, a place for offering sacrifices to the God of Zhongyue is the largest building on any of the sacred mountains.

The layout of the temple is recorded in a stele map carved in 1200 and a second one carved in 1547. The number of courtyards on the central axis, the form and location of the sacrificing stage, and the site of the main halls in this overall plan seemed to have influenced the layout of temples on the other four sacred mountains.

Around the temple are forty-three ancient trees considered to be between 2,200 and 4,000 years old, and 330 cypresses planted between the Han and Qing dynasties.

Stele record building of the temples and the sacrificial addresses of Emperors, while others depict the sacred mountains or extol their virtues in poetry.

Two stone statues 1.2 metres high date from 118 AD and are the oldest surviving stone figures in China. Four even larger iron statues some 2.5 metres high date from 1054 AD.

Shaoshi Que Gates

This pair of Han Dynasty Que gates, constructed in 123 AD flanked the approach to the now demolished temple of Mount Shaoshi. They are similar in form and materials to the Taishi Que gate and likewise decorated in low relief with around 60 pictures surviving. These include two young women on galloping horses, part of a circus show, and an ancient game of football, known as *cuju*. The sculptures are in urgent need of conservation – see below. A new shelter building is proposed for these gates – see below.

Qimu Que Gates

This pair of Han Que gates flanked the path to Qimu temple which no longer survives. They were built in 123 AD in a similar style and materials to the Taishi gate. On their surfaces, 60 images have survived that depict cockfights, shows by troupes visiting from the Roman Empire, texts recording the curbing of a flood, and a prayer for rain to fall on the mountain. The gates are protected by a shelter building.

The Qimu Que gate was built in commemoration of the mother of Qi, wife of Yu, the legendary founder of the Xia Dynasty the first Chinese dynasty that ruled from around 2,000 BCE to around 1600 BCE.

Songyue Temple Pagoda

The large cream coloured brick pagoda is a dodecagonal structure with a roof of 15 overlapping eaves. Constructed on open ground, with Mount Taishi in the background and in the foreground streams and lush woods, it is visible from many directions.

The pagoda was built between 508 and 511 for an Emperor of the northern Wei Dynasty on the site of his temporary palace. The rest of the temple and palace do not survive. The design of the pagoda with its parabolic contour and advance tubular form is considered to be very innovative and became a model for many later pagodas. Its decoration of flame patterns and lions reflects influence from regions further to the west.

The pagoda is now surrounded by brick and timber buildings from the Qing Dynasty.

In the temple precincts are ancient trees, such as ginkgo, maidenhair, scholar and juniper, that are said to date from the Han Dynasty.

Architectural Complex of Shaolin Temple (Kernel Compound, Chuzu Temple, Pagoda Forest)

This very large complex on the north side of Mount Shaoshi presents a dramatic picture of red walls and green glazed tile roofs set amongst dense trees.

The Chuzu Temple was built to commemorate the first Patriarch of the Chan sect of Buddhism in 1125. It sought to re-establish itself after a major Buddhist purge by building at the centre of heaven and earth. Despite being repaired many times, the apron walls, sixteen octagonal columns - eight adorned with lively relief carvings of flowers, flying deities, Buddhas, peacocks and cranes, and the long relief behind the sacred platform, with landscape and figures showing the beauty of a mountain forest, all date from the Song Dynasty.

The Kernel Compound contains two small brick pagodas from the Song Dynasty. The remaining buildings date from the Ming and Qing dynasties. The large Ming Thousand Buddha Hall is decorated with an extensive mural depicting 495 arhats against mountains, clouds and flowing water.

The pagoda forest is a compound of stone or brick pagodas, each one built to commemorate an eminent monk. The name 'forest' reflects the number and density of these structures, which with their crisply carved tapered tops resemble a forest of trees. In the 'forest' and nearby are a total of 241 pagodas, some rising to ten stories and many elaborately carved, erected during seven dynasties between the Tang and Qing, over almost 13 centuries (520-1803). As a group, the pagodas reflect the evolution in style of tomb pagodas and the gradual fusion between the Chan sect and other cultures.

The overall composition of the Shaolin temple was seen as indicating how a large temple should be, and was followed by Zen temples in other places.

Numerous cypress pines (known as the Chinese Arborvitae or *Cupressus arborvitae*) grow amongst the pagodas and some are causing damage to the pagoda

structures. A Chinese wingnut tree is considered to be around 2,000 years old.

Huishan Temple

In beautiful scenery below the Jicui peak of Mount Taishi, the wooden Huishan Temple was built in the Yuan Dynasty (12th century), from buildings constructed as a temporary China imperial palace in the Northern Wei Dynasty (5th century AD) and on the site of the living quarters of monk and astronomer Yi Xing. Eight structures survive on the central axis, including screen wall, main gate, and the east and west wings of the main hall, built on a large platform.

The Huishan Temple is ranked as one of the four main temples of Mount Songshan along with Shaolin, Songyue and Fawang (not included in the nominated area). Although repaired frequently in the Ming and Qing dynasties, the main elements of its timber structure have survived as prime example of Yuan architecture.

Songyang Academy of Classical Learning

At the foot of the Junji peak of Mount Taishi, and aligned to it, the Songyang Academy of Classical Learning is on the site of the Songyang Temple built in the Northern Wei Dynasty (5th century). The Academy was created in the later Tang Dynasty and by the Song Dynasty was considered as one of the four great academies of classical learning in China disseminating Confucian theories and culture. It is claimed that the academy contributed substantially to the dissemination of Confucianism into other parts of China through the Songyang doctrines.

The surviving buildings date from the Qing Dynasty (17th century). The simple buildings of grey bricks and tiled roofs, arranged around five courtyards, are in typical Henan style. They enclose over 100 rooms. There is no doubt that the first built academy of Mount Songshan set up an example for all following private academies. Since it was privately owned, the Songyang Academy could not match the other official academies in terms of scale and size of buildings.

The Academy is located on the foothills of Mount Taishi surrounded by a landscape with low forests. Its layout is in an axial alignment to a mountain peak. Within the grounds are two 'General' cypress trees reputed to be 4,500 years old and the oldest trees so far identified in China. The rank of General was conferred on these two trees by a Han Emperor.

At the south-western side of the academy gate stands a Tang Tablet, erected in AD 744 in the Tang Dynasty (618-907); it is the largest stele in Henan Province and famous in Chinese handwriting history.

Zhougong Sundial Platform and Dengfeng Observatory

The Observatory built in the Yuan Dynasty (13th century) is located some 15 km south-east of Dengfeng town on the outskirts of Gaocheng town beneath Gaocheng mountain.

It is purported to have been built under the orders of Kubla Khan, who selected twenty-seven sites to undertake nationwide astronomical observations. Only the Observatory in Dengfeng and another in Beijing were built in brick. The Observatory was designed by astronomers Guo Shoujing (1231-1316AD) and Wang Xun to measure the solstices in order to establish an accurate calendar. A contemporary text records that Guo Shoujing chose Dengfeng as one of the two most significant sites for astronomical observation, for Dengfeng was regarded the centre of Heaven and Earth.

Using their measurements and calculations, Guo Shoujing compiled in AD 1271 the *Shou Shi Calendar*, the most advanced calendar in the world at the time, and only five seconds different from calendars produced today from modern scientific analysis.

The Dengfeng observatory is built of grey brick and is designed as a huge quadrant. It retains all the features for its historic function – the bar for the sun's shadow and the water runnels that provided the water film for reflecting the shadow. At the foot of the platform is the dial laid out in blue stones.

To the south is the earlier 8th century Tang Dynasty Zhougong sundial platform. It is said that Nangong Yue built the monument to identify the spot where Zhougong measured the centre of Heaven and Earth.

Nearby is the Zhougong temple dating from the Ming Dynasty.

History and development

Evidence for human occupation around the mountain dates back to Palaeolithic times with rich finds in, for instance, the Zhiji cave. During the Neolithic period, the mountain had one of the most advanced cultures in China, as demonstrated by finds related to the Longshan culture at Wangchenggang in Dengfeng. This evolved into the beginnings of what are seen as the earliest states in China and the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties – some of whose capitals, including Yangcheng, were around Mount Songshan. One of the two capitals of the Xia Dynasty was at Wangchenggang.

During the first few centuries after Buddhism was introduced into China in the Han Dynasty, many Buddhist temples were established around Mount Songshan, including Songyue, Shaolin and Huishan, and the Chan sect was spread from the Shaolin temple. The Region also played an important role in the development of Taoism.

The Buddhist temples as well as being associated with the dissemination of Buddhism are said to have had their historical significance heightened by their proximity to the centre of heaven and earth and to one of the later capitals, the city of Luoyi and to the beautiful landscape.

In the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Empress Wu decreed the god of Mount Songshan to be the 'Emperor of Central Heaven', whilst Emperor Xuanzong nominated the god as 'King of Central Heaven' and expanded the Zhongyue temple.

In the Song (960-1279) and Jin dynasties (1115-1234) there was further imperial support that led to rapid development of religions and temples and also the creation of the Academy of Classical Learning. The Yuan Dynasty saw the creation of 44 pagodas as well as the building of the Observatory.

In the Ming Dynasty (1365-1644) the religious structures reached their greatest extent and prosperity and nine halls and 143 pagodas still survive from this period. It was in this period that the concept of the centre of earth was abandoned as western ideas about a spherical earth were adopted.

During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), buildings were renovated or rebuilt and there are now more Qing structures than from any other dynasty, including 34 temple buildings. Construction came to an end during the Republic of China.

For around 2,000 years the process of building and rebuilding temples continued, even though the capitals of the dynasties since the 3rd century BCE had not been around Mount Songshan. Sixty-eight rulers visited the mountain, or sent their deputies to offer sacrifices, and men of letters, scholars and eminent monks were attracted to live in the religious establishments and in some cases commissioned buildings.

The area thus retained its influence not just for its association with a sacred mountain or for its association with the concept of the centre of heaven and earth in astronomical terms, but also due to Dengfeng being at the heart of the country and thus associated with the soul of China.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis of the original nomination dossier compares individual elements of the property with other sites, rather than comparing the whole ensemble.

The Han Que gates are compared with 34 other surviving Han gates constructed between AD 36 and AD 220. The nominated ones are seen to be the earliest of

their kind surviving in front of a temple of national importance.

The Songyue Pagoda is said to be the earliest of its kind in China and therefore to have no comparators.

The Chuzu Temple is the only surviving Song wooden temple to have been built in the Song Dynasty near the capital city.

The Pagoda Forest of the Shaolin Temple is compared to 15 other surviving well preserved pagoda forests and is seen to have by far the largest number of pagodas.

In the original nomination, no details were provided for the Beijing sundial, nor comparisons made with the Ulugh-Beg observatory in Samarkand or observatories in Korea. These were provided in the first volume of supplementary information. It is said that the observatory played a similar historical role and made a similar contribution to astronomical science and astronomical architecture as Cheom-seong-dae built in the 7th century in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, Ulugh-Beg Observatory built in 1430 in Uzbekistan, Beijing Ancient Observatory in the period of Zhengtong in the Ming Dynasty (around the year 1442), Kassel Observatory built in 1560 in Germany, the Greenwich Royal Observatory built in 1675 in Great Britain, and the Jantar Mantar Observatory built in 1724 in Delhi, India.

The Songyang Academy is said to be one of the four oldest in China.

In the second volume of supplementary information Mount Songshan is compared to the other sacred mountains in China and is seen to be the only one with a collection of historic buildings of diverse architectural styles and cultural connections, built by the government or by the private sector. It is acknowledged that Mount Taishan is much better known than Mount Songshan, largely because of later literature. However it is suggested that only on Mount Songshan can the history of Buddhist architecture be discerned, through the Shaolin Temple, Songyue pagoda and Huishan Temple. It is further suggested that Mount Songshan gives a more complete picture of ritual and sacrificial buildings than any of the other sacred mountains.

Although it is acknowledged that elsewhere in China there are substantial buildings associated with sacrificial rituals, these date from the Ming Dynasty. Mount Songshan thus provides much earlier evidence back to the Han Dynasty.

Comparisons with other sacred mountains outside China indicate that Mount Songshan is differentiated by its multiple faiths. Within China it is compared to Mount Wudang which has exquisite buildings of the Ming Dynasty built under imperial patronage. Mount Songshan does not have buildings of this imposing size or grandeur but it is seen to have buildings which in various ways

were influential – such as in the diffusion of the Chan sect.

In the original nomination the State Party stressed the importance of the associations between the various buildings and the sacred mountain. The later temple buildings could be said to be a continuation and reflection of the mountain's central role in the development of religious ceremonies. A strong case had not however been made for linking the Academy and the Observatory to the mountain in terms of patronage or sitting.

In the second volume of supplementary information provided, the emphasis changed from links between the nominated sites and the sacred mountain to the links between the sites and Dengfeng as the centre of heaven and earth, and the name was changed to reflect this. The assembly of buildings is said to reflect the power of Dengfeng as a cultural centre, related to the memory of it as one of the earliest capitals of China and as being the centre of heaven and earth. Thus the temples and the academy are a reflection of Dengfeng's role as a cultural centre and the observatory is related to the astronomical measurement confirming Dengfeng's role as the centre of heaven and earth.

China has had many capitals of which eight are acknowledged as great ones (not including Dengfeng, whose precise location is not known with certainty) and several have connotations with the notion of 'centre' such as Xi'an described as 'the city sitting straight under the sun', or 'the center of heaven' in literature; Beijing's Forbidden City, the supreme imperial palace in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, was also regarded as the centre of world; Zhumadian, the neighbouring city of Dengfeng in Henan province also once proclaimed itself as the 'the centre of Henan Province' and 'the centre of the world'.

Although undoubtedly Dengfeng has for many centuries been associated with the idea of the centre of heaven and earth, that does not mean that everything associated with Dengfeng can be said to exhibit Outstanding Universal Value. The concept of heaven and earth is an idea: the issue is how far the nominated sites can demonstrate an idea.

What needs to be set out in more detail is how the sites have been chosen from within the circular area perceived to be the centre of heaven and earth, within which are other sites, such as two mentioned in the third volume of supplementary information. These are the Buddhist Fawang Temple which it is said could be added to the ensemble and has not been included in the current nomination as the condition needs to be improved, and an 'ancient capital' close to the Dengfeng Observatory for which insufficient studies have so far been undertaken.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis has not shown that individually any of the components (apart from the Observatory) could be said to have Outstanding

Universal Value – although all are exceptional in some way.

However the concept of heaven and earth is a unique concept that cannot be paralleled elsewhere. What has not been set out is a comparison between the sites that make up the nominated series and other sites within the area perceived to be the centre of heaven and earth, in order to justify the choice of sites, nor the complete scope of the serial nomination, if more sites are to be added in the future.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis is adequate but needs to be augmented to justify the choice of serial components.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

In the original nomination, the property was considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The Historic Monuments of Mount Songshan are a group of buildings that maintain a strong affinity with the mountain and are the best examples of ancient buildings for ritual, religious, scientific and technological and educational activities;
- As the first of their kind, the ritual buildings of the three Han Gates had a profound and far-reaching influence on the culture of East Asia;
- The Songyue Temple Pagoda, the architectural complex of the Shaolin Temple and the Huishan Temple reflect the development of Buddhist architecture in China and set an example for later constructions over Asia;
- The Songyue Temple Pagoda and the Shaolin Temple Pagoda Forest are classic elements of world architectural history;
- The murals in the Shaolin Temple display the history and significance of Shaolin Martial art;
- The Songyang Academy of Classical Learning is heir to the vanished academy culture and a testimony to the role of Mount Songshan as the centre of Confucian culture;
- The Observatory is China's oldest surviving astronomical observatory and demonstrates brilliant achievement of early astronomical history.

Although revised justifications for the criteria have been provided in the third volume of supplementary information, no revised formal justification of Outstanding Universal Value has been put forward. The name of the property has however been changed to the Historic Monuments of Dengfeng in the "Centre of Heaven and Earth" and in the supplementary text it is stated that the 'nominated ensemble of Historic Monuments of Dengfeng is first and foremost associated with the long-term exploration of the natural laws of earth and sky and not with mountain worship. Only after the confirmation of

Dengfeng's location as "The Centre of Heaven and Earth" did the rulers, by virtue of their location in this central place and of their high status, use the concept to legitimise and perpetuate state ideology and power. Then, as the various schools of thought accepted this cosmological concept, they also sought to use it to strengthen their own positions, serve their own interests, and extend their influence, resulting in a whole series of activities and products in that region. That is why in this nomination the sacred mountain *per se* is not a core element. The ensemble of the historic monuments concentrated here testifies to this long and continuous process of historic development'.

ICOMOS notes that this suggests that the first point of the original justification for Outstanding Universal Value has been changed to reflect the link between the property and the concept of the centre of heaven and earth rather than an affinity with the mountain.

ICOMOS considers that each of the second to sixth points applies differently to the elements of the nominated serial property.

The centre of heaven and earth was partly an astronomical concept but was also linked to the seat of imperial power. The capital of the Xia Dynasty was at Dengfeng – but precisely where that was is not clear. In the subsequent Zhou Dynasty both the seat and centre were possibly at Luoyi, the latter determined by Emperor Zhou. However later scholars suggested that Emperor Zhou may have considered the centre of heaven and earth to be at Dengfeng. (In one place the nomination text suggest that Dengfeng was identified as the centre of heaven and earth 3,000 years ago, whereas in Annex 1, where the intellectual background to this concept is set out, it is shown that Yangcheng (Dengfeng) became perceived as the centre much later). Even so, Dengfeng has long been seen to be associated with the centre of power in China and the centre of heaven and earth.

The natural attribute of the centre of heaven and earth is Mount Songshan, and worship of Mount Songshan was used by the Emperors as a way or reinforcing their power, and that of the area as the centre of heaven and earth.

The three ideas do therefore to an extent converge: the centre of heaven and earth in astronomical terms is used as a propitious place for a capital of terrestrial power, and Mount Songshan as the natural symbol of the centre of heaven and earth is used as the focus for sacred rituals that reinforce that earthly power.

ICOMOS considers that the issue is how the nominated series of 367 structures can manifest the concept of the centre of heaven and earth and its links with central power and with Mount Songshan. It is clear that the Dengfeng Observatory has a strong link with the astronomical concept, as does the Huishan Temple, which was built on the site where an astronomer monk lived although the current buildings do not date from his

time, as do the Han Que gates that materialise rituals associated with Mount Songshan.

For the remaining groups of buildings, the Songyue Temple, the Shaolin Temple and the Songyang Academy of Learning, the links are more tenuous. What is suggested is that the two temples were built at the centre of heaven and earth as such a location was seen to be good for their influence and that these and the Academy reflected Imperial patronage.

One of the difficulties highlighted by the State Party is that in the future all 72 peaks of Mount Songshan could be nominated as part of the five sacred mountains of China. There is therefore a consideration to try and separate the current nomination from that subsequent one and to show that the concept of heaven and earth can be separated from that of the sacred mountain. One scenario suggested by the State Party is that the three sites that are focused on the mountain (Zhongyue temple, Taishi Que and Shaoshi Que) could be detached from the present nomination and submitted later with the mountain, while the remainder are nominated for their association with the centre of heaven and earth. ICOMOS does not consider that it is desirable to separate the concept of the centre of heaven and earth from the concept of Mount Songshan and mountain worship as one concept supported the other.

How the five sacred mountains are to be nominated is still to be decided – whether as a serial nomination of separate properties, or as one single property. In the second volume of supplementary information, it was stated that only on Mount Songshan can the history of Buddhist architecture be discerned, through the Shaolin Temple, Songyue Pagoda and Huishan Temple and that Mount Songshan also gives a more complete picture of ritual and sacrificial buildings than any of the other sacred mountains. This suggests to ICOMOS that Mount Songshan should be nominated together with not only the three sites focused on the mountain but also the Shaolin Temple, Songyue Pagoda and Huishan Temples, and also the Fawang Temple and possibly others. Its association with the centre of heaven and earth would clearly also be a great significance.

However, as Mount Songshan is of huge extent the issue is whether it could be nominated sequentially: with some or all of the current nomination being inscribed on the List and with the peaks – which it is suggested are the backdrop to the built structures - being nominated later and being considered initially as a buffer zone – a suggestion put forward by the State Party.

Mount Songshan remains the physical focus for the nominated sites. The mountain and its link to the centre of heaven and earth create the binding force.

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

Integrity is related to whether all the elements necessary to represent outstanding universal value are present within the boundaries. As discussed below, as a serial nomination there needs to be a link between the individual elements of the nomination. In the original nomination this was the proximity of the sacred mountain, although the mountain itself is not included in the boundaries. In the subsequent supplementary information provided, the emphasis changed to focus on the proximity to Dengfeng, the centre of heaven and earth, as the key link.

Within each individual site, sufficient attributes remain to reflect their original layout, even though in most sites many of the individual buildings have been subject to several periods of re-building.

In terms of how as a group the attributes are linked to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, ICOMOS considers that they do relate to the area associated with the concept of the centre of heaven and earth, although the area is considerably larger than the nominated property and a full justification for the choice of sites within that area has not been provided.

Authenticity

Authenticity is related to the way the attributes truthfully reflect the value considered to be outstanding and universal. Individually, there is no concern over the authenticity of the elements in terms of their materials, religious associations, and spatial layout. However for the overall assembly of monuments ICOMOS considers that they do not readily convey in an obvious way the concept of the centre of heaven and earth, although some of the sites are related to the physical attributes of the concept – the mountain and its associated religious practices.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met but that the significant shifts offered by the State party concerning the justification for the series in the sequence of supplementary documents have not allowed the basis of the series and the logic of the selection of the series to be clearly expressed.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi). The third volume of supplementary information included new justifications for these criteria. The State Party states that although it considers that criteria (iii) and (vi) are the most prominent in justifying the nominated property, it has provided justification for all five.

Criterion (i): represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

This criterion was justified by the State Party in the original nomination on the grounds that Mount Songshan is one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilisation. The architectural complexes around it are masterpieces of ritual, religious, scientific/technological and educational buildings and their components. As the earliest and finest examples of different architectural structures, they represent outstanding human genius and are masterpieces of the world's architectural history.

In the supplementary information this criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the outstanding astronomical and calendar achievements of Dengfeng Observatory and Zhougong Sundial Platform, as well as the high attributes of the other associated heritage properties, justify this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that as a serial nomination of 367 structures in eight sites, it cannot be justified to consider this criterion if it is seen mainly to apply to two structures. The State Party acknowledges that not all of the sites can be said to meet criterion (i) and ICOMOS agrees with this.

From the supplementary material provided, ICOMOS does however consider that the observatory could on its own justify this criterion for its technological achievement.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified for the serial nomination but could be justified for the observatory alone.

Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

In the original nomination, this criterion was justified by the State Party on the grounds that the buildings of Mount Songshan have profoundly influenced the architecture of ritual, religious, scientific, technological and educational buildings. In particular the sacrificial and Buddhist buildings have influenced not only the rules and systems of religious buildings, but also cultural traditions; neo-Confucianism originating from the Academy played an important role in the rulers' autocratic control over people's thinking, while astronomical observation bears testimony not only to the formation, promotion and application of astronomical theory but also the planning, construction, and development of astronomical structures. It is also suggested that as a physical place of the centre of heaven and earth, Dengfeng has unmatched status compared to observation spots in any other capital cities through all dynasties.

In the supplementary information, this criterion was justified by the State Party on the grounds that the

nominated sites demonstrate that they both received influence from foreign cultures and exerted influence on the development of other regions in culture, science, and technology. The Dengfeng Observatory shows evidence of astronomical instrument design from Indian and Central Asia, whilst calendars derived from the measurements at the Observatory spread to many other nations; many structures exhibit the introduction and diffusion of the highly influential Chan or Zen Buddhism as well as the perfect fusion of Chinese and Indian architectural art and craft displayed through Songyue Temple Pagoda, and the largest Confucian Academy founded herewith influence on the cultures of China and neighbouring countries.

ICOMOS considers that the Buddhist buildings do exhibit an remarkable interchange of ideas between the Indian subcontinent, China and south-east Asia, but that the educational building (the Academy) did not have a profound influence in architectural, educational or technological terms, nor does it reflect an exceptional interchange of ideas. Rather the Academy was part of a wider movement. The Observatory was clearly of great importance as a centre of astronomical knowledge and could justify consideration of this criterion if it were a single nomination.

ICOMOS does not consider that the nominated ensemble of monuments as a whole can be seen to satisfy this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified for the serial property as a whole.

Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

In the original nomination this criterion was justified by the State Party on the grounds that the ritual and Confucian buildings provide excellent evidence of two now vanished cultural traditions, the ancient sacrificial culture and the traditional academy education. The ancient cult of offering sacrifices was transformed by the Emperors into a national religion with ceremonies that confirmed imperial power. The three Han gates are testaments to this culture. The Academy of Learning was one of the four most famous academies of the Song Dynasty and fostered renowned scholars and philosophers.

In the supplementary information, this criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the scientific investigation of the form of the universe began three millennia ago and only gradually faded from the 15th-16th centuries. Many dynasties advocated the cosmology of "The Centre of Heaven and Earth," which was promoted by the elite classes, and accepted by the general population. The property is evidence of a scientific, educational and belief system that no longer exists today; and also the Buddhist cultural tradition that is living and evolving.

ICOMOS considers that the astronomical idea of the centre of heaven and earth is strongly linked with the idea of imperial power, with the propitiousness of establishing capitals at the centre of heaven and earth, and with its natural attribute, Mount Songshan, and its religious associations. What are nominated are sites that need to demonstrate the idea of the centre of heaven and earth, the circular area that the supplementary information says is associated with the centre of heaven and earth. This is however large and includes Dengfeng town as well as other temples. The relationship is clear for some sites in terms of their relationship with the mountain, or for the Observatory with its very direct links to astronomical ideas, but is less clear for others sites, apart from their being physically sited within the circular area.

ICOMOS considers that there is a need to explain to visitors the relationship between the sites and the overall area perceived to be the centre of heaven and earth.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

This criterion was justified by the State Party in the original nomination on the grounds that the historic monuments of Mount Songshan are all outstanding examples of brick and stone, or masterpieces of wooden structures, in terms of architectural design and construction technology.

In the third volume of supplementary information, this criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the nominated property as a whole is a comprehensive and outstanding masterpiece and testimony to a unique spirit of space with lasting impact of great scale and depth. The buildings of this ensemble were carefully located according to their individual cultural and religious features so as to echo one another and form a perfect combination. Under the influence of supreme imperial power and guided by academic and religious philosophy, they were exquisite in structure and layout, and were the most outstanding building complex at that time. The high standards in architecture and design helped to further extend the imperial power and its influence and to consolidate the rule.

ICOMOS considers that although the Han Que gates, the Songyue Temple pagoda with its advanced tubular structure, the pagodas of the Shaolin Temple, the Observatory and the wooden buildings of the Chuzu Temple Hall, Huishan Hall and Zhongyue Temple are all outstanding structures, it is more difficult to link them to one or more significant stages in human history in terms of what their form manifests.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified for the serial property as a whole.

Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

This criterion was justified by the State Party in the first nomination on the grounds that the concentration of monuments reflects the fact that Mount Songshan was one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilisation, based upon the sacred concept of the 'Centre of Heaven and Earth' in Chinese history. Additionally the Shaolin Temple, the Pagoda Forest, mural paintings and stele inscriptions were directly responsible for diffusing the Chan sect and martial art culture in China.

The third volume of supplementary information suggests that the essence of the nominated sites lies in their association with the "centre of Heaven and Earth", which is located in Dengfeng.

In this supplementary information, this criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the historic ensemble has direct and tangible relationships with associated historical events, current traditions, ideology, and beliefs. The associated beliefs include the exploration of and belief in the laws of astronomy and the universe; promotion of and belief in the status of God-granted imperial power; the affirmation of and belief in sacrificial rituals, and the existing traditional Taoist and Buddhist beliefs that replaced them in later generations; and the belief in the Zen Sect of Buddhism which originated from and developed in Shaolin Temple.

ICOMOS considers that the concentration of sacred and secular structures does reflect the strong and persistent tradition of the centre of heaven and earth linked to the sacred mountain which sustained imperial sacrifices and patronage. The Buddhist structures came to have a symbiotic relationship with the sacred mountain.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion is has been justified.

At this stage, ICOMOS considers that the justification for a serial nomination in terms of all sites being linked to a coherent shared value has been demonstrated in general terms but that further comparisons are needed to justify the choice of sites.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that criteria (iii) and (vi) and the Outstanding Universal Value have been demonstrated.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

The present road in front of the Zhongyue Temple now functions as the main road connecting Dengfeng County with the highway, which potentially leads to traffic problems and threats to the monuments. The proposed solution is to build another road further south to take most of the traffic. The proposal was approved by the central government authority in 2008 and is already partly completed.

In recent times uncontrolled building activity has had a negative impact on the surroundings of some of the sites. In some cases buildings have been removed and others renovated to mitigate the impact.

Tourism pressures

Currently visitation is not excessive with most monuments receiving an average of 100 visitors per day. Shaolin temple complex has much higher visitation due to the international interest in the Chan Sect. However, this appears to be well managed with the entrance to the Shaolin complex constructed for the spectacular display performances conducted at 9 am every day for visitors.

The estimated visitor capacity for the whole property is approximately 10,000 people per day. If the visiting tourist numbers exceeds the carrying capacity of the monuments, a redirecting plan will be implemented.

Damage by tourist foot impact is generally not apparent. The paved nature of the sites provides protection. The Pagoda Forest retains its natural ground surface but has compacted gravel to protect against visitor foot impact erosion in its central area.

One area where the effects of large numbers of visitors could become problematic is through the impact of body heat on the murals. It would be desirable to plan to safeguard the murals by controlling visitor numbers.

Facilities for visitors are in place including parking areas a short distance from the monuments. Electric people-movers convey visitors through the Shaolin Complex along routes where visitors can view groups of monks training in martial arts, or undertaking meditation.

Environmental pressures

The landscape surroundings of some of the monuments are farmed and are thus under the control of individual owners. There is no immediate concern for the impact of intensive methods of land management.

Around the Observatory, several kilometres outside the buffer zone, are coal mines. In order to prevent subsidence, it has been agreed that the mines should leave huge "columns" of coal especially on the side

facing the location of the monuments, and should add reinforcement if necessary to prevent collapse.

Natural disasters

In terms of natural disasters, geologically the site is unlikely to experience earthquakes. Wild landscape fires are not considered an issue due to current adequate rainfall. Flooding and silt damage to the Pagoda Forest has been experienced and the potential danger brought by floodwater has been effectively controlled through dredging, building dams and increasing the spillways to the north of Pagoda Forest. Early warning systems for extreme weather conditions are in place but management for disasters is a future issue to be addressed.

Impact of climate change

The property is sited within a warm-wet monsoon climate zone with four seasons of which winter is very cold and summer warm and wet. If the climate were to become more extreme in terms of higher snowfall or more rain in summer, it would have a detrimental effect on the buildings, particularly the roofs, and could also increase the risk of flooding to the Pagoda Forest.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are potential over-visiting and unregulated incremental development.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The plans provided with the nomination are of a small scale and do not show the layout of the complexes.

Plans from the *Master Plan* made available to the mission expert enabled greater understanding of the layout of the major features, other minor heritage features located in the nominated areas and planning for visitor management. Areas of archaeological sensitivity have been plotted on plans in the Master Plan document.

The boundaries of the nominated property are adequate for their protection. The buffer zones overlap with National Park designation – see below – but not all of the National Park is included in the buffer zones. As the National Park covers the surrounding mountain peaks and provides a link between all the nominated sites apart from the Observatory, ICOMOS considers that it would be appropriate if the National Park were to be considered as the buffer zone for the nominated sites. This is a suggestion made by the State Party in the third volume of supplementary information

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property are adequate and that the boundaries of the buffer zones should be extended to include the whole of the National Park, as suggested by the State Party.

Ownership

The land and buildings in the property are owned by the government.

Protection

Legal Protection

The nominated monuments are either protected as national monuments by the National Government or as provincial monuments as Henan Province protected sites. Only the Kernel compound is protected at provincial level.

The property if inscribed would be subject to the Measures on the Protection and Management of World Cultural Heritage adopted on 2006. This sets out overall responsibility at national level for World Heritage but puts responsibilities on provinces to establish protection plans and management systems.

The nominated area lies within the Mount Songshan National Park. This covers the peaks of Mount Shaoshi and Mount Taishi. The National Park has a Master Plan (2009-2025) to regulate its activities which are to protect both scenic and natural resources. Within the National Park, in addition to the provisions for individually protected monuments, there are construction control areas.

However it is not clear that the 'natural environment' in some of the buffer zones is sufficiently protected. For example, it is said that this 'should be classified as mountain forest zone in the urban master plan in order to avoid development'.

Traditional Protection

To complement the overall responsibility of the Dengfeng Municipal government, various local communities have set up 'village conventions' to ensure property protection from a daily management perspective. Local volunteer guides are trained so that they can participate in the management and supervision of the monuments.

Effectiveness of protection measures

The protection in place for the individual sites is adequate, but needs strengthening for the landscape setting that provides the overall context for the monuments.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate for the nominated property but further protection is needed for the landscape areas of the buffer zone.

Conservation

Inventories, recording, research

The key aspects of the eight monuments have all been inventoried. The inventories include former temples and pagodas (now ruins) that could provide further heritage information.

The archival system is of the highest order with hard files on every object, including monitoring records in a modern compact repository. The items are cross-referenced according to sites and types. An electronic database also retains records. The archival repository is within a building at the Songyang Academy.

Present state of conservation

The Que Gates each have a protective shelter building. Taishi Que Gate has a solid simple historic building in sound condition that currently achieves the protective purpose. Chimu Que Gate has a simple modern building reflecting a traditional style, while the Shaoshi Que Gate has an older building with evidence of disrepair. The stone sculptures of this gate are in urgent need of conservation.

A new modern stylised shelter building is planned for Shaoshi Que Gate. The form and fabric of the structure with large expanses of glass will be highly reflective and could be intrusive.

The conservation of the pagodas in the Pagoda Forest is variable with many needing conservation. Conservation management measures are in place to deal with tree root damage to some of the pagodas. Trees (small cypresses) with roots impacting on the pagodas have been identified and are scheduled for removal as noted in the *Master Plan*.

Subsidence of stone structures is a concern and buildings likely to be affected are monitored carefully.

Water damage is present in the eastern walls of the Observatory. Measures are in place to create a small fall to the flat roof to reduce water penetration within the walls. The Observatory is near to some power plants and it is believed that nitrate, a by-product of the power plants, has been causing some fabric damage. Closing agreements are in place for the power plants, which were said in the original nomination to be effective in 2008. Nitrate effects to the observatory wall are being monitored and are expected to reduce with the closure of the power plants.

An aluminium factory mentioned in the nomination dossier is some distance from the sites and apparently has negligible impact. The coal mining noted in the dossier is some distance from the Observatory's buffer zone and is reported to have ceased operation.

The conservation issues of the significant painted murals at Shaolin Temple have been analysed and conservation treatment was undertaken in the 1980s and 1990s by Dunhuang Academy. Monitoring is conducted by the Administrative Bureau of Cultural Relics with the assistance of colleges and universities.

Few details are given for the conservation of the collection of historic trees within several of the sites.

The Observatory has landscaped surrounds to the buildings that are within a town setting that does not diminish the value of the monument. The other monuments all have either natural forest or farmlands in their settings. The forested areas are mainly regrowth or new growth.

Active Conservation measures

Research into environment control for historic interiors is said to be planned. As for the Shaolin murals, the crucial problems include flaking/scaling of paint layers by contraction of binding materials, dehydration and separation of renders, lacunae of renders, cracks in walls, and soot and smoke deposits by lighting butter lamps and burning incense.

After conservation treatment to the murals in 1980s and 1990s by Dunhuang Academy (a renowned institution in the field internationally), the condition of the murals is good and under monitoring. The local Administrative Bureau of Cultural Relics also invites colleges and universities to participate in the monitoring.

The conservation work is under the overarching guidance of the Administrative Committee of Cultural Heritage Protection of Dengfeng Municipal People's Government. Conservation plans and works are undertaken by experts.

Specific conservation plans are referred to in the booklet *Introduction to the Conservation and Administration of the Historic Monuments of Mount Songshan* provided during the evaluation mission.

The sites needing conservation works, such as some of the pagodas in the Pagoda Forest and the carvings on the Han gates, have conservation programs in place.

No details are provided for the conservation of the landscape setting of the sites.

Maintenance

Systems for regular maintenance of the monuments are in place.

Effectiveness of conservation measures

Overall a satisfactory system is in place for dealing with conservation, but work needs to move forward on the implementation of the conservation plans for stone reliefs of the Shaoshi Que Gates and the pagodas of the Pagoda Forest.

ICOMOS considers that conservation measures and plans for the buildings are adequate. Further details are needed on the conservation of the natural areas in the buffer zone.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

It is the responsibility of the Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government to lead the conservation and management of the historic monuments of Mount Songshan while the Dengfeng Municipal People's Government is fully responsible for implementing the conservation and management work. In 2007 the Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government established the Zhengzhou Municipal Preservation and Management Office of the Historic Monuments of Mount Songshan. The Dengfeng Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage was established in 1990 to protect and manage the opening up of the historic monuments. Beneath the administration are preservation offices for each of the monuments.

Thirty-six qualified specialist staff, the cultural property preservation officers, are responsible for the daily conservation and management. An extensive program of training exists for all levels of personnel involved in management of the monuments.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The *Master Plan (Regulations for the Conservation and Management of Historic monuments of Mount Songshan in Zhengzhou City)*, approved in 2007, documents policies for protection and management of the nominated sites as well as directions for visitor capacity, circulation, facilities and the ongoing needs of the religious communities.

The proposal described in the nomination dossier to construct three cultural exhibition areas appears excessive and runs the risk of fragmenting the area physically, visually and conceptually, as well as intruding into the relationship of the monuments with their landscape settings. It would be preferable if one exhibition centre could be considered perhaps alongside the boulevard in the town area.

Risk preparedness

A link to the meteorological system provides early warnings on extremes of weather. Lightning conductors are discretely located throughout the sites.

A very sensitive smoke detector system is installed in the temple buildings. A warning alarm is activated if visitors venture too close to the ancient trees.

Measures to protect against extremes of weather arising from climate change need to be considered so that plans of protective action and disaster management arising from weather extremes such as wild fires and hail storms are in place.

Involvement of the local communities

Local communities appear to be fully involved in the nomination, and in the ongoing future of the monuments. Volunteer guides (retired public servants) play an important and active role in monitoring and guiding at the monuments.

Local communities can use parts of the monuments for events under a booking arrangement. Religious leaders are all deeply knowledgeable about the heritage features of their temples and are responsible for the ongoing religious functions that are part of the heritage significance of the places.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

Funding for conservation work is primarily from the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) which receives a percentage of revenue from tourism. SACH considers proposals for conservation works and funds them according to a priority allocation. Funding also comes from religious donations by people on religious visits and donations from individuals.

Effectiveness of current management

The Master Plan applies overall to all the components of the serial nomination and provides an effective overarching framework for the management.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is adequate.

6. MONITORING

Monitoring of all timber structures and sensitive features is undertaken annually. A range of indicators have been developed. These include state of vegetation but not the overall visual integrity of the current buffer zones.

The Zhenzhou Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage with the Dengfeng Municipal Peoples'

Government undertakes the monitoring reports and submits them to the SACH.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring arrangements are adequate for the nominated property but that monitoring needs to be developed for the landscape elements of the buffer zone.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The original nomination and the first supplementary volume of information received stressed the link between some of the nominated sites and the unique development of mountain worship and suggested that the value of the ensemble manifests the power and influence the mountain had in constitutional, religious and ceremonial, terms and how the simple worship of nature was transformed into a force that legitimised imperial power, under the guidance of Confucian thought.

The exclusion of Mount Songshan from the boundary, even though it was the inspiration for the development of the property, appeared to relate to the premise that although the eight monument ensembles relate to Mount Songshan as the birthplace of Chinese cultural civilisation, they are distinctive entities reflecting different cultural periods and dates.

However, in the second volume of supplementary information received, the link between the nominated sites and Dengfeng was brought to the fore and less attention was drawn to the association with mountain worship. It was suggested that the idea of the area of Dengfeng (the capital of the first dynasty whose precise location is unknown) being the centre of heaven and earth was the motivation for the construction of the various sites.

The third volume of supplementary information reinforced the link between the ensemble and the concept of the centre of heaven and earth, and has provided a new justification for the criteria. Although it is clear that Dengfeng was for centuries seen as the centre of heaven and earth, this astronomical concept was strongly linked to the concept of the centre of the earth being the seat of imperial power. Although Dengfeng was the capital of the first dynasty, its general location remained linked to the idea of it being the centre of the country. Dengfeng was also linked to Mount Songshan, as the natural attributes of the concept of heaven and earth.

ICOMOS considers that it is impossible to separate this concept from its associations with imperial power, with religion and with Mount Songshan, described as the natural attribute of the concept. As the supplementary information acknowledges, the central point of the zone perceived as the centre of heaven and earth is between two of the mountain peaks: it is surrounded on three sides by the mountain.

ICOMOS considers that the astronomical idea of the centre of heaven and earth is strongly linked with the idea of imperial power, with the propitiousness of establishing capitals at the centre of heaven and earth, and with its natural attribute, Mount Songshan. ICOMOS does not consider that it is possible to separate the idea of heaven and earth from its physical marker and the ceremonies and rituals associated with it: the concepts reinforced each other. The mountain links the sites and gives them context.

The State Party suggests that the sites could be linked by extending the individual buffer zones (already part of the National Park) to coincide with the National Park and ICOMOS agrees with this suggestion.

As the idea of the centre of heaven and earth is difficult to relate to all the components of the nomination, ICOMOS considers that the concept needs to be explained at the property in a way that enables visitors to understand what links the various sites.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the Historic Monuments of Dengfeng in “The Centre of Heaven and Earth”, People’s Republic of China, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (vi)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

For many centuries Dengfeng, one of the early capitals of China whose precise location is unknown, but whose name is now associated with an area to the south of Mount Shaoshi and Mount Taishi, two peaks of Mount Songshan, came to be associated with the concept of the centre of heaven and earth – the only point where astronomical observations were considered to be accurate. The natural attribute of the centre of heaven and earth was seen to be Mount Songshan and worship of Mount Songshan was used by the Emperors as a way or reinforcing their power.

The three ideas do therefore to an extent converge: the centre of heaven and earth in astronomical terms is used as a propitious place for a capital of terrestrial power, and Mount Songshan as the natural symbol of the centre of heaven and earth is used as the focus for sacred rituals that reinforce that earthly power. The buildings that clustered around Dengfeng were of the highest architectural standards when built and many were commissioned by Emperors. They thus reinforced the influence of the Dengfeng area.

Some of the sites in the nominated area relate closely to the mountain (Zhongyue Temple, Taishi Que and Shaoshi Que); the Observatory is very clearly associated with the astronomical observations made at the centre of

heaven and earth, while the remainder of the buildings were built in the area perceived to be the centre of heaven and earth – for the status that this conferred.

Criterion (iii): The astronomical idea of the centre of heaven and earth is strongly linked with the idea of imperial power, with the propitiousness of establishing capitals at the centre of heaven and earth, and with its natural attribute, Mount Songshan and the ceremonies and ritual associated with it. The serial property reflects the significance of the area in terms of prestige and patronage.

Criterion (vi): The concentration of sacred and secular structures in the Dengfeng area reflects the strong and persistent tradition of the centre of heaven and earth linked to the sacred mountain which sustained imperial sacrifices and patronage over 1500 years and became of outstanding significance in Chinese culture. The Buddhist structures came to have a symbiotic relationship with the sacred mountain.

Integrity and authenticity

The attributes necessary to represent outstanding universal value are present within the boundaries although as the area associated with the concept of heaven and earth is considerably larger than the nominated property and a full justification for the choice of sites within that larger area has not been provided. Within each individual site, sufficient attributes remain to reflect their original layout, even though in most sites many of the individual buildings have been subject to several periods of re-building.

Individually, there is no concern over the authenticity of the attributes in terms of their materials, religious associations, and spatial layout. Overall although some of the sites are related to the physical attributes of the concept of heaven and earth– the mountain and its associated religious practices - the series as a whole does not readily convey the concept in an obvious way and the links need to be strengthened.

Protection and Management requirements

The majority of the monuments are protected as national monuments by the National Government. Only the Kernel compound (Shaolin Temple) is protected at provincial level.

The *Master Plan (Regulations for the Conservation and Management of Historic monuments of Mount Songshan in Zhengzhou City)*, approved in 2007, documents policies for protection and management of the nominated sites as well as directions for visitor capacity, circulation, facilities and the ongoing needs of the religious communities.

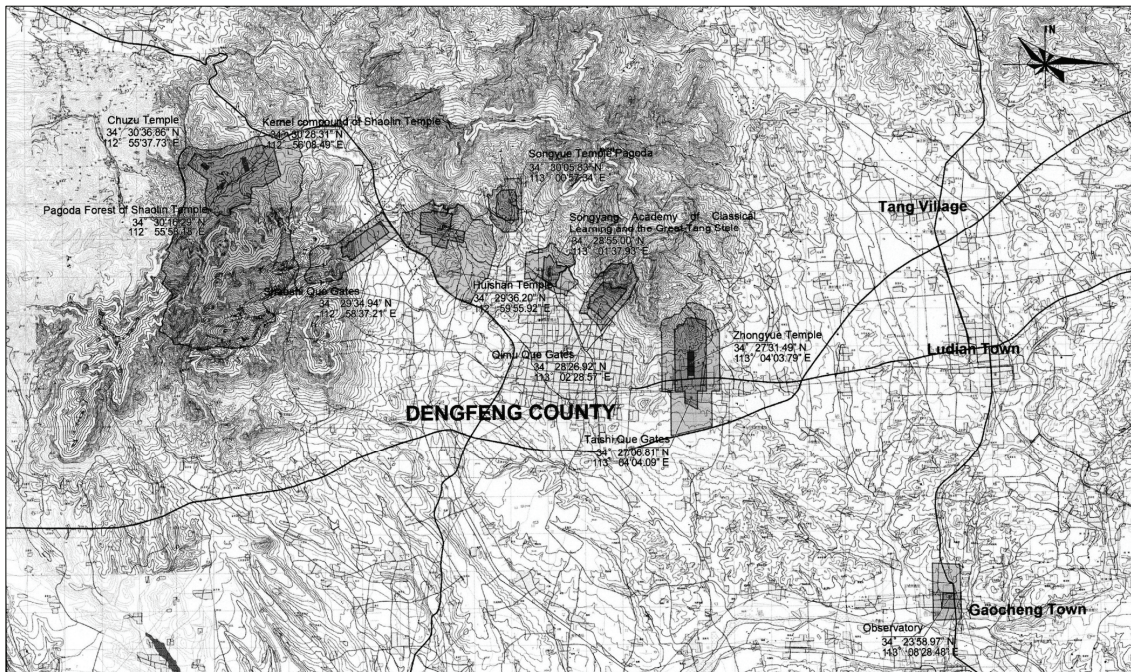
It is the responsibility of the Zhengzhou Municipal People’s Government to lead the conservation and management of the property while the Dengfeng

Municipal People's Government is fully responsible for implementing conservation and management work. In 2007 the Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government established the Zhengzhou Municipal Preservation and Management Office for the Historic Monuments of Mount Songshan. The Dengfeng Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage was established in 1990 to protect and manage the opening up of the historic monuments. Beneath the administration are preservation offices for each of the monuments.

The nominated area lies within the Mount Songshan National Park and it is recommended that this becomes the buffer zone, absorbing the individual buffer zones proposed for the individual sites. The National Park has a Master Plan (2009-2025) to regulate its activities which are to protect both scenic and natural resources. Within the National Park, in addition to the provisions for individually protected monuments, there are construction control areas. The 'natural environment' within the Park provides the context and setting for the monuments and there is a need to ensure that this is adequately classified and protected in order to avoid adverse development.

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Extend the buffer zones to coincide with the boundary of the Mount Songshan National Park, as suggested by the State Party;
- Provide adequate interpretation at the property to ensure that the link between the component sites and the concept of the centre of heaven and earth is adequately understood.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated properties



Zhongyue Temple



Qimu Que Gates



Pagoda Forest - Shaolin Temple



The Observatory

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine (Japan) No C1246

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Japan

Name of property:

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape

Location:

Shimane Prefecture, Ohda City District

Inscription: 2007

Brief Description:

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine in the south-west of Honshu Island is a cluster of mountains, rising to 600 m and interspersed by deep river valleys featuring the archaeological remains of large-scale mines, smelting and refining sites and mining settlements worked between the 16th and 20th centuries. The site also features routes used to transport silver ore to the coast, and port towns from where it was shipped to Korea and China. The mines contributed substantially to the overall economic development of Japan and south-east Asia in the 16th and 17th centuries, prompting the mass production of silver and gold in Japan. The mining area is now heavily wooded. Included in the site are fortresses, shrines, parts of Kaidō transport routes to the coast, and three port towns, Tomogaura, Okidomari and Yunotsu, from where the ore was shipped.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

The nominated property is a serial nomination of fourteen sites that demonstrate three aspects of silver mining production and transportation carried out on and near Mount Sennoyama and Mount Yōgaisan between the 16th and 20th centuries. The property comprises the remains of nine silver mine sites relating to the Iwami Ginzan mine, with archaeological evidence of administration buildings and fortresses; shrines and cemeteries, together with associated settlements, some still partly inhabited (Ômori-Ginzan); two Kaidō transportation routes to the coast with remains of wayside shrines, and three port towns (Tomogaura, Okidomari and Yunotsu) from where the ore was

shipped. The different areas of the inscribed property are joined together and surrounded by the buffer zone. The area of the inscribed property is 442 ha and the buffer zone area is 3,221ha.

The Advisory Body's evaluation of the property at the time of inscription suggested some modifications that could be made to the property boundaries as follows.

- 1) The nominated area boundary around the Ômori-Ginzan settlement was tightly drawn around the town area. The distinctively linear town stretching along the valley floor has developed because of the flanking ranges, which are a dominant feature of the town as part of a cultural landscape. Consideration should be given to including the flanking ranges, to the ridgeline either side, as part of the nominated area.
- 2) At the harbour at Yunotsu, consideration should be given to including the inner harbour to the high water mark as well as the presumed historic landing area, in the nominated area, as at the other two ports (Okidomari and Tomogaura).
- 3) The old Kaidō transportation routes continue in use as pedestrian or vehicle routes. Some sections of the routes display apparently early features and materials such as drains and steps; these have a high degree of authenticity and are included in the nominated area. Sections that were damaged by subsequent works have not been included as nominated areas, although the alignment of the routes is included within the buffer zone. The routes are dotted with stone stupas, small shrines, small Buddha halls, etc., which were built by people who passed along the route, or by local citizens.

Modification:

Ômori-Ginzan

Re-examination of past archaeological surveys of the flanking mountainsides has enabled identification of remains that have clarified the way the slopes were used and their relationship with the daily life of the residents of the mining towns at the time the silver mine was in operation. The remains include shrines, temples, cemeteries, sites of terraced farmland, and ruins of community roads that connected these sites with the mining towns. There are also stone walls, steps, drainage gutters and stone quarries.

One of the oldest gravestones bears the date 1621. Historical records indicate that the population of the town increased in the 18th century to well beyond its current built capacity, and this is borne out by the extensive settlement and cemetery remains on the slopes above the town, now covered by forest.

The proposed expansion of the current nominated area of Ômori-Ginzan will encompass these remains and the

topography of the town at its peak population by including the mountainsides as relict landscape around the town. The ridgelines correspond essentially with the traditional boundaries of Ōmori town, which was the extension of the Ginzan settlement, to the north-east. The additional area proposed is 129.9ha, an increase of around 36%.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed enlargement is justified as a minor modification enclosing the hidden part of the settlement and not affecting the Outstanding Universal Value. Although large in area it does not constitute an extension of the property in the sense of paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Yunotsu

Additional research studies carried out since 2007 have identified the small promontory, beach and inner harbour as the original mooring and landing place at Yunotsu for the Iwami Ginzan mine. The proposed expansion of the current nominated area of Yunotsu will encompass this area, completing the integrity of Yunotsu as one of the three key ports for export of silver from the mine. The additional area proposed is 2.9ha, an increase of 8.6%.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed enlargement is justified as a minor modification incorporating a key element of the port area and reinforcing the Outstanding Universal Value.

Kaidō transportation routes: Tomogauradō and Yunotsu-Okidomaridō

Further research on the Kaidō has identified 4 additional sections on the Tomogauradō route and 3 additional sections of the Yunotsu-Okidomaridō route, which on the basis of their record in 19th century cadastral maps, the physical remains of adjoining sections and/or the existence of the original road surface beneath the current surface, can be restored. The proposed addition of these sections to the Kaidō nominated area will increase the protected length of the routes from 65.21% of their total length to 73.51%. The actual area of the proposed increase is 0.25 ha, an increase of 9%.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed enlargement is justified as a minor modification extending the integrity of the property and reinforcing the Outstanding Universal Value.

The whole area of the proposed expanded nominated area is owned by Ōda City and protected by municipal ordinances of Ōda City and the National Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The additions will further endorse the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as inscribed by the World Heritage Committee's Decision 31COM8B.26. The proposed total combined increase in the area of the inscribed property is 86.77 (excluding areas of overlap), which is 19.6%.

The buffer zone boundary remains the same, but its area will be reduced by the area that was formerly buffer zone

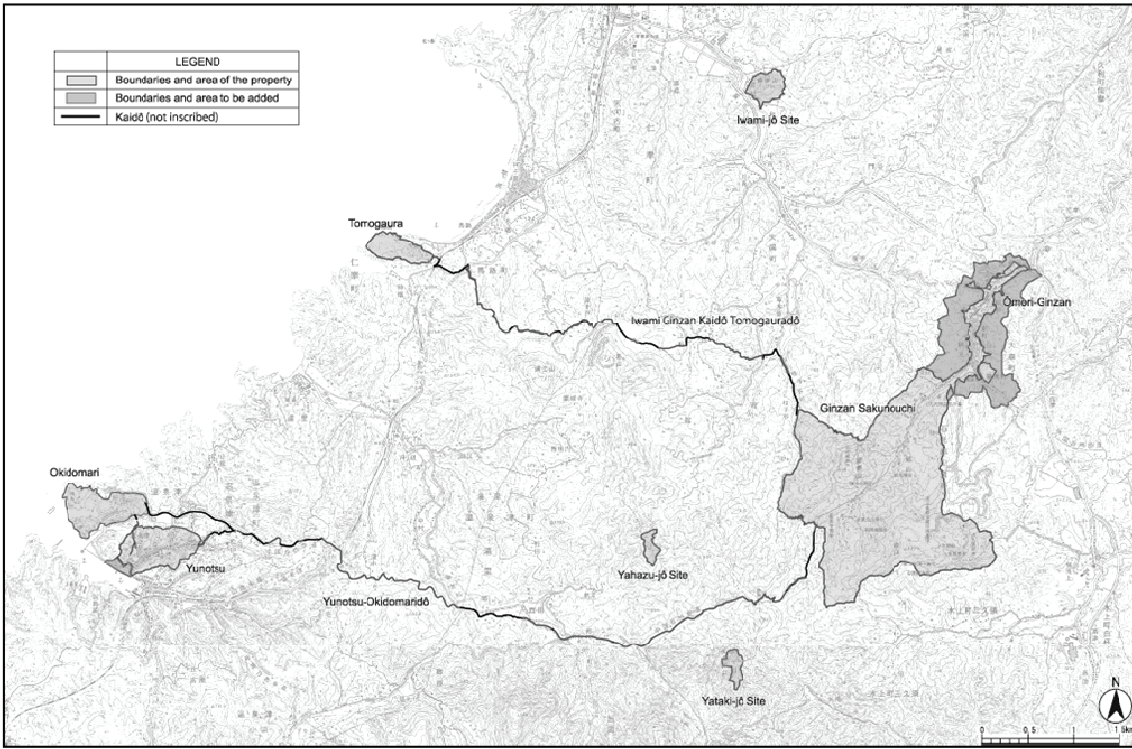
and is now proposed to become nominated area: 86.76ha, which is 2.7% of the former buffer zone area.

The proposal includes a statement of progress on the recommendations regarding management that were included in Decision 31COM8B.26, and Ōda City Preservation Plans for the Ōmori-Ginzan and Yunotsu Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape, Japan, be **approved**.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

No 666rev

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Nepal

Name of property:

Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha

Location:

Lumbini zone, Rupandehi District, Western Terai

Inscription: 1997

Brief Description:

Siddhartha Gautama, the Lord Buddha, was born in 623 B.C. in the famous gardens of Lumbini, which soon became a place of pilgrimage. Among the pilgrims was the Indian emperor Ashoka, who erected one of his commemorative pillars there. The site is now a Buddhist pilgrimage centre, where the archaeological remains associated with the birth of the Lord Buddha form a central feature.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

The boundary of the World Heritage inscribed property encloses an area 130m x 150m around the pool (Shakya Tank) where the Mother of Buddha (Mayadevi) is believed to have bathed before giving birth to the Lord Buddha, and excavated remains of the 3rd century BC brick temple that commemorated the birthplace. These remains are covered by a modern temple (the Mayadevi Temple) built in 2002. To the north of the temple is the Asoka pillar, also enclosed by the World Heritage boundary. This pillar was erected to mark the visit by King Asoka to the place in 249BC and bears an inscription identifying the site as the birthplace of Lord Buddha.

Subsequently the surrounding area was developed as a place of pilgrimage for one of the world's great religions, accommodating many monasteries and memorial shrines, whose excavated remains date from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD. This area is covered by the current buffer zone, which extends to a maximum

384m from the Asoka pillar and surrounds the inscribed property. It includes the mound of the ancient Lumbini village to the south-west, and vulnerable clusters of archaeological remains to the north and south-east of the inscribed property. This area also includes buildings from Shamsheer Singh Rana's period, which though not related to the Buddhist aspect of the site are never-the-less related to its re-discovery and archaeological exploration chronology. One of these buildings is the office of the Lumbini Development Trust and another is the police station. Both these buildings are said to offer reuse potential for activity related to the site such as a documentation centre or site museum.

Beyond the boundary of the current buffer zone is the area defined as the sacred garden, seen as providing an appropriate environment for one of the world's most holy, religious places. This is a rectangular area extending 800m to the west, south and east of the Asoka pillar, and 560m to the north of the Asoka pillar.

Modification:

Deriving from the Management Plan currently being prepared for the World Heritage property, a request has been made for a minor modification involving an expansion of the current World Heritage inscribed property to the extent of the current buffer zone boundary, with a new buffer zone to surround this and cover the area of the sacred garden.

The current delineation for the boundary and buffer zone is based on the Master Plan which was finalized in 1978. The Master Plan took the Asoka pillar as the focal point and developed a plan extending to an area of 5 x 5 miles. At the centre was placed the Sacred Gardens of approximately 1 x 1 mile. To protect the main archaeological site from floods, a drainage system was proposed linked to a water body and levee which surrounded the main archaeological site. The water body divides the site into an inner and outer Sacred Garden. Only the inner Sacred Garden was considered when the property was inscribed in 1997. The State Party now proposes to extend the boundary to cover the entire inner Sacred Garden and extend the buffer zone to cover the entire outer Sacred Garden.

The proposed modification to the property boundary will increase the area to 25.24 hectares, almost 13 times the current area.

The area of the proposed new buffer zone will be 192.36 hectares, almost 8.5 times the current buffer zone area.

The World Heritage Property is protected by the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1956) and the Lumbini Development Trust Act (1985). Management of the complex is the responsibility of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) and the Department of Archaeology. The LDT is an autonomous, non-government, not-for-profit organisation under Royal patronage and supported by

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international and regional bodies.

No specific details are provided for the protection and management of the proposed larger area, nor the proposed buffer zone.

The maps provided are schematic.

The State Party considers that the enlarged property would not change the justification for the criteria nor the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. A draft statement of Outstanding Universal Value is provided but this is based on the current boundaries and it is stated that this will be amended once the enlarged boundaries have been agreed.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS considers that the proposal to enlarge the property to encompass the entire inner sacred garden and to enclose the outer sacred garden by a new buffer zone is to be supported in principle. However in order to approve the considerable extension to the property it considers that more details are needed of the area to be included in terms of descriptions, plans, photographs, and more detailed maps are needed that comply with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. Furthermore details also need to be provided of the management and protection arrangements for the enlarged area.

As well, some of the statements referred to at the time of inscription need to be referenced such as the statements made at the time that various administration buildings were to be demolished.

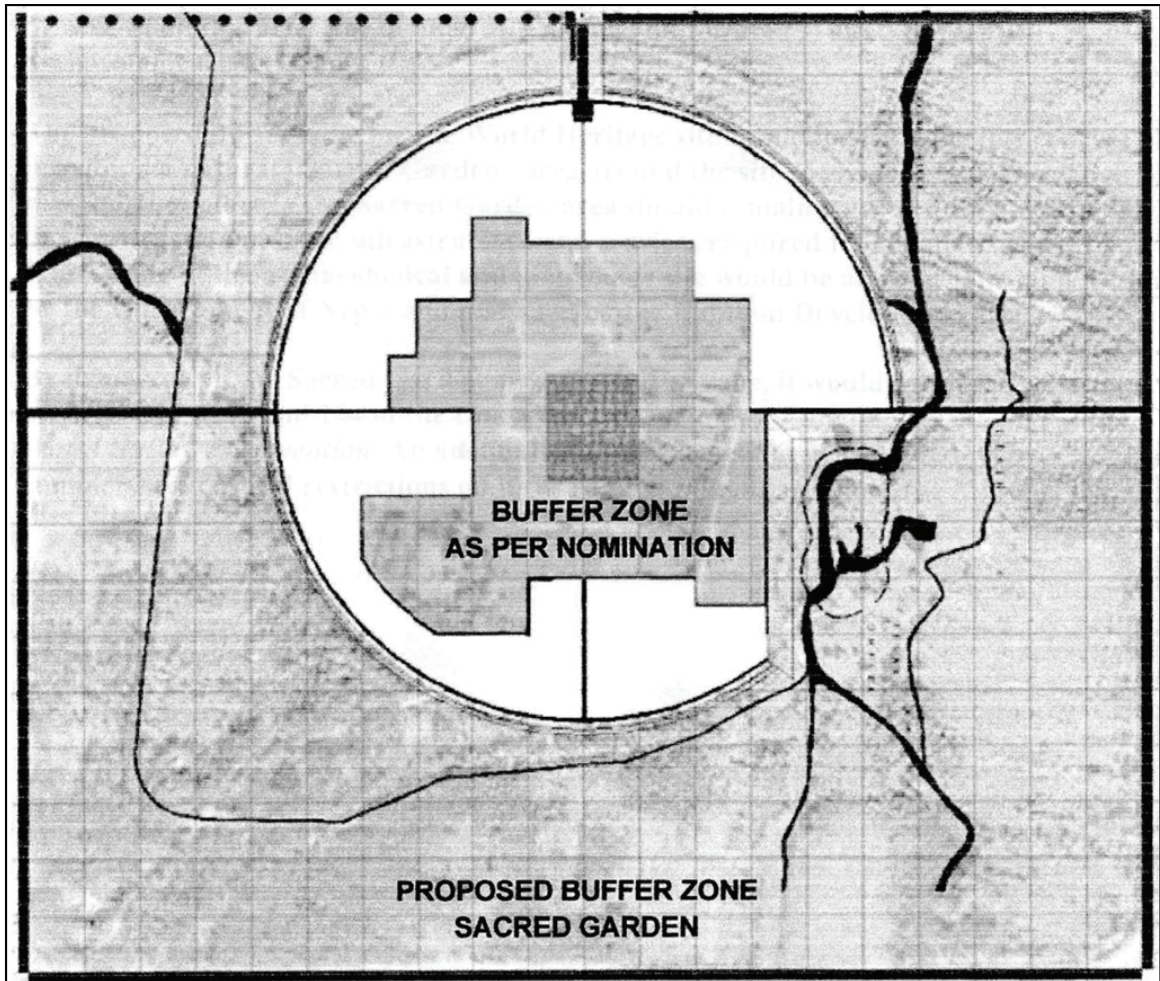
ICOMOS also considers that a statement of Outstanding Universal Value needs to be provided by the State Party identifying how the Outstanding Universal Value is reflected by the considerably extended attributes of the enlarged area.

Furthermore ICOMOS considers that a mission will be needed to understand the rationale for the boundaries and the adequacy of the management and protection arrangements. The request from the State Party refers to the development of a Management Plan and it would clearly be desirable of this Plan was completed, approved and implemented before the boundary was enlarged.

Overall ICOMOS considers that the requirements outlined above mean that this request cannot be considered as a minor modification. The request needs to be re-formulated with the extra material suggested, and submitted as a major modification.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, Nepal, ***should not be approved***.

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party submit a fuller nomination that will be considered as a major modification and evaluated with a mission to the property.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (Australia) No 1131

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Australia

Name of property:

Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

Location:

Melbourne, Victoria

Inscription: 2004

Brief Description:

The Royal Exhibition Building and its surrounding Carlton Gardens were designed for the great international exhibitions of 1880 and 1888 in Melbourne. The building and grounds were designed by Joseph Reed. The building is constructed of brick and timber, steel and slate. It combines elements from the Byzantine, Romanesque, Lombardic and Italian Renaissance styles. The property is typical of the international exhibition movement.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List without any formal buffer zone. 2004 ICOMOS evaluation mentioned that if the site were inscribed the Commonwealth government would 'endorse' the Heritage Overlay Zones as the buffer zone for the site.

The Victorian Government enacted amendments to the Heritage Act 1995 (VIC) in 2004 to enable the implementation of a buffer area around any world heritage places in Victoria. The buffer zone is referred to in Victorian legislation as a World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA). The legislation requires the development of a Strategy Plan for the WHEA.

A draft strategy plan was developed by the Executive Director, Heritage and released for public comment in 2007. The Heritage Council of Victoria (HCV) called for public submissions and held a hearing in 2008. Twenty

two submissions were considered by the HCV. Following the hearing the HCV amended the Strategy Plan. The Minister for Planning made further amendments to the Strategy Plan in October 2009 and approved it on 21 October 2009.

In January 2010, the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre with the *World Heritage Environs Area Strategy Plan: Royal Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens* that establishes a buffer zone for the property inscribed on the world Heritage List.

The Strategy plan describes in details the extensive public consultations begun by the State Party in 2004 for the creation of the buffer zone; it reviews the history of the area and the existing heritage controls; it identifies the areas of greater and lesser sensitivity and the heritage designated properties within or near the proposed buffer zone. It also describes the views to and from the Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens that should be protected. The Strategy plan covers all the important urban planning and regulatory issues that may impact the proposed buffer zone and the listed property. It describes the tools already in place and makes recommendations for modifications to existing regulatory instruments and for new ones.

Modification:

Description

The listed property area covers 26 ha and the proposed buffer zone is 55.26 ha (excluding the listed property area). It extends approximately 150 m to the West and South of the property and 200 m to the North and East. It respects the urban tissue and is aligned to cadastral or property lines. This area includes land within the City of Yarra Heritage Overlay precinct known as the "South Fitzroy Precinct" (HO 334), and land within the City of Melbourne Heritage Overlay precinct known as the "Carlton Precinct" (HO 1).

New Controls

The City of Melbourne and Yarra will need to adopt citations and make amendments to their planning instruments to protect views and Victorian Heritage Register amendments to Statements of Significance to ensure the contributory role they play within the buffer zone is adequately considered in the assessment of permit applications.

Existing Heritage Controls

In terms of existing heritage controls, the proposed buffer zone includes a number of properties on the Victorian Heritage Register; land and properties within the City of Yarra Heritage Overlay precinct known as the 'South Fitzroy Precinct' (HO 334); and land and properties within the City of Melbourne Heritage Overlay precinct known as the 'Carlton Precinct' (HO 1).

Heritage Overlay controls, some of which are included in the Victorian Heritage Register, are also included in the

buffer zone. Other planning scheme controls also apply in some cases including height controls specified under various Design and Development Overlays. While it is understandable that industry and government would not wish to restrict development activities in an area adjacent to the capital zone it is disappointing that in effect only places on the actual boundary of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens will have restrictions placed on future development, with the exception of St Vincent's Hospital which will have no heritage restrictions.

Places on the National Heritage List are subject to the provisions of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act), including the EPBC Act Regulations and management principles relating to places of National heritage significance.

Properties included in the Victorian Heritage Register are subject to the provisions of the Heritage Act 1995 (Vic). The intention of the Act is to prevent places and objects which are included in the Register from being demolished or changed in a way that has the potential to affect or diminish their heritage value. Permits are typically required from Heritage Victoria for works such as extensions, interior works, new constructions, demolition or relocation, excavation, subdivision, changes of colour schemes and signage, new fences, new pathways or driveways, and landscape works beyond regular maintenance.

Properties included in the Heritage Overlay are subject to the Heritage Overlay provisions of the planning schemes. Before deciding on an application for a proposal, the responsible authority is required to consider a range of 'decision guidelines' which address issues to do with heritage significance, character and appearance of heritage places, and heritage impacts.

The South Fitzroy Precinct (HO 334) in the City of Yarra is subject to CL. 22.02 'Development Guidelines for Heritage Places'. This is a local planning policy which applies to all land covered by the Heritage Overlay in Yarra. Precinct citations for the South Fitzroy Precinct include a history and description of the precinct area and a statement of significance. They emphasise the importance of the nineteenth century building stock, street patterns and urban infrastructure, and the high density of generally low scale development.

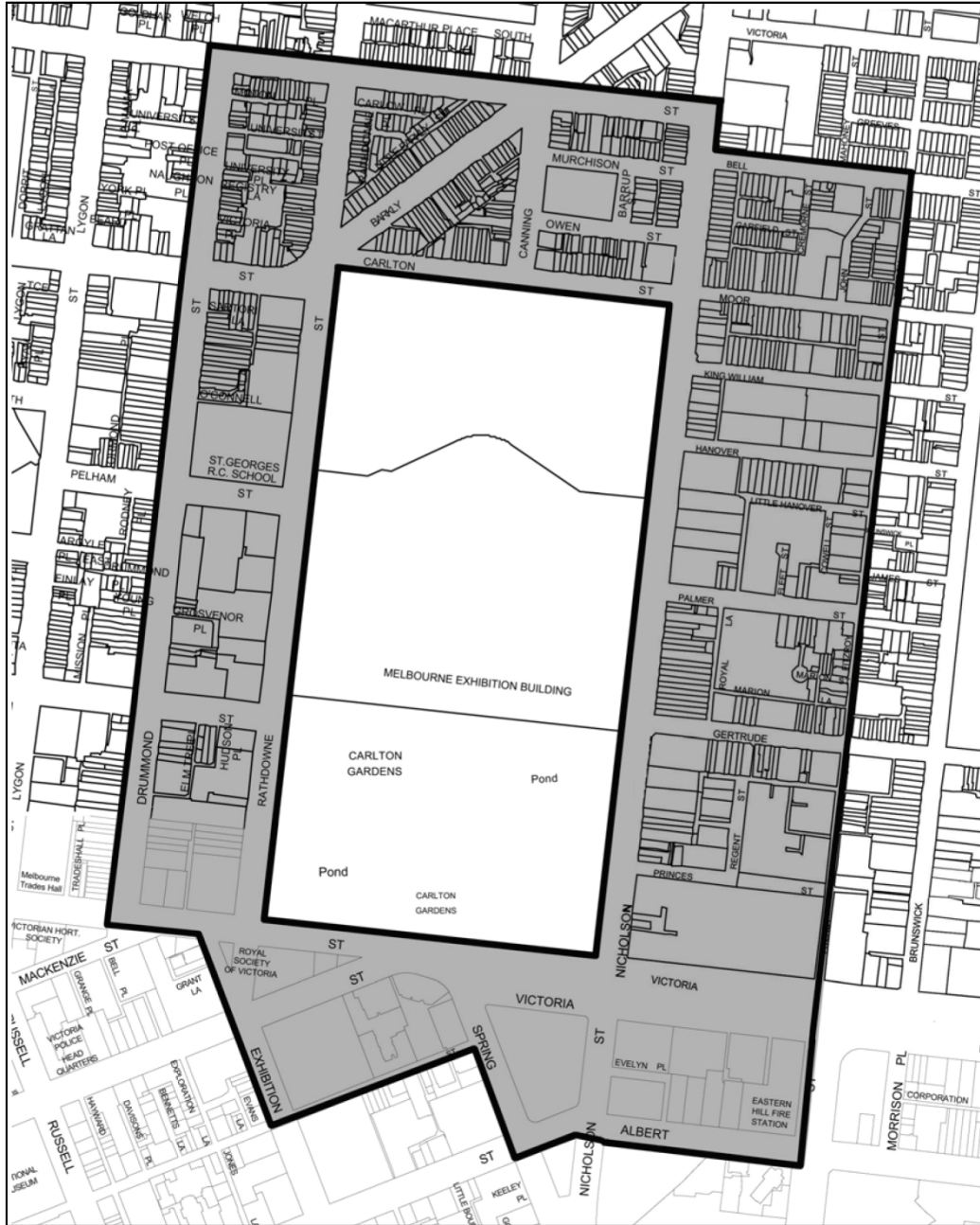
Other citations and regulations also apply to the proposed buffer zone and are further described in the Strategy plan.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone should ensure adequate and efficient protection for the inscribed property.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Australia, be **approved**.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Schloss Eggenberg (Austria) No 931bis

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg

Location:

Community of Graz, Province of Styria,
Republic of Austria

Brief description:

Schloss Eggenberg was built in the late Renaissance at the start of the Baroque period. It has conserved its painted and stucco interior décor, the composition and the ornamental complexity of which reflect the Baroque and Rococo conceptions of the universe. It is set in the midst of a park with trees and parterres of later design.

Category of property:

In terms of categories of cultural property as defined in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *monument*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 8 February 2005

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:

31 January 2005

14 January 2008

27 January 2010

Background: The nomination is a proposal for an extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre, inscribed in 1999 on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv).

The examination of this extension proposal was deferred by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006, Decision 30 COM 8B.51).

The extension proposal was again examined at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009), which took the decision 33 COM 8B.31:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1,*

2. *Refers the extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre, to include Schloss Eggenberg, Austria, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*

a) *Extend the buffer zone to the road connecting the historic centre to the Castle along its entire length, through the intermediate zone urbanised in the 20th century, so as to preserve the historic link that existed between the two elements;*

b) *Strengthen the authority and broaden the scope of competence of the City of Graz Historic Centre World Heritage Coordination Bureau, which is in charge of the management plan.*

Consultations: ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages.

Literature consulted (selection):

Mosser, M., Histoire des jardins de la Renaissance à nos jours, Paris, Flammarion, 2002.

Heilbron, J.L., Astronomie et églises, collection Bibliothèque scientifique, Paris, Belin, 2003.

Faucherre, N., Pellerin, A., Joly d'Aussy, D., Crazannes, logis alchimique, Paris, Le Croît vif, in 8, Paris, 2003.

Cohen, G.B. and Szabo F.A.J. (ed) Embodiments of power: building baroque cities in Europe, New York, Berghahn Books, 2008.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 8–10 September 2008

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: None

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

Schloss Eggenberg is located c 3km west of the historic centre of Graz. It was built shortly after 1625, on the site of an earlier castle, as the state residence of Duke Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg (1568–1634), one of the most prominent political personalities of 17th century Austria. The Palace was linked with the city centre by a nearly straight road. The main zone of the nominated property consists of the Palace and its Park. The area is surrounded by a buffer zone, which encloses part of the surrounding small housing area and extends to a natural park area in the west. It includes the starting point of the avenue leading towards the city centre.

Schloss Eggenberg is generally presented as the joint work of the Italian-born architect to the Graz Court, Pietro de Pomis (1569–1633), and the architect Laurenz van de Syype from the Netherlands. It was planned by

the Duke for representative purposes, and it was also designed as a comprehensive architectural allegory, as a visible sign both of his new powerful worldly position and of the humanist-inspired vision of an ideal world. References are made to the utopias of the time, such as those of Tommaso Campanella, Thomas More, and Johann Valentin Andreae, part of whose works are conserved in the Eggenberg library. For example, there is a total of 365 windows in the Palace (equivalent to the days in a year) and the number of rooms on each floor is 31 (representative of the number of days in a month). Further numbers refer to weeks, hours, etc. The Hall of the Planets, the Chapel, and the Theatre are laid out on an axis that is of particular importance for the building.

The ground plan of the Schloss is a large rectangle (c 65m x 70m), recalling Spanish examples of Alcazar type construction, especially the castle-monastery of El Escorial. The main body of Schloss Eggenberg has three storeys. The corners are raised, forming tower-like additions with conical roofs. The inner part of the quadrangle is divided into three courtyards arranged in a T-shape. Axial symmetry was an architectural novelty, here used for the first time in Austria. Following the Spanish tradition, its plain exterior rejects all ornamentation in favour of the simple contrast between the white wall surfaces and the ochre colour of the structural elements. The inner courtyards, however, demonstrate an unexpected play of light and shade.

On the first level there is a richly decorated Mannerist grotto. The other rooms are more recent alterations.

In the centre of the building, at the intersection of the interior buildings, there is a central tower. This is the only surviving part of the 15th century castle. It includes a chapel on the second floor in Late Gothic style with tracery bays, gridded vaulting, a sculpted altar, and a painted retablo.

The second floor is made up of a cycle of 24 representative State Rooms. Its main focus is the *Hall of the Planets* so named because of the theme of its decorations. It was the work of the painter Hans Adam Weissenkircher (1646–95) from Salzburg, whose paintings are set into a vaulted stucco ceiling. The state rooms were created in two phases, representing the Baroque and Rococo style respectively. Of particular interest is the cycle of 600 ceiling paintings and friezes, executed by several court painters from 1666 to 1673, which has been completely preserved. The remaining decoration was created in 1754–63, and is based on the drawings of Josef Hueber, who also reconstructed the Eggenberg court theatre as the *Maria Schnee* (Our Lady of the Snows) palace church. The large angel sculptures of the Maria Schnee altar are by Philipp Jakob Straub and derive from an icon of the same name in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

Three 18th century Oriental rooms are particularly noteworthy: their *Chinoiserie* decorations combine the Chinese and Japanese styles with European

characteristics. The Japanese room is decorated with imported painted paper screen panels. Dating from the beginning of the 17th century, they are a rare representation in the west of the Momoyama period in Japan (1570–1610), and depict the city of Osaka.

Five bedrooms in the north wing were painted by the Styrian artist Johann Baptist Anton Raunacher (1729–71). Bedroom 20 is dedicated to hunting scenes, 21 to bucolic scenes, 23 to card and other games, and 24 to the theatre.

The present Schloss Eggenberg Park was created from 1802 onwards as a sophisticated 'English Garden' where botanical rarities were acclimatised. The garden integrates some parts of the landscape garden. In the 20th century the garden lost some of its features, and starting in the 1990s it has undergone renovation and partial replanting, including the new Garden of the Planets, which was built on the site of the lost Pleasure Garden.

Extension

Graz is an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs. The old city is a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other since the Middle Ages, together with cultural influences from the neighbouring regions.

History and development

The Eggenberg dynasty can be traced back to a landed patrician family in Graz in the early 15th century. Balthazar, a mint master of Emperor Frederick III, had the Orthof Castle built in the mid-15th century on the ancient trading route west of Graz. The chapel was built in the central tower in around 1470. The family took the name of Eggenberg at this time.

The rebuilding of the Castle was undertaken in 1625, with only the central tower of the former Palace being conserved. The work was commissioned by Prince Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg (1568–1634), of the Styrian Eggenberg dynasty. Educated at the Protestant University of Tübingen, he converted to Catholicism and became a proponent of the Counter-Reformation in the Holy Roman Empire. At the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries, he was a close collaborator and friend of the Archduke of Styria, and then of Emperor Ferdinand II. Towards the end of the period 1610–20 he was one of the most eminent dignitaries of the Empire. In 1621 he became Governor of Styria, and then an Imperial Prince and Duke of Krumau (Bohemia). He was at the height of his power when he undertook the building of Schloss Eggenberg on the site of the former family property, near Graz.

The Castle reflects the newly increased power of the Eggenbergs. Its architect was Pietro de Pomis (1569–1633), who was employed by the Emperor. Originally from the Milan area, he was an architect, painter, and medal-maker and was a leading light of the art of the Catholic Counter-Reformation in the Empire. Laurenz van de Syppe from the Netherlands continued his work at Graz from 1632 to 1634. Pietro Valnegro and Antonio Pozzo then completed the work on the Castle until 1646.

At the beginning of the 18th century the Eggenberg dynasty was suddenly extinguished, following the early death of the last male representative of the family. The Styrian possessions passed to the Counts Herberstein and Leslie. The Herberstein had the Castle redecorated from 1754 to 1763 in a Rococo style, under the direction of the Viennese architect Josef Hueber (1715–87). All the rooms were furnished with high-quality faience stoves, chandeliers, and wall lights of Bohemian glass. The court theatre was rebuilt as the Castle Church; its wooden gallery was modified into a Rococo oratory and included in the cycle of state rooms.

The garden was originally laid out geometrically in the 17th century Renaissance style. It was completely redesigned in the following century and transformed into a Rococo-style French garden, featuring hedged parterres. From 1820 onwards it was transformed into a landscape garden.

Having lost its functions in the early 19th century the Castle was opened to visitors as early as 1830. The Herberstein family sold the property in 1939 to the Province of Styria. Damaged during World War II, the ground floor of the Castle was converted into a museum and underwent alterations (1947–52). The reorganisation of the Museum rooms and collections at the beginning of the 2000s was especially notable for the opening of a *lapidarium* featuring Roman stone objects in the Park. An area of some 2000m² on the ground and first floors has been renovated for use as exhibition rooms, which were opened to the public in 2005.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY, AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The State Party draws a comparison between the remains of the original 16th century Castle, and particularly its tower and chapel, with the buildings in France by Jacques Cœur at Bourges and Jean Rolin at Autun, the architectural objectives and structures of which are considered to be similar to those of the Eggenberg dynasty and its first castle.

The castle of Hans Ulrich, built in the 17th century, is compared to El Escorial, built by Philip II and inscribed on the World Heritage List (Monastery and site of El Escorial, Spain, 1984). The comparison in this case is

based on the symbolism of the architectural choices and the geometrical juxtaposition of the courtyards.

The influence of northern Italy and its symbolism is also strongly present through the personality of the architect Pietro de Pomis and the role of the plans of the theoretician Sebastiano Serlio. The concept of the fortified Italian *castello* is also mentioned, even though the Castle does not possess any features of military architecture.

In France the Château de Richelieu, built by Armand-Jean du Plessis, Cardinal Richelieu, is of the same type. It was totally destroyed during the French Revolution. ICOMOS considers that Schloss Eggenberg must be considered in connection with the introduction into Styria of late Renaissance and early Baroque art and architecture, and its importance is closely linked with the cultural context of this region.

The Castle refers to several stylistic schools. It reveals the influence of the Italian Baroque, through its architect Pietro de Pomis, and more generally the intellectual influence of western and Mediterranean Europe in its design. Through its overall architecture, Schloss Eggenberg also has similarities with northern styles, such as the work of Laurenz van de Syppe. Reference can also be made to Schloss Johannisburg at Aschaffenburg (Bavaria), which is very similar in form and was built a few years earlier.

Several properties on the World Heritage List represent late Renaissance–Baroque architecture in Central Europe, such as the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria 2001), Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue (Hungary, 1987 and 2002), the Historic Centre of Prague (Czech Republic, 1992), and Litomyšl Castle (Czech Republic, 1999).

In terms of interiors, Schloss Eggenberg bears witness to the intellectual demands of the Counter-Reformation and their expression in Baroque and Rococo decoration. Relatively speaking, a connection may be made on this point with Schönbrunn (Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn, Austria, 1996).

In this context, Schloss Eggenberg constitutes an important artistic and architectural example in Styria. It is considered to complement the historic integrity of the City of Graz and it strengthens the expression of its outstanding universal value, which has already been recognised.

Schloss Eggenberg is not mentioned in the comparative analysis of the nomination dossier of the City of Graz – Historic Centre (1999). However, the construction of the castle is referred to in the description of the property and the section on history.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of the inscription of Schloss Eggenberg as an extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The extension is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- From the 15th to the 18th century Schloss Eggenberg and the City of Graz were inseparably linked because of the influence of the Eggenberg dynasty, which made a major contribution to the cultural and political development of the city and the region. In many of their aspects, the architecture and decoration of the Castle reflect this history.
- Schloss Eggenberg is an exceptionally well preserved example which bears witness, through its architecture and external decoration, to the influence of the late Italian Renaissance and the Baroque period.
- Its interior decoration bears testimony to the Baroque and Rococo styles, expressing an ambitious aesthetic and intellectual programme illustrating the cosmography of the period.

Justification for the inscription of the original nomination:

The historic centre of the City of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

The urban complex forming the historic centre of the City of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.

ICOMOS considers that this justification is appropriate because Schloss Eggenberg, its park and the first stretch of the avenue leading towards the historic centre of the city of Graz complement the main property, and contribute to the strengthening of its outstanding universal value.

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

The Schloss Eggenberg and the Eggenberg dynasty are inseparably linked with the Province of Styria and its capital, the city of Graz, not only geographically but also from the viewpoints of history, culture, and traditions.

The Castle and the garden have conserved their overall architectural and structural integrity.

The estate, which is located some 3 km from the city centre, was originally linked to the centre by an avenue, of which only an original stretch of c 500m still remains. This part of the avenue, which begins at the exit from the castle, is included in the proposed extension. The rest of the avenue is conserved, but within the 20th century urban fabric; not having any special protection, this link between the city centre and the Castle has undergone substantial restructuring as a result of the conurbation's urban development, and the development of its industry, railway network and university. It does however physically express the complementarity between the historic centre and the residence of one of its main aristocratic families. In its new proposal, the State Party suggests that the road should be included in a specific buffer zone (Zone XIII), which should be added, to would provide a continuous connection between the property and the proposed extension. This proposal complies with recommendation a) of World Heritage Committee recommendation 33 COM 8B.31.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the proposed extension is satisfactory.

ICOMOS considers that the property and its proposed extension are two complementary dimensions of the historical development of the city of Graz, and of the lifestyle of its elites in the modern period. This complementarity is tangibly expressed in the new extended buffer zone which connects the property and the proposed extension.

Authenticity

Schloss Eggenberg was largely unoccupied throughout the 19th century, as the Herberstein family only spent a few weeks there each year. The furniture and the décor have thus remained intact and complete. The only notable alterations in the 20th century affected the rooms on the ground floor, which were converted to museum galleries.

The official and state rooms of the Castle, on the first floor, are an authentic example of a Baroque and Rococo interior, which are matched by few other similar buildings.

Part of the church décor was painted over after World War II. Restoration of the underlying murals is planned over the next few years.

The materials and external surfaces of the Castle have been preserved, with restorations that respect the original.

The roofs have been restored unchanged, with the replacement of original tiles in poor condition and the refixing of the surviving original tiles.

The grotto has been restored in the same way.

The retable of the chapel altar, which was broken up in the 18th century and sold in 1929, has been recovered and reassembled and was replaced in 1996.

Since it became public property in 1939, the Park has lost some of its decorative and botanical elements (rose mound, the Temple of Bacchus, and the former Pleasure Garden), restoration of which has been announced. The kitchen garden was redesigned as a contemporary garden in 2002 by Helga Maria Tornquist. A new building has been constructed on the site of the former orangery to house the archaeological collections.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The extension is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv), and of the additional criterion (vi). The City of Graz – Historic Centre property was inscribed on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv). Criterion (vi) is thus an additional criterion which is specific to the extension.

Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that, like the historic centre of Graz which reflects artistic interchanges between the Germanic area, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, Schloss Eggenberg is an exemplary illustration of the way in which the architectural and decorative concepts of the Romance countries were received in Central Europe. The humanistic spirit of Protestantism is combined here with iconographic paradigms of southern Catholic origin.

ICOMOS considers that Schloss Eggenberg bears witness, through the architects and artists who worked there, to cultural interchanges between central and southern Europe in the late Renaissance and Baroque periods, particularly in Styria. Its decorative programme well reflects the intellectual needs of the period in the context of the Counter-Reformation, and the Rococo decorations bear witness to the lifestyle of 18th century Europe.

As had already been indicated in the ICOMOS evaluation in 2006, this is an important example for Styria which cannot, however, be considered as having universal value in itself. ICOMOS considers that this criterion can only be justified through an effective

association with the historic centre of Graz illustrating the influence of the philosophical ideas and architectural principles that originated in southern and central Europe, which has been tangibly expressed by the extension of the buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that as a result of the effective link with the historic centre of Graz, this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Schloss Eggenberg is one of the masterpieces that make up the urban complex of the historic centre of Graz. It represents the Italian *castello* type which was one of the standards of European aristocratic architecture from the early Renaissance period.

Forming an integral part of the City of Graz as the residence of the governors of the town and the region, Schloss Eggenberg is an important component of the integrity of Graz as an example of urban planning and the harmonious integration of buildings successively constructed in different architectural styles.

It is unrivalled by any other monument in its completely preserved interior decoration of the highest intellectual quality, which constitutes an architectural and decorative model of contemporary conceptions of the universe.

ICOMOS considers that Schloss Eggenberg and its Park complete the range of types of architecture already present in the historic centre of Graz, as an example of town planning and the harmonious integration of buildings erected successively in different architectural styles marked by the successful encounter between various cultural and artistic movements. As part of the city, since it was the governors' residence, Schloss Eggenberg is an important element that helps to strengthen the integrity of the historic centre of Graz.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

The State Party proposed this as an additional criterion on the grounds that Schloss Eggenberg bears an exceptional testimony to the political and intellectual programme of the man who commissioned it. It is therefore an outstanding monument of a personal world view transformed into an elaborate total work of art.

ICOMOS considers that, although the Castle, the building of which began in 1625, and its initial decorative scheme reflect the original desire of its initiator to assert his power, the 18th century alterations, together with later changes to the design of the Park, have obliterated this dimension of expressing a cultural tradition and illustrating ideas in an architectural and artistic work.

ICOMOS considers that, in the current context with the Castle nominated on its own as an extension to the property and not as an analysis of this new criterion for the entire property, it has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed extension fully meets criteria (ii) and (iv) and that it significantly strengthens the Outstanding Universal Value of the City of Graz – Historic Centre.

Description of the attributes

- Schloss Eggenberg complements the living urban heritage of the City of Graz – Historic Centre. It constitutes a remarkable set of monuments which strengthens the testimony provided by the city of the synthesis of central and southern European cultures, from the end of the Renaissance to the Baroque and Rococo periods. It provides a remarkable stylistic synthesis of them with its own specific values.
- Schloss Eggenberg bears witness both to the artistic and intellectual flourishing of the Counter-Reform in central Europe and to a lifestyle which was specific to the aristocratic elites of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- Schloss Eggenberg, with its park and its landscapes, complements the range of buildings which form the historic centre of the city of Graz, by adding an eminently aristocratic residence which is at once nearby and distant from the urban centre.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

The zone near the Castle is a suburban area, which is densely built-up in certain places.

The State Party has indicated that there are five construction projects of some significance, all of which, however, are obliged to comply with specific directives (see *Protection, Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone*): a restaurant, a group of dwellings, a secondary school, a project for the reconstruction of the Eggenberg baths, and the extension of the Castle lapidarium next to the northern part of the Castle walls.

Behind the castle to the west, on the slope of a hill, the building of individual houses may have an impact on the landscape.

Tourism pressures

The Castle, the Museum, and the Park are visited by some 300,000 people each year. The facilities and spaces provided allow the reception of visitors without giving rise to any particular threat to the property. A reasonable increase in the number of visitors, which would result if the property were inscribed on the List, could take place without major changes to the reception infrastructures and without generating any particular pressures.

The use of the Castle for official receptions could cause some damage to the interior of the property, particularly because of repeated modifications to the relative humidity of the rooms, which could affect the conservation of wall paintings and the most fragile decorations. It is agreed, under the management plan, that the Castle will only be used for this purpose five times a year, and in new rooms specially adapted for receptions.

Environmental pressures

There are no pressures linked to air quality, which is good, or pollution, which is under control.

Road traffic density around the Park is low.

Natural disasters

Schloss Eggenberg is not situated in zones affected by flooding, landslides or avalanches, or earthquakes. Fire risk is regularly monitored by the fire service.

Impact of climate change

There is no evidence of climate change in measurements taken in the City of Graz.

ICOMOS considers that the main threat to the property is urban development.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the property proposed as an extension are those of the Park, and include the ancient road leading to the City of Graz, over a distance of 500m. The total area is 19.1 ha. There are no permanent residents in the property.

The extended property will have a total area of 91.1 ha.

The buffer zone of the proposed extension covers a large area to the west of the property, in order to conserve the quality of the landscape on the hillside to the rear of the park. To the north and south, it covers built-up zones which are 150 metres and 350 metres wide. To the east, it consists of quite a wide strip on either side of the avenue forming the first stretch of the road towards the city. The areas are partly built-up with residential properties and public buildings (see *Development pressures*).

Between the Castle and the City, the buffer zone has been enlarged (Zone XIII) to include the ancient road linking the Palace to the historic centre of the city of Graz. It continues along Eggenberg Allee beyond the part already included in the property; it follows Eggenberg Strasse, crosses the railway bridge, and arrives at a road junction where it widens out to form an acute angle at Annenstrasse. Here it joins the urban buffer zone. The zone is 2040 metres long, and 70 metres wide (but slightly wider where it joins the urban buffer zone). It includes the buildings next to the road on both sides.

ICOMOS considers that the extension of the buffer zone along the ancient road provides a tangible expression of the physical and historic links between Schloss Eggenberg and the historic centre of the city of Graz. It complies with recommendation a) of decision 33 COM 8B.31.

The buffer zone of the extended property will have an area of 24.2ha.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the property and of the new continuous buffer zone between the city and the castle are satisfactory.

Ownership

Schloss Eggenberg and its Park are the property of the Province of Styria. They have been managed by the *Steiermärkische Landesmuseum Joanneum* since 1947. They constitute an entirely public space.

Protection

Legal protection

Schloss Eggenberg is protected under the Austrian Monument Protection Act (533/1923 and amendments). The protection covers both immovable and movable property of historical, artistic, or other cultural value. The Act was revised in 1999 and amended by a Decree in 2006. The application of the legal protection is the responsibility of the Education, Art, and Culture Ministry.

At provincial level, Schloss Eggenberg and its Park are protected under the Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act (GAEG, 1974 and 1980). This Act has been updated

and supplemented by the Graz Historic Centre Preservation Act (2008).

At local level, the Castle and its Park are subject to the regulations and decisions associated with the current Urban Development Plan and the Land Use Plan of the City of Graz. These plans set out the general framework of inquiries for building permits, particularly in the buffer zone. The buffer zone is protected and is subject to a specific regime for the granting of building permits and modifying existing housing. Inside the Schloss Eggenberg buffer zone, constructions and extensions to buildings must not exceed the prescribed heights of the current housing in the quarters concerned. These provisions have been extended to Zone XIII, corresponding to the road linking the castle to the city, and specific provisions have been added, in particular a programme for the improvement of architectural and urban quality and of visual perspectives. All these measures are set out and harmonised in the new framework document: Graz Urban Planning (2009).

ICOMOS considers that the protective measures taken, particularly the regulatory extension applying to buffer zone XIII, are satisfactory.

Traditional protection

There is no traditional protection as such, apart from the attachment of the inhabitants of Graz and Styria to the Castle and its Park, a site which is one of the most popular in the region with visitors.

Effectiveness of protection measures

With regard to the Castle and its Park, the regulations in force are playing their role.

With regard to the buffer zone of the property proposed as an extension, the five major projects announced by the State Party seem to be appropriately controlled, particularly in terms of prescribed height and architectural conformity. The programme for the gradual architectural and urban improvement of buffer zone XIII is satisfactory.

ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property nominated for the extension are adequate.

Conservation

Inventories, recording, research

The Museum has reports on the inspection and monitoring of the property since the 19th century.

Existing documents and publications are abundant; they show that scientific knowledge exists concerning not only the architecture, but also all the decoration and furniture.

Research concerning the restoration of the gardens led to the production of a guide and reference document in 1993, and these have recently been updated. A handbook of recommendations for the architectural and decorative conservation of the Castle was also compiled in 2005.

Present state of conservation

The Castle and Park are in a good state of conservation.

Active conservation measures

Several restorations of the Castle building took place in the 20th century, particularly following the installation of the Museum on the ground floor.

The main recent conservation programme took place from 1983 to 1999 and was carried out with all the necessary scientific safeguards as regards preliminary studies and execution of works. The conservation works were conducted in turn on the chapel, the central tower, the roofs, and the facades.

A glazed entrance chamber was installed in the chapel to make visits possible without causing damage to the furniture as a result of excessively large variations in relative humidity and temperature. The chamber installation is reversible and does not affect the integrity of the chapel.

There have been several conservation campaigns on the state rooms on the first floor. Work was carried out on the prestigious Hall of the Planets between 1979 and 1983. All the other rooms were covered during an extensive programme implemented from 1994 onwards.

The interior space of the Museum and the presentation of the collections were restructured as part of a major programme in the early 2000s. These changes have not affected the integrity/authenticity or the conservation of the property.

In 1993 a guide to the management/conservation of the Park was scientifically compiled, with a view to carrying out gradual restoration of the landscape structure and planting composition. These objectives led to visible results from 2000 onwards. In 2001–2003 the abandoned parts of the Park were restructured so as to evoke the theme of the planets.

A visitor reception and accompaniment service is organised by the Museum department.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance is carried out by the Museum staff and the Park staff.

Effectiveness of conservation measures

The National and Regional Monuments Departments intervene for the conservation and restoration of the property, in conjunction with their specialist archaeology, architecture, and monument inventory units. The restoration–conservation works carried out at Schloss Eggenberg and in its Park have been well conducted and effective. They have maintained and in many cases restored the integrity/authenticity of the property proposed as an extension.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures for the Castle and its Park are appropriate, and that today they constitute a coherent ensemble whose integrity and authenticity are of good quality.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures are satisfactory.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

For the Castle and its historic Park, the management structure and processes consist of the following elements:

- studies on and the scientific monitoring of the conservation of the Castle and its historic Park are carried out by the Federal Historic Monuments Office (BDA);
- the management of the site and the Museum and the reception of visitors are carried out by the permanent staff of the *Landesmuseum Joanneum*, under the control of the Region of Styria. The second floor of the Castle is open for guided visits. The Castle can be reached by public transport, and there is a parking area for 300 vehicles.

The protection measures inside the buffer zone are enforced by the departments of the City of Graz, under the control of the relevant national and regional authorities.

The implementation of the Management Plan (December 2006) has been the responsibility of the City of Graz Historic Centre World Heritage Coordination Bureau since the start of 2007. The Bureau brings together representatives of the various partners involved in the management of the property. It has been operational since the start of 2009. The scope of its action includes the property proposed for extension. In accordance with recommendation b) of decision 33 COM 8B.31, the role and powers of the Coordination Bureau have been strengthened. One of its tasks is the permanent coordination of the application of the Management Plan, and it harmonises the actions of the various partners and parties involved: municipal departments, administrative

bodies and civil authorities, particularly with the Historic Monuments Preservation Department, citizens' associations, etc. It acts as a body for mediation, information and the monitoring of actions and control of their conformity. Its role as a mediator and a body which builds intermediate consensus is important, as shown by the creation of a detailed project, acceptable to all parties, for additional buffer zone no. XIII, and by the fact that the number of appeals against world heritage property management decisions was reduced to zero in 2009, compared with the previous total of 41.

ICOMOS wishes to express its satisfaction that a Coordination Bureau has been set up which coordinates the efforts of the various partners in the management of the extended property, whose powers have been strengthened, and which has proven its effectiveness. Recommendation b) of decision 33 COM 8B.31 has been fully complied with.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

A management-restoration guide exists for the Park, which was drawn up in 1993 in conjunction with the Historic Monuments Department. The document was revised and updated in 2006 in the form of the Park management-conservation plan (*Parkpflegewerk*).

The management plan adopted in December 2006 (City of Graz Historic Centre, Management Plan 2007) was drawn up in the first instance as a response to the Committee's decision 30 COM 8B.51 (Vilnius, 2006) and secondly to apply to the ensemble formed by the property already inscribed on the List and the proposed extension.

It includes the general guidelines for the management and conservation of the property and its buffer zone and a master plan for the land and the property.

So far as the property proposed as an extension is concerned, this is a master plan for the management of spaces and landscapes. It also sets out a programme of works necessary to maintain and reinforce the integrity/authenticity of the environment of the property.

Several programmes have been created since 2004 for the presentation and promotion of the property, particularly with regard to the Museum collections.

ICOMOS considers that there is a coherent and effective management system in place for the Castle and its Park. The joint management plan, for the property already inscribed and the proposed extension, complies with its recommendations.

Risk preparedness

The property and its possible extension are considered in the evaluation and monitoring of risk factors by the

Municipality and the Region, and in the intervention procedures of the local and regional civil protection authorities in the event of an accident.

A fire detection system is in place in the Castle, together with emergency procedures for the evacuation of visitors in the event of an accident.

Involvement of the local communities

With regard to the property proposed as an extension, the Municipality of Graz is mainly involved in the land and urban planning management of the buffer zone.

The Coordination Bureau is in regular contact with citizens' associations which take an interest in the property. The associations are thus involved in the management process.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

Schloss Eggenberg is entirely financed by the *Landesmuseum Joanneum* (stakeholders: Province of Styria 85%, City of Graz 15%).

Special subsidies can be granted via the Federal Monuments Department.

Until 2001, the restoration of the state rooms was financed by a radio and television tax.

Since 1985, 11 million euros have been invested in restoration. The restoration of the interior, which began in 1993, has been financed to the extent of about 2 million euros.

In addition, 5 million euros have been granted for the reorganisation and expansion of the Museum's collections.

The Park has been granted subsidies of 800,000 euros.

Everyday maintenance is carried out by the staff of technicians, caretakers, and cleaners (38 persons). There are eleven scientists, 36 staff concerned with visitors, and 44 security staff, both full-time and part-time.

Experts from other departments of the *Landesmuseum Joanneum* can be called in as required.

Eight restorers work in the Museum, several of whom specialise in paintings.

The various staff take training courses from time to time to increase their skills.

Effectiveness of current management

ICOMOS considers that the current management of the property proposed as an extension is effective. It is well

established, as regards both the conservation of the Castle and its Park and the museographic activity and the control of urban development in the buffer zone. It is provided with significant human and material resources. Initially it was more a management system with clearly defined roles for the Region and the Municipality, but today it is coordinated and controlled by the property's Coordination Bureau.

ICOMOS considers that the management system of the proposed extension is adequate.

6. MONITORING

Since 2005 the regular monitoring of the conservation and maintenance of the Castle and the gardens has followed the recommendations of a handbook from the Buildings Department and a guide to the restoration-conservation of the Park. They are carried out by the staff and scientific officials of the *Landesmuseum Joanneum*. They constitute the monitoring of the property proposed as an extension, which comprises in particular:

- The Park and its immovable property are assessed annually; the vegetation is continuously monitored by the staff in charge of planting and upkeep.
- The built elements of the Castle, and in particular the roofs, the drains, the wall surfaces, and the openings, are checked annually; the functional elements are under permanent surveillance by the Museum staff.
- Interior atmospheric parameters are continuously monitored.
- The fire alert and protection system is checked annually by specialists, and also where necessary at the request of the Museum.
- The interior paintings and decorative elements are continuously monitored; the furniture is checked annually.

Regular monitoring is also carried out on the state of the collections.

All the inspection, control, and monitoring evaluation reports constitute a basic documentation for the Castle and its related elements. The *Landesmuseum Joanneum* has also produced an annual overview report since its creation in the 19th century.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring is adequate.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS recognises the significant strengthening of the integrity and outstanding universal value of the "City of Graz – Historic Centre" property by its extension to include Schloss Eggenberg.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre to include Schloss Eggenberg and become City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg be approved on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg bear witness to an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs and the cultural and artistic role played by the main aristocratic families. They are a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, in the many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe. They embody a diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of these interchanges of influence.

Criterion (ii): City of Graz - Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

Criterion (iv): The urban complex forming City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The physiognomy of the city and of the castle faithfully tells the story of their common historic and cultural development.

Integrity and authenticity

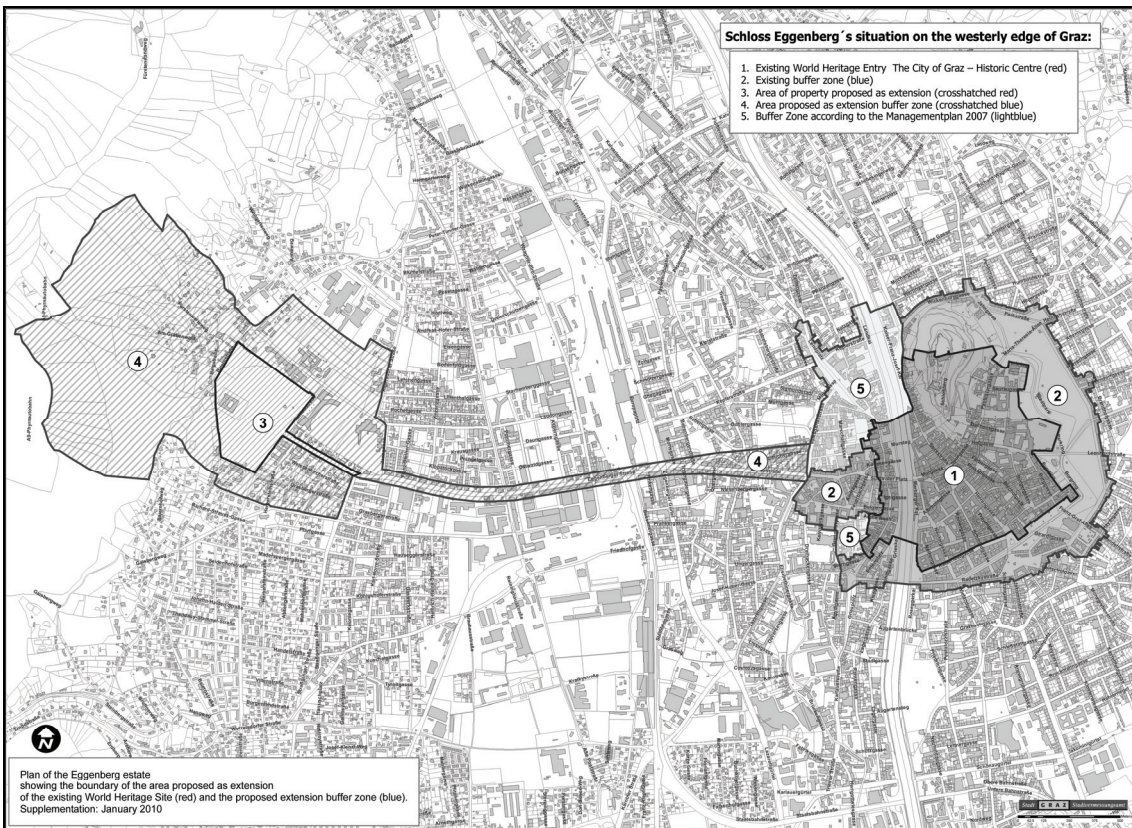
The extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre property to include Schloss Eggenberg significantly strengthens the integrity of the property. The extension gives rise to the new enlarged buffer zone which is continuous, and includes the ancient road. Furthermore, the castle and its gardens have conserved satisfactory architectural and structural integrity. The external authenticity of the castle is good, and that of the baroque interior on the first floor is excellent. The authenticity of the ground floor, which has been converted into a museum, and that of the garden, which has been partly redesigned and restored, are of a lower level which however remains acceptable.

Protection and management requirements

Schloss Eggenberg is protected under the Austrian Monument Protection Act (533/1923 and amendments). The Management Plan has been in place since 2007 and brings together the town plan of 2009 and all protection and conservation decisions relating to the extended property and the buffer zone, enlarged to include the road leading from the historic centre of the city of Graz to Schloss Eggenberg. The Coordination Bureau for the extended property has been in place since 2009, and has been granted strengthened and effective overarching powers. However, particular care needs to be taken with regard to urban development pressures inside the property and its buffer zone, in order to maintain the outstanding universal value of the property and ensure that it is fully expressed.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should give consideration to the following point:

- Ensure effective control of works projects in the various parts of the enlarged buffer zone so as to ensure the long-term conservation of the property's landscape integrity.



Map showing the boundaries of the historic centre of Graz and Schloss Eggenberg



Aerial view of Schloss Eggenberg



Schloss Eggenberg - Main front



Planetary Room



View of the pond

The Triple-arch Gate at Dan (Israel) No 1105

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

The Triple-arch Gate at Dan

Location:

Upper Galilee region

Brief Description:

The nominated property is the archaeological remains of a gate formed of three arches in sun-dried mudbrick. The arches are semicircular and have a span of 2.5 metres. They form part of city rampart fortifications dating back to the 18th century BCE, i.e. the Middle Bronze Age. Amongst the earliest known arches, they are the most complete with the largest span. The arches make partial use of the voussoir system.

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *monument*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 30 June 2000

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the nomination: No

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:
28 July 2003
1st February 2007
27 January 2009
20 February 2010

Background: The nomination was examined by ICOMOS in 2005 and withdrawn by the State Party before the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006).

The State Party submitted a new nomination dossier on 1st February 2007. The nomination was examined by the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (32 COM, Quebec, 2008) and by the 33rd session (33 COM, Seville, 2009).

The ICOMOS recommendation was as follows:

ICOMOS recommends that the Triple-arch Gate at Dan, Israel, should be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (ii).

The World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision (32 COM 8B.34):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-08/32.COM/8B and WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B.1;*

2. *Recognizes that the nomination entitled "Triple Arch Gate at Dan" brings to the attention of the Committee one of the elements of a technological innovation that has Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criterion (ii);*

3. *Refers the nomination entitled "Triple Arch Gate at Dan, back to the State Party to present further information and legal and technical data to enable its formal inscription by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.*

The State Party submitted additional information on 27 January 2009.

The Committee adopted the following recommendation:

Decision 32 COM 8B.34:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/8B, recognizes that the nomination entitled "Triple Arch Gate at Dan"(Israel) brings to the attention of the Committee one of the elements of a technological innovation that has Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criterion (ii), and more particularly the fact that the "Triple Arch Gate at Dan" bears testimony to the early diffusion of the architectonic principle of the vault and the voussoir arch, in the Middle East during the Middle and Late Bronze Age, and in particular its developed version including trapezoidal bricks for significant spans;*

2. *Notes the fact that the World Heritage Centre has received information presented by the State Party relating to legal and technical data, in accordance with Decision 32 COM 8B.34;*

3. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to facilitate the obtaining of the information which could enable the formal inscription of the property by the Committee at its 34th session.*

The State Party provided technical documentation concerning the management and conservation of the property dated 20 February 2010.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage management.

Literature consulted (selection):

Oates, D., *Early Vaulting in Mesopotamia*, in D. E. Strong, ed. *Archaeological Theory and Practices*, 1973.

Sauvage, M., *La brique et sa mise en œuvre en Mésopotamie des origines à l'époque achéménide*, Paris 1998.

Van Beek, G.W., "Pre-classical developments in domical construction", *Domes from Antiquity to the present*, 1988.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 4-8 September 2007. As this is a referred back nomination, no further mission has been undertaken.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: None

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The triple-arch gate is at the south-eastern end of the fortified ensemble of Tel Dan dating from the Middle Bronze Age. This is a large tell where there was a settlement over a long period at the start of historic time, but this settlement was not continuous. The fortified ensemble constituted the Canaanite town of Laish or Leshem, which is mentioned on several occasions in the Bible. It is surrounded by a region made naturally fertile by the presence of water.

Tel Dan is at the foot of Mount Hermon and the Golan Heights, near one of the three sources of the River Jordan, in the upper valley of the river, forming part of the Syro-African Rift Valley.

Nowadays, the Tel Dan site as a whole has a near-rectangular shape with rounded corners, with a basically oblong crater-like interior, a shape that is the result of the early fortifications that are underground for the most part. The total dimensions of the tell are roughly 400 m x 500 m.

The nominated property consists solely of the triple-arch gate and the immediately adjacent area. The gate is situated in a corner of the ramparts. Its own overall plan is close to a square (external dimensions: 15 m x 13.5 m), two sides of which join it to the ramparts. The two other sides consist of thick walls, one facing outside and the other inside the town, through which two great access arches have been opened up. They are set back from the main walls, whose four corners form defensive salients. A third arch passes through an inner separating wall. The span of the arches allowed a passageway of about 2.5 metres in width, which is considerable, and about 2.5 metres high to the top of the arch, and the thickness of the arches is around 2 metres. The built structure of the gate also contains four inner chambers.

The three arches have a massive appearance, and their shape is a slightly flattened half-circle. They are made up of three arcs of sun-dried mudbricks on top of each other, which pass on the loading to the piers. The bricks are sun-dried clay mud bricks. Two types of brick are present on the site. One is whitish because of the presence of calcareous aggregate, and the other is brownish. The shape, hardness and constructive use differ depending on the type of brick, and so does the state of conservation. The built structure of the gate probably had a roof, and thanks to the arch system it ensured the continuity of the fortified enclosure.

The imposing earthen ramparts that encircled the town were built on foundations consisting of basalt boulders; above them was the sun-dried mudbrick wall. A large part of these fortifications still exists: two short sections next to the gate are included in the nominated property. The rest of the fortifications are located in the buffer zone.

From the outside, the gate was approached by twenty basalt steps rising from the plain. On the town side, a short cobbled way led to stone steps descending towards one of the town's cobbled streets.

Excavations revealed the presence of the gateway (see below). None of the three arches has been entirely exposed in the interest of conservation. No evidence survives for the structure of the roof, which could have been either of cedar beam or of mud brick vault construction, overlain with mud plaster. Traces of mud and lime plastering on the wall surfaces have been found and remains of a thick layer of plaster that covered the cobblestone floor. These traces provide compelling evidence that the gatehouse was originally plastered and painted.

History and development

The land known as Canaan was situated in the territory of the southern Levant, in what is now Israel, the Palestine Authority, Jordan, Lebanon and south-western Syria. The inhabitants of Canaan were never ethnically or politically unified as a single nation. They did, however, share sufficient similarities in language and culture to be described together as "Canaanites."

City-states developed in Syria-Palestine around 3100, serving as mediators between the cultures of Mesopotamia and Gerzea in Egypt. At this time the dominant town was Ebla. Texts from the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (2040–1786) show that Egypt exercised a degree of political control over the area between 2040 and 1786 BCE, ruling through local vassal kings. This led to much dislocation and a decline in urban settlements.

The Golden Age of Canaan was between 1800 and 1450 BCE when strong urban centres were re-established, towns such as Hazor, Qatna, and Ugarit

flourished as centres of power in the region and the Canaanites became famed as traders across the Near East, particularly for purple dye obtained from sea-molluscs found along the Mediterranean coast.

The gate and ramparts of Tel Dan were constructed, it is now believed, in the 18th century BCE, when Canaan was at the height of its power and influence.

A second period of Egyptian control between 1450 and 1365 BCE preceded the break-up of the Egyptian Empire that enabled the Hebrew invasion into the land of Canaan around the 12th century BCE and, in time, the creation of the ancient Kingdom of Israel. According to Biblical evidence, Laish was conquered and renamed by the Hebrew tribe of Dan. Tel Dan flourished as the northernmost city of ancient Israel and is mentioned many times in the Old Testament. Excavations have been carried out on the northerly part of the site.

Laish (Dan) was strategically situated on the road from Damascus, in Syria, to Tyre on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The north-south route from Hazor to Lebanon passed through Abel-beth-maachah, just west of Dan. At the northern end of the upper Jordan Valley, Dan was sited in one of the most productive parts of the region where there is abundant rainfall. At the foot of the tell mound are extensive springs that represent one of the sources of the River Jordan.

Tel Dan was destroyed when the city was captured by Tiglath Pileser, king of Assyria, in 732 BCE. It was partially restored, but never regained its former importance. By the 4th century BCE it was described by Eusebius as being a village (*Onomasticon* 369).

Rescue excavations began at Tel Dan in 1966 by the Israeli Department of Antiquities and Museums, as there was a potential threat from military activities because of proximity to the Syrian frontier. Excavations in the south-east sector did not begin until 1977, and the top of the first arch was discovered in 1979. The two other arches, and then the passageways were uncovered in the ensuing years.

The excavations were then developed into a full research project, which continued until 1999, covering both the gate of the Canaanite town and the later "Biblical" city. After more than 30 years of work, less than 10% of the site has been excavated. The digs were interrupted in 2006 because of the war between Israel and Lebanon. They were scheduled to restart in 2008.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The key elements at the heart of the nomination are the three arches of the gate, which constitute a very ancient and technically accomplished example of the true arch. These are the rationale for the nomination.

The true arch differs from corbel arches and other older types of arches in that its arch-shaped structure converts the naturally downward pressure of gravity of the upper built structure into lateral thrust against the piers, solely by compression exerted on the construction elements.

The oldest examples of primitive vaults and arches appeared in the 4th millennium BCE in Mesopotamia during the Uruk period (Tepe Gawra about 3300 BCE). They are also present in the first dynasty in Egypt, c. 3000 BCE and under the fourth dynasty, c. 2580-2560 BCE. The true arch was found in the development of the city states of the Middle East during the 3rd millennium, for openings, vaulted ceilings, tombs, etc.

A move towards a more accomplished architectural form, the true semi-circular vault, took place as early as the 3rd millennium ceramic relief in Tell Asmar, period Ur I). Vaults and arches made of square or rectangular hewn brick, with mortar in the extrados, were quite widely present at the start of the 2nd millennium in the Middle East (Tell el-Rimah).

Simultaneously, the semicircular arch was improved by the voussoir system (trapezoidal bricks made to fit together); this is sometimes referred to as the true radial vault. The first genuinely accomplished vaults and arches of this type have spans of 0.8 m to 1 m, and the function of supporting the weight of the superstructure is fully expressed.

Some authors (Heinrich, for example) consider that true arches were built over gates from the end of the first dynasties in Egypt, and above the gates of cities and temples from ancient times in Babylonia.

The construction technology of the three large arches at Tel Dan is relatively sophisticated and expert, rather than experimental. The openings and elevations are large. This suggests the existence at the same period of other arches, probably in a relatively large perimeter from Mesopotamia to Egypt, which have either been destroyed or are as yet undiscovered.

One similar arch does exist at Ashkelon, Israel, from the same period (Middle Bronze Age IIA), but this is damaged and less complete. It also forms part of a fortification system, and was rebuilt twice during the Middle Bronze Age. No absolute dating has been achieved for the Dan arches or for the Ashkelon arch, but the arches at both sites appear to be very close in period. In the case of Dan, the gatehouse is linked to the city's 18th century BCE defence system.

Two arch gateways, built of brick and forming part of a fortification system, also exist at Mumbaqat in Syria. They too date from the Middle Bronze Age, but their construction technique is slightly different.

ICOMOS considers that, in the light of the above, the arches of Tel Dan do not represent the earliest example of the true radial arch or the earliest example of the brick

voussoir type arch. However, in the current state of archaeological excavations, the Tel Dan arches are the largest early arches and demonstrate an early use of the voussoir type arch.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative information known about vestiges of the earliest true radial arches and vaults justify consideration of the inscription of the property as an outstanding example of the diffusion and flourishing of a construction technique at the start of the 2nd millennium.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to have outstanding universal value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The three arches of the gate at Tel Dan are the only complete arches forming part of a fortification system known at the present time for the Middle Bronze Age (18th century BCE).
- They bear witness to a knowledge of the principles of construction of true radial vaults at the period in question in the Middle East.
- Their span is exceptionally large (2.5 metres).
- They bear witness to the apogee of the art of massive earthen fortifications during the Middle Bronze Age II, including sophisticated gateways with arches, and to the urban development of this period.

ICOMOS considers that the Triple Arch Gate at Dan bears testimony to great mastery of the technique of the true radial vault and arch, using sun-dried mudbrick. Fragile from a conservation viewpoint, it is at present the unique testimony of the diffusion of this type of highly innovative construction during the Middle Bronze Age in the Middle East.

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

The built part of the gate is complete. It includes in particular the three true arches on which its value is founded. Despite the lack of superstructure, even in the form of archaeological traces, the gate's overall integrity has been maintained, both in terms of its architectural plan and elevation views.

Sun-dried mudbrick constructions are furthermore relatively fragile over time, and a process of deterioration of the immediate built environment of the arches (spandrel and side walls) has begun since they were uncovered by the excavations. For about 25 years now this has raised significant conservation problems. The

integrity of the construction has been affected at certain points, as the natural elements (water, wind, sun) have removed portions of material and made the structure fragile to the north-east. (See 5, conservation).

With regard to the integrity, in the sense of completeness, of the nominated property, a question is also raised concerning the relationship of the gate to its environment of fortifications; the fortifications are in the buffer zone but not in the nominated property zone.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should give due consideration to this aspect, particularly bearing in mind that another later gate exists inside the archaeological ensemble included in the buffer zone.

In its additional documentation of 20 February 2010, the State Party declares that it has examined this recommendation, and has reached a negative conclusion for the time being. Firstly, the other parts of the fortifications linked to the triple arch gate are of less interest and have no direct link to the technological value of the nominated property, and secondly, they are under the natural protection of the layers of earth which it considers it is preferable not to remove. Finally, they are under the legal protection of the buffer zone which guarantees their conservation and their monitoring.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the excavated arches is not in doubt. However the precise dating of the gate is based on indirect elements. Many vestiges have been found in the excavations of the tell settlement area, near to the gate. They provide evidence of dates going back to the 18th century BCE. Furthermore, the use as an urban passageway gate of the three arches seems to have been limited in time. The gate was blocked up with earth, to ensure the continuity of the ramparts, which in fact ensured its conservation up until the contemporary excavations.

Furthermore, for the arches to be fully authentic, their immediate architectural environment must also be fully authentic, which again raises the issue of the recent process of decay and how to overcome it. Elements of reinforcement for the structures undergoing decay have been applied, taking care to ensure reversibility. Elements of restoration have also been considered.

The main challenges in the future will be to keep interventions to a minimum, without any significant reconstruction, to ensure the authenticity of the gate and the arches.

In its documentation of 20 February 2010, the State Party provided information about the permanent monitoring of decay in the built environment close to the triple arch and about the measures taken to keep the processes of decay under control (see Conservation).

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (iv).

Criterion (i): represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

For the State Party, although the three arches of the gate at Tel Dan are not the earliest known examples, they are the first example of a complete true arch. They meet all the criteria of this principle of construction. They are an exemplary representation of human creative genius in the technical and architectural mastery of the true radial vault and arch.

ICOMOS considers that the three arches of Tel Dan demonstrate complete mastery of the true arch technique, using the combined method of rectangular bricks and trapezoidal bricks, in the context of massive fortifications and the urban development of the Middle Bronze Age or slightly later.

The three arches of Tel Dan demonstrate how man adapts to his environment by the use of sun-dried bricks, made of mud and clay.

However, this technical expertise is neither unique at the time nor the earliest known. Clearly the earliest examples of voussoir arches were built earlier than at Tel Dan, in the 3rd and 4th millennia, in Egypt and in Mesopotamia. It seems that the arches of Tel Dan are not the oldest example of a complete true radial arch, nor the oldest example of a voussoir arch. The dating of the Tel Dan gate moreover is indirect, and its monumental and defensive use seems to have been of short duration.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

For the State Party, the three arches of Tel Dan represent a new architectural principle originating from Mesopotamia and largely disseminated in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. As there is no complete architectural example in Mesopotamia, it is the Tel Dan site which is the most significant example of mastery of this architectural principle and its dissemination. More generally, most mudbrick arches collapsed and disappeared as early as the Iron Age.

Since this initial dissemination of which Tel Dan is an example, the architectural principle of the true radial arch has been widely adopted in the Mediterranean world and in Western civilisation.

ICOMOS considers that Tel Dan bears witness to the early diffusion of the architectonic principle of the vault and the voussoir arch, in the Middle East during the Middle and Late Bronze Age, and in particular its developed version including trapezoidal bricks for significant spans.

The integrity of the arches is however threatened by the intrinsic difficulty of conserving sun-dried mudbrick architecture for future generations, particularly for a structure as elaborate as an arch. The initial excavation periods, which re-exposed the edifice to the elements, did not fully allow for this consideration and have compromised chances for conservation in the long term.

In its additional documentation of 20 February 2010, the State Party presents an overview of conservation efforts made since the discovery of the triple-arch gate, focusing on the results achieved. The results suggest that the efforts should enable the long-term conservation of the property (see Conservation).

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

In the view of the State Party the Tel Dan gate is the only conserved example of gates of massive fortifications, a defensive system that was used during the development of the civilisation of the city-states of the Middle Bronze Age. It is a unique example of a very important feature of civilisation, which is widely encountered in the Middle East.

In the view of ICOMOS, the nominated property is the triple-arch gate alone; the fortified ensemble is not nominated and its outstanding universal value does not seem to be justified. The nominated property does not present all the characteristics of the feature of civilisation referred to, i.e. the flourishing of fortified city states in the Middle Bronze Age in the Middle East.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (ii) and that outstanding universal value has been demonstrated.

Description of the attributes

- The Triple-arch Gate at Dan bears witness to great mastery of the technique of building a true arch with a significant span (2.5 metres) during the Middle Bronze Age or slightly later.
- It was built using sun-dried mudbricks, with the arch bricks making partial but unquestionable use of the innovative voussoir system.
- In the current state of archaeological knowledge, it constitutes a unique example of a gate with three complete arches, each with three successive arcs of brick, both for its early date and its state of conservation.
- Through its integration in massive fortifications, it bears witness to the importance of the move towards urbanisation in the Middle Bronze Age and to its technical advances.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

Economic development is not exerting any pressure on the Tel Dan site. All projects must moreover be authorised by INPA, the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority. There are no inhabitants either in the nominated property zone or in the buffer zone.

In response to the request by ICOMOS, the State Party has given guarantees that the area (about 6 hectares) of the buffer zone that does not form part of the natural reserve will be used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Military risk

Situated close to the border with Lebanon and the border with Syria, the Tel Dan region could be affected by war risk.

Tourism

Up to now tourism has been kept well under control, and relatively limited numbers of tourists have visited the three-arch gate itself. Tourism could grow significantly inside the Reserve, without posing a particular threat to the archaeological site.

Any risks of vandalism are prevented by the presence of wardens on the archaeological site and the physical protection of fragile or dangerous archaeological elements. Routes inside the Reserve are indicated and signs are installed to encourage good behaviour. The real quantitative limit at the moment is the capacity of the parking area (up to 1,000 visitors at any one time). The annual average number of visitors for the Reserve is

around 200,000, but only 80 days a year are considered to be peak days for visits.

Natural factors and impact of climate change

The main natural risk threatening the nominated property is torrential rainfall. There is also a certain degree of earthquake risk in this zone. In view of the dominant vegetation cover, a brush fire could, in the dry season, spread as far as the site. It is not however directly exposed to this risk as vegetation is cleared away on the approaches to the site. There is no pollution in the site environment, and there are no climatic particularities.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are torrential rainfall, possibly combined with the action of the wind and sun.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

Nominated area:

The nominated property consists of the triple-arch gate and its immediate surroundings: the connections to the north and south-west rampart wall, and the external and internal gate access staircases. The property boundary is a rectangle of approximately 4,800 sq.m. around the gate.

Buffer zone:

The Tel Dan archaeological site forms part of a protected nature reserve that represents the bulk of the buffer zone. Since the 2005 nomination and the ensuing recommendations, the buffer zone has been extended to the south-east beyond the nature reserve zone, to include an agricultural zone belonging to the Snir kibbutz, to a depth of at least 150 metres. The total area of the buffer zone is 37.2 hectares.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property are adequate. ICOMOS considers that the revised buffer zone boundaries are adequate.

Ownership

The nominated property is owned by the State of Israel. It is situated in the nature reserve of Tel Dan. It therefore has the legal status of a nature reserve and an archaeological site.

Protection

Legal protection

The nominated property is defined and protected by the following legal texts:

- The Israel Lands Administration Law of 1960.
- The 1965 Planning and Building Law and its amendments.
- The 1978 Antiquities Law and the 1989 Antiquities Authority Law (IAA).
- The 1963 National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law, amended in 1992.

Under the law of 1960, the property is governed by the powers of the state vested in the Nature Reserves Authority (Act of 18 September 1987), and the confirmation of a 49-year transfer of rights dated 7 May 2006.

Buffer zone:

Most of the buffer zone (84%) is under the protection of the natural reserve. The rest is a zone exclusively reserved for open-field agricultural activities. All requests for a waiver from this allocation rule (e.g. for a building) have been made impossible in view of the guidelines for the implementation of land use planning.

ICOMOS considers that the buffer zone protection measures are adequate.

Effectiveness of protection measures

The legal measures taken to protect the nominated property seem to be adequate.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate.

Conservation

Inventories, recording, research

The archaeological study has been underway since the late 1970s. The archaeological documentation thus gathered on the site is considerable. It consists of several types of documents:

- Excavation reports for each campaign.
- The Tel Dan reserve annual report, published since 2001. This is a sort of log book compilation of all actions and observations on the site.
- The site dossier, which brings together all basic documents, plans and decision relating to the site. It is regularly updated.

The IAA/Getty Report provides an in-depth study of the archaeological situation of the property and any changes in its state of conservation since the property was uncovered at the start of the 1980s. It provides a solid

technical basis for the updating and improving of the property's conservation plan.

Present state of conservation

This monument is made of sun-dried mudbricks, which by their very nature are fragile, and the state of conservation of the arches and the mural elements of the gate confirm that constant attention is essential. Its survival since its creation was only possible because the site was buried quite rapidly, probably in the 8th century BCE. Once the structure was uncovered, in around 1980, it began to deteriorate because of the nature of its material of construction.

Recent excavations show the very probable presence of plastering on the surface of the joints between the bricks, and perhaps over the whole of the facades. This again attests that this construction was sophisticated and well mastered, rather than being a still experimental construction.

Active conservation measures

Following the uncovering of the gate in the late 1970s and early 1980s, an initial shelter was constructed above the gate in 1982. This protection however turned out to be only partial and inadequate. From 1985 to 1988 moreover, the protective roof deteriorated, and water penetrated into the north-east tower.

In 1992 the western facade and the interior of the gate were filled in, as a preventive conservation measure. A new and more complete roof was built in 1993, and another layer of protective fill was added.

From 1997 to 1999, the IAA (Israeli Antiquities Authority) and the Getty Conservation Institute drew up documentation of the archaeological structure, and analysed its conservation. Their report was completed in 2000. It provides a detailed chronology of the deterioration, with some examples of serious losses on the north-east tower. The report draws a distinction between intrinsic factors (linked to materials and construction technology) and extrinsic factors (recent preservation history). This report is comprehensive, and provides a thorough analysis of the causes and rates of deterioration of the monument.

The report suggested some reburial, some areas filled with sandbags to prevent access, some parts to be covered with geo-fabric textile, and basalt stones to provide support in some places.

In response to this report, in 2000-2005, discrete structural support elements were designed, in accordance with international reversibility standards, as appropriate for a monument of such fragility. Some structurally supportive reconstruction in limited areas, especially to the East tower or the gate, was undertaken. Discussions are under way about the replacement of the

present shelter structure with a more minimal one, and then by a complete system in future years.

This programme however illustrates the current difficulties, at an international level, of recommending long-term conservation methods for sun-dried mudbrick structures.

In its additional documentation of 20 February 2010, the State Party reports on the results recently obtained in the conservation of the most fragile elements of the structure. It refers to the restoration of the upper parts of the edifice, where the traditional techniques used have produced a result which is historically authentic and a stabilisation which appears to be solid and lasting. The detachment of the east wall, which had threatened to collapse, has been dealt with using a gradual mechanical process put in place in 2008. Today completed, it has resulted in a return to the original position and a re-attachment which is considered to be both satisfactory and lasting. Furthermore, roofs are currently being extended or modified, particularly on the east side, for more extensive and effective protection against rainwater. Work on sun protection structures is also under way. Processes of deterioration by damp have been halted.

A long-term conservation plan has been put in place, in line with the recommendations made in the ICOMOS evaluation of 2008. It brings together the efforts of two national authorities: the parks authority (INPA), which manages the property, and the antiquities authority (IAA). It also brings together the expertise of well-known international institutions (Getty, CRATerre) and independent experts in the field of earthen architecture conservation.

In addition to observation of the state of the property, the everyday surveillance of the site by guards involves the checking of water drainage during rainy weather, and the action of the protective roof.

ICOMOS, in its 2005 evaluation, stated that the conservation measures undertaken at the time were inadequate. The technical appraisal mission in 2007 indicates that substantial progress has been made in this area. Work is in progress to put in place structural support and stabilising elements; the work is carried out with great care, paying attention to issues of quality and possible reversibility.

ICOMOS, in its 2008 evaluation, recommended that a very stringent conservation plan should be put in place, in line with the best international standards for the preservation of sun-dried mudbrick architecture. The changes occurring in the structure remain however partly unpredictable, and call for a flexible and adaptable action plan, without sacrificing scientific rigour.

ICOMOS considers that recent efforts concerning the scientific and technical management of the processes of decay of the sun-dried mudbrick architecture of the

nominated property have been substantial, and in some cases exemplary. In addition, scientific monitoring and a long-term conservation plan are today in place and functioning, and the results obtained suggest that the long-term conservation of the property can thus be ensured.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation of the property has steadily improved since 2005, and has today reached a satisfactory level.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The three-arch gate of Tel Dan is managed as part of the Natural and Archaeological Reserve of Tel Dan. It is the responsibility of the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority (INPA), in accordance with its hierarchical organisation chart: national directorate, professional divisions, Northern District and Golan Region, and finally the Tel Dan Reserve echelon.

The site is managed in accordance with several national plans and programmes. As a result funding and personnel are allocated to the Nature Reserve.

The Israeli Council for the Preservation of Monuments and Archaeological Sites is also involved, and cooperates with the management authority.

All projects for site management and archaeological works are supervised by the IAA (Israeli Antiquities Authority) from a scientific viewpoint.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

Conservation plan: A master research plan for the conservation of the archaeological site was requested when the 2005 nomination was examined. It was presented in 2006 under the name "Conservation Plan". It was to be based on the IAA/Getty evaluation report and on experience gathered during recent work. It will take over from the existing conservation measures, which have moreover improved markedly over the last two years (see Conservation). The plan must however retain a degree of flexibility in order to deal with the unpredictability of changes in the condition of the structure.

Archaeological excavation and visitor presentation plan: After a two-year break in excavations, a master plan for future excavations is to be started up in 2008. It will complement and assist the conservation plan. It has been drawn up by the Gluek School of Biblical Archaeology, in conjunction with the Reserve and the INPA. It also concerns other elements of the fortification

wall and the interior of the town. It involves work both for conservation and for presenting the site to visitors.

The Natural and Archaeological Reserve management plan: it manages the organisation of the site and the facilities for accommodating the public, including:

- Daily inspection of the site,
- Annual drainage system maintenance work,
- Seasonal cleaning of vegetation and prevention of bird nesting.

A detailed plan indicating the roads and access paths, the car park and the reception facilities has been provided in response to the request made by ICOMOS.

ICOMOS considers that a detailed site conservation management plan is necessary, while considering that this plan must remain flexible in order to be adaptable to changes in the structure and improvements in conservation techniques (See Conservation).

Following the ICOMOS request in 2008 suggesting that consideration should be given to presenting the three-arch gate in a way more closely linked to the rest of the fortifications and the urban centre of Tel Dan, the State Party examined this proposal. In its reply of 20 February 2010, it indicated that the nearby fortification elements are of limited archaeological interest and have no direct relationship to the essentially technological and architectural value of the property; furthermore, they are for the most part covered by a layer of earth which protects and conserves them. It therefore seems advisable to maintain the existing situation of the three-arch gate in respect of presentation and value preservation.

The three-arch gate is located in a nature reserve that receives a relative large number of visits and is popular in Israel, but its entrances are strictly controlled. The Reserve is entirely fenced in, and the archaeological site of the gate has an additional protection, with an access gateway. The archaeological site is only accessible to a limited number of visitors at any one time, but this point is basically positive in view of the current state of conservation, excavations and work on the site. It is not however possible for people with disabilities to access to the site.

Routes are proposed to visitors, together with large numbers of signs and interpretation points, with the following objectives:

- Presentation and interpretation of the site's major features;
- Encouragement of good visitor behaviour and protection of the site itself;
- Visitor guidance and safety.

The signs and information are in three languages: Hebrew, English and Arabic. They were completely

renewed in 2004, but on the basis of the visit plan drawn up in 1995.

Involvement of local communities

There is no institutional programme with local or regional communities. However, the Tel Dan local authority is active in that it organises regular educational visits for school groups, and provides information to the population about the archaeological and natural site.

Archaeological research partnerships

As regards the excavations, various educational institutions are in regular contact with the site: the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, the Hebrew Union College of Jerusalem. These institutions play a substantial role in funding excavations and publishing their results.

ICOMOS notes that no management plan is proposed with regard to the nominated property.

However, ICOMOS considers that the property is included in the larger context of a Natural and Archaeological Reserve whose management rules are long-established and well-defined. The measures in place are those of a state organisation whose operation has been tried and tested. They are under the scientific control of the IAA.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

The Natural and Archaeological Reserve currently has eight full-time employees. Their activities however range over the whole spectrum of tasks required in managing a nature reserve receiving a significant number of visitors, in which the nominated property is only one part among others.

Personnel are all recruited following appropriate academic training. They are given short complementary training at INPA and they are only taken on definitively after a two-year trial period.

Temporary employees are hired during periods of high frequentation.

Workers and contractors are required for maintenance and cleaning work.

At regional and national level INPA has a number of professionals specialising in the various questions that arise in the management and conservation of the site: a scientific director for the site, specialist archaeologists and architects.

Furthermore, the site can call on the national specialists of the IAA.

The IAA provides a 2-year course to professionals recruited by the INPA, who are then put in charge of monitoring sites such as Tel Dan.

As far as earthen architecture conservation is concerned, the IAA specialists have taken international courses at the Getty Institute of Conservation and CRATerre in Grenoble (France).

Depending on the difficulties encountered, external institutes and consultants are called in, as was the case of the Getty Institute to evaluate the structure in the late 1990s.

Architects and conservators specialising in the devising and conservation of architectural vestiges intervene on the site. The reproduction of sun-dried mudbricks was undertaken in this way.

The excavations are guided by archaeologists of national and international reputation, both from the INPA and from the Hebrew Union College (HUC).

ICOMOS considers the training of the personnel with scientific responsibilities to be of a good level, in line with international standards for the subject concerned. ICOMOS recommends however the stepping up of continuing education of the other INPA personnel working in fields related to the nominated property, on the conservation and preservation issues with which they are specifically concerned.

In the documentation it submitted on 20 February 2010, the State Party indicates the levels of competence of its personnel, and the training courses they have taken.

ICOMOS commends the measures in place constituting the management plan, and considers that the management system for the nominated property is adequate. ICOMOS recommends that the continuing education of personnel should be extended.

6. MONITORING

The visual monitoring of the condition of the nominated property takes place at least once a day, and often twice a day, by the Reserve personnel. The personnel is trained for this purpose, as part of the overall surveillance of the site.

The basic monitoring indicators are as follows:

- Observe the appearance of brick debris at the foot of the arches.
- Very rapidly locate incipient signs of damage to the arch surface to prevent them from becoming irreversible.

Under the conservation plan, the INPA team of professionals carries out regular scientific monitoring of the site. This monitoring includes systematic

photographs of the gate from fixed points, and regular comparison of the photographs taken. The conservation plan monitoring reports are approved by the INPA and the IAA.

Site water drainage and cleanliness are monitored annually.

In the documentation it submitted on 20 February 2010, the State Party indicates that it has given consideration to the ICOMOS recommendation made in 2008: "In view of the fragility of the property and the speed of changes that can occur, monitoring could be improved by permanent surveillance using a laser theodolite and 3D digital display." A system of this type has been set up with the collaboration of a specialised company. Initial results are currently being considered and methodology is at the development stage.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring of the property is adequate.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS recognises the Outstanding Universal Value of the Triple-arch Gate at Dan.

ICOMOS considers that the changes made since the property was first nominated for the World Heritage List in 2005, and since the 2008 evaluation, have been positive, particularly with regard to the enlargement of the buffer zone and the marked improvements in property conservation work and in the monitoring of the property.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the Triple-arch Gate at Dan, Israel, should be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criterion (ii)*.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The three-arch gate of the Triple-arch Gate at Dan has outstanding universal value:

- It bears witness to great mastery of the technique of building a true arch with a significant span (2.5 metres) during the Middle Bronze Age or slightly later.
- It was built using sun-dried mudbricks, with the arch bricks making partial but unquestionable use of the innovative voussoir system.
- In the current state of archaeological knowledge, it constitutes a unique example of a gate with three complete arches, each with three

successive arcs of brick, both for its early date and its state of conservation.

- Through its integration in massive fortifications, it bears witness to the importance of the move towards urbanisation in the Middle Bronze Age and to its technical advances.

Criterion (ii): The Triple-arch Gate at Dan bears witness to the early diffusion of the architectonic principle of the true radial arch, in the Middle East during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, particularly in its most complete version, including voussoir bricks, for wide spans.

Integrity and authenticity

The authenticity of the Triple-arch Gate at Dan is proven. However, the integrity of its sun-dried mudbrick structure raises considerable conservation problems with regard to the presentation of its outstanding universal value in a long-term perspective. A substantial conservation effort has been planned and begun by the State Party to achieve this aim. It must be continued with great determination, in view of the still imperfect state of expertise in the conservation of such constructions.

Protection and management requirements

The legal protection in place is adequate. The site is managed by the authority of the Natural reserve of the Tel Dan Park, which is attached to the governmental organisation for nature and parks (INPA). Conservation management is conducted under the authority of the governmental antiquities organisation (IAA). The set of measures presented forms a satisfactory management plan for the expression of the property's outstanding universal value.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should give consideration to the following point:

- Make sure that an exacting conservation management plan, in accordance with the best international standards for the preservation of sun-dried mudbrick architecture, is implemented.

ICOMOS also recommends that:

- The continuing education of the non-scientific INPA personnel working on the nominated property should be stepped up on the conservation and preservation matters with which they are specifically concerned.



Plan de la porte



Façade est



Escalier menant de la ville vers la porte

Sucevița (Romania) No 598 bis

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

Church of the Resurrection of Sucevița Monastery

Location:

Historical Region of Moldavia, Suceava County,
Suceava, Romania

Brief description:

The interior and exterior walls of the church of Sucevița Monastery are entirely covered in painted murals dating from the end of the 16th century. It is located inside the enclosure of a fortified monastery and is the only church with a representation of the Ladder of St John Climacus. It is one of the painted churches of northern Moldavia, seven of which are already inscribed on the World Heritage List (1993). With their exterior walls entirely covered in 15th and 16th century paintings, directly inspired by Byzantine art, these eight churches in northern Moldavia are unique in Europe.

Category of property:

In terms of the category of cultural property, as defined in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention 1972, this is a *monument*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 3 February 2005

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: No

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:

7 February 2007

1st February 2010

Background: This nomination is for the extension of the Churches of Moldavia that were inscribed at the World Heritage Committee's 26th session (Cartagena, 1993) on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv).

The extension nomination was examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), and decision 33 COM 8B.35 was adopted:

The World Heritage Committee:

1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Refers the extension of the Churches of Moldavia to include the Church of the Resurrection of Sucevița Monastery, Romania, back to the State Party to allow it to:

a) Promulgate the management plan for the Painted Churches of Moldavia property, along with the section dealing with the management of Sucevița;

b) Establish the Coordination Committee and its local representative in Sucevița;

c) Define a tourism development plan for each of the properties, within the management plan, boosting tourism infrastructure and stipulating the protection measures to be implemented within the buffer zones in relation with the tourism projects;

d) Complete the management plan relating to the property nominated for the extension by adding a programme of planned conservation work;

e) Produce without delay the Regional Town Plan designed to guarantee that development in the buffer zone is compatible with the value of the property;

f) Strengthen cooperation between the partners in the management of the property: the Orthodox Church, the national, regional, and local public authorities, and private owners.

The State Party submitted additional information on 1st February 2010.

Consultations: ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Wall Paintings.

Literature consulted (selection):

Grabar A., *Roumanie, églises peintes de Moldavie*, Paris-New York 1962.

Dragut V., *Peintures murales de Moldavie*, Bucharest 1982.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 10–15 September 2008.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: None

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The Church of the Resurrection is located in the middle of a square monastic enclosure (104m x 100m) 6m high that is built of stone, with its corners flanked by polygonal towers. It is accessible through a square gate tower in front of the monastery buildings built against the east wall. It has a basilical floor plan with a single nave and a trilobate apse. In terms of its overall volumes, it is

close to the Church of Saint Nicolas at Probota Monastery (part of the inscribed series). On the north and south facades two porches house the entrances to the exonarthex. Under a single overhanging shingle roof, interrupted by the transept crossing tower, the interior is covered with a series of four cupolas; the bay preceding the transept is covered with a transverse barrel arch (funeral chapel) and has an additional storey that is also arched, used as the treasure chamber. The exterior walls intermingle the Byzantine–Balkan tradition (lantern tower supported on diagonal arches) and elements inspired by Western European Gothic (buttresses, frames, and bay tracery).

The entire surface of the interior and exterior walls is covered by fresco mural paintings with a *secco* details presenting an iconographic programme that reflects the same theological and aesthetic themes as the seven churches already inscribed. The interior paintings are predominantly gilded and the compositions are often small in size, similar to miniatures.

The exterior iconography includes:

- The Church Hierarchy triumphing on the apses. Arranged in seven horizontal registers, the angels, the patriarchs, the apostles, the bishops, the martyrs, and the monks are facing emblematic figures painted along the axis of the church: God the Father, Christ, the Virgin and Child, Jesus Christ the Great Archpriest, and Saint John the Baptist.
- The Jesse Tree, the philosophers of antiquity, and the Akathist Hymn to the Blessed Virgin (chanted during the siege of Constantinople) are represented on the south facade.
- The Ladder of St John Climacus is painted on the north facade. Sucevița is the only church to represent this rare emblematic composition of monastic life. On the same facade there is also a Genesis cycle and the life of St Pacôme, founder of Cenobite Monachism.

In addition to its iconographic specificity, the Sucevița church is notable for a more graphic pictorial style and brighter colours, with a predominance of red and emerald green, than the seven other churches in the group.

Inside, the iconographic programme by and large respects the canonical indications of Byzantine painting:

- On the intrados of the lantern tower cupola, Christ Pantocrator is surrounded by the symbols of the Evangelists and groups of angels of the celestial hierarchy, followed by prophets, apostles, and bishops;
- In the lunettes formed by the oblique arches, scenes from the life of Christ (annunciation, nativity, presentation at the temple, baptism) are shown;
- There is an angelic liturgy at the base of the drum;
- The spandrels are occupied by the Evangelists;

- In the choir, the traditional Virgin and Child is here exceptionally replaced by the Ascension, and 17 of the 24 scenes of the Akathist Hymn of the Annunciation are painted on the vault. The following registers show the Tent of Witness, the twelve sons of Jacob, the communion using bread and wine in two separate scenes in accordance with the Orthodox tradition, the washing of the feet, and the Last Supper, as well as two compositions on the theme of divine wisdom. The lower register includes the Offering Child towards which the Hierarchs and the Deacons are moving;
- The vision of Peter of Alexandria is painted in the prothesis niche;
- In the nave, the paintings are structured into two zones: the vaults with the Marian Hymns and the walls with the life of Christ (passion and miracles). The lower register includes a mixture of scenes from Genesis, mystical themes, and figures of the warrior saints. On the western wall, the votive presentation of Ieremia Movila's family unfolds. On the opposite side, there is another votive painting showing the Metropolitan Gheorghe Movila, founder of the church, in front of a Deiesis;
- In the funeral chapel, figures of saints sit alongside the life of Moses.
- The narthex cupolas are decorated with God Sabaoth and God of the Trinity. The vaults present the seven ecumenical councils. The walls are covered with scenes from the liturgical calendar and the lives of St Nicolas and St George;
- The walls of the exonarthex show a Last Judgement and the vault the Virgin and Child surrounded by the signs of the zodiac. The remainder of the walls show various themes, including the life of St John the New whose relics were transferred to Suceava in the 15th century.

Extension

The seven churches of Moldavia already inscribed on the World Heritage List form a very coherent group in terms of the religious themes of their mural paintings and the representation techniques used by the regional artists. It is an aesthetic and spiritual programme dating back to the years 1530–50. The group of churches I, moreover, also located in the same region of northern Moldavia. The majority of the wall paintings were completed over a twenty-year period, although some decorative elements date from the end of the 15th century.

From an architectural point of view, they were sometimes older churches at the time of the programme of systematic exterior paintings, but they were restored or even rebuilt at this time. The other religious buildings were new or recent, built during the first half of the 16th century. Several of these churches are Orthodox monasteries:

- Church of the Holy Cross of Pătrăuți;
- Saint George Church, Voronet Monastery;

- Church of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist in Arbore;
- Metropolitan Saint George Church, St John Monastery in Suceava;
- Church of St Nicolas, *katholikon*, Probata Monastery;
- Church of the Virgin Assumption, Humor Monastery;
- Church of the Annunciation, Moldovița Monastery.

History and development

Moldavia became an independent state in the 14th century; its peak was during the Crusades of Stephen the Great against the Ottomans (1457–1504) and those of Pierre Rareș (1527–38 and 1541–46). This period also bears witness to the birth of a great cultural movement, of which the churches with their exterior painted walls are the most astounding manifestation. A great Christian tradition of decorating the exteriors of churches then developed throughout Moldavia, to the extent that the entire surface of the facades was covered in paintings. This tradition had its own iconography, dominated by certain essential specific themes – the Church Hierarchy, the Last Judgement, and the Tree of Jesse.

Sucevița Church was built from 1584 to 1586, probably on the site of an earlier timber building, on the initiative of the Bishop of Rădăuți, the future Metropolitan of Moldavia, Gheorghe Movila, aided by his brothers Ieremia and Simeon, the future prince regents.

The paintings were commenced in 1595 and finished in the following years, by the latest in 1601 when the monastic ensemble was completed. They are attributed as being the work of two icon painters, the brothers Ioan and Sofronie.

The church lies at the centre of a monastery that has operated as such continuously since its foundation through to today, initially for monks and then for nuns.

The only transformations and changes to the monastic buildings have been those made necessary by the natural evolution of monastic life.

After World War II the church was restored on several occasions, and the Monastery underwent restoration from 1963 to 1968.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY, AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The nomination of the churches of Moldavia contained in the justification made for the property's inscription a reference to the Sucevița Monastery to justify the use of

criterion (ii) and the fact that this tradition had spread to other churches in Moldavia.

The comparative analysis of the present proposal for extension is essentially that made in relation to the seven Orthodox churches on the World Heritage List. This ensemble has already been judged to be a unique example of historiated religious murals painted on the exterior walls of churches. No comparison is possible elsewhere in Christian religious art, since murals are essentially inside the church, as in the Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe (France, 1983).

Sucevița belongs to the same region of northern Moldavia and is based on the same theological and aesthetic vision. Reference may then be made to a spiritual and artistic programme, manifested from 1530 onward by the creation of murals illustrating scenes from the Bible and sacred history. This is a regional ensemble of churches and monasteries of which Sucevița is the latest example. The murals are designed for the religious edification of the generally illiterate peasant population, in the context of the political and religious tension that was affecting south-eastern Europe at the time.

These are excellent quality murals painted by local artists with a rich colour range, of which Sucevița is simultaneously the culmination and a form of spiritual and artistic testament.

The Sucevița church fits perfectly into this series and provides several specific features worthy of attention, such as the specific iconographic themes and the chromatic range.

The initial nomination dossier for the painted churches of Moldavia, Romania, did not include a comparative analysis.

ICOMOS considers that with the addition of Sucevița the series of externally painted churches in Moldavia, dating from the end of the 15th century to the end of the 16th century, will include all the elements required to establish the property's outstanding universal value. ICOMOS therefore considers that the series comprising the property will be complete once the Sucevița extension proposal has been examined.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis, although limited in its development, justifies considering the inscription of Sucevița on the World Heritage List, as an extension of the series of painted Moldavian churches already inscribed.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The extension is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- From the point of view of its architecture and its painted decoration, the Sucevița church belongs to the same group as the internally and externally painted churches of northern Moldavia, already inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv).
- The Sucevița church displays special chromatic and iconographic features which complement the inscribed churches. It provides an extension to the historiated themes already present in the other churches.
- The Sucevița church is testimony to the building of externally painted churches in Moldavia over a considerably longer period than that of the series already inscribed, ranging up to the end of the 16th century.

Justification for the inscription of the original nomination

With their exterior walls decorated with mural paintings, works of art inspired by Byzantine art, these churches in northern Moldavia are unique in Europe. Far from being mere wall decorations, these paintings form a systematic covering of all the facades and represent complete cycles of religious themes. Their exceptional composition, the elegance of the characters, and the harmony of the colours blend perfectly with the surrounding countryside.

ICOMOS considers that the justification is appropriate, as the monastery church of Sucevița is a consummate example of the final period of development of the painted churches of Moldavia, which was not represented in the series. The period has stylistic particularities, and completes the range of religious themes previously represented.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The church has not undergone any modification throughout its history. It fully retains the integrity of its original structure from the end of the 16th century, along with its ensemble of exterior paintings.

The monastic enclosure has fully retained its initial appearance. It has not undergone any structural change.

The surrounding rural and wooded landscape has undergone only minimal transformation and development through to the present day; it has retained its integrity.

This is still a monastery of the Orthodox Church, the functional integrity of which has been retained continuously, including during the period of the Communist regime after World War II. Today it houses a fully functioning convent with seventy nuns, giving the site the character of a living monastery.

ICOMOS considers that the urban plan specific to the proposed extension must be directed towards protecting the integrity of the property's landscape, which is affected by contemporary built structures in some instances.

Authenticity

The paintings are authentic, in that they have been subject to only minimum work. The restorations undertaken since the 1970s have been performed with care and considerable attention to respecting the authenticity both of the motifs and the pigments and of the conservation conditions (see Conservation).

The restoration of the roof has returned the church to its original appearance, as documented in old iconographic sources.

The restoration of the quarter-sphere calotte of the choir, the largest, concentrated mainly on the filler components (solid background, vegetation).

The presence of an active young monastic community concerned for the cultural and spiritual values associated with the property is an important aspect of its authenticity.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The extension is nominated on the basis of the same criteria used for the inscription of the original nomination: cultural criteria (i) and (iv).

Criterion (i): represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the entire church is painted, both internally and externally. The exterior scenes are the best preserved of the northern Moldavian churches. It is the end point in an evolution which has seen it described as 'a testament to Moldavian art.' The stylistic differences displayed here are testimony to the persistence and the evolution of this artistic phenomenon beyond 1550. Sucevița provides a special and complementary distinction.

ICOMOS considers that the special features of the Sucevița paintings and their good state of conservation complete the range already inscribed of the seven other painted Moldavian churches.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that from an architectural point of view the Sucevița church forms part of the Moldavian monuments created from the second half of the 15th century, providing an original synthesis between the Byzantine–Balkan traditions and the contributions of the Western Gothic. The Monastery's fortified enclosure is one of the most representative examples in Moldavia.

ICOMOS considers that the painted Sucevița church is the culmination of the evolution of this typology of artistic creation.

The idea of completely covering the exterior surfaces of churches with paintings was adopted from other churches in Moldavia in the cultural, religious and political context of the Balkans from the 15th to the 16th centuries.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (i) and (iv) and that the Outstanding Universal Value has been demonstrated.

Description of the attributes

- The Sucevița Church belongs to the same group as the churches of northern Moldavia already inscribed on the World Heritage List. They are remarkable for the quality of their exterior wall paintings dating from the 16th century.
- With their exterior walls decorated with mural paintings, which are masterpieces inspired by Byzantine art, these churches in northern Moldavia are unique in Europe. The paintings form a systematic covering on all the facades and represent complete cycles of religious themes taken from the Bible and Holy Scripture. Their exceptional composition, the elegance of the characters, and the harmony of the colours blend perfectly with the surrounding countryside.
- Sucevița presents rare iconographic themes that complement those on the other churches. It is the only one to show a representation of the ladder of St John Climacus.
- Chronologically, Sucevița is the last representative of the externally painted Orthodox churches in northern Moldavia; it completes the group already inscribed on the List.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

The Monastery is sited outside industrial and mining zones and so is not affected by this risk.

The extraction of timber does not affect the property. If it were to develop, it might eventually lead to an intensification of road traffic in the immediate vicinity of the Monastery, with heavy loads perhaps causing vibrations and atmospheric pollution. Furthermore, the intensive extraction of timber could lead to significant and notable changes to the traditional landscape.

Tourism pressures

The Monastery is one of the most visited places in Romania, by both pilgrims and tourists. It is one of Romania's most prized tourist destinations (125,597 visitors in 2007). At present the number of tourists does not threaten the property. All visits are with a guide, and if these were to increase they might cause damage to the church with its limited interior space and alter its immediate surroundings with the installation of uncontrolled commercial activities and an expanding car park.

The construction of a hotel infrastructure could affect the property's surroundings.

Environmental pressures

There is currently no pollution in the immediate surroundings of the Monastery.

The *Eternit* roofing on the Monastery buildings, a potential source of asbestos pollution, is being replaced with copper.

Natural disasters

The Monastery is not located in a seismic zone.

Spring flooding due to thawing and heavy rain mainly threatens the inhabited areas immediately adjacent to watercourses.

A fire in 2004 was caused by an electrical short-circuit.

Impact of climate change

The threat from climate change is only of a general order; the rainfall in this mountainous region is high. Thanks to the height of the enclosure wall, the exterior murals are protected from the prevailing winds, apart from the tower murals, which are located at a greater height.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are uncontrolled development of tourism and extensive forestry operations.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the property for inscription correspond to the Monastery enclosure (1.4ha), and coincide with the statutorily protected monument.

The buffer zone extends to the top of the surrounding hills, including the slopes and built zones to the south and north, and to the east as far as that part of the river and the road where the Monastery starts to come into view (36.4ha).

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the property and buffer zone of the nominated property are adequate.

Ownership

The Monastery and the Church are owned by the Sucevița Orthodox convent.

Protection

Legal protection

Canonically, the Monastery comes under the Archdiocese of Suceava and Rădăuți, in the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The Monastery was added to the register of Historical Monuments of Romania on 16 July 2004, and as a result it benefits from the Protection of Historic Monuments and Protected Zones Law No 422/2001, revised under No 258/2006.

In addition, the following apply:

- The Order by the Minister of Culture and Religious Affairs No 2682/2004 pertaining to the method for classifying properties as historic monuments;
- Law No 5/2000 on the approval of the national development plan, section III, protected zones;
- Special legislative regulations concerning properties inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- Government Ordinance No 47/2000 pertaining to special measures concerning these same properties;
- Law No 350/2001 on land use and town planning;
- Law No 564/2001 promulgated by the President of Romania;
- Decision No 493/2004 by the Government of Romania concerning the monitoring of monuments inscribed as World Heritage and the method for establishing protection and management plans.

The buffer zone is under the protection of the 1992 General Town Plan of the municipality of Sucevița, which

is currently undergoing revision (2009). The revision forms part of a wider overhaul of the general town plans pertaining to the churches already inscribed and to the proposed extension, in accordance with governmental decision 738 of 9 July 2008.

For the general town plan in preparation pertaining to the Sucevița monastery zone (UTR1), the Ministry of Culture has carried out a study of the historical and heritage aspects of the property, particularly in landscape terms, in accordance with recommendation 392/U/2009. The specific regulation for the zone UTR1 (285 ha) has been drawn up, and has been promulgated by Ministry for Regional Development recommendation n°5/2010; it was issued to the municipality of Sucevița on 28 January 2010 for application. Four zones are established inside UTR1, regulating the height of buildings and construction density for the privately owned buildable area (ZCP3), inside the monastery (ZCP2) and in the forest zone (ZCP4); in the latter, only maintenance works on existing structures will be authorised. The church constitutes the property, while the buffer zone consists of the monastic enclosure and its immediate surrounds.

ICOMOS considers that the town plans specifically applying to the land occupied by the painted churches of Moldavia are in line with recommendation e) of Committee decision 33COM 8.B35. The plan pertaining to Sucevița has just been promulgated. The town plans for the other churches included in the property are either undergoing revision, or in the promulgation phase, or in preparation.

Traditional protection

The current use as a convent is an important element in the property's protection.

Effectiveness of the protection measures

To date, the protection measures have proved effective and relevant.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate, but that the promulgation of the new Regional Town Plan must be confirmed.

Conservation

Inventories, archives, research

The Monastery and its murals have been the subject of several publications since 1923.

A multi-disciplinary research project, 'The Movila family in the history of Moldavia: an element of 16th and 17th century European history,' has been initiated by the Archdiocese, the Monastery, the University of Iași, and the Municipality of Sucevița.

The National Institute of Historic Monuments and the University of Iași have begun research on the murals.

The archives concerning the Monastery are conserved in national institutions.

Present state of conservation

The church and the convent are generally in an excellent state of conservation, except for the church roof. The roof shingles need replacing with identical material.

The church structure was consolidated in 1983; the building does, however, have a fissure in the choir vault and another deeper one in the arch stone between the nave and the funeral chapel.

The exterior paintings are in a good state of conservation, except for those on the lantern tower, which are exposed to the winds and partially erased.

The interior paintings on the lantern tower, the nave, and choir have been restored and are in a good state of conservation. Those in the funeral chapel and the narthex are undergoing chemical and biological analyses prior to restoration.

The paintings are totally preserved on the exterior, especially on the north wall.

Active conservation measures

The Monastery was completely restored between 1953 and 1968.

In 1953–54 the church timber roof underwent initial repairs in the style of early 20th century work. A new restoration in 1983 restored its fragmented appearance typical of medieval Moldavian churches, as shown in a votive painting of Prince Movila in the nave.

The exterior paintings were restored between 1989 and 1998.

In 1999 restoration work commenced on the interior paintings, planned for their entirety.

A project to reroof of the north wing of the enclosure in sheet copper has been implemented, as has another for the nuns' cells which is now in progress.

A programme for the systematic analysis of the state of conservation and establishment of best rules of practice was approved in 2004, in the form of a document committing the property's various stakeholders, 'Obligations concerning the use of the historic monument.' It mainly follows French heritage evaluation standards. These provisions are restated and supplemented by the new management plan for the property.

An additional restoration programme for the church (consolidation of the vaults and inspection of the timber frame), as well as the monastic buildings and the enclosure, has been announced. The works schedule presented as an annex to the property management plan foresees the replacement of the timber roof in 2010. This is in line with recommendation d) of Committee decision 33COM 8B.35.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance of the building is performed on a daily basis by the nuns, in association with their opening the monument to tourists and its supervision.

Effectiveness of conservation measures

ICOMOS considers that a conservation management dynamic has been in operation since the start of the restoration of the exterior paintings, in accordance with international conservation standards. In this respect, ICOMOS recommends in particular monitoring the most vulnerable paintings on the lantern tower exterior. The drawing up of the management plan for the church of Sucevița, as part of the management plan for the whole of the serial property, represents the culmination of these efforts.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation of the property nominated for the extension is satisfactory.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The following organisations involved in the protection and management of the property are of international standard:

- The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs is involved on an administrative level through the Department of Historic Monuments and Museums, and on a public finance level through the National Office of Historic Monuments.
- The National Institute of Historic Monuments is in charge of monitoring conservation and research.
- The National Historic Monuments Commission has a consultative role.
- The G. Oprescu Institute of Art History of the Romanian Academy contributes to research.

At the regional and local levels:

- The Order of Orthodox Nuns is the owner and manager of the Monastery; it plays an essential role in the everyday management of the property. These prerogatives are exercised under the authority of the Archdiocese of Suceava and Rădăuți of the Orthodox Church of Romania.
- The Sucevița County Council is also involved in financial, environmental and regional development aspects.

- The County Department of Culture, Religion and National Heritage provides monitoring on behalf of the Ministry of Culture.
- The Sucevița Town Hall is involved in the municipal land use plans and building permits, notably in the buffer zone.

The *Coordination Committee* for the whole serial property was created by Order 2140 of the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs dated 24 March 2009. The Committee is responsible for coordinating the management of the various components of the property, preparing a detailed schedule and monitoring works in accordance with the management plan, monitoring the whole serial property, and accordingly updating conservation initiatives. It is required to draw up a report at prescribed intervals. It is assisted by a Scientific Committee which is particularly responsible for links with the university, research and educational initiatives. The Coordination Committee is chaired by an eminent scientist from the National Institute of Historic Monuments.

A Committee member is to be appointed by the Sucevița site and will carry out local coordination for the property. A local representative of the owner will be appointed as the site manager.

ICOMOS considers that the institution of the Coordination Committee for the whole of the serial property is in line with a significant part of recommendation b) of Committee decision 33COM 8.B35. However, no indications have been given about the work schedule of the Coordination Committee, the intervals at which its reports are to be drawn up, or the constitution of its local unit.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

Several general documents are currently being applied in the management of the property, in particular the Strategic plan for the management of monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List (2007-2013) and the Five-year plan for the management and monitoring of monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List (2007-2011).

Up to now, an Annual plan for the management and monitoring of the monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List has been drawn up, in accordance with the above master plans.

The State Party has recently drawn up a Management plan for the Churches of Moldavia; it was written and published in 2009. For the proposed extension, it sets out in particular the works planned for 2010-2011 (roofing, museum reorganisation) and ongoing conservation and monitoring actions (humidity control and protection of the lower painted parts during religious

services). Funding guarantees are also provided for the various components of the serial property.

In practice, pilgrims and visitors are managed by the nuns of the Monastery of Sucevița, several of whom speak foreign languages. 143,000 people visited the property in 2009. A limit has been placed on the number of visitors to the church, in order to regulate humidity levels.

With regard to tourism management and development, on the one hand the Management plan indicates the main priorities for the projected approach for explaining the value of the serial property, and personnel training, and on the other hand the State Party has provided a voluminous document, partly translated into French (Tourism in Bukovina). This is a regional plan for studying and forecasting regional tourism development in future years, in which the serial property has an important place.

The new Management plan announces a programme for studying and explaining the value of the proposed extension through several programmes:

- explaining the value of the mural paintings by reference to historical and art history research;
- awareness raising and guided visits for the general public and the media;
- a projected laboratory for the conservation and restoration of the Medieval icons, books and textiles; this project is to be set up in cooperation with Japan, and the construction of a building inside the monastery enclosure is planned;
- the rehabilitation of the medieval art museum;
- the rehabilitation of the library storerooms.

ICOMOS considers that the Management plan published in 2009 is in line with recommendation a) of Committee decision 33COM 8.B35. Special care must however be taken to ensure the architectural and landscape compatibility of the new building projected for the laboratory outside the monastery but inside the buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that the level and the quality of visits to Sucevița appear satisfactory. However, visitor facilities outside the Monastery are insufficiently controlled at present, and there is therefore a risk of seeing private commercial operations and uncontrolled tourist facilities proliferate. Furthermore, the programme aimed at explaining the values of Sucevița should in principle make a significant cultural contribution in terms of interpreting and focusing on the values of the property. Finally, the vast general tourism study programme sets the serial property into a regional perspective. Recommendation c) of Committee decision 33COM 8.B35 has thus been taken into account by the State Party. However, a functional tourism development plan for Sucevița has not yet been drawn up, including effective control of peripheral tourist facilities: parking

areas, vehicle and pedestrian circulation, shops, visitor accommodation, etc.

Risk preparedness

The structure of the church was reinforced against earthquake activity in 1983, even though it is not located within a risk zone.

Involvement of local communities

The municipality is responsible for the management of the buffer zone, mainly through the implementation of the Regional Town Plan, which regulates permits for building and other works.

The Coordination Committee members include representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Church. The Management Plan has been drawn up in conjunction with local religious officials from the churches and/or monasteries. For the church and the monastery of Sucevița, the works and tourism development programmes are implemented in agreement with the regional and local religious authorities.

ICOMOS considers that the State Party has provided the information referred to in recommendation f) of Committee decision 33COM 8.B35.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise, and training

Restorations are financed by the State through the intermediary of the Minister for Culture and Religious Affairs (over 1 million euros from 2004 to 2008).

Management of the property is financed by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Tourism, and by the Suceava County Council.

The Monastery has its own income from the sale of entrance tickets, publications and pious objects, etc which is used in part for the maintenance and preventive conservation and restoration of the iconostases.

Restoration experts are trained in various universities. Each year the sisters who take guided tours attend refresher training courses.

The monastic community of Sucevița has 70 members.

Effectiveness of current management

The nuns provide the everyday management of the Monastery and the church, and missions by the relevant services of the Minister for Culture and Religious Affairs vouch for the effectiveness of the current management.

The Coordination Committee is in charge of monitoring conservation and the project for the tourist development of the whole property, in conjunction with the religious officials of the property and the monastic community

which lives there. However, no details have yet been provided about the local body representing the Committee at Sucevița and its operational means.

ICOMOS considers that the management dynamic of the proposed extension is positive and on the right track, particularly following the improvements made by the 2009 Management plan. However, no details have yet been provided about how the Committee will function or about the setting up of its local unit at Sucevița.

6. MONITORING

Monitoring is provided jointly by the Ministry for Culture and Religious Affairs and the owner. It is to be carried out from 2010 onwards within the framework of the Management plan, under the control of the Coordination Committee.

Monitoring of the climatic and biological conditions of the interior paintings is regularly performed using specialist equipment. The results are fed into a database.

Paintings undergoing restoration work are monitored monthly, and those that have already been restored are monitored twice-yearly. A monitoring data sheet has been drawn up by the Ministry of Culture.

The number of visitors in the church is also constantly monitored and is limited so as to prevent overcrowding of the space and thereby potentially altering the atmosphere.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring is satisfactory. Details must however be given about the local unit of the Coordination Committee in charge of monitoring.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS recognises the contribution of the Church of the Resurrection, Sucevița Monastery, Romania, in strengthening the Outstanding Universal Value of the Churches of Moldavia, already recognised on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv).

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the extension of the Churches of Moldavia to include the Church of the Resurrection of Sucevița Monastery, Romania, be **approved** on the basis of *criteria (i) and (iv)*.

ICOMOS considers that this extension completes and closes the series of Painted Churches of Moldavia.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The churches with external mural paintings of northern Moldavia, built from the late 15th century to the late 16th century, are masterpieces inspired by Byzantine art. These eight churches of northern Moldavia are unique in Europe. They are authentic and particularly well preserved. Far from being mere wall decorations, the paintings form a systematic covering on all the facades and represent complete cycles of religious themes. Their exceptional composition, the elegance of the characters, and the harmony of the colours blend perfectly with the surrounding countryside.

Criterion (i): The external paintings of the churches of Northern Moldavia cover all the facades. They embody a unique and homogeneous artistic phenomenon, directly inspired by Byzantine art. They are masterpieces of mural painting, and are of outstanding aesthetic value in view of their consummate chromatism and the remarkable elegance of the figures. They present cycles of events taken from the Bible and the Holy Scriptures, in the Orthodox Christian tradition.

Criterion (iv): The idea of completely covering the external facades of churches by paintings is an eminent example of a type of church construction and decoration adopted in Moldavia, which illustrates the cultural and religious context of the Balkans from the late 15th century to the late 16th century.

Integrity and authenticity

The monastic church of Sucevița has undergone no significant alteration in the course of its history. It preserves with total integrity its original late 15th century architectural structure, and its set of mural paintings, both internal and external. The monastery which surrounds it has conserved its initial appearance, and in particular its historic enclosure. The surrounding countryside, rural and forested, has undergone few transformations and changes up to the present day.

The mural paintings are authentic, as they have undergone only minimal interventions. They are in a good state of conservation. The restorations undertaken since the 1970s have been carefully carried out, with great emphasis being placed on respecting authenticity in respect of motifs and pigments, and on conservation conditions. The restorations to the roof have resulted in the church regaining its original appearance, as documented by ancient iconographic sources.

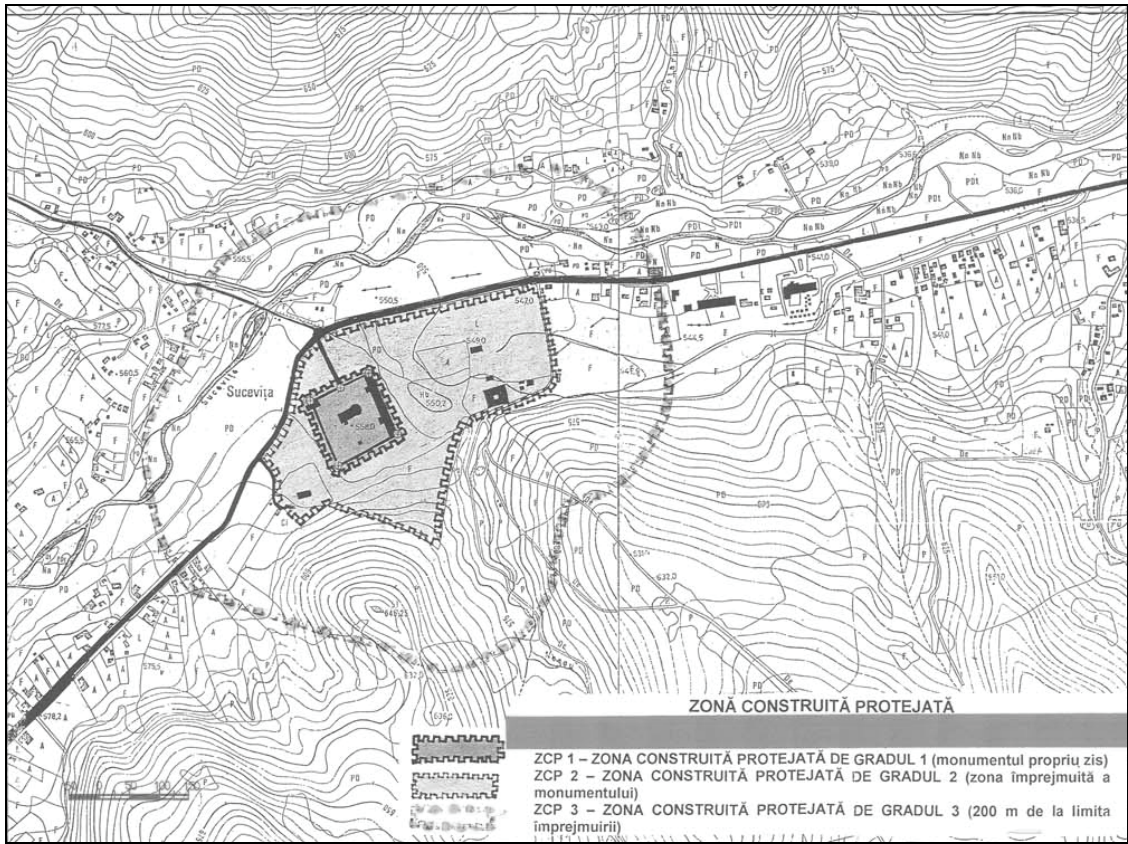
Protection and management requirements

The protection of the property is satisfactory, both for the serial property as a whole and for Sucevița, where the property is a place of worship inside a functioning monastery. The protection is completed by the

municipality of Sucevița's general town plan for this zone, which was recently promulgated (January 2010). The plan should enable active control of building and other works inside the buffer zone and in the landscape environment of the church and monastery. The management plan has been drawn up, including the part pertaining to the extension. The Coordination Committee for the serial property has been set up, but details must be provided about how it functions locally.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should give consideration to the following points:

- Provide a report for the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (2011) to inform it about the actual functioning of the Coordination Committee and its local unit at Sucevița.
- Ensure control of the likely increase in visitor numbers to the Monastery and the church of Sucevița.
- In the framework of the updated Town Plan, establish a practical plan for the reception of visitors in the vicinity of the monastery of Sucevița.
- Keep the World Heritage Committee informed about architectural projects pertaining to the conservation laboratory planned in the buffer zone of Sucevița monastery, in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed extension



General view of the monastery



Church of the Resurrection



South apse



Interior

The Mercury and Silver Binomial (Spain, Slovenia, Mexico) No 1313

Official name as proposed by the States Parties:

The Mercury and Silver Binomial on the *Intercontinental Camino Real*. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí

Locations:

Almadén, Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha, Province of Ciudad Real, Spain.
Idrija, Slovenia.
San Luis Potosí, State of San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

Brief description:

The mercury route followed the *Intercontinental Camino Real* of the Spanish Empire, from Europe to Spanish America. It dates from the second half of the 16th century, when the mercury amalgamation process made possible the large-scale exploitation of the silver of New Spain.

A relatively rare metal, liquid at room temperature, mercury is produced only by a few mines across the world, of which the largest is at Almadén in Spain and the second largest at Idrija in Slovenia.

The exploitation of the silver mines of Mexico led to the building of colonial towns and the development of the *Camino Real* towards the north-west. San Luis Potosí, which was established in the second part of the 16th century, is one of Mexico's historically important mining towns.

Category of property:

In terms of cultural properties as defined in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a nomination for the serial inscription of three *groups of buildings*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 27 April 2007 (Spain)
18 June 2007 (Slovenia)
22 June 2007 (Mexico)

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:
29 January 2008
26 January 2010

Background: This is a referred back nomination (33 COM, Seville, 2009).

A first nomination dossier was examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). At the time, ICOMOS recommended to defer the examination of the nomination.

The World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision (Decision: 33COM 8B.26):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1,*

2. *Refers the nomination of the Mercury and Silver Binomial: Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí, Mexico, Slovenia and Spain, back to the States Parties in order to allow them to:*

a) *Reconsider the definition of the property in San Luis Potosí, but also with its mining region, and more broadly in comparison with the other silver extraction sites using the amalgamation process in Mexico, to bring it into line with the mining and industrial theme of the mercury and silver binomial, and so to establish its Outstanding Universal Value. An inventory of the technical and industrial heritage linked to the silver mines would be necessary for such a redefinition;*

b) *Give consideration to a new name for the serial property, as the term Camino Real, specific to the Spanish colonial empire of the 16th to 18th centuries, is inappropriate for the Idrija site. The name must also reflect the two sites dedicated to the extraction of mercury;*

3. *Recommends that the States Parties should give consideration to the following points:*

a) *Reflecting on the extension of the property, on the one hand to include properties already inscribed because of silver mines in Bolivia and other countries in the Andes, and on the other hand to include the Huancavelica mercury mine in Peru;*

b) *Better integration into the definition of the property of the concepts of pollution and risks to human health that might arise from the production and use of mercury. The International Institute planned at Idrija for the study and the raising of public awareness of these issues is supported;*

c) *Inclusion of any additional component parts in the series not yet inscribed on the World Heritage List would require a new nomination.*

On 26 January 2010 the State Party submitted additional information.

Consultations: ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and the International Committee on the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH).

Literature consulted (selection):

Bargallo, M., *La amalgamación de los metales de plata in Hispanoamérica colonial*, México, Co. de Monterrey, 1969.

Dizdarevic, T., *The influence of mercury production in Idrija mine on the environment*, Ljubljana 2001.

Cañizare-Ruis, M., 'Patrimonio minero-industrial en Castilla-La Mancha: el área Almadén-Puertollano,' *Investigaciones Geográficas*, 31, Alicante 2003, p. 87-106.

Lescovec, I., 'Maintenance and presentation of the technical heritage of the Idrija Mercury Mine,' *Patrimoine de l'industrie*, Paris, 2004.

Mining and industrial heritage: its impact on major Cultural Routes of universal value. The Mines of Almadén and other mining sites linked to the Intercontinental Spanish Royal Road through the mercury route, Madrid – Almadén, ICOMOS Spain, 2006.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 27–31 August (San Luis Potosí) and 30 September– 6 October (Almadén and Idrija)

Additional information requested and received from the States Parties: None.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The nominated property consists of the two European mining sites of Almadén (Spain) and Idrija (Slovenia) used for the extraction of mercury (quicksilver), and the mining town of San Luis Potosí (Mexico) which used the mercury amalgamation process for the cold extraction of silver.

From the mid-16th century, the process was used on a large scale for the exploitation of low-grade silver ores containing other metals, such as lead, particularly in areas located in present-day Mexico and Bolivia. Considerable quantities of mercury were therefore necessary, and they were transported from the sites of production in Europe and Peru to the silver mines of the New World. The process of large-scale amalgamation was a speciality of colonial Hispanic America, which was the birthplace of the process (1555). The overall system, including the production, transport, and use of mercury for silver extraction, played a major part in the *Intercontinental Camino Real*, which was active from the mid-15th century until the 19th century.

Almadén

The nominated property consists of a main part, situated to the west of the town of Almadén, which includes the historic mining territory and its technical and industrial remains, and the nearby urban quarter up to the town centre. The main part of the property is completed by some scattered monuments elsewhere in the town, in the buffer zone.

The mining wealth of Almadén is linked to the very abundant geological presence of red cinnabar (mercuric sulphide), which made it an exceptional site for mining, as mercury ore is a rare commodity worldwide.

The elements of the nominated property comprise:

1. The mining site and the elements directly related to the history of its exploitation:

- the mines themselves, consisting of interlinking shafts and galleries of various periods;
- the entrances to the del Pozo, del Castillo, and La Contramina mines; the shafts, the machinery and the buildings of San Aquilino, San Teodoro, San Andrés, and San Joaquin;
- the constructions of the del Castillo mine, the mercury store (today the museum), and the administrative and social buildings;
- various tunnels with specific functions, such as the forced labour tunnel, Caña Gitana, and the mining transport tunnel of San Aquilino;
- the Bustamante cinnabar furnace, designed in 1720;
- remains of the brick furnace (17th century);
- traces of the road to Seville used for the transport of the mercury to its port of embarkation.

2. The property also includes the town centre, in its original fabric, from the mining site to Constitution Square, with the following noteworthy elements:

- Retamar Castle,
- the Chapel of San Miguel
- the historic San Miguel shaft,
- the Mining Academy building,
- the remains of the mine superintendent's house,
- the Inquisitor's House,
- the new San Sebastián church,
- the Carlos IV and Carros gates,
- groups of traditional dwellings.

3. Various monuments in the buffer zone:

- The archaeological remains of the forced labour gaol;
- the San Rafael Royal Miners' Hospital, which today houses the museum and archives of Almadén;
- the bullring.

Ildrija

The presence of mercuric sediment over a large area is the characteristic geological feature of the Ildrija region. It was exploited from the end of the 15th century onwards, when native mercury was discovered. It was associated with the presence of mercuric sulphide (cinnabar) which made up the ore. It is the second largest mine in the world, after Almadén. The network of galleries excavated since this period is around 700km long, at depths of up to 420m. Considerable quantities of wood were necessary for the mine's operation, to provide props to support the galleries and as fuel for the furnaces. The Ildrija region was equipped with dams in order to permit the transport of the wood by flotation.

The nominated property is divided into the main urban zone and six additional zones. The most important elements of the property from the viewpoint of the nomination are:

- the paths in Ildrija linking the mine, its facilities, and the stores; 'Anthony's main road,' which leads to the entrance to a shaft dating from the start of the 15th century;
- traces of the point of departure of the Mercury Route in Ildrija;
- the mining area and its outbuildings: the mining deposit, the shafts and tunnels, the facilities for extraction by ore smelting, the pumps, the machinery, and the associated equipment;
- the old town and its direct evidence of association with mining history, in particular: the mercury stores and the mine administration in Gewerkenegg Castle, the miners' theatre, the town hall, the secondary school for science, and the miners' living quarters.
- the dams and their hydraulic facilities used for mining extraction, on nearby watercourses.

The seven separate zones forming the property are:

1. the main zone of the old town and the castle, the stores, the theatre, the elements of the mercury route, the Francis shaft, the secondary school for science;
2. furnace 2 and the mercury extraction workshop;
3. the Kamšt water pump and the Joseph shaft;
4. the Gorenja dam;
5. the Vojsko dam;
6. the Putrih dam;
7. the Belca River dam.

San Luis Potosí

The mining town of San Luis Potosí is located on the central plateau of Mexico, in a semi-desert region. Its foundation and development are entirely linked to the working of the silver mines. The mines are widely scattered over the area.

The nominated property follows the boundaries of the historic town, particularly for the architectural value of its main monuments presented as evidence of mining wealth.

It includes in particular the following:

- the Real Caja (1764–67) is the most striking Baroque architectural evidence of the splendour of the town. With two street facades and an interior patio it is a readaptation of a building from the previous century on the site. It was the mercury store and the centre of mercury distribution to mining operators, under direct control of the Spanish Crown.
- the Municipal Palace (1838–92), on the main square (Plaza de Armas) is soberly elegant, featuring arcaded facades. It was built on the site of the earlier Casas Reales;
- the Government Palace (1798–1827) is in the Neo-Classical style, like the Municipal Palace;
- the Ipiña Building (1906) is one of the most important and significant monuments of the civil architecture of San Luis Potosí, and is also in the Neo-Classical style, featuring arcaded facades;
- the Cathedral (1701–32) is also located on the Plaza de Armas; it has a facade with three levels and a main access, flanked by two symmetrical bell towers. The Cathedral, which stands on the site of a much simpler parish church, expresses the Baroque style in Mexico.
- the Church and Convent of San Francisco (17th and 18th centuries); the Church has a Baroque facade and two asymmetrical bell towers, with a dome over the transept crossing. The religious architecture of the interior dates from the mid-17th century; the sacristy includes a set of remarkable sculpted decorations and painted frescoes.
- the Church, Jesuit College, and Chapel of Our Lady of Loreto (17th and 18th centuries) constitute one of the most characteristic groups of buildings in the Jesuit Baroque architectural style in New Spain.
- the Church of San Agustín (mid-18th century) has an imposing Mexican Baroque bell tower.
- the Church of San Juan de Dios (17th and 18th centuries).
- the Carmelite Church and its Convent (mid-18th century), the ornate facades and decorated altars of which are amongst the most typical and representative of the Mexican Baroque style;
- the Basilica of Guadalupe (1772–1800).

The silver ore was transported to the *haciendas de beneficio*, where the mineral reduction process was carried out, initially by smelting and then by the amalgamation process. The additional historical study clearly shows the early importance of the haciendas, and their number, directly linked to the establishment of the town of San Luis Potosí, close to a stream, and then to regional mining development.

The archaeological approach – which has led to an initial uncovering of mining remains, and then to observations concerning foundation worksites – reveal a stratigraphy

which can be identified by the presence of the *haciendas de beneficio*. However, these light structures, abandoned in the early 19th century in areas used for contemporary urban development, have not left any easily distinguishable archaeological traces up to now.

The State Party carried out (in autumn 2009) a soil survey based on historic maps of former metallurgical establishments, in order to measure residual presence of mercury at various depths in fifteen different places. In all the tests the rate of presence of mercury reaches significant values. Some concentrations (sites 2 and 10) are close to or exceed 100 mg/kg, which is one thousand times greater than average natural abundance (in the order of 0.1 mg/kg).

ICOMOS notes the recent mineralogical studies and archaeological observations which provide tangible proof of intense use of mercury in San Luis Potosí itself, backing up the historic documentation about the town's history. There is however not yet any archaeological programme linked to mining and metallurgical history in San Luis Potosí and the regional metal ore basin. The studies carried out respond mainly to additional recommendation 3-b) of recommendation 33 COM 8B.26, but only partially to the 2-a) main recommendation of the same decision.

History and development

Mercury and its mineral derivatives have been known and used since Greco-Latin antiquity in small quantities, as a coloured pigment (vermilion), in jewellery making, and as an ingredient of the pharmacopoeia.

The amalgamation process, based upon the ability of liquid mercury to dissolve the precious metals of gold and silver, has been known ever since this period. In the Middle Ages the Arabs described the process and they passed it on to the European alchemists. Mercury, the only metal that is liquid at room temperature, was known at the time as 'quicksilver'.

Mercury resources, which are usually in the form of an ore containing mercury sulphide (cinnabar), with sometimes small amounts of native mercury (in the metallic state), have the geological particularity of being few in number across the globe. Historically, only four main locations have been worked. The largest deposit is at Almadén in Spain, which has been known since ancient times; the second largest is Idrija, in present-day Slovenia, discovered in 1490. The two others are the mines of Huancavelica (Peru), discovered in 1564, and the mines in China, the existence of which became known to Europeans in the modern period.

In the 16th century the Idrija mine was developed under the control of the city of Venice, which brought in German master miners and marketed the mercury throughout Central Europe, in the Eastern Mediterranean, and in Flanders. An initial amalgamation

test for the extraction of silver was probably carried out in Venice in 1507.

The powerful trading dynasty of the Fuggers, who hailed from southern Germany, gained a dominant position in non-ferrous metal mines in Europe, thanks to an agreement with the reigning house of the Habsburgs. Almadén formed part of this entity, and work there was relaunched in around 1550.

Initial development of Spanish colonisation in Central America and the Andes in the 16th century was mainly concerned with gold resources. Gold was a native metal, exploitation of which on a large scale required a considerable labour force, but which was based on the use of craft techniques. Interest in silver emerged shortly afterwards, particularly with the discovery of the exceptional mining site of Potosí, in present-day Bolivia, in 1545. The first deposits worked were very rich, and traditional Indian furnaces were then sufficient for producing metal from the ore.

New Spain (Mexico) also proved to be rich in silver mines which were discovered shortly afterwards: Zacatecas and Santa Barbara, and then Pachuca, Guanajuato, and San Luis Potosí in the 1550s. However, the Mexican sites contained low-grade ore and were situated in regions that had very limited supplies of the wood required for the furnaces.

Bartolomé de Médina, drawing on the experience of German miners, studied the amalgamation process and was the first to develop an efficient process for the cold extraction of silver using mercury. It was operational in Pachuca from the mid-1550s and rapidly became widely used, making industrial metallurgical processing possible in the mines of New Spain and then those of the Andes, where the working at Potosí benefited from the discovery of the mercury mines of Huancavelica. In exports from Hispanic America resources drawn from silver became dominant in the second part of the 16th century and over the following two centuries.

Control of mercury extraction and the organisation of its transportation and trade then became an issue of great importance, under the monopoly of the Spanish royal treasury, from 1559 onwards. The Habsburgs thus took control of the Idrija mines in 1575.

It was at this point that the various terrestrial and maritime routes for mercury transport were set up, comprising the mining sites, specialised stores, routes, ports, ships, transport organisation, etc. Remains of the terrestrial routes survive at the point of departure at Almadén and Idrija. The main transit ports were Seville and then Cadiz in Spain, Veracruz and Tampico in New Spain, and Trieste in the Adriatic. Within the Spanish Empire this global transport system was given the name of the *Camino Real*, connecting up a vast intercontinental terrestrial and maritime network. Its Atlantic part led to the famous maritime organisation of the *Carrera de Indias*.

The east–west mercury route and the return silver route had considerable economic consequences in Spain and Europe and in Hispanic America, such as the structuring of the inner space of Mexico from the end of the 16th century onwards. The construction and architectural development of the town of San Luis Potosí, on one of the major silver-bearing sites in America, is a remarkable example of this. It is a faithful reflection of mining development: on the one hand it catered for the arrival of the colonists and the many displaced Indians and on the other it played an essential role in the development of the roads of the *Camino Real* and the conquest of the north-western territories.

Silver exploitation using the mercury amalgamation process continued throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Around 1700 New Spain definitively supplanted Peru as the main silver producer.

Production began at the Idrija mines to supplement Almadén should the latter experience production difficulties or if production was insufficient. This was the case in particular between 1620 and 1645, and again in the second half of the 18th century. The Peruvian mines of Huancavelica were mainly assigned to the working of silver from the Andes, but on occasion they were also used for New Spain. The existence of a Chinese contribution, via the Pacific part of the *Camino Real*, remains no more than anecdotal.

The history of the exploitation of the process first developed by Bartolomé de Medina (1555) reflects various technical innovations: a more efficient hot amalgamation process in around 1590 and new furnaces for mercury preparation at Huancavelica and then at Almadén, by Bustamante, in the 1640s. A second wave of innovations was carried out at the Almadén mines, which were thoroughly reorganised following the fires of the 1750s. Production reached its apogee in the second half of the 18th century, and the period of peak production was between 1875 and the early years of the 19th century. Technically, this was made possible by a new supply of mercury from Central Europe, i.e. Idrija. However, the deepening of the mines was reaching its limits and was becoming more difficult.

Concern for the safety and diseases of miners exposed to mercury was first expressed as early as the 16th century in the case of the Idrija mines, and it continued in the centuries that followed. The presence of medical staff and a pharmacy is attested there in the mid-18th century. A first publication concerning the mercury-related diseases of miners was published (Scopoli, 1761). An insurance system for miners was in place at the end of the 18th century, a pioneering development in this region. The problem of industrial diseases arising from exposure to mercury is a serious issue, and one which affected workers engaged both in mining and in operating the furnaces. Attempts were taken at a very early stage at Idrija to reduce exposure to mercury vapours by the workers, such as the use of masks for those close to the furnaces and the use of a roster

system for the posts involving the most severe exposure. In the 17th century hot baths were used for treatment. The medical question continued to be studied in the 19th century and in the 20th century, when for example the miners were provided with preventive ionisation treatment.

At Almadén, and to some extent at San Luis Potosí, forced labour was used over a long period to provide the work force. The remains of the Almadén forced labour camp bear witness to this, together with a tunnel used to control the access to the mine by the forced labourers. A large part of the museography at Almadén is concerned with the forced labourers and the health consequences of exposure to mercury (the site of the forced labour prison and the museum of the former hospital).

Mexican silver production using the amalgamation process fell into rapid decline at the beginning of the 19th century, as a result of the numerous wars in which Spain became engaged, followed by independence movements, particularly in Mexico (1821). The *haciendas de beneficio* of San Luis Potosí were then abandoned, offering areas of land which were necessary for its urban development. Mineral waste was generally dispersed in the form of backfill containing residual mercury (see Description). Silver production resumed in the 1830s, increasingly using recently discovered Californian mercury, on other organisational bases, outside the town limits.

As a result of the tradition of its secondary school for science, Idrija was the site for the establishment of a school of geology in the 20th century which is today well known in Central Europe. Almadén developed higher technical education related to the mercury mines.

ICOMOS considers that the mining history of San Luis Potosí which contributes to the value of the property extends beyond the town centre, as indicated in recommendation 2-a) of decision 33 COM 8B.26. The definition of the property at San Luis Potosí has however not been reconsidered by the State Party. It should examine the value, integrity and authenticity of the mining and metallurgical sites historically linked to San Luis Potosí, together with the social history of the mines and *haciendas de beneficio*, and it should cover a period going well beyond the colonial period. For this purpose, a regional industrial archaeology study and inventory programme is essential.

In accordance with recommendation 2-b) of decision 33 COM 8B.26, the State Parties have reconsidered the name of the serial nomination, to better express the historic reality shared by the three sites and the content of the testimonies provided. The new name is: "The Mercury and Silver Binomial. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí".

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY, AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis in the nomination dossier begins with comparison with international serial properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List. There is only a few of them that do not have any transboundary territorial continuity.

The intercontinental dimension of the nominated property and its theme of technical and economic interchanges on a very large scale over several centuries lend it a special character, the representation of which up to now on the World Heritage List has been very limited.

A comparison is then made with the theme of routes of human movement and transport, for which properties have already been inscribed. Only a few of these relate to economic exchanges: Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina, 2003, criteria (ii), (iv), (v)), Incense Route – Desert Cities in the Negev (Israel, 2005, criteria (iii), (v)). Several are on the Tentative Lists, with mining and/or commercial aspects: the Prehistoric copper route (Israel) and the Route of the Ancient Greeks (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan), Pre-Hispanic Route of the Andes (all Andean States Parties), *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (Mexico–United States), Mining Routes of Antiquity (Spain), etc.

The nominated property has a strong thematic relationship with the silver mine site of the City of Potosí (Bolivia, 1987, criteria (ii), (iv), (vi)) and the mercury mines of Huancavelica (Peru). They form two complementary silver production systems for the Spanish empire, from the 16th century to the start of the 19th century, but operated independently. In Mexico, the theme of the new colonial town linked to silver-bearing resources already has two representatives on the World Heritage List: the Historic town of Guanajuato and adjacent mines (1988, criteria (i), (ii), (iv), (vi)) and the Historic Centre of Zacatecas (1993, criteria (ii), (iv)). The historic town centres linked to the colonial period in Mexico, from the 16th century to the end of the 18th century, are furthermore represented by some ten properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List. For silver mines, the Silver Mine of Iwami Ginzan and its cultural landscape in Japan should be added (2007, criteria (ii), (iii), (v)).

The nominated property also forms part of a larger group of mining sites and landscapes present in different parts of the world, of which there are around twenty on the World Heritage List, divided up depending on the substance extracted (salt, copper, iron, precious metals, precious stones) and periods of exploitation. Almadén and Idrija are fully compatible with this group in terms of the nature of the nominated property.

Serial nomination:

ICOMOS considers that San Luis Potosí is a historic urban ensemble of the 17th and 18th centuries which played an important role, alongside others, in the history of silver extraction during the colonial period in Mexico, and more generally in Spanish America. Efforts to extend the property to include other silver mining towns which also used the amalgamation process have been undertaken by the Coordination Committee in respect of Guanajuato (Mexico, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988, criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi)), Zacatecas (Mexico, 1993, criteria (ii) and (iv)) and Potosí (Bolivia 1987, criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi)). The same applies to the mercury mine of Huancavelica in Peru, which also embodies the same technical tradition.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis demonstrates the value of the mining sites of Almadén and Idrija. However, this is not yet the case for San Luis Potosí and the use of the amalgamation process.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the States Parties to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- These sites are emblematic of the establishment of an original mining process which made possible the extraction of silver by amalgamation with mercury, over a period of more than 250 years. They founded the International Mercury and Silver Binomial Route on a vast intercontinental scale.
- The associated technical and scientific interchanges created cultural links between several parts of the world over a long historical period. They bear witness to this culture, and helped establish economic and social structures in interchanges between Europe and America from the 16th century to the early 19th century.
- Mercury is a relatively rare metal, and Almadén and Idrija have been its largest mining centres worldwide. Today they provide an expression of the processes and historical context of this intensive mineral exploitation.
- San Luis Potosí is a remarkable example of an urban centre made wealthy by the exploitation of silver. Located at a strategic point for controlling a vast territory, the town played an important role in the mercury trade.
- It is a unique example of the relationship of man with his environment, which lasted for centuries and which is tangibly expressed in various successive strata in the ground and in landscapes.

Serial nomination:

The serial nomination is justified by the nature of the nominated property. It embodies the complementarity of

mercury extraction and silver exploitation, in distant mining locations, through the process of amalgamation.

ICOMOS considers that this justification of a serial property is adequate for the exploitation of mercury mines in Europe, but that the serial nomination relating to the silver mines in America is inadequate at the present time.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

Almadén: The nominated property has retained since the 16th and 17th centuries traces of its mining function and the associated evidence of the exploitation of mercury, its processing, and its transport, as well as significant urban and architectural elements of the development of the mining town of Almadén. The property is set in a mining and urban landscape which evokes its history, linked to the 'Mercury Route' of the *Camino Real*.

The surviving remains of mining illustrate the evolution of the techniques of mercury exploitation and processing up to and including the 20th century. A sufficiently significant series of elements of tangible testimony has been conserved for its history to be represented with coherence and integrity.

The urban planning perceptible today is close to that of the 18th century. Some housing has been modified, and other housing has been largely destroyed (house of the mine superintendent, forced labour gaol).

Idrija: Like Almadén, Idrija bears witness to mining techniques throughout the different periods of its exploitation, up to its closure from the end of the 1980s onwards. Efforts to protect the mining elements as heritage began in 1952. These elements are extremely varied: shafts and galleries, machinery, hydraulic systems with dams for the transport of wood by flotation (for props and as fuel), industrial buildings and urban planning linked to the mine, and remains of the mercury transport routes. They provide an insight into the considerable coherence and integrity of the history of mercury mining at Idrija and its transport system.

San Luis Potosí: The urban ensemble nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List provides relatively homogeneous and coherent evidence of the urban planning of the town of San Luis Potosí and its civilian and religious architectural developments. In certain districts, however, this is adversely impacted by 20th century urban development. The integrity of the landscape is affected in particular by the erection of several large-scale buildings in the 1960s and 1970s. Some elements of industrial archaeology, which are disparate as yet and a study of the presence of mercury in the ground complete the definition of the property at San Luis Potosí.

ICOMOS considers that the three nominated sites form a coherent and significant group representing the historic development of the mercury-silver amalgamation process, but also that its value would be enhanced by extensions to the major historic mining sites of Mexico and the Andes, which have in part already been individually recognised by inscription on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, ICOMOS considers that the shortcomings noted in San Luis Potosí prevent the adequate establishment of the heritage dimension of the use of mercury in silver production using Mexican ore and, consequently, its transatlantic dimension. The integrity of the property as a series has not been established.

Authenticity

Almadén: The presence of underground mining elements dating from the 16th and 17th centuries has been authenticated.

A pair of Bustamante furnaces, the technical design of which dates from the 17th century, have been restored by the Spanish Historic Heritage Institute, in accordance with the principles of the Venice Charter. The restored parts are clearly identified.

The functions of some of the urban buildings have been changed from their original purpose and have undergone substantial alterations (e.g. Retamar Castle). However, most have a good level of architectural authenticity.

Idrija: All the mining elements and their technical annexes are authentic. Most of the water control systems date from the 18th century, the most recent from the start of the 19th century.

The most noteworthy architectural and monumental elements have in general a high degree of authenticity. The town itself has, however, undergone changes that affect its built structure and its urban structure.

San Luis Potosí: The civil and religious monumental buildings have a high degree of authenticity as regards to their architecture and their decoration. The changes they have undergone are minor.

The housing in the town and the urban plan generally have a relatively good degree of authenticity. They have, however, undergone substantial changes in some quarters, following repairs or reconstructions.

The archaeological observations recently made and measurements of the presence of mercury resulting from metallurgical uses in the ground in the town centre add an additional element to the authenticity of the property.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity are met for Almadén and Idrija so far as the theme of the serial nomination is concerned, but not for San Luis Potosí. The integrity of the entire series has therefore not been demonstrated. ICOMOS considers that the

conditions of authenticity have been met for the nominated property.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv), and (v).

Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

This criterion is justified by the States Parties on the grounds that the interchange of technical and scientific values is clear and considerable in the heritage created by the production, transport, and use of mercury, from the 16th century to the 19th century, via the *Camino Real Intercontinental*. These interchanges are illustrated by the development by Bartolomé de Médina of the amalgamation of silver with mercury and its use for the exploitation of the silver mines in New Spain and the Andes. Mining traditions of mercury and silver production then continued to evolve and influenced each other by further innovations.

The return flow of silver had a very important commercial, financial, and cultural influence on Spain and on modern Europe.

Mining traditions also influenced the creation of towns, with emblematic and exceptional buildings.

ICOMOS considers that the process of amalgamating silver using mercury determined the structure of important technical, economic, and cultural interchanges between Europe and Hispanic America over more than two centuries. These interchanges made possible the development of the working of the silver-bearing deposits of present-day Mexico. In return, the flows of silver arriving in Spain and Europe played a considerable financial and economic role in the modern period.

However, ICOMOS considers that the new dossier does not provide the additional elements needed to demonstrate this criterion at San Luis Potosí, where the definition of the property has not been revised in accordance with the request made in recommendation 2-a) of the Committee decision 33 COM 8B.26.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified for the serial property.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history;

This criterion is justified by the States Parties on the grounds that the mines of Almadén and Idríja are the two largest mercury mines in the world. Today, they represent the most significant events regarding its exploitation by man, in terms of mining techniques and impact on the environment. San Luis Potosí is a remarkable example of a town which has developed thanks to the application of the amalgamation process to extract silver metal from its ore and the creation of wealth that resulted. It is an outstanding example of the territorial organisation generated by the mine.

ICOMOS considers that the outstanding example of the technological ensemble represented by the amalgamation process for the extraction of silver has not been fully demonstrated for San Luis Potosí, where the definition of the property has not been revised in accordance with the request made in recommendation a) of the Committee decision 33 COM 8B.26.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified for the serial property.

Criterion (v): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

This criterion is justified by the States Parties on the grounds that the nominated sites constitute an outstanding example of the interaction of man with his environment, an environment which is today vulnerable because of the closure of the mines and mercury pollution.

The human intervention gave rise to important social aspects, through a workforce that included forced labourers and prisoners at Almadén and San Luis Potosí and displaced indigenous populations and slaves at San Luis Potosí, through the difficult life of the miners, and the early consideration given to occupational diseases at Idríja. Many elements of intangible culture are associated with the specific nature of the human communities who participated in the exploitation of the mines.

The sites of the Mercury and Silver Binomial Route also bear witness to the continuous scientific and technological efforts made by man in his relationship with the environment.

ICOMOS considers that the material elements that make up the property, for Almadén and Idríja in particular, are in line with the arguments presented in favour of criterion (v). On the other hand, they do not fully apply for the San Luis Potosí property, whose definition has not been revised in accordance with the request made in recommendation a) of the Committee decision 33 COM 8B.26.

ICOMOS approves of the idea of an exceptional relationship between Man and Nature in the context of the Mercury and Silver Binomial Route, while considering that the pollution of the ground and water-table linked to the mining sites is an integral part of the property today.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified for the serial property.

ICOMOS considers that the serial approach has been justified for the nominated sites. ICOMOS considers, however, that the selection of sites would be more appropriate if it was extended to include Mexico and the Andes.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that only the sites of Almadén and Idríja conform for the time being with criteria (ii), (iv), and (v) and that therefore the Outstanding Universal Value of the series has not been fully demonstrated at this stage.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

Almadén: Cessation of mining activities at the end of the 1980s had important social consequences. An industrial reconversion zone has been put in place.

Idríja: The pressure of economic development needs is limited naturally by the geography of the valley. Urban development pressure exists, however, under the control of the town's new land-use plan (2007).

San Luis Potosí: The town centre today contains housing, shops, public and private services, and religious activities. The industrial and mining sites are at least 5km away from the town centre. Population in the town centre has been increasing over the last ten years or so; this has given rise to pressure from property. The increase in road traffic is also a threat to the quality of life in the town centre.

Tourism pressures

Almadén: There is practically no industrial tourism at the present time.

Idríja: The town is primarily a summer route centre. Industrial tourism related to the mines is limited at present.

San Luis Potosí: This town is relatively important in tourism terms, and has more visitors than any other town in the province. 93% of the tourists are Mexican, and the tourism generates employment. There are 36 hotels with a capacity of some 4500 rooms.

Environmental pressures

Almadén: The Alcuía valley in which the mines and the town are situated is a region with an important natural heritage in terms of flora and fauna. A large part of the buffer zone consists of an ornithological reserve.

The landscape and environmental changes linked to the mine are being dealt with under a natural environment project (2005).

Idríja: The mining activities have had a damaging impact on the natural environment. A rehabilitation programme is under consideration.

San Luis Potosí: The main risk arises from the mine galleries under the town itself and their possible impact on ground stability. A geophysical risk assessment was carried out in 2005. Several buildings are currently in a fragile condition.

Residual presence of mercury

Almadén: The main risk is linked with the mine itself. The installations have been decontaminated. An environmental survey programme is in place. It follows wide-ranging studies of risks linked to mercury poisoning.

Idríja: 500 years of mining exploitation have resulted in a high degree of pollution of the ground by mercury and radioactive radon, with up to 900mg of mercury per kg. However, the level decreased rapidly after the shutdown of the mines (1995). Survey of the mercury level in the water is in place.

The level of disease in former workers is proportional to the number of years of employment in the mine.

An environmental rehabilitation project is being examined. There is an emergency intervention plan related to the mines in the event of a natural or human disaster.

The mine closure plan was accompanied by a ground control programme to avoid the fragilisation of the built structure as a result of the underground galleries, particularly for the historic town centre.

San Luis Potosí: The presence of mercury in the ground of the town has been studied (2009), in respect of former metallurgical establishments which used mercury. Significant presence of mercury was detected, but at relatively great depths which mean it is not potentially hazardous.

Additional studies to find any mercury pollution of tap water and any human contamination were carried out on inhabitants whose exposure would appear to be greatest by reference to the ground study (2009). In both cases the results were negative; there is no pollution of the

town's water supply or any observed case of human contamination.

Natural disasters

Almadén is not at first sight exposed to major natural disasters risks. The possibility of exceptional events such as tornadoes or very severe storms however cannot be excluded, as in the rest of Spain.

Idrija: The property is situated in a zone classified as sensitive to earthquakes.

San Luis Potosí: The town is not considered in national and regional prevention plans to be a zone of high natural risks.

Impact of climate change

This point is not specifically considered in the dossier. It may be considered that up to now there is no perceptible or expected effect linked to climate change.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the properties are the consequences of the mining exploitation itself in geological terms (ground stability) and in terms of mercury pollution. In addition, real-estate pressure for land and property may in specific cases threaten the properties and call for special care to be taken.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

Almadén: The nominated property has an area of 49.67ha and it is occupied by 825 people. The buffer zone has an area of 117ha.

Idrija: In reply to the request by ICOMOS dated 10 December 2008, the State Party has proposed a new decree dated 20 February 2009, defining the property and its boundaries as a cultural monument of national significance. The property is divided into seven constituent zones in accordance with the description (see 2). The property is occupied by 2400 inhabitants.

In reply to the request by ICOMOS dated 10 December 2008, the State Party of Slovenia has proposed buffer zones encircling the whole of the nominated properties. This is the extended buffer zone common to elements (1), (2), and (3) of the property; a new buffer zone around element (4), a buffer zone around element (5), and a common buffer zone for elements (6) and (7).

ICOMOS considers that it is necessary to specify the new surface area of the seven elements constituting the property in Idrija and their buffer zones, following the

decree dated 20 February 2009, and to publish the latter.

San Luis Potosí: The nominated property is 70.34 ha in area and is occupied by 3871 inhabitants. The buffer zone has an area of 133.49ha.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and the associated buffer zones are appropriate.

Ownership

Almadén: The mines themselves, the adjacent spaces, and the section of the Mercury Route identified at its point of departure are the property of the private company *Empresa Minas de Almadén y Arrayanes S.A.*, as are the Miners' Hospital and the San Miguel Chapel, situated in the town.

The public spaces of the town and part of the buildings identified as having historic and heritage value are the property of the Municipality of Almadén (Castle, house of the mining superintendent, mining academy, bullring).

The other elements with historic and heritage value are the property of the Catholic Church (San Sebastián Church and Nuevo Church) and of the University (archaeological site of the forced labour prison).

The great majority of the apartment blocks are private property.

Idrija: The cultural property of national interest is covered by an inventory of 34 elements, of which ownership is divided as follows:

- the State (two hydraulic elements);
- the Municipality and local authorities (seven elements, including the Theatre, the House of the Miners, part of the Castle, the Mercury Store);
- public institutions: the maternity hospital (three elements associated with the Castle), the Museum (four elements associated with the Castle and the hydraulic system heritage); the Gorica Hydroelectric Company (three hydraulic elements), and miscellaneous (one element in the Castle);
- the Idrija Mining Company, which is a private company (fourteen elements, mainly mining-related and industrial).

San Luis Potosí: The inventory of built elements indicates 865 constructions, of which 27 belong to the Federal Government of Mexico, nineteen to the State Government of San Luis Potosí, eleven to the Municipality, and 808 to private owners. The streets and the public spaces belong to the Municipality.

The properties of national historic value are under the following ownership and management authority:

- Real Caja: University of San Luis Potosí;
- Municipal Palace (formerly Casas Reales): the Municipality;
- the Government Palace: the State Government of San Luis Potosí;
- the Ipiña Palace: a private owner;
- the Cathedral: the Catholic Church by delegation of the Federal State;
- the Church and Convent of the Franciscans: ditto;
- the Church of the Jesuits: ditto;
- the College of the Jesuits: the University;
- San Agustín church: the Catholic Church by delegation of the Federal State;
- the San Juan de Dios Church: ditto;
- the Carmelite Church: ditto.

Protection

Legal protection

Almadén: The mining ensemble and the urban ensemble are under the legal protection of:

- the Spanish Constitution defining the Organic Laws and the Status of the Autonomous Communities (27 December 1978),
- the Spanish Historic Heritage Act (16/1985) and its regional application acts and decrees (Act 4/1990 of Castilla–La Mancha, and Decree 7/2005 in particular),
- the Local Territorial Authorities Regulation Act (7/1985),
- the Territorial Regulation Act (6/1998),
- the Protected Natural Spaces Act (9/1999).

The mining ensemble was declared a Property of Cultural Interest on 29 October 2007. It includes an inventory of the site's technical, industrial, and architectural elements. Several sites or monuments had already received this official protection previously: the Bustamante furnaces, the Castle, the Bullring, and the Miners' Hospital.

The town centre and its monuments are covered by the Special Municipal Protection Plan.

Idrija: The mining ensembles and the urban ensemble are under the legal protection of:

- the Cultural Heritage Protection Acts (7/1999 and 96/2002) and their implementation decrees;
- the Administrative Procedures Code (24/2006);
- the Territorial Planning Act (33/2007);
- the Building Acts (102/2004 and 14/2005);
- the Nature Protection act (39/2006);
- the Decrees relating to the Creation of the Mining Site Landscape Park (11/1993 and 37/1995);
- seven Municipal Decisions on the town's cultural and historic heritage.

The technical and industrial heritage of Idrija and environs has been declared a Cultural Monument of National Importance (Decrees 66/2001 and 55/2002). A list of elements of local interest exists, defining local protection.

San Luis Potosí: The urban ensemble is under the legal protection of:

- the Federal Laws on Historic Monuments and Historic Sites (1972 and 1975);
- the Presidential Decree of 14 December 1990, recognising the historic zone of the monuments of the town of San Luis Potosí;
- the Federal Laws of Land Use and Ownership (1993 and 2003);
- the Law on Religious Associations (1992);
- the Law on Ecology and Nature Protection (1996);
- the Laws on the Development of the State of San Luis Potosí (2000 and 2003);
- the Cultural Heritage Protection Law of the State of San Luis Potosí (2005);
- the various Municipal deliberations concerning territorial regulation, building permits, and public safety.

Traditional protection

The dwellings are in most cases private property and are maintained by their owners.

The Catholic Church carries out direct or delegated management for the religious buildings at its disposal at Almadén and Idrija.

Effectiveness of protection measures

In all three cases, the legal protection measures would seem to be sufficient.

ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

Conservation

Inventories, recording, research

Almadén: Inscription as a property of national cultural interest led to the creation of an inventory by the Spanish Heritage Institute. The inventory includes a description of the state of conservation.

The mining company has undertaken a major programme of surveying the mine and maintaining its cultural elements. The survey constitutes the documentary and material base for the museography and the mining park project. The company has also contributed to the creation of the Francisco Javier de Villegas Foundation, which is in charge of the mine museum and the mining archives (San Rafael Hospital).

The Technical University is also contributing to the museography and archaeological knowledge of the forced labour gaol.

Ildrija: The documentation work is carried out in conjunction with the survey and maintenance activities.

The inventories and documentation relating to the mining heritage of Ildrija are available at both national and regional level (Institute for the Protection of the Slovenian Cultural Heritage at Ljubljana and its Regional Office at Nova Gorica).

The Museum has archive material and documentation.

The Ildrija Mining Company also has its own archives and documents.

San Luis Potosí: The inventory of heritage elements and their state of conservation is deposited at the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), San Luis Potosí Office. It contains 3624 technical datasheets compiled since 1992. It forms the basis of the studies carried out for recommendations concerning the restoration and conservation of elements of the property.

Present state of conservation

Almadén: The Bustamante furnaces were recently restored and are in a good state of conservation. The remaining two gates of the mining site have been restored, and elements of the Route are clearly identifiable.

Ildrija: Many restorations have been undertaken over recent years for components of the built structure, the technical and civil engineering elements of the mine, and the hydraulic elements.

San Luis Potosí: The main public buildings and the urban infrastructure are in a relatively good general state of conservation. On the other hand, some private buildings are in a poor condition, and some quarters generally appear to be in a poor state of conservation and maintenance.

Active conservation measures and maintenance

Almadén: Each of the management partners implements the relevant part of the conservation plan: the Foundation and the Mining Company for the mining park and its activities; the Municipality for the urban space and the monuments belonging to it; and the University and the private partners for the other real-estate and archaeological elements of the property.

Ildrija: Substantial conservation and renovation activities have been carried out recently, including restoration of the main monuments and restoration of Anthony's Route. The Municipality is coordinating the introduction of current and future conservation measures.

San Luis Potosí: Since 1987, 320 conservation projects have been undertaken and successfully completed in the historic centre. The Municipality is coordinating the introduction of current and future conservation measures.

Effectiveness of conservation measures

ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures appear to be adequate in the three component parts of the property.

ICOMOS wishes to know about the maintenance and restoration plans being contemplated in a short- and medium-term perspective by the three States Parties.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation of the three elements constituting the serial property is adequate.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

Almadén: The management plan was established in 2003 by grouping together and coordinating several programmes for the management of the property and cultural activities:

- the Francisco Javier de Villegas Foundation (Museum of the San Rafael Royal Hospital, historic archives of the mines, and management plan of the mining site by the park currently being constituted);
- the management plan of the University College (historic mine museum, Royal forced labour prison interpretation centre);
- the Almadén office, which has a cross-functional role in promoting economic and cultural activities at Almadén;
- the Mining Academy programme (geological and mining practices, *Camino Real* interpretation centre).

Ildrija: A management plan is currently being prepared (2008) under the auspices of the Municipality. It is intended to establish coordination between the institutions and organisations in charge of the conservation, management, and cultural valorisation of the site. It is intended that the following will be created:

- a local information and interpretation centre on the mercury heritage;
- an international information and research centre on the different kinds of impact of mercury on the environment, and the historic study of its exploitation and uses.

San Luis Potosí: The Municipality and its Planning Institute in collaboration with the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH) have drawn up a Partial

Conservation Plan for the historic town centre (November 2006).

At the time of the preparation of the nomination dossier, other institutes were under consideration:

- an international conservation centre for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- an interpretation centre for the Mercury + Silver Binomial.

The States Parties also put forward the various projected centres and institutes as models of scientific cooperation and technical collaboration.

An International Coordination Committee for the activities of the three States Parties was created on 25 January 2008, and has been approved by the three States Parties. It has met regularly since it was set up, and ensures effective coordination between the three properties nominated for serial inscription. Common initiatives have already been put in place by the Committee: contacting of other sites under consideration for an extension of the series, organisation at Idrija of an international conference on the environmental and socio-economic impact of the extraction and use of mercury, on 28 and 29 May 2009.

ICOMOS considers that the International Coordination Committee for the activities of the property set up by the three States Parties complies with the recommendations of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* in respect of the management of a transnational serial property.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

Almadén: The property is mainly covered by the following plans and programmes:

- the Environmental Rehabilitation Plan of the Mining Site (2005);
- the Plan relating to Mine-related Toxicological and Geological Risks;
- the Special Municipal Plan for the Protection of the Historic Town Centre;
- the Municipal Territorial Regulation Plan (2007);

A plan is also being considered to make the mining site visitable, in the form of a 'mining park' which will involve major works. The park must be planned in a way which provides every possible guarantee of safety for visitors.

Idrija: The property is covered by the following main plans and programmes:

- Long-term Territorial Planning (1999, updated in 2007).

- Operational Programme for the Elimination of the Effects of Mercury and the Rehabilitation of the Mining Site (April 2007);
- Programme for the Survey of the Mines and Flood Prevention (2008–14);
- the Idrija Cultural Heritage Management Programme currently being considered;
- Regional Development Plan;

The tourism project is guided by the principle of an educational approach enabling a better understanding of questions relating to the mine and to mercury. It is based on various tourism programmes – local, regional, and/or linked to transboundary tourism development (Italy).

ICOMOS considers that the large number of tourism plans and programmes at Idrija adversely affects the clarity of the policy of raising awareness of the value of the nominated property.

San Luis Potosí: The property is covered by the following main plans and programmes:

- the National Plan for Urban and Territorial Development (2002–2006 and 2006–2012);
- the Development Plan for the State of San Luis Potosí (2003–2009) and its Urban Development Plan (2001–2020);
- the Cultural Programme of the State of San Luis Potosí (2004–2009);
- the Municipal Partial Plan for the Conservation of the Historic Centre (2006) and the Prevention Programme for Endangered Historic Properties (2007).

Risk preparedness

Almadén: Risk preparedness is covered by the intervention plans of the civil security services, the fire service and the town's hospital.

Idrija: The town has a fire service and a hospital service. An emergency intervention plan relating to the mines exists to deal with natural or human disasters.

San Luis Potosí: Risk preparedness is covered by the intervention plans of the civil security services, the fire service and the town's hospital.

Involvement of the local communities

In all three cases the local communities are mainly involved through the Municipalities. In two cases, the University is involved in the management of the buildings (Almadén, San Luis Potosí). At Idrija, the Maternity Hospital and the Museum manage the built elements of the property. In certain specific cases, citizens' associations strive to defend a specific aspect of the conservation and/or management of elements of the property.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

Almadén: The Culture Ministry intervenes by means of its budget, which is guaranteed by the principle of 1% earmarked for culture. The same applies to the cultural heritage of the Autonomous Region of Castilla-La Mancha. The Municipal budget is also involved in the management of the property.

The Mining Park of Almadén is financially supported by the Regional Government, under the auspices of the Department of Industry and Labour.

The project is also supported by the European Community through cross-border operations (Interreg III) and the structural development aid funds.

The Javier de Villegas Foundation has been active at Almadén since 2004. Its resources come from public subsidies (State, Region), for specific research and/or conservation programmes.

The University also receives funds for the Museum and for the forced labour prison site.

Tax incentives are offered for all investments in the maintenance and restoration of heritage elements belonging to private individuals, and for all private contributions to actions in the cultural heritage field.

The human resources consist in the first instance of the specialist staff of the Ministry (Spanish Historic Heritage Institute).

The Technical University College of Almadén provides specialists in mining questions and in technical museography. The University of Castilla-La Mancha offers a cultural heritage training course.

Idrija: The Municipality devotes a substantial proportion of its annual budget, between 8% and 15%, to property conservation operations and to the town Museum. It receives governmental aid in the form of finance and the placing at its disposition of people with scientific and technical expertise (curator of the Museum).

The European Union is also involved (see Almadén).

The Cultural Heritage Law currently in preparation includes measures to encourage private investment.

The museographic and tourism activities generate funds for the property.

The expertise is provided by the Slovenian Institute for Cultural Heritage Protection, which organises training. Locally, the Geology Institute has scientific specialists; there are also museum specialists and guides trained in the specific aspects of the mining heritage in the Museum. The Mining Park has a staff of around fifteen people. The Mining Park has its own maintenance and

survey personnel (the number and qualification of the personnel are not specified).

San Luis Potosí: The funds for the conservation and maintenance of the public monuments forming part of the nominated property come from the Federal Government, the Government of the State of San Luis Potosí, and the Municipality. They are paid through a set of national, regional, and municipal public programmes, and they often involve complementary participations for each project. Over the period 2003–2007 the funds were allocated to 144 conservation and restoration activities for a total of more than 1.4 million pesos.

The actions are complemented by the work carried out by private individuals on their properties, Municipal actions for the maintenance of the infrastructure, and the tourism promotion actions of the town and the region.

The structure which evaluates and manages financing is the BANOBRAS bank. It provides direct support for some programmes and has a cooperation agreement with the National Culture and Arts Council to provide aid for the projects of private individuals.

The specialists in conservation, at national level are provided by the National Institute of Anthropology and History and the National Culture and Arts Council.

The University provides expertise in the fields of heritage conservation, architecture, and urban infrastructure engineering. It provides training in the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings (2nd and 3rd cycle studies) and training in cultural management (2nd cycle studies).

The Potosino Regional Museum also has personnel with restoration expertise.

Stonework seminars and workshops are organised by the Regional Culture Directorate and the Municipal Stone Cutting and Quarrying Institute.

Effectiveness of current management

The set of measures presented provide the planning elements and institutional support necessary for efficient management of each of the national sites forming part of the property.

In reply to the request by ICOMOS dated 10 December 2008, each of the three States Parties provided details about the organism in charge of implementing the management plan for each of the sites and for local coordination:

For Almadén, the *Fundación Almadén Francisco Javier de Villegas* is in charge of the management plan for industrial and mining heritage. It is assisted by the Municipality of Almadén in the performance of its practical tasks and the coordination of the many site stakeholders.

For Idrija, the Mayor of Idrija is legally responsible for the application of the management plan for the property; he is assisted in this task and in the coordination of the stakeholders by the Coordination Committee for the property. The management plan reported in the nomination file was published in July 2008.

For San Luis Potosí, the town's Municipal Council is legally responsible for the application of the property management plan. To coordinate the numerous institutional stakeholders, scientific bodies, and associations concerned, it has set up with them a consultation and cooperation body, the Historic Centre Coordination Bureau.

These management structures have now been in place since the northern summer of 2008 at the latest. The overarching management structure, the International Coordination Committee, has been operational since the end of 2008.

ICOMOS considers however that the international cooperations announced, in the form of academic and/or museographic institutes, while in principle being very useful, are at this stage projects on which little progress has been made, and for which the human and financial resources are not yet guaranteed.

ICOMOS considers that the overall system for the management of the serial property, and the management plans specific to each of the sites, are satisfactory and adequate. The serial property has a functioning overarching coordination authority.

Serial nomination:

In reply to the request by ICOMOS dated 10 December 2008, the three States Parties have provided details about the implementation of the Coordination Committee for the whole of the serial property. It has effectively been in operation since January 2008, and its status was approved in November 2008. It has two bodies: the Plenum comprising official representatives of each State Party, in charge of joint decisions; and the Technical Bureau to prepare joint files and operational decisions.

ICOMOS considers that the creation of the administrative authorities for the serial property is effective and capable of providing satisfactory coordinated management. ICOMOS considers, however, that the international cooperation initiatives announced, although sometimes very interesting in principle, are for the time being projects that have made little progress and for which the human and financial resources are not yet guaranteed. They are institutes of an academic and/or museographic nature.

ICOMOS considers that the overall management system for the serial property and the management plans specific to each of the sites are adequate.

6. MONITORING

The three States Parties declare that they have based their monitoring of the property on the same general criteria: the state of conservation, a study of possible impact of the environment on the property, and the value of the elements forming part of the property.

Periodical monitoring and assessments are carried out for the following:

- the mercury mines and the possibility of potentially toxic residues of mercury, the survey of the atmosphere (Polytechnic University of Almadén, the mining companies of Almadén and Idrija);
- the technical and civil engineering elements of the mines, the machines (Polytechnic University of Almadén, the mining companies of Almadén and Idrija);
- the architectural features and survey of potential invasive elements, such as new buildings (national ministerial institutes of the three countries, regional delegations).

Four tables of indicators, including periodicity and organisation in charge, are proposed:

- state of conservation of elements of the properties directly related to the establishment of the value of the Mercury Route;
- evaluation of the effectiveness of management system measures;
- evaluation of the factors affecting the properties relating to their state of conservation;
- evaluation of the degree of sustainable development of the properties and their buffer zones in connection with regional programmes.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring of the three component parts of the property is satisfactory.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS considers that the serial property 'The Mercury and Silver Binomial. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí', Spain, Slovenia and Mexico, is for the moment only fully justified with respect to that part relating to the extraction of mercury in Europe. The two sites of Almadén and Idrija are therefore fully appropriate in terms of a serial approach. The dimension of the use of mercury for the purpose of silver amalgamation can, however, be extended to the Peruvian site of Huancavelica, as recommended in decision 33 COM 8B.26.

The part concerning the extraction of silver ore using the amalgamation process has not been fully established at San Luis Potosí, where the definition of the property must be reconsidered, as recommended by decision 33 COM 8B.26.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the serial nomination has thus not been fully demonstrated at this

stage of the definition of the component parts of the series.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

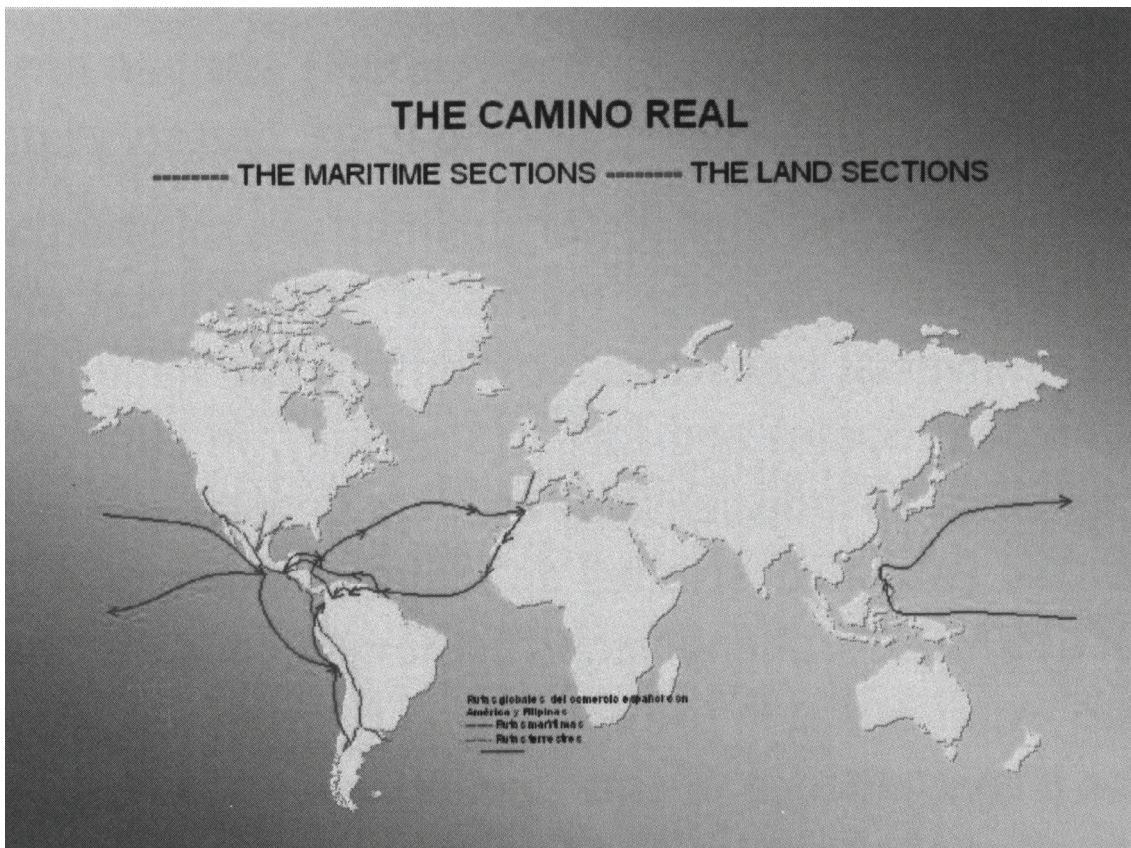
ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the nomination of the Mercury and Silver Binomial. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí, Spain, Slovenia and Mexico, to the World Heritage List be **deferred** in order to enable the States Parties to:

- Reconsider the definition of the property in San Luis Potosí, but also with its mining region, and more broadly in comparison with the other silver extraction sites using the amalgamation process in Mexico, to bring it into line with the mining and industrial theme of the mercury and silver binomial, and so to establish its Outstanding Universal Value. An inventory of the technical and industrial heritage linked to the silver mines would be necessary for such a redefinition.

ICOMOS considers that any revised nomination with revised boundaries would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.

ICOMOS also recommends that the States Parties should give consideration to the following points:

- Continuation of the contacts established with towns and silver mines which used the same mercury amalgamation process, particularly in Mexico and Bolivia, and with the Huancavelica mercury mine in Peru. However, the inclusion of additional sites which are not yet inscribed on the World Heritage List must give rise to a new nomination;
- Better integration into the definition of the property of the concepts of pollution and risks for human health resulting from the production and use of mercury. The International Institute projected at Idrija for the study and the raising of public awareness of these issues is enthusiastically supported.



The Intercontinental Royal Route



Almadén and the mine - Spain



General view of Idrija - Slovenia



Idrija, gallery - Slovenia



Real Caja - San Luis Potosi – Mexico

Choirokoitia (Cyprus) No 848

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Cyprus

Name of property:

Choirokoitia

Location:

District of Lamaca

Inscription: 1998

Brief Description:

The Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia, occupied from the 7th to the 4th millennium BC, is one of the most important prehistoric sites in the eastern Mediterranean. Its remains and the finds from the excavations there have thrown much light on the evolution of human society in this key region. Only part of the site has been excavated, and so it forms an exceptional archaeological reserve for future study.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

The World Heritage property inscribed in 1998 included the archaeological remains excavated from 1977 to 1998 of the Aceramic Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia, dating from the 8th Century BC. The settlement exposed at that time extended along the south-western slope of a peninsular bounded on the north, east and south-east by the Maroni River. It is characterised by circular dwellings constructed of stone, mud brick and rammed earth, and was protected on the west by successive walls with a complex defensive gateway.

Recent excavations to the north of the World Heritage property boundary have exposed parts of a wall following a parallel course to the Maroni riverbed, constituting the northern boundary of the settlement. This confirms that the original settlement was expanded to the north. The new evidence enriches knowledge of the social organization of the settlement as the construction of the extended wall at such length expresses a collective effort that implies a strongly structured social organization.

Modification:

The proposed modification of the boundary will include the area of recent excavation and co-incide with boundaries of Land Survey plots 1124 and 560. It will extend the current World Heritage property area of 1.5ha by a further 0.7 ha. The additional land is owned by the Department of Antiquities (DoA), and is currently covered by a "controlled" zone to the north of the World Heritage property boundary. The controlled zone encompasses the World Heritage property and appears to represent a buffer zone. The north boundary of the extension will partly coincide with the north boundary of the controlled zone along the line of the Maroni river. The Department of Antiquities plans to acquire more land adjacent to and around the World Heritage property within the controlled zone, but this intention does not appear to apply to land on the other (north) side of the Maroni river (Map retrospective inventory #21).

The site is managed by the Department of Antiquities under the Ministry of Communications and Works.

There is no Management Plan for the site. However the site is fenced, the entry is controlled by ticketing and the surroundings well maintained. A number of temporary shelters cover excavated areas pending consolidation of walls and structures, and it is proposed to also cover temporarily the excavations in the extended area. The visitors' pathway will be extended to the new area.

ICOMOS considers that the newly excavated remains should be added to the World Heritage inscribed property as an extension of the attributes that express the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property. However the site plan attached to the State Party's proposal (p.8) indicates that the fortification walls enclosed the greater part of the peninsular surrounded on the north, east and south-east by the Maroni river. It also indicates that the Neolithic settlement on the peninsular may have extended beyond the excavated areas. ICOMOS therefore suggests that the State Party investigate whether the boundary of the inscribed property should be extended to enclose all of this peninsular, which is shown to be government-owned land (plots listed as Ancient Monuments Schedule A lots).

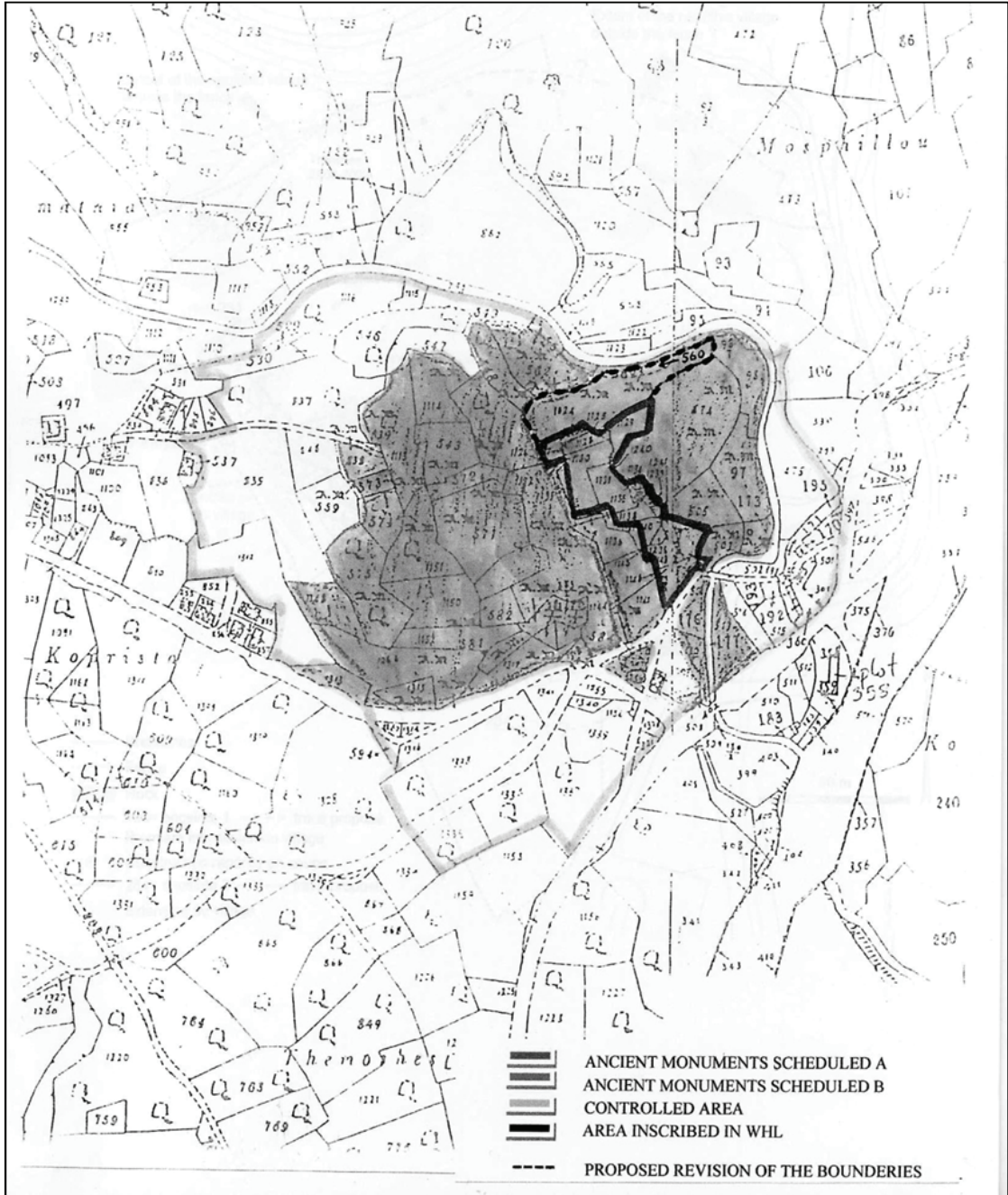
ICOMOS also considers that the State Party needs to confirm that the controlled zone represents the buffer zone as defined in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, and to investigate whether its boundary should be extended to the north, east and south in order to better protect the setting of the World Heritage Property.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Choirokoitia, Cyprus, **be referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Consider whether the boundary of the World Heritage Property should be extended further, in order to enclose all of the State-owned property of the peninsular bounded by the Maroni river;
- Confirm that the controlled zone is the buffer zone;
- Consider the enlargement of the buffer zone to the north, east and south.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Residences of the Royal House of Savoy (Italy) No 823

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Italy

Name of property:

Residences of the Royal House of Savoy

Location:

Piedmont Region: Turin, Province of Turin, Province of Cuneo

Inscription: 1997

Brief Description:

When Emmanuel-Philibert, Duke of Savoy, moved his capital to Turin in 1562, he began a vast series of building projects (continued by his successors) to demonstrate the power of the ruling house. This outstanding complex of buildings, designed and embellished by the leading architects and artists of the time, radiates out into the surrounding countryside from the Royal Palace in the 'Command Area' of Turin to include many country residences and hunting lodges.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

The Residences of the Royal House of Savoy comprise a large serial inscription of estates including 22 palaces and villas developed for administrative and recreational purposes in and around Turin by the dukes of Savoy from 1562.

At the time of inscription, ICOMOS evaluation recommended that the gardens and parks of the estates should be associated more decisively with the conservation projects for the Residences, showing similar respect for their historic, aesthetic and landscape value. Subsequent periodic reporting in 2004 identified the lack of buffer zones.

The minor modification proposal for the Royal Residences of Savoy is for an extension to the boundary of the property by means of extension of the nominated

area of one of the Residences (Castello di Pollenzo); the creation of buffer zones for five individual Residences (Castello di Pollenzo, Castello del Valentino, Villa della Regina, Castello di Moncalieri and Castello di Govone) and the extension of the buffer zone for four other individual Residences (Castello di Rivoli, Reggia di Venaria Reale, Castello di Agliè and Castello di Racconigi).

Modification:

Minor modification to the boundary of the property:

Castello di Pollenzo

The request for modification of the boundary of the inscribed property at Castello di Pollenzo is aimed at incorporating a key component of the adjacent town that was redeveloped as part of the overall remodeling of the Residence in the 19th century. The palace comprises a remodeling of the fortress originally founded in the 14th century to control a crossing over the River Tanaro. This created a Royal holiday residence for King Charles Albert of Savoy, characterized by an eclectic neo-gothic architectural style. Simultaneously an English-style park was created to replace the existing baroque park, and an administrative building (the *Agenzia*) was constructed together with associated farmhouses intended to make the estate economically productive. The rebuilding at this time included the construction of the so-called "forum" (today's Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II), overlooked by the *Agenzia*, the Church of St Victor Martyr and the tower, all in similar eclectic neo-gothic style. The proposal is to expand the inscribed property (core zone) to include the *Agenzia* and the piazza overlooked by the Church of St Victor Martyr, the tower and the arcades, as they are a vital part of the Charles Albert project for the remodeling of Pollenzo. This will extend the area of the inscribed property at Pollenzo from 6.02ha to 25.36ha. The overall core zone of all the Residences together, that is the overall property inscribed, is 351.48ha. Thus the proposed overall increase is about 5%.

The Residence is protected by Ministerial decrees and town planning provisions, and in particular by the Regional Territorial Plan (2009) covering the protection and enhancement of the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy inscribed in the World Heritage List.

The creation of buffer zones is proposed for the following:

Castello di Pollenzo

The castle and estate stand on an archaeological area: the ancient Roman *Pollentia*, with remains and ruins such as the amphitheatre providing remarkable evidence of its foundation at the end of the 2nd century BC. The remains of the Roman town did not influence the layout created in the 19th century, which is characterized by an independent urban design with respect to the pre-existing axes and organization of the buildings.

The proposed buffer zone will surround the inscribed property, which includes the palace and gardens, and cover the entire area of the town, most of which is already protected by an archaeological decree as well as town planning provisions, with the River Tanaro as the south-eastern boundary. The proposed buffer zone measures 517.80 hectares.

Castello Valentino

The proposed buffer zone will cover the area of the 19th century park associated with the Residence. It surrounds the inscribed property and extends to the Po River along the eastern side. The park perimeter is identified by the General Town Planning Scheme of the Comune di Torino (2003) and sets the boundaries as Corso Sclopis, Via Petrarca, Corso Massimo D'Azeglio, Corso Vittorio Emanuele II and the River Po between the Umberto I and Principessa Isabella bridges. The proposed area measures 38.89 hectares.

Villa della Regina

The proposed buffer zone will cover the gardens, woodlands and vineyards of the original 17th century Residence of the Royal House of Savoy, including the area currently occupied by Villa Genero and its park. The proposed buffer zone does not completely surround the inscribed property, which includes the villa and its gardens, but comprises two areas – one to the west and one to the south-east. It does not extend along the road axis to the north-west. The axis from the Piazza Castello to the Villa della Regina was identified in ICOMOS evaluation as an important element of Charles Emmanuel II's expansion of Turin to the east. The areas identified measure 19.33 hectares.

Castello di Moncalieri

The proposed buffer zone will cover the adjacent settlement including remains of the medieval town associated with the original fortress on the site as identified by the General Town Planning Scheme of the Comune di Moncalieri (2000) currently in force, as well as the portion of the land which once belonged to the Royal House of Savoy and is now protected by virtue of its landscape value. The buffer zone boundaries are marked by: Viale della Rimembranza, Strada Rebaudengo, Viale Castello, Viale Palestro, Strada Torino, Via Bogino, Corso Trieste, Via Cavour, Via Tanivelli, Via Galileo Galilei, Via Cernaia and Via Francesco Petrarca. The proposed buffer zone covers the general area of the medieval town on the promontory bounded by the Po River to the south-east and extends to the north-west and south-east including 17th century mansions contemporary with the Residence. It is not contiguous with the inscribed property, which includes the palace and its gardens, along its north-eastern boundary. The area identified measures 56.64 hectares.

Castello di Gavone

The proposal states that the proposed buffer zone will include the whole of the historical area as identified by the early 19th century map and also recognized by the

General Town Planning Scheme of the Comune di Govone (1994) currently in force. However it does not in fact include the area along the approach from the west which is included on the 1812 map. The proposal states that the main roads within the development of the town are to be an integral part of the buffer zone: the road that runs along the old boundary of the garden, as well as the roads leading into the town, which is on high ground and prominent in the landscape. However the road from the west is not included. The buffer zone will surround the inscribed property, which includes the villa and its gardens. The proposed buffer zone boundaries are marked by: Corso Alfieri, Via Umberto I, Via Venti Settembre and the area measures 11.36 hectares.

The expansion of buffer zones is proposed for the following:

Castello di Rivoli

The buffer zone currently covers the gardens and historical park of the Residence. The proposed extension will encompass the whole historical area of Rivoli, as identified by the Municipal Town Planning Scheme currently in force, to include the town as developed up to the 19th century, including architectural developments attributable to the 17th and 18th centuries. It will cover houses and mansions constructed for the nobility with allegiance to the Royal House of Savoy such as Villa Cavalli d'Olivola, Villa d'Ussol and Villa Fiorito, as well as new and remodeled religious buildings, such as the parish church of San Martino, the confraternity of San Rocco and the new monastery of the Cappuccini order at Villa Melano. These buildings demonstrate through their architectural influences and craftsmanship, the links between the Residence and the surrounding settlement. The additional area measures 21.3 hectares, an extension of around 4.6%.

Reggia di Venaria Reale

The buffer zone currently covers the gardens and historical park of the Residence. The adjacent town was designed as a set piece with the palace in the 17th century to create an urban context for the administration of royal power. The grand palace scheme was never completed, but the central axis, the Via Mensa, lined with uniformly designed buildings leading from the hall of Diana at what was to be the centre of the palace to the oval Piazza dell'Annunziata and beyond, is complete. The piazza is adjoined by the church of the Nativity of the Virgin.

The proposed extension of the buffer zone will cover the urban centre of Venaria Reale, including this set piece, as outlined by the Municipal General Town Planning Scheme currently in force. The proposed buffer zone extension is contiguous with the inscribed property on the east and surrounds the south wing of the palace buildings.

The buffer zone boundaries are marked by: Via Vittorio Scodoglio, Via Giuseppe Cavallo, Via Goito, Via Trento,

Via Nazario Sauro, Via Don Giovanni Sapino, Via Savonera Druento and Strada della Barra. The additional area measures 16.66 hectares, an extension of around 4.2%.

Castello di Agliè

The buffer zone currently covers the gardens and historical park of the Residence. The 11th century fortress on the site was remodeled in the 17th and 18th centuries as a country palace set in formal gardens for members of the House of Savoy. Parts of the adjacent medieval town were redeveloped by associated members of the aristocracy and contiguous with remodeling of the palace in the late 18th century, the baroque square at the entrance to the Residence on the north-east was designed to create a unifying link between the Residence and the main axis of the town which was on a different alignment.

The town contains remodeled and new buildings of the 18th century including the Town Hall, the parish church of St Mary of the Annunciation and the church of St Martha. The proposed extension to the buffer zone will cover the entire historical part of Agliè, as outlined by the Municipal General Town Planning Scheme currently in force. The buffer zone will then surround the property except along the north-west boundary of the park.

The buffer zone boundaries are marked by: Via per Cuceglio, Strada della Luisetta, Strada Santa Giorgina, Strada per San Giorgio, Viale Frua, Vicolo Campodaneo, Via Rivalto. The additional area measures 58.95 hectares, an extension of around 78.7%.

Castello di Racconigi

The buffer zone currently covers the gardens and historical park of the Residence.

The Savoy-Carignano family was responsible in the 17th century for the remodeling of the 12th century fortress protecting the road from Turin to Cuneo as a country palace. The medieval settlement began to be redeveloped at the same time by families using architects from Turin for both public and private buildings including the churches of St Mary Major, the Confraternity of the Holy Name of Jesus, the Holy Trinity, St John the Baptist and the Franciscan monastery. The Residence is approached from the south by a long straight avenue, which terminates in a piazza at the palace entrance.

The proposed extension to the buffer zone will encompass the whole of the historical area of Racconigi, as identified by the Municipal General Town Planning Scheme in force. Thus the buffer zone will completely surround the World Heritage inscribed property. Part of the Corso Principe di Piemonte (aligned with the Residence), is already subject to restriction by Ministerial Decree of 26.05.1959, in the buffer zone. The buffer zone boundaries are marked by: Via Principe Amedeo, Via Santa Chiara, Via Ormesano and Corso Principe di

Piemonte. The additional area measures 12.81 hectares, an extension of around 0.9%.

The total additional area of the buffer zone will be 709.75 hectares, an expansion of around 11.4%.

General comments:

The State Party's justification for the creation of buffer zones and its extension is threefold:

- To cover additional areas of garden / parkland / woodlands / vineyards belonging to the Residences not included by the boundary of the inscribed property or existing buffer zone;
- To cover areas of the adjacent settlements that have remnant urban design schemes associated with the Residence, and/or mansions built by the nobility associated with the House of Savoy, and/or farmhouses and agricultural buildings associated with the estate and/or other buildings whose history and architecture connect them to the Residence;
- To recognise earlier layers of settlement where the palace/villa was a remodeling of a medieval fortress with its associated settlement, or where it overlays a Roman town.

However there has been no recognition of the urban design links between the Residences and the "command centre", in Turin. The ICOMOS evaluation at the time of inscription referred to the relationship between the complex of buildings in Turin where central power was executed in its different political, administrative and cultural forms, and the outlying Residences, which were "rapidly accessible from the capital through a network of straight, tree-lined roads", ensuring the cohesive and functional aspects of the ensemble. In order for the inscribed property to be properly understood, these connections need to be maintained and made apparent. The Residences are usually located on high ground and prominent in the landscape. The protection of views and vistas needs to be considered.

In fact the concept of the buffer zone demonstrated by the State Party relates only to the land and buildings directly associated with the Residences and already protected under the various Ministerial decrees and town planning provisions, without taking account of historical connections between them, axial relationships, and intended views and vistas.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

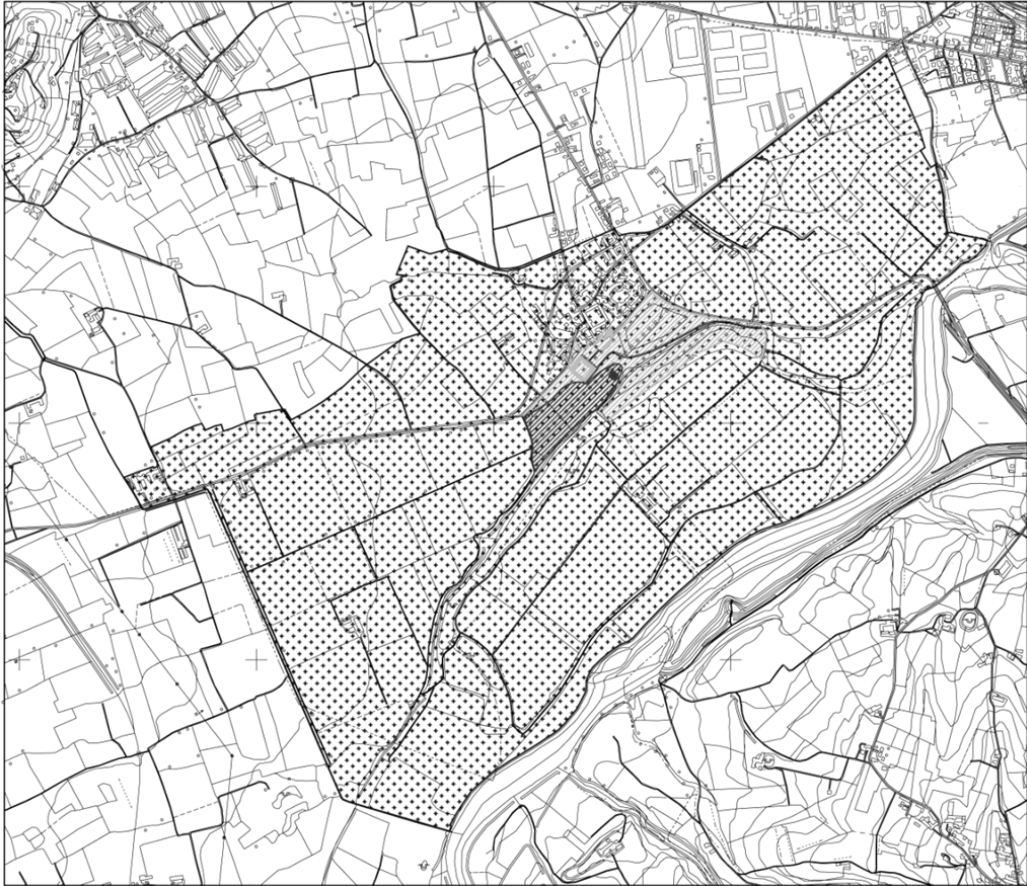
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Castello di Pollenzo,

Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, Italy be ***approved.***

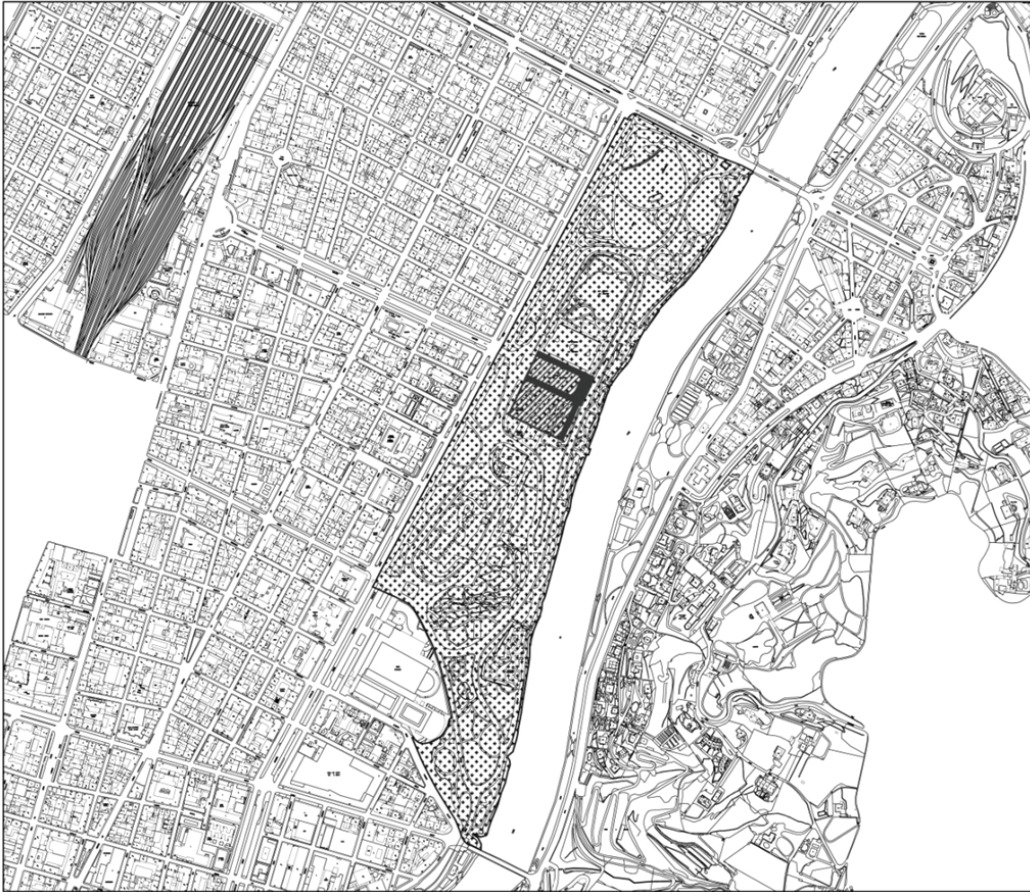
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Castello di Pollenzo, Castello del Valentino, Villa della Regina, Castello di Moncalieri and Castello di Govone, Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, Italy be ***approved.***

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed extension to the buffer zone for Castello di Rivoli, Reggia di Venaria Reale, Castello di Agliè and Castello di Racconigi, Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, Italy be ***approved.***

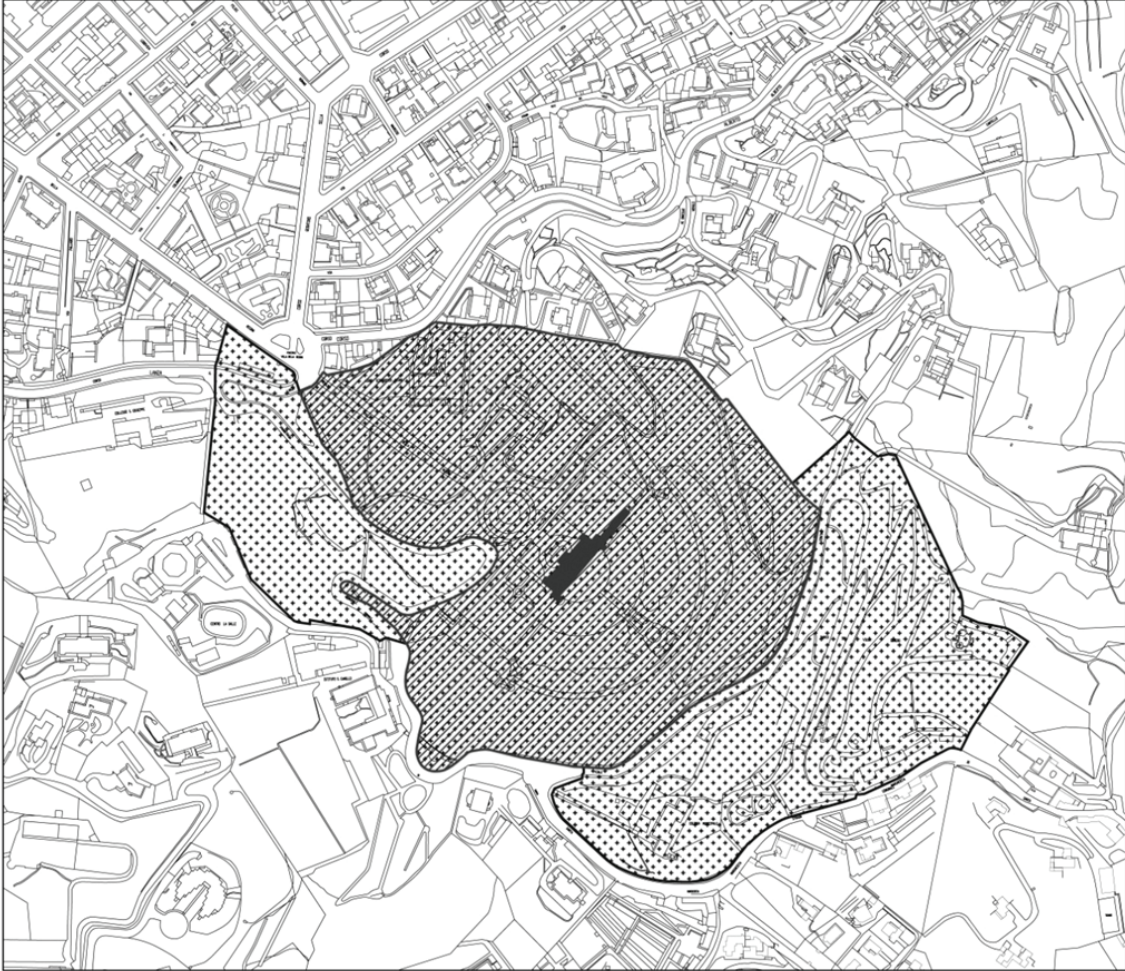
ICOMOS recommends that the State Party consider, when possible, future extensions to the buffer zones of the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, in terms of the historical connections between the Residences and the “command centre” in Turin, their axial relationships, views and vistas.



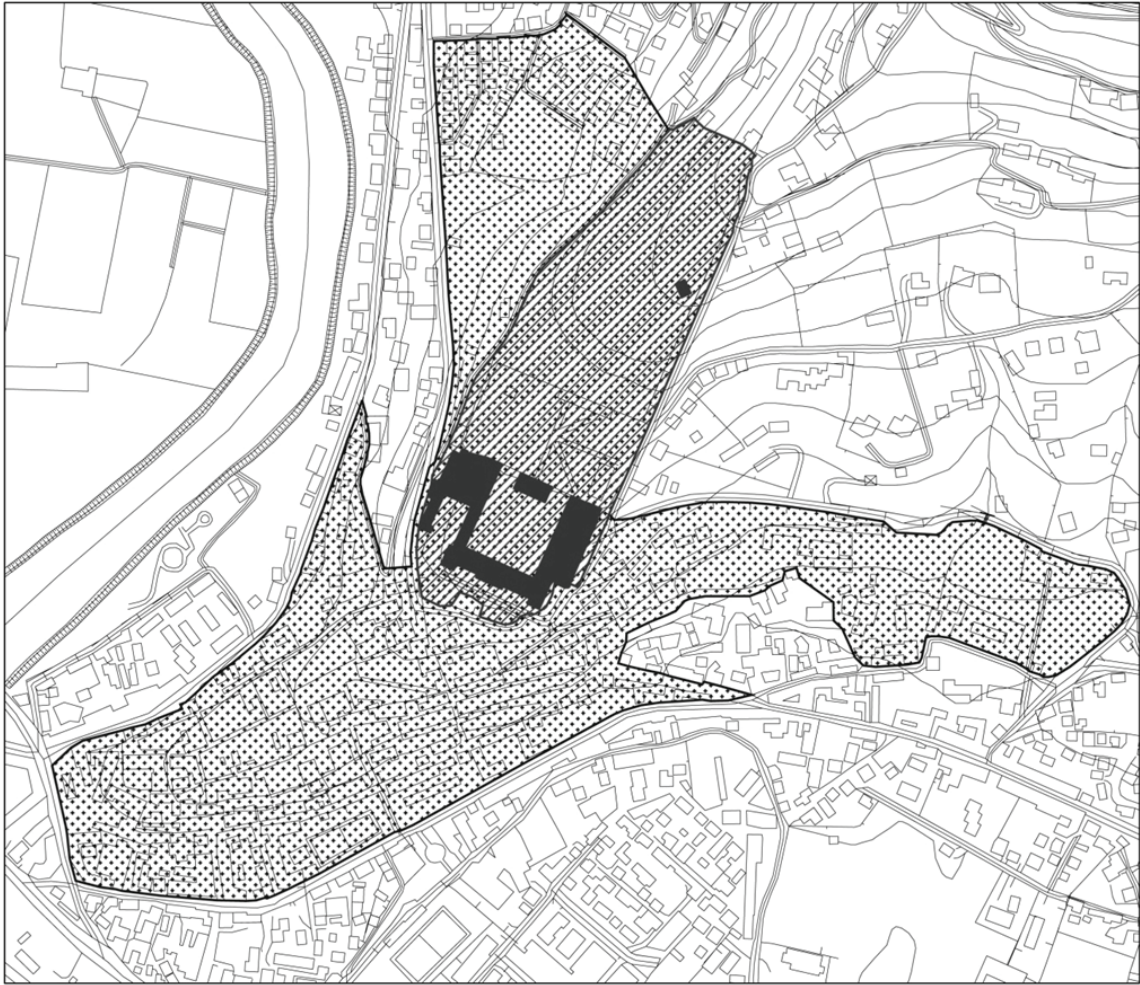
Castello di Pollenzo - map showing the revised boundaries of the property and the proposed buffer zone



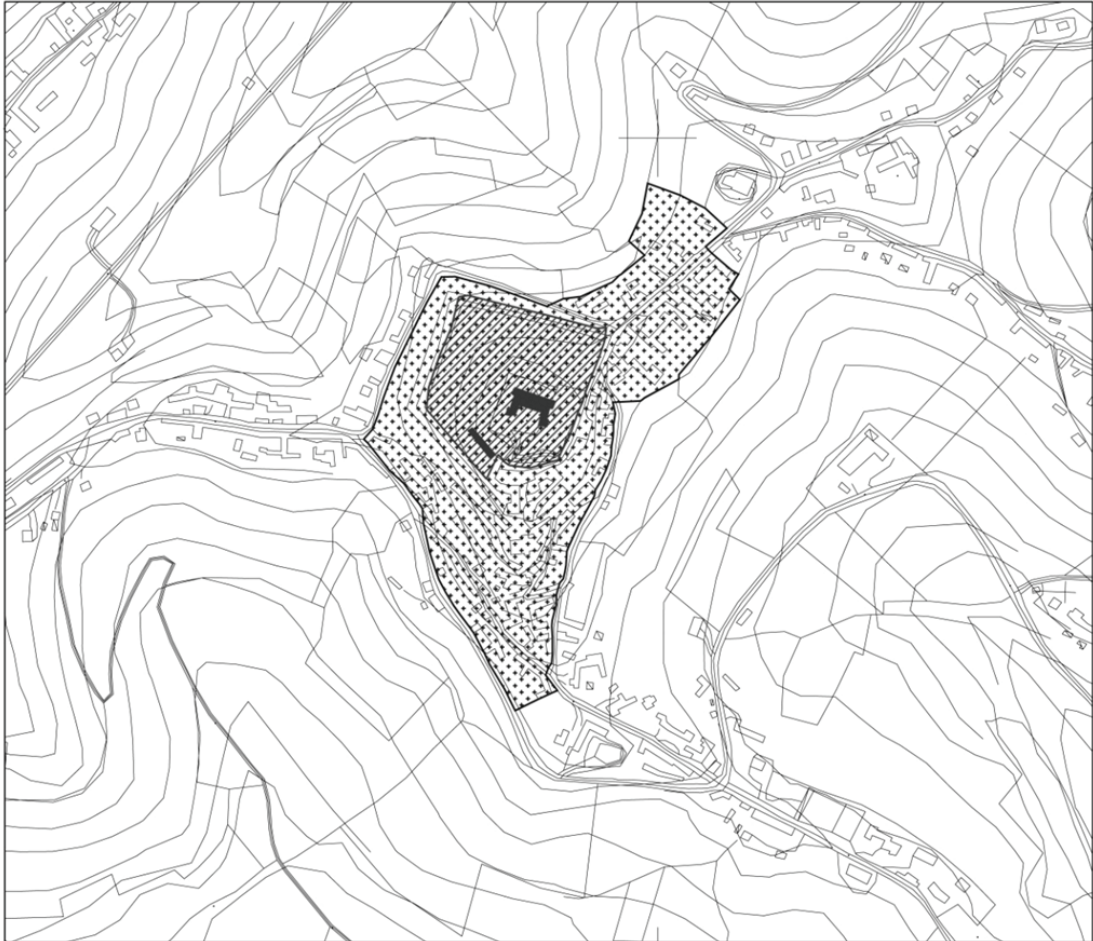
Castello del Valentino - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Villa della Regina - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



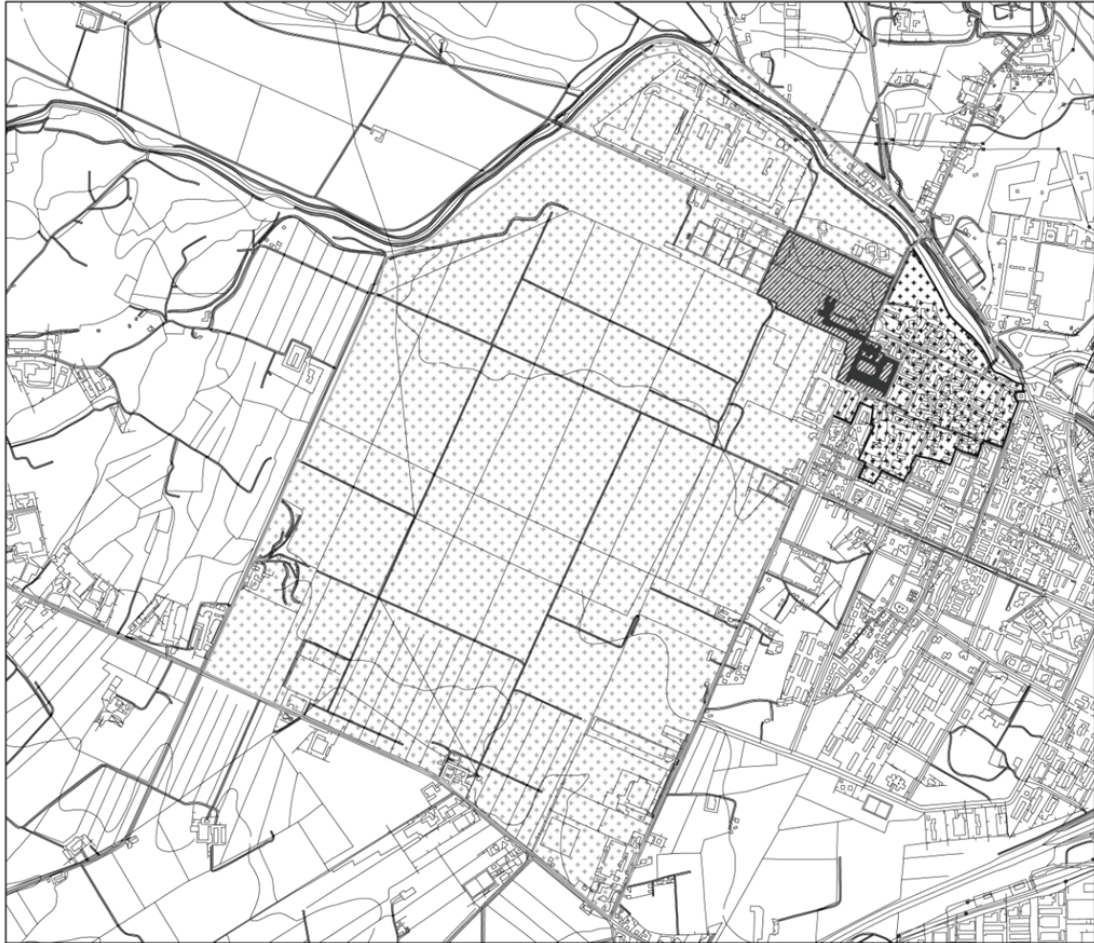
Castello di Moncalieri - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



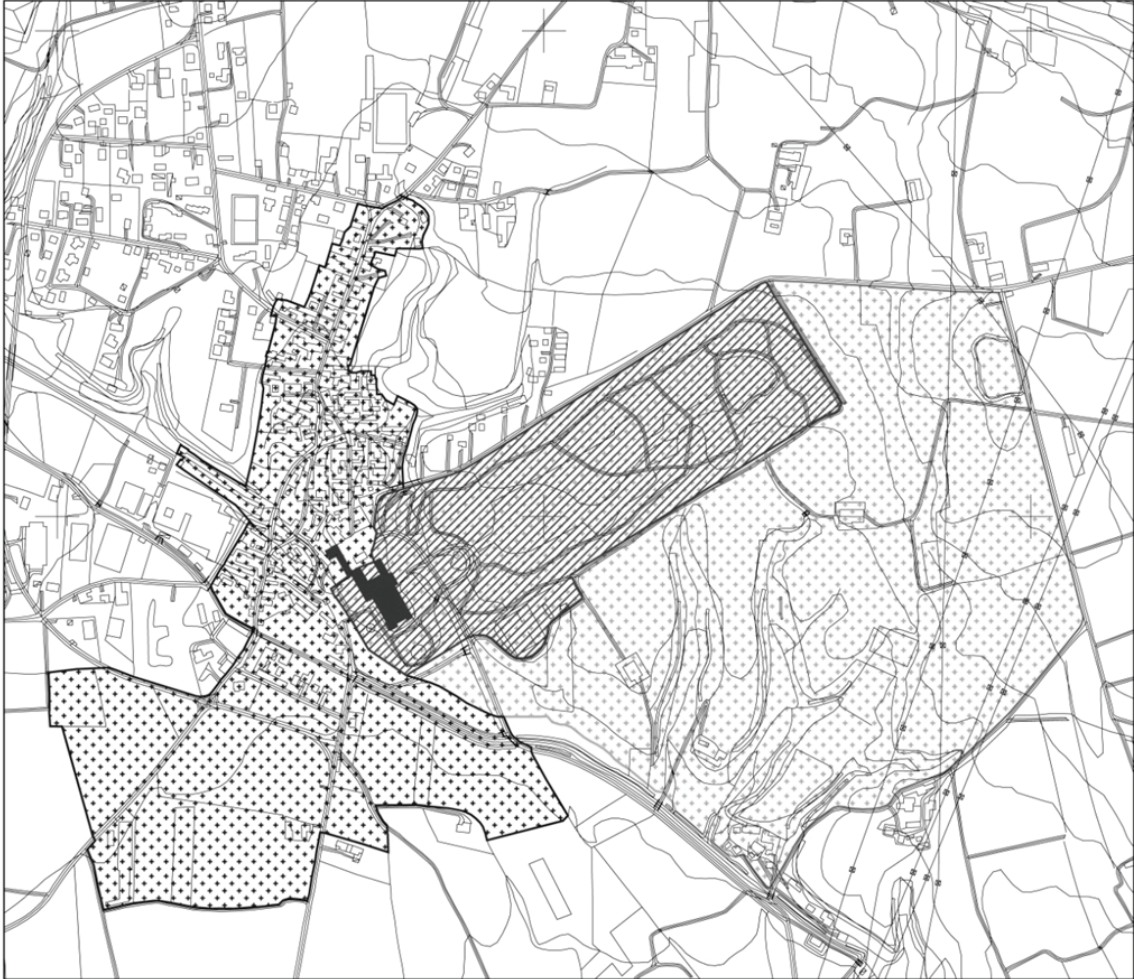
Castello di Govone - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Castello di Rivoli - map showing the revised buffer zone



Reggia di Venaria Reale - map showing the revised buffer zone



Castello di Agliè - map showing the revised buffer zone



Castello di Racconigi - map showing the revised buffer zone

Würzburg Residence (Germany) No 169

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Germany

Name of property:

Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square

Location:

District of Lower Franconia, State of Bavaria (Bayern)

Inscription: 1981

Brief Description:

This magnificent Baroque palace – one of the largest and most beautiful in Germany and surrounded by wonderful gardens – was created under the patronage of the prince-bishops Lothar Franz and Friedrich Carl von Schönborn. It was built and decorated in the 18th century by an international team of architects, painters (including Tiepolo), sculptors and stucco-workers, led by Balthasar Neumann.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

2006 Periodic Reporting, Cycle 1, Section II, point 2, states that no buffer zone has been defined for the property and that the establishment of a buffer zone is planned for 2006/07. The Bavarian Administration for State Palaces, Gardens and Lakes should have launched negotiations with the Town of Würzburg to this end.

During its 32nd session (Quebec city, 2008) the World Heritage Committee adopted the Decision 32COM 8D and took note of the clarification of Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square boundaries and size, provided in response to the Retrospective Inventory.

The State Party has provided a clear map of the property, displaying the boundaries of each component of the inscribed property; geographical coordinates allowing geo-referencing have been provided for several

points on the map. The area in hectares of each component of the inscribed property has also been indicated, as follows: Residence: 12.8455 ha and Rosenbach Park: 1.9275 ha, totalling 14.7730 ha.

Modification:

In February 2010 the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre with a management plan and a scaled plan for a proposed buffer zone for the inscribed property. The proposed buffer zone is an irregular polygon that extends from 30 m to 300 m on the West of the inscribed property; 30 m to 100 m to the North; and from 90 to 250 m to the East and South. It respects the urban tissue and is aligned to cadastral or property lines. It includes the urban attributes and characteristics that are essential to the immediate environment of the inscribed property. Important views and sightlines to and from the inscribed property have been identified and mapped as well as the historic district (Old City of Würzburg) that comprises the inscribed property.

The proposed buffer zone covers 25,0685 ha.

The management plan establishes objectives and measures to carry out protection, maintenance, usage and development programmes for the inscribed property. It is prefaced by the reasons for outstanding universal value and the declaration of authenticity and integrity. It suggests guidelines for effective and sustained actions and brings together existing and future planning programmes into a unified perspective. The Management Plan is a project of the Free State of Bavaria and the City of Würzburg that have acknowledged a shared responsibility for the conservation of the inscribed property. All urban development directly or indirectly affecting the inscribed property must prioritise and respect its outstanding universal value.

Alterations to the inscribed property, type and scale of development and alterations to properties in the buffer zone or in the historic district are all subject to existing legislation and regulations. They comprise:

- Federal Building Code;
- Bavarian Building Regulations;
- Bavarian Law on the Protection of Monuments;
- Bavarian Law on the Protection of Nature;
- Regulation concerning the Bavarian Administration for State Palaces, Gardens and Lakes.

ICOMOS is concerned by the size of the parking lot on the Residence Square itself. ICOMOS recommends that the State party give consideration to considerably reduce it in order to improve the visual integrity of the site.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone, the management plan and the existing legislation will offer

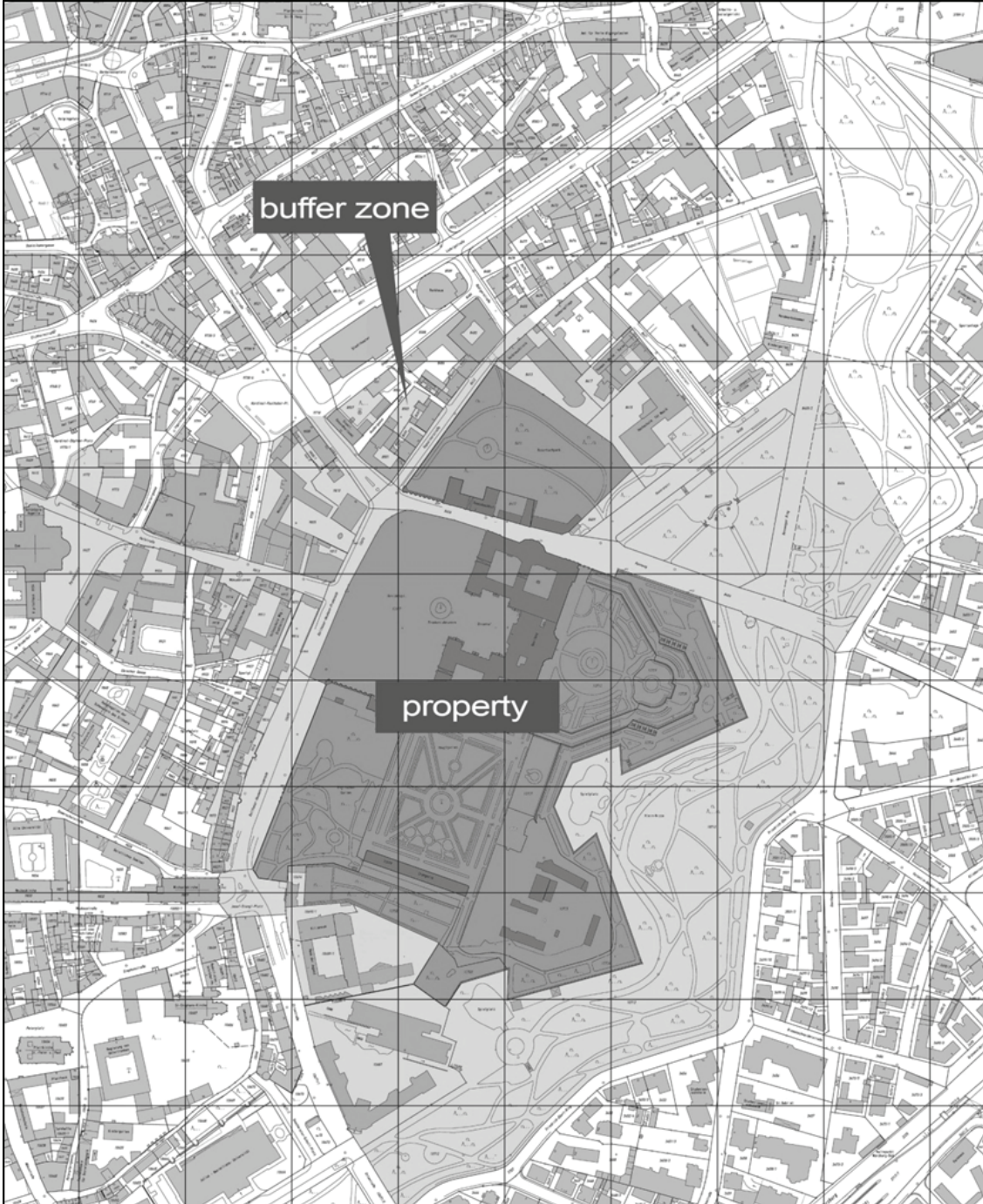
adequate and effective protection for the inscribed property.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square, Germany, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the State party give consideration to considerably reduce the parking lot on the Residence Square in order to improve the visual integrity of the site.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch (Germany) No 515

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Germany

Name of property:

Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch

Location:

District of Bergstrasse, State of Hesse (Hessen)

Inscription: 1991

Brief Description:

The abbey, together with its monumental entrance, the famous 'Torhall', are rare architectural vestiges of the Carolingian era. The sculptures and paintings from this period are still in remarkably good condition.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

The World Heritage inscribed property is in two parts: the site and remains of the first monastery founded on the River Weschnitz in 764AD and the site and remains of the second, much larger monastery including the Torhall, founded 650 metres to the west on higher ground (the dune) only three years later and consecrated in 774AD. The extent of the original area of the first monastery (the Altenmünster) has not been established. The original area of the second monastic enclosure, taken as being the area enclosed within the remaining Abbey wall and its traceable line, has been reduced by about one third with the construction of a road (Nibelungenstrasse) and residential development across its northern part.

The Periodic Report of 2004 noted that the status of the boundary of the World Heritage property was inadequate and that no buffer zone had been defined. Subsequently a cadastral map showing the boundaries of the two parts of the World Heritage property was provided in 2005. This does not include the area of the Abbey site originally enclosed by the Abbey wall and now built over, to the north of Nibelungenstrasse. It encompasses the State-owned Abbey site south of Nibelungenstrasse and municipality-owned green land around it to the east and

south, extending beyond the Abbey wall to cover possible remains of ditch or moat. The Altenmünster site is covered to the extent of the municipality-owned cadastral lot 100/1, encompassing known archaeological remains.

No buffer zone was shown.

Modification:

The Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch (German) Management Plan of 2009 proposes a buffer zone surrounding and uniting the two parts of the World Heritage inscribed property and including the area of the former Abbey site to the north.

The proposed buffer zone will encompass the known area of the second Abbey, including the area of the monastic enclosure now built over, to the north of Nibelungenstrasse. It will then extend north-east along the north side of Nibelungenstrasse and its continuation until it crosses the Weschnitz River (now canalized). It then follows the east bank of the Weschnitz canal, crossing back south of the Altenmünster nominated area along the south-east boundaries of cadastral districts 106 and 77, west along the northern boundaries of cadastral lots 185-7 running due west until it meets the footpath 424/4 when it turns south to Karolingerstrasse, then west along that street, including the built properties along the southern boundary of the Abbey nominated area, to the corner with Römerstrasse. From there it runs north along Römerstrasse to the Marktplatz, including the built properties to the west of the Abbey nominated area, across Nibelungenstrasse and north to proceed around the northern boundary of the original monastic enclosure.

The World Heritage Property and the proposed buffer zone are protected by the Monument Protection Act of the State of Hesse, administered by the Departments of Monument Preservation and Archaeology/Palaeontology and the State Administration of Palaces and Parks of Hesse, and the planning provisions of the Municipality of Lorsch. The Abbey site is partly owned by the State of Hesse and partly by the Municipality of Lorsch; the site of the Altenmünster is owned by the Municipality of Lorsch.

The concerns of ICOMOS have revolved around the need for protection of the archaeological remains of the area of the Abbey site north of Nibelungenstrasse, which was originally included within the Abbey walls, and the need to link the two areas of the property. These concerns are met by the extent of the proposed buffer zone, which also covers a considerable area around the Altenmünster property.

However ICOMOS considers that the State Party needs to investigate how the important approach view of the Torhall should be protected either by inclusion in the buffer zone or through other means. This could mean

extending the buffer zone to the west of the property to encompass Benedikterstrasse and Marktplatz, including the buildings framing them.

Also the State Party should consider whether the buffer zone should extend to the north beyond Nibelungenstrasse/Alte Bensheimer Strasse, which takes the line of the central axis connecting the Altenmünster site and the Lorsch Abbey site. The Klosterfeld area on both sides of the street is an important component of the agricultural land that was the economic basis of the monastery. The red line boundary on figure 8.15 'Protected Areas and Buildings' in the Management Plan (p.63) seems more appropriate in this respect.

ICOMOS considers that the protection of the proposed buffer zone is satisfactory.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch, Germany, be **referred back** to the State Party to allow it to:

- Consider whether the boundary of the proposed buffer zone could be extended to the west of the World Heritage property to protect the important approach view of the Torhall and include Marktplatz and Benedikterstrasse, or whether this view could be protected by other means;
- Consider whether the boundary of the proposed buffer zone could be extended further to the north to protect the line of the central axis connecting the Altenmünster site and the Lorsch Abbey site and enclose the Klosterfeld area on the north side of Alte Bensheimer Strasse.

ICOMOS also encourages that the State Party keep the World Heritage Committee informed of any development project concerning the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting in conformity with paragraph 172 of *the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Cracow's Historic Centre (Poland) No 29

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Poland

Name of property:

Cracow's Historic Centre

Location:

City and County of Cracow, Lesser Poland

Inscription: 1978

Brief Description:

The historic centre of Cracow, the former capital of Poland, is situated at the foot of the Royal Wawel Castle. The 13th century merchants' town has Europe's largest market square and numerous historical houses, palaces and churches with their magnificent interiors. Further evidence of the town's fascinating history is provided by the remnants of the 14th century fortifications and the medieval site of Kazimierz with its ancient synagogues in the southern part of town, Jagellonian University and the Gothic cathedral where the kings of Poland were buried.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

2006 Periodic Reporting, Cycle 1, Section II, point 2, states that no buffer zone has been defined for the property and that the establishment of a buffer zone is needed.

During its 32nd session (Quebec city, 2008) the World Heritage Committee adopted the Decision 32COM 8D and took note of the clarification of Cracow's Historic Centre boundaries and size, provided in response to the Retrospective Inventory.

On 19 January 2010 the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre a map showing the limits of the inscribed property and the proposed buffer zone along with a written description of the buffer zone and the legislation and planning instruments that apply to it.

Modification:

Description of the proposed buffer zone

The listed property area covers 149.65 ha. The proposed buffer zone covers 1 057 ha (including the listed property area). It is an irregular polygon that extends approximately 500 m to 1 500 m from the inscribed property limits. It respects the urban tissue and is aligned to cadastral or property lines.

The proposed buffer zone overlaps with the urban layout of 19th century Cracow when concentric ring roads and a network of radiantly dispersing streets were formed. The buildings and spaces within this area share distinct common architectural features.

Protection and management

The buffer zone is created chiefly to protect the silhouette of the property listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The proposed buffer zone is entered into the register of monuments, which, according to Polish law, offers the best guarantee for its protection because of the obligation to ensure that all development operations are in accordance with conservation practices. Historical and conservation documentation with guidelines covering urban design and public spaces is available for the proposed buffer zone.

The proposed buffer zone is subject to valid local area development plans regarding: Zabłocie, Lubicz Brewery and Wilga Estuary. Local area development plans are being prepared for the following areas: Old City, Dębniki, Krasickiego – Orawska, Vistula Boulevards and Żabiniec Południe. The buffer zone will be taken into account in the new version of the Study of *Conditions and Directions of the Area Development Plan for the City of Kraków*, currently under preparation, and then during the preparation of local area development plans and their modifications. The protection regulations for this zone are also included in the communal monument protection and preservation plan, which have been completed in 2009.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone, the management system and the existing legislation will offer adequate and effective protection for the inscribed property.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Cracow's Historic Centre, Poland, be **approved**.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Old Town of Ávila (Spain) No 348rev

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Spain

Name of property:

Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches

Location:

Province of Ávila, Autonomous Community of Castilla y León

Inscription: 985

Brief Description:

Founded in the 11th century to protect the Spanish territories from the Moors, this 'City of Saints and Stones', the birthplace of St Teresa and the burial place of the Grand Inquisitor Torquemada, has kept its medieval austerity. This purity of form can still be seen in the Gothic cathedral and the fortifications which, with their 82 semicircular towers and nine gates, are the most complete in Spain.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

At the time of inscription a buffer zone was not established. The vulnerability of one of the extra mural churches was demonstrated by developments in the Plaza of Santa Teresa between the town walls and the extra mural church of San Pedro. This was discussed by the Committee at its 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th sessions. As a result of concerns for the setting of the extra mural churches, at its 29th session, the Committee requested an updated report on the designation of buffer zones, in the context of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

At its 30th Session (Decision 30 COM 7B.79) the Committee noted that the State Party had reported that it had designated a buffer zone, and requested the State Party to submit detailed maps presenting the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones, and ICOMOS to review the boundaries of the property once the boundary modifications have been presented. The Committee further requested the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report on the legal status and the implementation of the protection zones by

1st February 2007 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (2007).

At the 31st session, the Committee considered a proposal put forward by the State Party for an extension of the nominated area to encompass six churches and for a buffer zone that encompassed the three extra mural churches which were part of the original inscription and six further churches.

The Committee approved the extensions to the boundary, and requested that an adequate buffer zone be established and submitted for approval to the Committee, and that further explanations for the choice of the boundaries to protect the setting of the town and its extra muros churches and views to and from it should be provided.

At its 32nd session, the Committee considered a proposal for a buffer zone submitted by the State Party. This buffer zone encompassed the old town, the three extra mural churches which were part of the original inscription, and the six further churches approved at the 31st Session.

Although the Committee asked at its 31st session for a justification for the way a buffer zone would offer protection to the property and views to and from it, no such justification was provided.

The Committee agreed to refer the decision on the proposed buffer zone back to the State Party (Decision 32 COM 8B.66) to allow it to provide more details on the justification for the boundaries for the close surroundings of the property and visual identity as well as for the protective policies in place in its buffer zone.

On 30 January 2009, the State Party submitted a report on progress with meeting the requirements of the Committee. This report listed the legal instruments on urban planning and cultural heritage available to protect the inscribed area. It also set out details of the development a strategic plan for the Historic Heritage of the Community of Castilla y León that would address the comprehensive management of historic heritage, and would be based on the 'conceptual and physical link between heritage and territory'. This strategic plan would include consideration of an urban heritage system that acknowledges 'fundamental elements or nodes and their relationships, which define the value of the heritage of a city, regardless of the degree in which they manifest themselves from a visual point of view'.

A management plan for Ávila would be part of this strategic framework. To take forward this management plan, the Department of Culture and Tourism for the Regional Government of Castilla y León and the Ávila Town Hall signed a framework agreement in September 2006. The plan process was launched in September 2008. It was stated that the Plan would 'enable the city to be governed in a flexible way with regard to the incorporation of new values, as long as they make way

for global improvement without compromising any existing values’.

The State Party proposed to consider the appropriateness of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone as part of the development of this management plan.

At its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), the World Heritage Committee adopted decision: 33 COM 8B.53:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches, Spain, back to the State Party in order to allow it to finalize the management plan for the property.

Update

On February 2010, the State Party submitted a document outlining a concept for the Management Plan and progress towards its drafting and implementation.

This includes the statement that a Statement of Significance is being drafted which includes a reconsideration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in the light of the evolving concepts of cultural heritage.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS notes that further progress has been made in developing a detailed management plan that will respond to the needs of the city in terms of protection of the built fabric and to the need to sustain and enhance the social and economic framework of the city.

ICOMOS does however consider that such a plan should be based on an agreed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that must be primarily based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property that was recognised at the time of inscription. Whereas other values might well have been identified since inscription in response to changing ideas of heritage and can be the subject of the Management Plan, there is a need to differentiate between the Outstanding Universal Value, which is non-negotiable, and other values.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches, Spain, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to finalize the management plan for the property and to develop a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as the basis for the Management Plan.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Cathedral, Alcázar and Archivo de Indias in Seville (Spain) No 383rev

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Spain

Name of property:

Cathedral, Alcázar and Archivo de Indias in Seville

Location:

Province of Seville, Autonomous Community of Andalusia

Inscription: 1987

Brief Description:

Together these three buildings form a remarkable monumental complex in the heart of Seville. The cathedral and the Alcázar – dating from the Reconquest of 1248 to the 16th century and imbued with Moorish influences – are an exceptional testimony to the civilization of the Almohads as well as that of Christian Andalusia. The Giralda minaret is the masterpiece of Almohad architecture. It stands next to the cathedral with its five naves; the largest Gothic building in Europe, it houses the tomb of Christopher Columbus. The ancient Lonja, which became the Archivo de Indias, contains valuable documents from the archives of the colonies in the Americas.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background:

At its 33rd Session (Seville, 2009) the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party (Decision 33COM 7B.123) to define a buffer zone for the World Heritage property and to submit a map by 1 February 2010, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

This request was in response to concern expressed by the Committee at the potential adverse impact of the proposed 40 storey (178metre) Cajasol tower on the western bank of the Guadalquivir river approximately 600 metres from the boundaries of the Alcazar, which

with the other two buildings are approximately 300 metres from the east bank of the river.

Modification:

The State Party has proposed a buffer zone that links the three buildings and covers an area within which are spaces and buildings that were directly associated with, or have some tangible bearing on, the Latin American colonisation. The buffer zone thus relates to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in terms of the complementarities of the three inscribed buildings as an illustration of the involvement of Seville in the processes of Latin American colonisation.

This buffer zone includes the remains of the inland port and spaces and buildings associated with the development of trade between the Old and New worlds. The nine key buildings are listed in the submitted report and historical details provided.

The wider landscape of the buffer zone has been set out as a result of two studies on the historic urban landscape and the city landscape of the outskirts. This acknowledges the way the city has grown and altered over the past two centuries in such a way that the relationship of the three inscribed buildings to their urban context and to the river has been significantly altered and now make it difficult to trace the historical boundaries of the city. The studies identify key views.

The buffer zone comprises 205 hectares and covers the area surrounding the three inscribed buildings and part of the river where the port was located. The buffer zone demarcates an area within which the Giralda Tower will dominate the skyline and protects lower level views of the Tower.

Protection

The nine key buildings within the buffer zone are designated monuments.

The whole of the buffer zone is included within the extended Conjunto Histórico de Sevilla that was declared by Royal Decree on 2nd November 2009. The buffer zone covers nine sectors. The decree allows for Special Protection Plans to be drawn up – and these exist for five sectors – and also for catalogues of monuments to be created, and these exist for five sectors. It is however acknowledged that the Special Protection Plans do not cover all aspects of spatial planning.

However, the 2007 Historical Heritage Act of Andalusia allows for visual impact assessments to be carried on proposed projects and it is said that this would apply to development that might impact on the property – although not the Cajasol Tower that was approved prior to its implementation.

The General Urban Planning scheme of 2006 includes a special plan for the Puerta Triana, within which the proposed Cajasol Tower would be located and this allows for 'for-profit' construction up to 225 metres in height. The buffer zone does not therefore cover the area of the Cajasol Tower.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone that has been carefully delineated to surround an area that can be seen as the immediate setting for the three inscribed buildings and part of their wider context in terms of the monuments and spaces within the buffer zone that have links to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

ICOMOS further consider that the protection for this buffer zone is adequate in terms of its designation as part of the Conjunto Histórico de Sevilla. The City Council has agreed to complete the catalogues for the sectors where these are still needed and this will further protect both the inscribed property and the buffer zone.

ICOMOS also considers that whereas the proposed buffer zone will protect the immediate setting, it remains concerned that protection outside this area in the wider setting will still be needed in terms of potential developments of tall buildings that will need to be considered through visual impact assessments for their possible impact on Outstanding Universal Value.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Cathedral, Alcázar and Archivo de Indias in Seville, Spain, be **approved**.

ICOMOS notes that the City Council has agreed to undertake the remaining catalogues for the sectors within the Buffer Zone and urges the State Party to ensure that these are in place as soon as possible.

ICOMOS also notes that development outside the buffer zone in the wider setting will be subject to impact assessments on the inscribed property under the 2007 Historical Heritage Act and urges the State Party to ensure that these are applied rigorously.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Mexico) No 1351

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

Location:

The series of nominated properties lies within ten Mexican States. From south to north these are:

- City of México
- State of México
- Hidalgo
- Querétaro
- Guanajuato
- Jalisco
- Aguascalientes
- Zacatecas
- San Luis Potosí
- Durango
- Chihuahua

Brief description:

The serial nomination of 55 sites and five existing World Heritage sites lies along a 1,400 km part of the 2,600km Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the Royal Inland Road, also known as the Silver route), a route that extends north from Mexico City to Texas and Nuevo Mexico (New Mexico), United States of America.

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was actively used as a trade route for 300 years, from the mid-16th to the 19th centuries. The main trade in the first two centuries was in silver extracted from the mines of Zacatecas, Guanajuato and San Luis Potosí, and in mercury (needed for its working through the 'amalgamation' method), imported from Spain and at times Slovenia. The silver was exported via Veracruz to Spain, where it transformed the economies of Europe, and via Acapulco to Manila, where it was exchanged for the silks and porcelains of Asia.

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro forms one section of the Spanish Intercontinental Camino Real (Spanish Intercontinental Royal Road), a land and sea route that was used for the exploitation and commercialisation of natural resources, linking Spain with its colonies in America and south-east Asia at the beginnings of the Modern era.

The Camino was part of a much wider network of roads in 'New Spain' estimated at 24,800km in 1808, of which

a third was suitable for wheeled vehicles. Some of these overlaid the pre-Columbian routes and extended them into the north and west where mines and settlement were developed.

Although it is a route that was motivated and consolidated by the mining industry and the transportation of silver and mercury, it also fostered trade in wheat, corn and several other sorts of merchandise that supplied the northern mining communities and other regions. And, as with most trade routes, Camino Real de Tierra Adentro fostered social, cultural and religious links, in particular between Spanish and Amerindian cultures.

The nominated sites have been chosen to reflect the development of multi-ethnic societies over three centuries, through the selection of representative typological components. These include five existing urban World Heritage sites and 55 other sites related to the use of the road, such as bridges, former haciendas, historic centres/towns, a cemetery, former convents, a mountain range, stretches of road, a mine, chapels/temples and caves.

Category of property:

In terms of categories set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of 60 *monuments, groups of buildings and sites*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (January 2008), annex 3, this is a *heritage route*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 20 November 2001

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre: 30 January 2009

Background: This is a new nomination.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Routes and several independent experts.

Literature consulted (selection):

Bargellini, C., in *La Arquitectura de la Plata*.

Van Young, E., *Hacienda and Market in 18th century Mexico, The rural economy of the Guadalajara Region, 1675-1820*, 2006.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 18-28 August 2009 and 28 August – 4 September 2009

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: On 19 October 2009, ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on the following points:

- Selection of specific sites to represent the cultural route;
- Identification on all maps and plans the entire alignment of the Camino Real across the various chosen sites;
- Status of the 'Initiative for a Decree to create a Federal Law on the Protection of Cultural Routes'.

The State Party replied on 20 November 2009.

On 18 December 2009, ICOMOS requested the State Party to provide additional information on the following:

- Justification of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Comparative analysis;
- Line of the road;
- Management Framework;
- Boundaries;
- Buffer Zones.

A response was received from the State Party on 26 February 2010. This suggested revised buffer zones for some properties and minor changes to boundaries.

The information supplied by the State Party in these two letters has been integrated into the following evaluation.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The nominated property is a series of 60 separate sites along or near a 1,400km stretch of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Also known as the Silver route, this road was developed primarily for the export of silver to Spain from the mines of Zacatecas, Guanajuato and San Luis Potosí, north-west of Mexico City, and the import of mercury from Spain and at time Slovenia. It was a part of the Intercontinental Royal Road that linked Mexico City to Veracruz on the coast in the south and thence to Spain. It was also part of what is now called the Mercury route between Spain and the three main silver mines

Initially the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro ended at the Zacatecas, it was then extended northwards to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The full 2,600km extent of the route thus embraces Hispanic founded towns in Texas and New Mexico, in territory now known as the United States of America. Sites along this latter stretch of the route have not been nominated, but the nomination suggests will be in the future.

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was developed by the Spanish during the 16th century. The need for the route was to link the new silver mines with the Viceroyalty capital and the coast. The discovery of rich seams of silver in Zacatecas between 1540 and 1550 led to the development of a foundry in the town. This brought about a need for a better and more direct connection to the Spanish Viceroyalty capital, now Mexico City. Initially the mine was linked by a route through Guadalajara. This link to the capital was difficult across ravines and narrow canyons with hostile indigenous communities in Nueva Galicia. A new route was duly constructed along the spine of the high plateau by 1552.

The Spanish initially consolidated their use and control of this new route through the development of small settlements, each with a church and sited in a defensive line. In the mid 16th century three larger Spanish/Indian defensive towns were constructed: in 1555 Spanish town of San Miguel el Grande, in 1562 the villa of San Felipe and in 1563, Santa María de los Lagos. These were outposts or "villas protectoras del camino" (protective villas of the road).

By 1700 the road had been extended northwards from Zacatecas to Santa Fe, via Sombrerete and Nombre de Dios. The road was also connected by side branches to the regions that supplied goods particularly mercury for the processing of silver, and also timber and food to the developing markets of the north, and, as more silver deposits were discovered in the Guanajuato region, between the Zacatecas and the Michoacán roads, east-west side branches were also developed to those areas and to San Luis Potosí, Venado, Charcas, Durango and Guadalajara.

The roads were used as conduits not only for trade but also for the exchange of ideas, particularly religious ideas and people. As with trade routes around the world, the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro did not just have an economic influence but also substantial social and cultural impact.

Many of the mines had periods of prosperity interspersed by periods of decline or even abandonment of their supporting settlements. The largest fared best but even cites such as Zacatecas had surges of prosperity at the end of the 17th and the end of the 18th centuries.

Its demise as a central artery was largely brought about by the railway in the 19th century.

The nominated sites are said to be typological elements of the route that reflect the evolutionary processes of a multicultural society.

The nominated sites extend from the Plaza de la Constitución in México City, north-west to the Plaza de la Constitución of the town of Valle de Allende in Chihuahua. Some of the route of the Camino Real de

Tierra Adentro is now part of the Pan-American Highway.

The sites consist of:

- eleven historic centres or ensembles
- nine towns
- seven former haciendas
- seven temples
- six chapels
- five separate bridges (+ two associated with other sites)
- four stretches of road
- two former colleges
- two caves
- one mine (+ one associated with another site)
- one former convent
- one former royal hospital
- one cemetery

And includes the following World Heritage sites (with date of inscription):

- Historic Centre of México City (1987)
- Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro (1996)
- Protective town of San Miguel and the Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco (2008)
- Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines (1988)
- Historic Centre of Zacatecas (1993)

The nomination dossier provides considerable detail on the history and development of each of the sites, but much less on description. With some sites the precise extent of the buildings is not clear nor their dates of construction or their architectural features.

Specifically, the sites are as follows, from south to north:

1. CITY OF MÉXICO

Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (World Heritage site, inscribed 1987)

This city was inscribed on the List, under criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v), not only for its Spanish buildings that reflect the power and wealth of the silver trade but also for its pre-Spanish Aztec remains. Thus part of the inscribed site relates to the Camino – the Cathedral and the market area and public buildings constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

2. STATE OF MÉXICO

Former college of San Francisco Javier in Tepotzotlán

A hermitage was constructed in 1525 and further convent buildings were added from 1580. The extant buildings date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The elaborate 18th century facade of the church reflects Mexican Churriguesque style. The buildings, altarpieces, paintings, books and furniture are said to

characterise the colonial life, together with vestiges of clothing, tableware, and ornaments.

Town of Aculco

The town includes two haciendas that housed travellers along the Camino. In the 18th century the mainstay of the population was muleteering as the town had an abundance of grass and water for the mules. It is not clear which extant buildings now reflect this extensive mule trade.

Bridge of Atongo

This bridge was part of a chain of stone bridges constructed in the 18th century to improve the road. They were linked to a toll system. This bridge has three arches.

Stretch of Camino Real between Aculco and San Juan del Río

This cobbled stretch of road extends to 0.950km in length. It is suggested that it represents an earlier pre-Spanish route that was taken over by the Conquerors. It is one of two alternative routes in this area.

3. HIDALGO

Former convent of San Francisco in Tepeji del Río and bridge

The prosperity of the Hidalgo region was related first to cattle breeding and later to mines. Wealthy miners acquired haciendas and so too did the religious monasteries, first the Franciscans, then the Augustinians and later the Jesuits. The Convent of San Francisco was established in 1560 by the Franciscans in between the territories of two indigenous communities. The existing simple building apparently dates from the 18th century and is adorned by Baroque murals by Juan Correa and Francisco Martínez.

Stretch of Camino Real between bridge of La Colmena and former hacienda of La Cañada

This short stretch of road is partly paved near the hacienda and still has side parapets. It includes three apparently 18th century stone bridges. The bridge La Cañada, part of the former hacienda of La Cañada (founded in 1563 and rebuilt in 1868) has one single round headed arch; at the other end of the stretch of road is the bridge of La Colmena with three arches and buttresses; and in between is a third, Tlautla, not described but said to be disused and difficult to see.

4. QUERÉTARO

Historic centre of City of San Juan del Río

The City of San Juan del Río is sited at a point where the main Camino joins a branch road to the mining area of Sierra Gorda. The main economic activity of the region was cattle breeding, inns for merchants and travellers, and muleteering. The city was founded in the second half of the 16th century. There is no description of the historic centre of the town.

Former hacienda of Chichimequillas

The hacienda which was completed in 1813 was part of the Carmelite convent of Queretaro, founded in 1691 and enlarged in the 18th century. The hacienda includes a chapel and grain stores.

Chapel of former hacienda of Buenavista

The chapel is the main building surviving from the hacienda that was established in the 16th century and divided in the early 18th century. The Chapel, a sober building of pink stone, was constructed in 1772.

Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro (World Heritage site, inscribed 1996)

The historic centre was inscribed under criterion (ii) and (iv) as the centre of a colonial town that reached its highest level of wealth in the 18th century, reflected in much rebuilding that demonstrated an integration between the Spanish and indigenous parts of the city.

The evaluation of the property does not stress its strategic importance in terms of it being a link between the mining areas of Zacatecas, Guanajuato, and San Luis Potosí. It was inscribed on the list as a colonial town with a unique layout.

5. GUANAJUATO

Former Royal hospital of San Juan de Dios of San Miguel de Allende

The hospital, of four corridors and twenty-seven cells, was commissioned in 1743 and work started ten years later and lasted until 1770. The buildings included a church and a cemetery. By the end of the century it had treated 2,000 people from 160 different regions. In the early 19th century the lack of funds led to its decline. It was revived in a basic way in the second half of the 19th century and turned into a civil hospital in 1935, a use it still maintains.

Bridge of El Fraile

Bridge of San Rafael

Bridge La Quemada

These bridges were three of more than 11 bridges built during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries by the Village of San Miguel.

The bridge of El Fraile with its one arch is said to be 16th century but was rebuilt in the 18th century.

The Bridge of San Rafael is not considered exceptional in terms of construction but is located at the convergence of several ways: the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro with three other routes. It was built in the 18th century. Part of the bridge was demolished by a flood in the 19th century and only one arch of three remains.

The bridge of La Quemada dates from the 16th century and is formed of five arches with triangular cutwaters between the arches. It linked the Hacienda of La Quemada with the road to San Diego de la Union. The hacienda is not in the nominated area.

Protective town of San Miguel and the Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco (World Heritage site, inscribed 2008)

This town was inscribed on the List under criteria (ii) and (iv) as a fortified town, established in the 16th century to protect the 'Royal Route' inland, and which reached its apogee in the 18th century when many of its outstanding religious and civic buildings were built in the style of the Mexican Baroque. The town supplied goods and services to other cities, villages and mining centres between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines (World Heritage site, inscribed 1988)

The city was inscribed on the List under criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi) as a Spanish city founded in the early 16th century that became the world's leading silver-extraction centre in the 18th century. This past can be seen in its 'subterranean streets' and the 'Boca del Infierno', a mineshaft that plunges 600m. The town's fine Baroque and neoclassical buildings, resulting from the prosperity of the mines, have influenced buildings throughout central Mexico.

6. JALISCO

Historic centre of City of Lagos de Moreno and bridge

The City of Lagos was founded in 1563 as a defensive settlement part of a network of such settlements aimed at pacification of the region. Originally its houses were small and built of adobe. The fertility of the surrounding grazing land gave the settlement prosperity. In the late 17th century convents were built, and, as in many other urban areas, there was much re-building in the 18th century and also again in the 19th century when the parish church was constructed and the four-arched bridge completed 1878.

Historic ensemble of Town of Ojuelos

Ojuelos was founded as a fortified settlement (along with Portezuelo), probably in 1570 to safeguard territory between San Miguel and Zacatecas. The town includes remains of the fort, a small 18th century neo-classicist church, 19th wool textile buildings, inns, school and chapel and a square with 19th century arcading in Mudejar and Neoclassic style.

Bridge of Ojuelos

This eleven arched bridge is on the road from San Felipe Torres to Ojuelos in the direction of Zacatecas. In conjunction with it is a stretch of the old Camino Real. Although the bridge is not definitively dated it is thought to date from the 17th century. The parapet has not survived.

Former hacienda of Ciénega de Mata

Founded in 1598, this enormous hacienda produced wheat and cattle and by the 18th its prosperity was such that it encompassed 1,865 inhabitants and had a large church with sacristy, dome and tower, decorated with sculptural reliefs.

Cemetery in Encarnación de Díaz

The commercial importance of Encarnación in the 19th century based on agriculture and cattle led to the development of a cemetery. This has a central patio surrounded by portals with crypts and mausolea decorated with neo-classical sculpture.

7. AGUASCALIENTES

Former hacienda of Peñuelas

The hacienda was established in 1601 and the fertile land soon made it prosperous from agriculture and cattle breeding. It grew to become one of the largest estates and was sub-divided in the 18th century into still relatively large units. In the 19th century, as with many other estates, it faced bankruptcy and was bought by a textile manufacturer. The large elaborate church has a 19th century facade and the residential buildings still survive.

Former hacienda of Cieneguilla

The hacienda lands were given to the Society of Jesus in 1616. The church was constructed between 1751-3. The Society was expelled in 1767 and the large hacienda passed eventually to private owners. Structures include remains of a dam and dykes for irrigation and a fragment of the Camino Real lined on both sides with huizache trees.

Historic ensemble of City of Aguascalientes

The settlement was founded in 1575 with the purpose of protecting travellers along one of the three roads from Guadalajara to Zacatecas. It remained a village until the late 17th century. Gradually as the prosperity of haciendas around the settlement grew, their owners invested in houses in the town and churches were built in 1647, 1764, and in 1767. No details are provided of the buildings. The nominated area consists of two churches linked by a stretch of road.

Former hacienda of Pabellón de Hidalgo

The land was granted as a hacienda in 1597. As with other haciendas in the area, investment came from the successful miners of Zacatecas. A church survives as does the main house, which is now a museum, and a large dam. The stables and a second church are in ruins.

8. ZACATECAS

Chapel of San Nicolás Tolentino of former hacienda of San Nicolás de Quijas

The Chapel was constructed between 1793 and 1796. Next to it are the main house and remains of workers' housing.

Town of Pinos

Seven buildings have been nominated. The parish church of San Matias de Pinos was built between 1682 and 1697 and remodelled in the mid 18th century. In 1795 work started to enlarge the naves but stopped before completion. The Temples and convent of San Francisco de Pinos was founded in 1594 but the present

building appears to date from the 18th century. The Temple of the Inmaculada Concepcion de Tlaxcala was constructed in the 18th century. The other buildings are a municipal palace, restaurant and three squares.

Temple of Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles of Town of Noria de Ángeles

The large Temple of Nuestra Señora was constructed in 1870-2.

Temple of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores in Villa González Ortega

The Temple of Nuestra Señora was built in 1855.

Former college of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe of Propaganda Fide

This Franciscan temple was established in 1707 on the outskirts of the city of Zacatecas. Construction took place between 1713 and 1721.

Historic ensemble of City of Sombrerete

The city is located in high rugged valleys where several mines at the end of the 16th century were said to have competed with Zacatecas and Parral in terms of output. They had two further periods of prosperity in the end of the 17th and early 18th centuries. The mines have not been nominated. The nominated area contains ten churches and chapels and three town squares that are not described. The Parish church was built in 1685 with the tower being reconstructed in 1777. The Temple of Vera Cruz dates from 1684. The other churches date from the 18th century.

Temple of San Pantaleón Mártir in Town of Noria de San Pantaleón

The mining town in a small canyon with views of slag heaps is currently almost abandoned. The small simple temple, apparently constructed in the early 18th century, is the only nominated building, together with a small square at one side with a kiosk.

Sierra de Órganos (Mountain Range of Órganos)

This natural site is seen to have constituted the 'frontier' between the Kingdom of Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya on the route between the mines of Sombrerete and the Hacienda of San Antonio de Muleros in Durango.

Architectonic ensemble of Town of Chalchihuites

The nominated area covers four buildings: two churches, including a Franciscan temple, and two civil buildings of this former mining town which produced modest amounts of silver from the late 16th century to the end of the 18th century.

Stretch of Camino Real between Ojocaliente and Zacatecas

The segment of the road covers around one kilometre and stretches between the presidio of Palmillas and the College of Propoganda Fide of Guadalupe. The surface was of stone boulders in rammed earth and many

boulders are still visible. This construction was characteristic of the area south of Zacatecas.

Cave of Ávalos

The cave is situated approximately 30km south-east of Zacatecas. Inside the cave are rock paintings, and many of the around ninety images depict horsemen and lassoed quadrupeds.

Historic Centre of Zacatecas (World Heritage site, inscribed 1993)

The historic centre was inscribed under criteria (ii) and (iv). Founded in 1546 after the discovery of a rich silver lode, Zacatecas reached the height of its prosperity in the 16th and 17th centuries. Built on the steep slopes of a narrow valley, the town has many old buildings, both religious and civil. The cathedral, built between 1730 and 1760, dominates the centre of the town. It is notable for its harmonious design and the Baroque profusion of its façades, where European and indigenous decorative elements are found side by side. The silver mines were so extensive that by 1550 there were 34 mines in operation. None of the mines are included in the inscribed property.

9. SAN LUIS POTOSÍ

Historic centre of City of San Luis Potosí (nominated as part of The Mercury and Silver Binomial. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí nomination and in the process of evaluation)

The mining town of San Luis Potosí is located on the central plateau of Mexico, in a semi-desert region. Its foundation and development are entirely linked to the working of the silver mines. The mines are widely scattered over the area.

The nominated property follows the boundaries of the historic town, particularly for the architectural value of its main monuments presented as evidence of mining wealth. The silver mines are not included in the nominated area.

10. DURANGO

Chapel of San Antonio of Former hacienda of Juana Guerra

The chapel, main house and mill survive, alongside the Pan American highway, but only the chapel is in the nominated area. This dates from 1795 and has a handsome doorcase and facade which relates it stylistically to the Franciscan convent of Guadalupe in Zacatecas.

Temples in Town of Nombre de Dios

The nominated area consists of two temples and an adjoining road, and also three smaller chapels separated from the road. The parish church of San Pedro Apostil was rebuilt in the 19th century but keeping the plain 18th century facade. It is constructed of adobe with ashlar at the corners. The Franciscan convent in the town was not wealthy and the buildings were modest in size and

materials. What survives is its church, a roofless structure constructed around 1720. Its walls are of adobe with a stone porch. The three smaller structures are the Temple of Jesus Nazareno, the Hermitage of la Natividad and the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe – all simple 18th century buildings built of adobe.

Former hacienda of San Diego de Navacoyán and Puente del Diablo (Devil's Bridge)

What survives are the late 18th century chapel, with the coffered ceiling of the apse rising over the nave, the early 19th century main house, and a nearby bridge across the river, constructed in 1782. This twelve arched bridge was in two parts to allow it carry both a road and an aqueduct.

Historic centre of City of Durango

Durango was the civil and ecclesiastical centre of Nueva Vizcaya and the Bishopric of Durango, during the colonial period. The nominated area covers 39 blocks in the centre of the city, around the large Baroque Cathedral which was started in 1695 and completed in 1788. Its construction prompted architectural activity in the city not seen before to the north of Zacatecas. Its interior of three naves and dome, was remodelled in the 19th in a neo-classical style. Within the nominated area are also two small 18th century sanctuaries, the early 18th century Hospital of los Santos Cosme y Damian and temple of San Juan de Dihe, the 18th century parish church and two 19th century churches. The civil architecture mainly reflects the rebuilding of the late 18th century in late Baroque style and includes the House of the Conde del Valle de Suchi built in 1763, which, with its distinctive carved decoration, is considered to be the best example of civil architecture in the north of Mexico.

Temples in Town of Cuencamé and Cristo de Mapimí

This was a key mining area until the discovery of Parral in 1631. It had a revival in the 18th century but was never a wealthy place. The simple parish church was built in 1720 and has remained largely unchanged, apart from the render being removed. It has the characteristic apse that rises on the main nave. The Chapel of the Virgen de la Soledad is also a simple construction with wooden ceiling, for which no date is given; the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe was probably constructed in the early 19th century. Cuencamé is renowned for the miraculous image of the Cristo y Señor de Mapimí and the annual pilgrimage, processions and dances associated with it.

Chapel of Refugio of the former hacienda of Cuatillos

The small chapel, now with its render removed, was part of a hacienda for travellers on the road across the semi-desert of Naranga. It was constructed in 1791. There is also a treadmill in the nominated area. The hacienda, now damaged, is in the buffer zone.

Temple of Town of San José de Avino

The temple is in the centre of the small town that grew up around the mines of Avino and San Lucas. It was raised by the proprietor of the mines possibly in the early

18th century. Inside the simple building is an elaborate gilded altarpiece mentioned in 1759.

Chapel of former hacienda of La Inmaculada Concepción de Palmitos de Arriba

This agricultural hacienda was used by travellers between Durango and Parral. The hacienda is now in ruins in the proposed buffer zone. The small church was rebuilt in 1856.

Chapel of former hacienda of La Limpia Concepción de Palmitos de Abajo (Huichapa)

This agricultural hacienda was also used by travellers between Durango and Parral. The hacienda is now in ruins in the proposed buffer zone. The small church was probably built in 1760 of adobe. The coffered ceiling of the apse rises over the nave. It too has an elaborate altarpiece, although smaller than Avino.

Architectonic ensemble of Town of Nazas

This group of eight buildings, one chapel and the remaining civil, is in the centre of this small town, located next to the ford across the Nazas river. The church was rebuilt after a fire in 1820 and its facade dates from 1901. Around the church are one storey houses and a hacienda, reflecting mid 19th century prosperity and with distinctive undulating cornices.

Town of San Pedro del Gallo

The nominated area consists of the church and surrounding domestic buildings, mainly to its south. The substantial church was constructed in 1783 and the tower and probably part of the portal remodelled in 1894. The houses are a homogenous ensemble of single storey buildings.

Architectonic ensemble of Town of Mapimi

The ensemble consists of the church and five neighbouring buildings. The town was founded to exploit the nearby mines. It suffered from severe unrest from the local population and was at various times abandoned. It nevertheless had a period of prosperity from the end of the 18th century. The current church dates from 1870. The houses mainly date from the 19th century and early 20th centuries and have the local undulating cornices. The mines are not included.

Town of Indé

Twelve buildings in the centre of the town form the nominated area of which one is a church. The town was founded to work the nearby mines which produced modest prosperity in the 19th century. The church was rebuilt in 1944-5; the houses, around from a homogeneous group of similar forms. The mines are not included.

Chapel of San Mateo of former hacienda of La Zarca

The hacienda was a stopping place for travellers and also a focus for the seasonal movement of sheep from New Mexico to the south. The current buildings of chapel and hacienda in neo-classical style date from 1890.

Former hacienda of Limpia Concepción of El Canutillo

This rich hacienda was linked to the mines of Parral. The present buildings date from around 1784. The church was reconstructed in 1980. The house is now a museum.

Temple of San Miguel of Town of Villa Ocampo

The temple was constructed in 1736. Its coffered ceiling and the way the apse rises on the main nave is a practice found also in Avino, Huichapa, Nombre de Dios, Cuencamé, and Navacoyan.

Stretch of Camino Real between Nazas and San Pedro del Gallo

This 64km stretch is the longest that has been preserved. It crosses a semi-desert area between the Nazas river and the old Presidio of San Pedro del Gallo. Two southern sections converge at Puerto de la Vaquilla and from there, there is a single route to San Padre del Gallo. This section is unpaved

Mine of Ojuela

This mine was closely linked to that of Mapimi. At the height of its prosperity it had 35 shafts. In the 1890s the production was modernised and a railway and suspension bridge introduced. The bridge has recently been rebuilt. The mining town nearby is now a ghost town, having been abandoned in 1931.

Cave of Las Mulas de Molino

This cave has an extensive group of paintings with black pigment. They display hunting, cattle breeding, mule trains, scenes of war and emblematic animals. Some figures are shown wearing hats that can be dated to the end of the 16th and early 17th centuries, suggesting these as the dates for the paintings.

11. CHIHUAHUA

Town of Valle de Allende

Established in the second half of the 16th century, the town became a Franciscan convent in 1570. The town has a formal layout with streets and canals making up its urban axes. The discovery of the mine at Parral brought prosperity and a church was constructed in 1638. The current church, the Temple of the Parish of San Bartolommeo, dates from 1788 and its doorcase and other stonework are the work of master mason, Nicolás Morín, who also worked on Chihuahua Cathedral (not nominated) and that of Durango.

The nominated area includes 66 buildings – but other than the church these are not described.

The State Party indicates in the nomination dossier that, in future, the boundaries of the property could be extended inside Mexican territory to include 36 further sites (listed in the nomination dossier), secondary routes, and also routes for salt and transhumant cattle, and that a trans-frontier nomination might also be put forward to include towns on part of the route in the United States of America.

History and development

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro developed to serve the great mining initiatives in northern Mexico during the Spanish colonial period, with attendant farming, grazing and military support for mining activities. Concurrently, evangelists devoted themselves to the spiritual life of indigenous people and settlers who accompanied the mining process.

In the early stages the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was not fixed in all its points and tracts. Even in later years it was not one fixed route, but can be seen as a gradual development of routes that linked what is now Mexico City to the remoter areas of the north where the mines and new towns were created. And along these routes, since the 16th century were planned development of forts, towns and haciendas to protect the routes.

The discovery of the mines of Zacatecas in 1546 was the fundamental starting point for this process, since it was indispensable to protect people and to guarantee the safe delivery of silver, mercury and the goods that were essential to supply the needs of the mining towns.

The wealth of the American North was exploited by conquerors, clerics and traders from Spain between 16th and 19th centuries. The first stages of the route linked the mines of Zacatecas, Guanajuato and San Luis Potosí to the city of México, capital of the viceroyalty of Nueva España.

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was itself connected, through Mexico City, to stretches of the Intercontinental Camino Real reaching Spanish dominions in the Philippines, Florida, the Antilles and the American South. Mexico City was linked overland to the port of Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, to service the European trade and overland to the port of Acapulco on the Mexican Pacific coast, to link to the Asian trade.

The expansion of the route later continued north to the villa of Santa Fe of the viceroyalty of Nuevo Mexico founded in 1598, today the State of Nuevo Mexico, USA.

In 1552 the mines of Guanajuato were discovered and they quickly led to great wealth. That discovery was followed by the development of mines at San Martín, Fresnillo, Sombrerete, Chalchihuites, Nieves, Mazapil, Indé, Santa Bárbara, Parral and Pinos, all between 1556 and 1604.

Increasing quantities of silver were exported to Spain and large amounts of currency were coined at the Casa de Moneda of México, the first Mint of America, founded in 1535. All this led to a huge growth of international trade, to the monetarisation of the world economy and, in 18th century, one of the first global economic revolutions.

The operation of the Camino Real led to a wide range of architectural, urban, industrial, highway and cultural

development. The intensive silver production, exploration and growth of trade laid the foundations for the *reales de minas* (royal mining camps) and their protective frontier institutions, the *presidios* and *misiones*. New cities exerted administrative, economic, political, religious and regional control to ensure continuity for early Spanish villas, with Indian settlements as essential sources of farm-workers.

Along the route, as it extended through the north of the viceroyalty of Nueva España, landmarks were introduced to signpost the route, especially when far from population nuclei. An understanding of the natural environment and its topography was essential to build safe, controllable roads for all forms of transport, as well as infrastructure for the mercantile traffic - bridges, paving and fords. This reality configured the character of each section of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and the propagation of Catholic dogma and the Hispanic language followed the trade.

The route had several periods of prosperity in the 17th and 18th centuries. This prosperity waxed and waned as new mines were discovered, epidemics took hold or there were hostilities. Taking a broad overview, the 16th century was the foundation of all that followed and the settlements and churches built then are of great importance as setting out the way ideas from Spain were modified for the needs of the territory. The late 16th century and early 17th century were periods of great expansion and prosperity in some places when wealthy mines were discovered, and towns were founded, such as Zacatecas which grew rapidly in an unplanned way.

Other towns were set up as staging posts along the road as were forts and land allocated for Spaniards to develop haciendas – in many cases in conjunction with mining activities. The road itself remained mostly unpaved and hazardous and difficult to navigate in wet weather although a few early bridges were created. Planned mining towns followed in the late 17th century such as San Luis Potosí, and these were sited some way from the mines they supported.

The second general period of prosperity, also based on the silver mines, was the second half of the 18th century. During this period money was spent on rebuilding churches – many from adobe to stone, in providing stone bridges over rivers and streams and in enlarging haciendas.

The third general period of prosperity was after the Wars of Independence in the mid 19th century when the opening up of the route into New Mexico led to increased trade with the north, and in a variety of goods, not just silver. Again many churches were rebuilt, as were houses and civil buildings in the towns and cities.

The road began its decline as a conduit for silver with the advent of the railways.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The State Party has compared the nominated property with heritage routes now inscribed on the World Heritage List, namely the Routes of Santiago de Compostela (both Spain, listed in 1993, and France, listed in 1998); the Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina, 2003); the Incense Route – Desert Cities in the Negev (Israel, 2005) and Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range (Japan, 2004). It concludes that each offers evidence of the vocation from which it originated and represents specific functions such as pilgrimage. Relatively, in the mercantile, rural and mining fields, the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is seen as the most important enterprise of the Spanish Crown and developed urbanisation to the greatest extent then known on the American continent.

ICOMOS notes that what has not been offered are comparisons with other colonial cultural and trade routes of European powers, such as Portugal, Holland or Britain – not yet inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, ICOMOS recognises that no other European colonial power developed such an extent and complex network of communication routes as Spain did in the Americas between the 15th and 19th centuries. No comparisons are provided with empires such as Rome or the Ottoman Empire, both of which developed vast networks of routes, though they are part of quite different geo cultural contexts.

Whilst recognising the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as one of the most important portions of the colonial routes in the Americas, ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis could be strengthened in order to establish the importance of the property in the framework of the Spanish Royal Intercontinental Route.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis could be strengthened to better explain the importance of the property in the framework of the Spanish Royal Intercontinental Route.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Royal Inland Road) is one of the most important cultural routes in history, as a branch of the dynamic Spanish Intercontinental Camino Real. Its scale is extraordinary, extending over 2,600 km, and it lasted for over three hundred years, creating direct links between several migratory and indigenous cultures (principally the Spanish and the Amerindian).

- While the initial objective of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the discovery of mines in the American territories of Nueva España, Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya, it led to a general penetration of the territory and construction of essential infrastructure. The exploitation of silver, led to the foundation of agricultural estates, towns of Indians, garrisons for the protection of the roads and religious missions. In addition large numbers of cattle were domesticated, and settlements of muleteers developed. Master builders and architects also spread ideas and news, offering their skills to communities living on the prosperity of the mining towns.
- The cultural expression of the Peninsular, of creoles, mestizos and of pure Indians is evident along the Route. The rock art created by semi-nomadic Indians provides evidence of the Europeans' occupation of the northern territory and illustrates the dynamics of the Camino Real.
- The use of the Camino was intense and is evidenced by fort houses, garrisons, missions, chapels, cathedrals, convents, schools, hospitals, farm estates, roadside inns, taverns, towns, villas, cities, royal mining camps, strongholds and houses, bridges, fords, vestiges of the road and indigenous rock art of the vice-regal time. The importance of the Cultural Route is understood through the itemized reading of these substantial and tangible elements.
- The Camino Real is a network of cultural, social, ethnic, scientific, economic, biological, architectural and artistic experiences. The communities along it, within Mexico and beyond its frontier, have material and spiritual values that have been preserved as a rich and varied inheritance responsible for promoting development and extending bridges to other cultures without diminishing their own. Language, traditions, built heritage, libraries, archives, painting, music, architecture, landscaping, the fusion of cultures all suggest the civilizing process of the Camino.

ICOMOS considers that the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was an extraordinary phenomena as a communication channel that was developed comparatively quickly from 1520 to open up the mines and then to facilitate the safe transport of silver between the new mines of the north, and what is now Mexico City and then beyond to the coast and onwards to Spain, and for the safe transport of mercury – an essential component of the amalgamation process, from Spain to the mines. Silver was the driving force that generated the wealth and commitment of the Spanish Government and the will of colonists to 'open up' the northern territory for mining, to establish the necessary towns for workers, and to build the forts, haciendas, and churches. The church came behind as a supporter of the overall process.

The impact of the road was enormous in terms of social tensions as well as ultimately social integration between the many people that came to be involved in the economic development – Spaniards, free mulattos,

Indians of repartimiento, free Indians of the centre of the viceroyalty (Mexicans, Tarascos, etc.), black slaves and mulattos – as described in the nomination dossier.

The development went far beyond mining to encompass cattle ranching, agriculture, architecture and other arts – all largely underpinned by the demand for silver in Spain.

ICOMOS notes that the justification provided is for the route itself rather than for the collection of sites that have been nominated. On the basis of paragraph 25 (iv) of Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the identification of a cultural route is based on a collection of tangible elements, testimony of the significance of the route itself. Whilst recognising that the nominated sites express the importance of the route as a whole, ICOMOS considers that the links between these sites and the route could be stressed in order to better illustrate the outstanding universal value of the property.

At the same time, in the nomination dossier it is stated that in future sites will be nominated that reflect not just silver mining but also the ancillary salt and cattle routes. ICOMOS does not consider that all the manifestations of all the secondary trades related to the silver trade will necessarily be able to demonstrate their links to the Outstanding Universal Value of the primary silver route.

What is also not clear from the justification is how the five existing World Heritage sites relate to this current nomination. In some cases the justification for their inscription does not relate to their position along the road and includes areas that reflect other quite separate periods of history. Any association between existing World Heritage sites needs to be set out more clearly to show whether the whole of the inscribed area is being considered and how they relate to the road. The link between some of these properties and the nominated *Mercury and Silver Binomial. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí* serial property also needs to be considered, as in that nomination it is suggested that in the future the property could be extended to include both Zacatecas and Guanajuato.

ICOMOS recognises the Outstanding Universal Value of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro but considers that a stronger justification of the selection of sites that make up the serial nomination is needed.

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

Integrity needs to be considered in terms of how individual components relate to the justification of Outstanding Universal Value and of whether any are at risk.

All the components are nominated as one property in which the components together are seen to be necessary for the justification of the Outstanding Universal Value. The Outstanding Universal Value has

been justified more in terms of the importance and influence of the overall route, rather than in terms of the way the series of nominated assets conveys the influence of the route.

ICOMOS recognises that the sites that make up the serial nomination illustrate the variety of functions and urban and architectural typologies linked to the route. As set out before, further justification on the pertinence of the selection of sites is needed in order to better establish the conditions of Integrity of the property.

In relation of the wholeness and intactness of the selected sites, ICOMOS considers that further justification of the definition of the boundaries of the nominated sites and buffer zones is needed.

Authenticity

ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the individual nominated properties along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro relates to the way they manifest attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value. This is not clearly set out in the nomination in terms of how the sites might be seen as essential attributes and how they contribute in a substantial way the Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity could be justified on the basis of Paragraph 25 (iv) of Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines* but further justification on the selection of the nominated sites and of their boundaries is needed.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the first terrestrial route traced by the Spaniards in the "Indies", today the Americas. With its mercantile objective, it became one of the most important routes to bond the Spanish Crown with its northern domains, rich in gold and silver. Along it lies tangible evidence of work in mines and haciendas, merchant trading, military, evangelism and the administrative structure designed to control the immense Indian territory from the Spanish metropolitan hub, but adapted, of necessity, to the local environment, materials and technical practices.

There is intangible evidence too of the interchange - in language, music, the arts, crafts, customs and religious practices. The metropolis bonded with the broad territories of the viceroyalty of Nueva España, through

the exchange of products, including biological diversity not present in America and Europe at the time and the “tornaviaje” of ships loaded with silver, ideas, techniques and cultural objects. This interchange occurred through the Spanish Camino Real Intercontinental (of which the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was a significant branch), exchanging native customs of four continents, taken back and forth by the endless traffic of people devoted to trade, enterprise, religion, politics, militia and construction.

ICOMOS considers that the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro has the capacity to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over three centuries, within the cultural area of North America, on developments in architecture, engineering technology, town planning and more, such as religious, military, agricultural and farming practices. However what needs to be more clearly defined is the precise way each of the nominated serial sites may be seen as attributes that convey the interchange.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion could be justified if a stronger justification on how the nominated sites that make up the series contribute to the outstanding universal value of the property be provided.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Cultural Route of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is one of the most important sections of the Spanish Intercontinental Camino Real, as evidenced by convents, colleges, missions, chapels, parish churches, sanctuaries, cathedrals, hospitals, haciendas, presidios and signorial houses, built along the network of roads.

Initially, construction systems and styles that evolved on the Iberian Peninsula were repeated in Nueva España. However, after a short period of adaptation, an amalgamation of European and native traditions merged into a new and unique architectural expression. In each region of northern México, civil, religious and industrial architecture reflects its relationship with its geographical context and with stylistic canons of the cities of the centre-south and the Spanish metropolis.

Peninsular and Creole Spaniards, as well as mestizos, needed to adapt to the environment, building roads that best fitted the location. Infrastructure, in the form of stone paving, bridges, fords, cuttings and landmarks, along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro eased the journey for the traffic of droves of mules or convoys of oxen.

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro represents a deliberate, well structured communication system that intertwined cultural bonds and enabled the transfer of

architectural aspects of the Baroque, neoclassicism and eclecticism. The influence of creative architects extended to the northernmost towns.

ICOMOS considers that the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro has the capacity to be seen as an outstanding example of a cultural route, which includes along its length outstanding examples of buildings, architectural and technological ensembles that illustrate a significant stage in human history - the Spanish colonial exploitation of silver and the transformation of associated rural and urban landscapes. However what needs to be more clearly defined is the precise way each of the nominated serial sites may be seen as attributes that contribute to conveying the significance of the route as a reflection of a period in history.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion could be justified if a stronger justification is provided as to how the nominated sites that make up the series contribute to the outstanding universal value of the property

ICOMOS considers that the criteria and Outstanding Universal Value of the property could be better demonstrated by providing a stronger justification of how the nominated sites contribute to the outstanding universal value of the property as a whole.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

ICOMOS is satisfied that the identification by the State Party of factors affecting each of the ten States along the 1,400km length of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and each of the specifically nominated properties is accurate. The evidence provided in the nomination dossier is detailed and clear. Certain broad issues arise and are summarised under the headings below.

Development pressures

Population decline in the northernmost states has led to stagnation and neglect, while in other states there are sharp rises of population in urban areas, as in the City of Durango, placing heavy pressure on fragile historic areas and introducing new activities into historic landscapes.

The most distorting factor for the route itself is the overlapping of new roads over remnant stretches and bridges and the lack of protection along its length, for example, on the stretch of road between the bridge of La Colmena and the Former Hacienda of La Cañada and that of Lagos de Moreno, which has intense traffic.

Tourism pressures

While in many parts of the extensive nominated property tourism numbers are small, visitation may affect some more popular archaeological sites.

Environmental pressures

In some areas, sudden changes in water and weather patterns have the potential to cause abrupt flooding. Arid areas are also vulnerable to wildfire.

Natural disasters

The route is so extensive that it travels through both earthquake and flood prone zones.

Impact of climate change

The route is extensive and the impacts will vary for the distinct bio-regions it crosses. An intensification of environmental pressures and natural disasters is predicted.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are those of inadequately controlled development, including the overlapping of new roads over historic remnants of the route, the disturbance of landscape settings and physical neglect on privately owned property.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

Since the property is nominated on the basis of a collection of tangible components, no general buffer has been created for the continuum of the route, but rather separate buffer zones are described and mapped for the series of nominated properties by which the property is described.

With the exception of the Protective Town of San Miguel and Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno Atotonilco, the properties in the series, that are already inscribed World Heritage sites, are identified by nominated areas alone, namely the Historic Centre of City of México; the Historic Centre of City of Querétaro; the Historic Centre of City of Guanajuato and adjacent mines and the Historic Centre of the City of Zacatecas.

ICOMOS considers that the buffer zones identified for most of the properties are both appropriate and adequate. ICOMOS has noted above that the boundaries separate hacienda churches from haciendas and in places are difficult to 'read' in an urban context, with small churches being separated from their urban context.

Many of the sites of the nomination are dependent on landscape structures far beyond the buffer zone. Future impacts to those larger landscapes may adversely impact the nominated sites over time. There is a need to define the settings of the sites beyond the buffer zones, including views, and to consider appropriate protection.

ICOMOS considers that generally the boundaries of the nominated areas and buffer zones are adequate. Nevertheless, ICOMOS invites the State Party to consider the definition and protection of settings, especially in the case of landscape related to the nominated sites.

Ownership

Ownership of the sixty nominated properties along the route varies from Federal to State to Municipal to private. The small State of Hidalgo provides an example of that distribution. It has two properties nominated within it:

- In the former Convent of San Francisco in Tepeji del Río and bridge, both the Convent of San Francisco and the bridge are in Federal ownership.
- For the Stretch of Camino Real between bridge of La Colmena and former hacienda of La Cañada, the bridges of Colmena, Tautla, La Cañada and the Temple of Santiago de Tautla are in Federal ownership; the Estate of Cañada is privately owned and the Town Square (in front of the temple of Santiago) is in Municipal ownership.

Protection

Legal Protection

Articles under the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico (specifically 25, 26, 27, 73 and 115) set out the legal grounds and responsibilities for urban planning and development across the three levels of government concerned – federal, state and municipal. These responsibilities include heritage protection. Of relevance are three general laws that support this legal framework – the General Law of Human Settlements; the General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection and the General Population Law.

Further, also at federal level, a new law is proposed for the Protection of Cultural Routes, enabling the declaration of cultural routes such as the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. ICOMOS notes that, relevantly, the United States of America, in 2000, under Public Law 106-307 of the 106th Congress enacted an 'Act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail'.

The states, through which the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro runs, have independent laws on human settlements, urban development, territorial demarcation and tourism. They commonly include provisions for heritage conservation.

There are several notable properties, located in nominated areas, that are privately owned and in jurisdictions where no municipal preservation ordinance exists.

The nomination dossier is very specific about noting the ownership of each site and identifying the protections offered by federal, state or municipal laws. In instances where there is no protection measure available, the dossier makes specific references for possible protection measures or suggests alternative options for consideration. If the policies or recommended actions of the nomination dossier are undertaken as noted, the nomination sites should be sufficiently protected. An example is the Mine of Ojuela that is privately owned and the nomination dossier notes that the site is “*lacking of measures*” for local protection. The nomination dossier recommends the Municipality of Mapimi work with the State Institute of Urban Development and the State Institute of Culture to develop necessary protection measures.

In terms of archaeology, the sites and particularly the road itself are less well protected. Archaeological investigations of the cultural route, in general, appears to be limited due to laws and policies that favor pre-Hispanic sites and more traditionally acknowledged sites such as churches, haciendas, etc. Several parts of the route appear to have been re-surfaced or re-aligned without any archaeological investigation.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party give consideration to review laws and policies regarding archaeological investigations to ensure that the maximum opportunities to learn about the conveyance of people and ideas over the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro are supported by archaeological investigation.

Traditional Protection

The community and authorities acknowledge the value of traditional protection, but its application is uncertain.

Effectiveness of protection measures

There is to date no specific protection for the overall route but, for the many components that have protection that is both appropriate and effective. The documentation provided by the State Party on protective measures for the nominated properties within each of the ten states includes a column headed ‘Suggestions’. ICOMOS considers that those suggestions are well-founded and require action. In addition, no further overlapping of new routes on existing stretches and bridges of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro should be permitted, with controls over both vehicular traffic and the uses of immediately adjoining buildings.

ICOMOS considers that considerable legal protection is in place and that the protective measures for the protected sites are generally adequate. ICOMOS invites the State Party to continue its work of extending legal protection and protective measures to all the nominated sites.

Conservation

Inventories, recording, research

The centres of National Anthropology and History Institute (CINAH) throughout the route have different projects on its tangible and intangible heritage. Among them are:

- CINAH Aguascalientes, a historical essay
- CINAH Chihuahua, Catalogue of Documentary Sources
- CINAH Durango, Tangible Heritage
- CINAH Guanajuato, Terms of Reference for the Project of the Camino Real
- CINAH Zacatecas, Inter-relation of the ornamental and iconographic typologies of the religious architecture in the Camino Real.

Each state has an historical monument catalogue, which includes an evaluation of the state of conservation of the property and the construction date and is regularly updated.

Present state of conservation

ICOMOS considers that the conservation condition of most of the 60 nominated properties is generally good. It is satisfied that the detailed comments by the State Party on the very varied conditions in each of the ten States and on the state of conservation for each identified property are accurate.

Certain broad issues arise – for instance, the problem of population decline and consequent neglect of maintenance for built structures prevails in the northernmost states. Also, the former haciendas are at risk of suffering considerable damage, with annexed constructions in bad condition and, as private property, have insufficient protection. Some bridges need repairs to parapets.

There are also problems with the conservation of the historic surfaces of the road in some places, such as near Zacatecas. Small trees are growing in the historic roadbed. Over time their roots will damage and destroy the historic pavement stones. ICOMOS recommends that conservation guidance is provided from representatives of INAH to ensure that all actions and activities undertaken best preserve and protect the historic roadbed.

Active Conservation measures

Examples are several professional rehabilitation and restoration projects at different stages of implementation, such as the conversion of the former hacienda Pabellon de Hidalgo into the Museo de la Insurgencia or the restoration of the cloister of the former college of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Maintenance

Maintenance is generally adequate on the series of properties selected to represent the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.

Effectiveness of conservation measures

Conservation measures are generally adequate on the series of properties selected to represent the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro that are in one of the three levels of government ownership. Some privately owned properties lack effective conservation measures.

In its stretches through open countryside, the route is affected by changes to its natural landscape, which acts as context and visual guide and displays the different geographical characteristics of the route. Although preventive measures have been stipulated, road stretches and bridges continue to be the least protected components of the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that conservation conditions and measures are generally satisfactory, with no urgent measures needed.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH) has four substantive responsibilities: protection and conservation of cultural heritage; cultural investigation; promotion of cultural heritage and professional formation.

The nomination dossier sets out the management arrangements for each of the ten States concerned as well as describing the factors affecting each specifically identified property.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The Project for a Management Plan for the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro has been envisaged by accord since 1994 and is supported by INAH. It has led to various activities - symposia and research on regional bases, such as the region of southern Zacatecas with Aguascalientes or the region of North Durango with

South Chihuahua. In 2009, a further workshop was held in the City of Durango. Commitments have been at the three levels of government to establish a Trust for monitoring and financial management purposes, to be chaired by a state government representative.

Many sites are not visitor ready (lacking paved roads, toilets and basic site identification) and others (caves of rock art and some religious sites) are sensitive or fragile. ICOMOS recommends that the State Party develop a Comprehensive Visitor Management Plan addressing the marketing and presentation of CRTA sites, visitor readiness and carrying capacity of sites, authorized centers for the dissemination of visitor information for the cultural route, and a comprehensive plan for site interpretation.

Risk preparedness

No formal specific risk preparedness measures are identified.

Involvement of the local communities

The nomination dossier stresses the link between the settlements along the route and the expressions of local communities and sees cultural tourism that might flow from inscription as a benefit to local communities.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

Because of the extreme geographic and socio-economic diversity along the length of the route, human and financial resources available to the 60 nominated properties are equally diverse. ICOMOS supports strategies outlined in the nomination dossier to overcome shortages. Mexico is well served on human resources in terms of academic, intellectual and professional expertise in the fields required to competently administer the components.

Effectiveness of current management

ICOMOS considers that, for such a complex serial property, the management systems for the majority of its nominated components are adequate. ICOMOS also considers that the overview role of the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH) is appropriate. In the supplementary material provided, the State Party has indicated that the National Conference of Governors has committed to support the project of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro through the formation of a coordinating work group.

There is as yet, however, no overall coordinated formal management formal framework for all components.

ICOMOS considers that management for the individual nominated components is adequate. ICOMOS recommends completion and implementation of the Management Plan for the Camino Real de Tierra

Adentro project and the establishment of an overall coordinated management mechanism, as requested by paragraph 114 of the *Operational guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. ICOMOS also recommends that a Comprehensive Visitor Management Plan be developed.

6. MONITORING

The State Party identifies three general criteria for elaborating the key indicators:

- The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro has been a seed for social, economic and cultural innovation, therefore inhabitants and government must take charge of its protection, conservation, promotion and management as a whole;
- The material wealth of its 60 sites is considered an element to promote sustainable regional development;
- Communities are to express the valuable immaterial diversity, the legacy of cultural exchange, in order to reaffirm local and regional identities.

ICOMOS considers that the key indicators presented by the State Party are appropriate and effective monitoring periods have been defined. They are grouped under the headings of Territorial; Urban; Architectural; Environmental Landscaping; Social; Cultural and Historic.

At Federal government level the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) is responsible for monitoring, conservation and restoration of cultural property through its Directorate of World Heritage and its State level INAH centres, which coordinate monuments, archaeology, anthropology, permits and research on cultural heritage.

Each state has an historical monument catalogue, which includes an evaluation of the state of conservation of the property and the construction date.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring processes put in place are appropriate.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS considers that what underpins the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the international silver trade and its association with the trade in mercury. Furthermore this trade was linked closely to deliberate planned colonisation of the northern territories.

The outcome of this highly profitable process was the development of mines, and the construction of the road and bridges, the establishment of multi-ethnic towns, with elaborate buildings that reflect a fusion of Spanish

and local decoration, an agricultural revolution in the countryside centred on large hacienda estates with churches, many under the control of the church, the irrigation of land and the improvement of pasture, and the movement of peoples up and down the road, facilitated to a great degree initially by settlements of muleteers, all of which led to the development of a distinctive culture along the route. Ultimately the wealth of silver led to massive economic development in Spain and other parts of Europe and a period of great economic inflation.

The time span, during which the route was built distinctively on the wealth of silver mining, spans from the 1520s to the time when the Spanish Empire ceased to have the monopoly of the silver trade in Mexico and Peru and when other mines in North America were developed.

In terms of selecting properties for nomination either singly or in groups, ICOMOS considers that a clearer rationale needs to be set out for how each site can be said to contribute necessary attributes of Outstanding Universal Value in a substantial way.

Some of the sites proposed in the current nomination would seem to have the capacity to contribute to a more clearly defined route, as they contribute a specific attribute - such as the remains of the route; the five arched 16th century bridge of La Quemada. For other sites, the rationale for their selection is not quite clear - such as how the 18th century bridges have been chosen and whether all are needed, how one building of a former hacienda can be seen to reflect the importance of the hacienda process. It would be helpful to set out the range of attributes that are considered necessary to convey Outstanding Universal Value as a basis for deciding which sites might be seen as exemplars.

How the nominated property relates to the five existing World Heritage sites is not entirely clear. The Statements of OUV for the individually inscribed properties will not be the same as for the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro if it is inscribed. ICOMOS therefore considers that these properties need to remain separate from any serial inscription of the cultural route, although clearly linked to its development.

ICOMOS also considers that there needs to be clarity over links between the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, as a Silver Route, and *The Mercury and Silver Binomial*, *Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí* nomination that is related to other nominated sites.

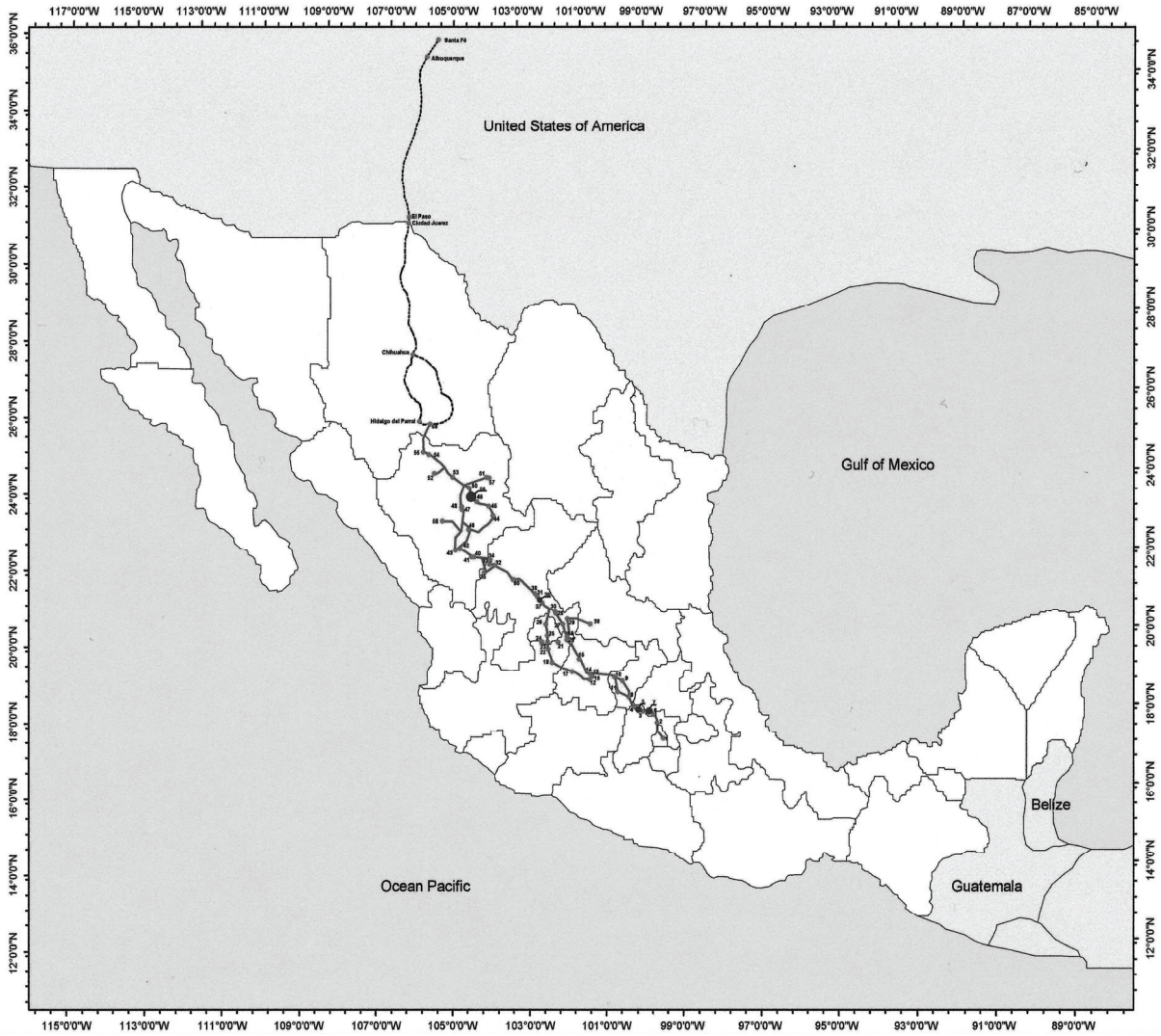
Extensive serial nominations such as this one cannot in ICOMOS's view be open ended and have to be put forward on the basis of a tightly chosen selection that can be justified on the basis of an ensemble of sufficient attributes rather than an extensive catalogue of attributes where the end is not defined. There is therefore a need for a more structured approach that clearly sets out how and why a combination of sites

might reflect the distinctive significance of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and how these sites have been chosen to be exemplars of certain manifestations of the route.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the nomination of Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Mexico, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Strengthen the comparative analysis in order to establish the importance of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in the framework of the Spanish Royal Intercontinental Route;
- Further justify the selection of sites that make up the nomination to clearly define how they contribute to conveying the outstanding universal value of the property;
- Define a methodology for choosing sites that might be seen as exemplars of certain facets of the manifestations of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro;
- Re-consider the inclusion of the five already inscribed World Heritage properties;
- Clarify the relationship between the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and *The Mercury and Silver Binomial. Almadén, Idrija and San Luis Potosí* nomination;
- Define and protect the setting of the nominated sites beyond the proposed buffer zones when related to landscape structures;
- Put in place legal protection for all the individual sites;
- Establish an overall coordinated management system that encompasses all the sites, as required by paragraph 114 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.



Map showing the location of the nominated properties



Zacatecas, historic ensemble of City of Sombrerete



Historic Centre of Mexico City, church and square of San Agustín



Aguascalientes, former hacienda of Pabellón de Hidalgo



Querétaro, former hacienda of Chichimequillas



Hidalgo, stretch of Camino Real between bridge of La Colmena and former hacienda of La Cañada



Guanajuato, bridge of La Quemada

São Francisco Square in São Cristóvão (Brazil) No 1272

Official name as proposed by the State Party:

The São Francisco Square in São Cristóvão Town

Location:

São Cristóvão
State of Sergipe

Brief description:

São Francisco Square, in the town of São Cristóvão, is a quadrilateral open space surrounded by substantial early buildings such as São Francisco Church and convent, the Church and Santa Casa da Misericórdia, the Provincial Palace and the associated houses of different historical periods surrounding the Square. This monumental ensemble, together with the surrounding 18th and 19th century houses, creates an urban landscape which reflects the history of the town since its origin. The Franciscan complex is an example of the typical architecture of the religious order developed in north-eastern Brazil.

Category of property:

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 6 September 1996
(as Franciscan Convents of Northeast Brazil)

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre:

21 June 2006
1st February 2010

Background: This is a referred back nomination (32 COM, Quebec, 2008).

A first nomination dossier was examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec, 2008). At the time, ICOMOS recommended to defer the examination of the nomination.

The World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision (Decision: 32 COM 8B.42):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-08/32.COM/8B and WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Refers the nomination of São Francisco Square in São Cristóvão, Brazil, back to the State Party in order to allow it:

a) to reorient the comparative analysis in order to more convincingly demonstrate similarities and differences with other properties in Brazil and in the wider region;

b) reconsider the proposed boundaries of the nominated property in order to include other sectors of the São Cristóvão historic centre that might contribute to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property. In determining the boundaries of the nominated area and the buffer zone, it is recommended that the State Party take into account the geographical, historical, urban, architectural and cultural factors that have shaped the structure and the urban landscape of São Cristóvão over the centuries. This could enable a more accurate identification of cultural values and define boundaries of areas that can clearly express them.

3. Recommends, in order to enhance the conservation and management of the property, that:

a) a complete statement on the Integrity and Authenticity should be drafted for this property, based on the values of the property and the various requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines and the Nara Document on Authenticity;

b) more specific protection measures should be approved and implemented at the local level, including the approval of the Urban Planning Code;

c) the State Party should continue to implement and improve conservation programmes to ensure the long term conservation of the property;

d) the management structure and procedures should be improved by the development and implementation of a management plan for the nominated property;

e) the management system of the property should be extended to include a better articulation between the different levels of government, greater participation of community associations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of plans, visitor management, and the increase, diversification and improved skills of the staff involved in the management of the property;

f) the State Party should define and implement a monitoring system for the long term state of conservation for the property, including key indicators and designation of a monitoring organization.

On February 2010 the State Party submitted a revised nomination that includes:

- A revised statement of integrity and authenticity although this has not separated the two concepts.
- Extracts from various federal laws and a draft code for urban planning.

The boundaries of the nominated area have not been reconsidered. The nominated area on the plan is the same as nominated in 2006, although the nominated area is said to be 3,0ha compared to 62,0ha in 2006. The buffer zone is the same size and the areas agree.

Consultations: ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages.

Literature consulted (selection):

Barros, Ana Paula, de Holanda, Frederico and Medeiros, Valério, *The Myth of the Intention: The Portuguese Urban Heritage Overseas* in Koch, Daniel, Marcus, Lars and Steen, Jesper (eds) *Proceedings of the 7th International Space Syntax Symposium*, 2009.

Bazin G., *L'Architecture religieuse Baroque au Brésil*, Paris, 1956.

De Solano F. (Coordinator), *Estudios sobre la ciudad iberoamericana*, Madrid, 1983.

Gutiérrez R., *Arquitectura y Urbanismo en Iberoamérica*, Madrid, 1983.

Kubler G. and Soria M., *Art and architecture in Spain, Portugal and their American dominions*, Baltimore, 1959.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 18-25 August 2007

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 18 January 2008 on the following issues:

- Further justification on the choice of São Francisco Square as emblematic of an historical centre, and further explanation of the reasons which distinguish this square from other ensembles in Brazilian and Latin American historic cities;
- Further demonstration of the specificities of the Franciscan Convent in comparison with other Franciscan complexes in North-Eastern Brazil and the wider Region;
- The time frame for the approval and implementation of the Urban Planning Code for São Cristóvão.

On 22 February 2008 ICOMOS received additional information provided by the State Party on the requested issues.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 17 March 2010

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The town of São Cristóvão is located 21 km from Aracajú, the capital city of the State of Sergipe. The town is located on the top of a hill next to the Paramopama River. The layout and form of the overall city is seen to reflect a variation to the general rules for the layout of colonial cities laid down by the Spanish King Filipe's Ordinances, in that it has responded to topography and local politico-military interests.

The upper town allows surveillance and protection and is where the headquarters of the civil and religious powers are established; while the lower town houses the harbour, the factories and the low income population.

What has been nominated is São Francisco Square, the main open space in the upper town. It extends to 51metres by 73 metres and is paved with stone slabs. The square is a quadrilateral open space surrounded by the monumental São Francisco Church and convent, the Santa Casa de Misericórdia Church and the Provincial Palace. The architectural ensemble is completed by five houses of the 18th and 19th centuries around the Square.

The nominated property thus consists of the following structures:

- São Francisco Church and convent - Church and Santa Casa da Misericórdia
- The Provincial Palace

These are considered separately:

São Francisco Church and convent

The Franciscan Convent ensemble defines the northern side of the Square, The wide square in front of the convent is considered to be a distinctive feature, not only in São Cristóvão but also taking into account other Franciscan convents and other squares. The monastery was authorised in 1657 and begun in 1693. The cloister has six arcades on each side. It originally housed the Treasury. After being abandoned for many years, it was almost totally reconstructed in 1902. The elements that make up the Franciscan Convent are organised on different levels. The church with the narthex is projected forward in relation to the convent, while the *Ordem Terceira* church constitutes the most recessed built element. This plan sequence contributes to the aesthetic appeal of São Francisco Square. A cross stands in the centre of the Square, its design characteristic of the Franciscan Order.

Church and Santa Casa da Misericórdia

The Church and Santa Casa da Misericórdia form the eastern perimeter and date to the founding of the town. However the current church with a simple facade and

Baroque ornamentation was constructed in the 18th century.

The Provincial Palace

The two-storey building of the former Provincial Palace (now the State Historic Museum) defines the southern boundary of the Square. The precise date of the original building of the palace is not known. It was however reconstructed in 1826, after the independence of Brazil. Until the capital was moved in 1855, it served as the residence for the President of the Province of Sergipe. The two-storey building of the Provincial Assembly completes one of the corners of the Square.

A group of five houses constitutes the fourth side of the square, to the west.

The nominated property and the buffer zone together correspond to the historic centre of São Cristóvão, which is protected by the National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN).

History and Development

São Cristóvão was the old capital of Sergipe del Rey; it demonstrates the occupation processes of the region and the development of towns founded during the reign of King Philip II, during the 60-year period when Portugal was under Spanish domain.

The modes of territorial occupation and settlement used by Spain and Portugal in their American colonies between the 15th and the 17th centuries were distinctive. Portugal established a maritime trade network, and was able to occupy coastal territories in Africa and Asia prior to establishing trade and colonial settlements in Brazil. Portugal occupied the Brazilian coast, founding port cities as connection points with Portugal and its other colonies. The urban plans of these settlements respected the topography by adapting the layouts to local conditions.

The history of São Cristóvão is related to the colonisation of Sergipe, when due to the strong resistance of the indigenous people, it was vital to establish a constant communication between Salvador and Olinda, the two most important urban centres of the colony. It was also crucial to secure free access to the main rivers, often blocked by French smugglers.

In order to strengthen the colony in its conflicts with the Brazilian Amerindians and the French smugglers, Cristóvão de Barros founded the city of São Cristóvão, on the isthmus formed by the Poxim River, in the present-day Aracajú region. The land was granted to him by King Philip II with the expectation that it would be divided among the colonists, encouraging the settlement process. The town was moved in 1594-95 and again in 1607 to its present location.

São Cristóvão became the capital of Sergipe, the administrative and commercial centre between Salvador and Recife, and the departure point for the colonisation of the hinterland up to the mid-19th century.

In 1855, the state capital was transferred to the city of Aracajú. São Cristóvão, with its churches, convents and secular mansions, remains as a testimony to the past of Sergipe and Brazil.

In 1938, São Cristóvão was declared an Historic Monument by the State government. Between 1941 and 1962 many monuments were individually protected, and in 1967 the Architectural, Urban and Landscape Ensemble of São Cristóvão was registered at the federal level in the Archaeological, Ethnographic and Landscape Protection Book.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative Analysis

The analysis compares the Franciscan buildings to those of other inscribed properties: in Quito (Ecuador, historic centre inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978), Lima (Peru, Franciscan complex inscribed on the World Heritage in 1988, and the historic centre inscribed in 1991), Santiago (Chile) and Havana (Cuba, historic centre inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982). These architectural ensembles were based on the Spanish urban design, and all have their main facades open to atriums or square (such as Quito) depending on their specific relationship with the urban form. These open spaces are in proportion to the size of the buildings. They therefore have similarities to São Cristóvão.

The Spanish towns reflected well defined chequered plans with defined uses, accesses and spaces as set out in the Philippine code. Portuguese planning by contrast was more responsive to topography but overall the Portuguese authorities had fewer resources. During the brief unification of the two crowns there was no complete fulfilment of the order in Brazil. São Cristóvão is an example of the partial process.

Franciscan urban ensembles in Brazil are similar to the Spanish as a consequence of the Order's organization and rules. Apart from some specific architectural features, the main difference lies in the urban context. Since the town of São Cristóvão was founded during the period when Spain and Portugal were ruled by the same Crown, Spanish codes for urban patterns were employed, especially the use of a regular grid. In contrast, Portuguese towns were usually founded on the basis of less rigorous plans, more in accordance with topography. In this sense, São Francisco Square in São Cristóvão is considered by the State Party a unique structure if compared with other Brazilian colonial

squares, since it is related to the Spanish urban solutions.

The comparative analysis also includes an analysis of religious ensembles constructed by the Franciscan Order and located in north-eastern Brazil: Joao Pessoa, Igarassu, Olinda, Recife, Irojuca, Marechal Deodoro, Penedo, Praca Sao Francisco, Cachoeira, Sao Francisco do Conde, Salvador and Cairu.

The comparative material is summarised in a table according to the following attributes: context within the urban space, construction and design elements, characteristics of the façades, interior ornamentation, single tower and position in the façade, and prominent kitchen chimney.

What emerges from the detailed analysis – presented in tabular form – is that although some of the squares and atria in front of the churches have been compromised, quite a number survive. São Cristóvão's square is not the most distinctive or the grandest but can be said to be in complete harmony with uniformity in design.

What are also highlighted are the characteristics that the group has in common and the differences between the group as a whole and monasteries in other places such as Spain, Portugal.

The overall group of monasteries in north-eastern Brazil, represent unprecedented solutions in terms of the way the convents and the urban spaces in front of them 'interfered' with the regular urban grain, and also in terms of the size of the buildings and their grand cloisters. The oldest complex at Olinda served as a model for those that followed. In only a few, such as Recife, Olinda and Joao Pessoa, were the churches richly ornamented, most were lacking in decorative elements. The facades of the churches have a gallery entrance which developed from those of Ipojuca (Pernambuco) and Cairu (Bahia) to the most significant, synthesis of this complex, that of Joao Pessoa (Paraiba). The groups of monasteries came to be seen collectively as the Franciscan School of the north-east.

ICOMOS considers that the analysis is not sufficient to demonstrate the uniqueness or exceptionality of the São Cristóvão Franciscan complex in relation to other similar structures located in north-eastern Brazil. The comparison table provided by the State Party shows that there are not substantial differences between the ensemble in São Cristóvão and other similar complexes, and indeed the overall group can be seen to have value.

With regard to São Francisco Square, its adjacent monumental buildings and accompanying domestic architecture, ICOMOS agrees that it is exceptional in plan if compared with other Brazilian colonial towns, where more irregular urban layouts prevail. However, this feature does not constitute a sufficient argument demonstrating the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property, since it is a common situation in Spanish

American colonial historic centres, several of which are already inscribed on the World Heritage List. And in terms of the individual buildings, these too cannot be said to be exceptional either in terms of their survival, design or function.

While recognising the importance of the property as a coherent and harmonious ensemble at the national level, ICOMOS does not consider that a case has been made either in terms of demonstrating a gap in the already inscribed list, or in terms of demonstrating that no other ensembles of squares and buildings exist that have comparable assets, that would allow consideration of this property on the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS does not consider that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- It is an example of a homogeneous urban ensemble made up of public and private buildings that preserve the forms and proportions of the colonial period;
- It represents a unique moment in the history of Brazil by preserving the layout created at the time Portugal and Spain were under the same crown;
- The layout of the square reflects Spanish laws and King Philip's ordinances in a Brazilian context;
- The architecture expresses the cultural and social structures, and the importance of the religious life during the different historical periods of the development of the town, including the Portuguese colonization of the region;
- The architectural design and styles characterize the culture and society of the region at the time of its colonization;
- The Square reflects the exceptional vitality of an open public space, complete in its urban configuration, illustrating its history over four centuries and adapted to its uses as a place for the cultural manifestations and celebrations of the daily routines and evolution of that society.

ICOMOS considers that all of the above points describe the square and set out what the nominated space is and how it reflects its history, social development and use. What however is not captured is why the property is considered to be outstanding in global terms rather than in Brazil or in a regional context, in terms of exceptionality, or the influence it might have had.

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

The nomination dossier includes a paragraph under the heading "Integrity and/or Authenticity". Although an amplified paragraph has been provided in the re-submitted nomination dossier, the text deals more with cultural significance rather than integrity and authenticity. It is said that the urban layout preserves the city's integrity and the permanence of its perimeter and its facades give it distinction.

ICOMOS notes that the statement on Integrity provided by the State Party is mainly related to the historical sequence of the urban space and the buildings that surround it, stressing the important role of the ensemble as a testimony to cultural development over three hundred years.

Interiority relates to how far all the attributes needed to convey outstanding universal value are within the nominated area as well as to whether any of these are under threat. These have not been considered in the text provided as requested in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

ICOMOS also considers that the São Francisco Square and related buildings constitute a fragment of an urban ensemble and landscape that has kept much of its original urban and architectural components. The attributes nominated are only a part of a larger urban whole that could be said to be of value.

Overall, ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the nominated property has not been demonstrated, according to the definitions and items included in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. ICOMOS considers that the attributes nominated only form part of a wider urban landscape that could be seen to be of value. Therefore in terms of wholeness, integrity has not been demonstrated. However, in terms of intactness, ICOMOS considers that the attributes nominated are not under threat.

Authenticity

As noted above, the nomination dossier includes a short text under the heading "Integrity and/or Authenticity". This text related to Authenticity states that the authenticity of the square stands out for design environment, technical, use, function, historical and cultural context.

ICOMOS considers that the Square and associated buildings within the nominated property are authentic, in terms of the way they portray their historical and social significance within the life of the town. ICOMOS notes that a number of the major buildings that form São Francisco Square have been rebuilt, restored and/or adapted to new uses as museums and offices over time.

Works to the Square itself have retained its characteristics while improving the infrastructure, amenity and security for pedestrians. The complex of residential buildings generally retains its typological characteristics, roof forms and facades.

However ICOMOS notes that what is not addressed is how the specific attributes of the nominated area as a group convey potential outstanding universal value. If the configuration of the square is said to reflect the way the Spanish ordinances were specifically met in Brazil, then what has not been demonstrated is how what survives reflects specifically the creation of the square rather than its evolution over time.

Overall, ICOMOS considers that the urban and architectural fabric of São Francisco Square and associated historical buildings are authentic, and that it continues to function as a focal point of social and civic life in the town. However ICOMOS considers that what has not been set out is how the ensemble as a whole conveys the suggested outstanding universal value.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have not been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the urban ensemble of São Francisco Square represents one of the finest examples of European architecture adapted to a colonial city in the tropics. The Square is an example of the urban structures derived from the Ordinances of King Philip II, at a time when Portugal and Spain were under the same crown. The Franciscan Convent is characterised by a spatial organization adapted to the climate and to the urban scheme.

The application of criterion (ii) is thus supported by the State Party by stressing the importance of the architectural features as an adaptation of European trends to a specific geographical region in Latin America.

ICOMOS considers that to justify this criterion it would be necessary to show not only how the town adapted the Philippine Ordinances to local conditions in an exceptional way but also how this adaptation in turn had influenced.

What the analysis provided in the nomination has shown is that the adaptation of the Philippine plan is exceptional in Brazil, but not in the wider geo-cultural region where

several other Franciscan convents, following a model established at Olinda also portray similar characteristics. Moreover what has not been demonstrated is how São Francisco Square did itself exert influence elsewhere – in terms of demonstrating an interchange of ideas.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion (iv): to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that São Francisco Square is a place of traditional and cultural manifestations throughout its history. The Square is a place where gatherings, celebrations, folklore, collective religious rituals and musical performances take place. It is a focal point and landmark for the town, and a space for the representation of religious and civil forces.

While recognising the role of São Francisco Square as a social landmark of the town and a place for important cultural and social manifestations, ICOMOS considers that the statement proposed by the State Party for the application of criterion (iv) rests on the use and social significance of the Square, but does not demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value of the ensemble from an architectural or urban point of view, in terms of its relationship to a significant period in human history, as set out in the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

To justify this criterion it would be necessary to show how the ensemble of buildings and square as a whole were of exceptional architectural merit and were also linked to an historical period that was of world-wide significance. ICOMOS considers that the ensemble of buildings is harmonious and has a coherence of materials and form. It cannot be said to be exceptional in terms of reflecting notable forms, materials decoration or in terms of being all of a single historical period related to the development of the square. The buildings have evolved over time and cannot now be said to reflect one period in history.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS does not consider that the criteria for inscription on the World Heritage List and the Outstanding Universal Value of the property have been justified at this stage.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

While the pressures associated with urban growth have been controlled by the Urban Plan, ICOMOS considers that the proximity of São Cristóvão to the State capital, Aracajú, could expose the town to risk factors associated with the development of the capital city.

Aracajú has absorbed most of the economic activities of São Cristóvão, restricting the future economic growth of the town. This situation poses risks to the built heritage and to the social and economical sustainability of São Cristóvão, due to possible population changes.

São Cristóvão is recognised as an important resource for the State of Sergipe, and the State Party should ensure that the conservation of heritage occurs in an integrated way, within the broader framework of social and economic development.

Visitors / tourism pressures

According to the State Party, São Cristóvão has a relatively low level of tourism activity that causes no pressures on the nominated property.

ICOMOS notes that, due to the proximity of São Cristóvão to Aracajú, visits to the town are short and the small income generated does not benefit the local community. On the contrary, tourism represents an expense for the local government, which must offer a clean, secure and properly maintained site. Given that São Cristóvão is potentially attractive for tourism for its architectural and historical heritage and for its intangible heritage (e.g. religious festivities, arts festival). ICOMOS considers that the State Party should ensure that future tourism planning aims to provide direct benefits to the local population.

Environmental pressures

There are water pollution, garbage disposal and sanitation problems for the town.

ICOMOS considers that the lack of sanitary infrastructure and solid waste disposal is a risk factor for the quality of life of São Cristóvão's population. The State government has initiated specific studies aimed cleaning of the river for sanitation purposes. The revised nomination dossier states that implementation of measures to protect the river have been delayed.

ICOMOS notes that the town does not have fire fighting facilities, and that the nearest facility is located in the city of Aracajú. ICOMOS recommends that the State Party provide the necessary infrastructure for protection against fire.

Natural disasters

There are occasional floods in the town, but these do not reach the upper town, where the nominated property is located.

Impact of climate change

The nomination dossier does not include reference to the impact of climate change on the property. ICOMOS believes that the location of São Cristóvão in the tropics makes it vulnerable to the impact of storms and heavy rains, something that should be considered in risk preparedness plans for heritage conservation.

Risk preparedness

The nomination dossier does not include reference to risk preparedness plans.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are related to the relationship between São Cristóvão and Aracajú that could cause loss of population, and social and economic decline. Pollution of the river, the lack of sanitation infrastructure and fire fighting facilities also constitute risks to the integrity of the monumental ensemble. The lack of risk preparedness planning to address these threats to the long-term conservation of the property is a concern.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The nominated property includes the Square and the surrounding blocks. The proposed buffer zone coincides with the boundaries of the area protected by the Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN).

ICOMOS notes that, beyond São Francisco Square and the surrounding urban blocks, the historic centre of São Cristóvão is also characteristic of a colonial Brazilian town reflected in urban, architectural and environmental values, and in the intangible heritage. Therefore, the nominated area constitutes only a small part of the historic centre and does not coincide with the whole area protected by the Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN). Religious complexes such as Carmo, the Main Church, and the Irmandade do Amparo dos Homens Pardos Church are outside the boundary of the nominated property. Similarly, ICOMOS considers that there are many examples of domestic architecture in the historic centre of the town that have similar values to the domestic buildings within the nominated area.

Regarding the buffer zone, ICOMOS considers that it could be amended to take into account significant perspectives, the setting and the important relationship with the water system. There are other areas of cultural heritage importance for the city that could be incorporated into the buffer zone, such as the area developed in the 19th and 20th centuries for industrial factories and labour housing. The natural areas that surround the site could also be added to the buffer zone, especially those that constitute the historical access to

the city by river, recognising the importance of recovering this historical component of the urban landscape.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property include only part of the historic centre of the town. The boundaries of the proposed buffer zone should be revised in order to include significant perspectives, the natural setting, the relationship with the water system and areas of heritage value associated with the evolution of the town over the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ownership

The nominated property consists of buildings owned by the local, State and national governments, the Archdiocese and many private owners. In São Francisco Square, the Archdiocese owns the Franciscan ensemble and the local government owns one building, the State government owns two buildings and the Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) owns five buildings. The remaining houses are in private ownership.

Protection

Legal Protection

The nominated property is protected at national, state and local levels. At the national level, the first protective measures were introduced between 1941 and 1944 with the protection of isolated monuments. The architectural and urban ensemble was protected by the Federal government by procedure 785-T-67 of 31 January 1967, in the framework of Decree – Law 25 of 30 November 1937. The authority responsible for implementing the legal protection is the Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN). The 18th Regional Superintendence of IPHAN includes Sergipe State.

At the State level, the ensemble was registered as Historic Monument by Decree Law 94 in 1938, supported by Article 134 of the new State Constitution. In 1967, the Architectural, Urban and Landscape ensemble of São Cristóvão was registered on the Archaeological, Ethnographic and Landscape Protection Book, on page 10, number 40.

At the local level, the 1979/80 Master Plan which directed the growth of the city, urban expansion and zoning and establishes measures for conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, division and uses of land and construction prescriptions was revised in 2009.

The Urban Planning Code for São Cristóvão establishes guiding principles for urban policy defined in collaboration with the local community. The revised nomination provides details of this but not when it was approved.

The buffer zone corresponds to the historic centre of the town of São Cristóvão and is protected at state and national levels. The historic centre has been declared historic monument by Decree-Law 94 (1938) of the State of Sergipe and national monument by federal law 7489 (1986). These protection instruments ensure the effectiveness of the buffer zone to protect the values of the nominated properties.

Effectiveness of protection measures

ICOMOS considers that the national protection combined with local development plans and planning codes provide adequate mechanisms to avoid impacts on the values, integrity and authenticity of the nominated property, if the Urban Planning Code is in force.

While noting the protection provided at the national level, ICOMOS considers that the protective measures at national level, supplemented by those at local level are adequate for the protection of the property, if the Urban Planning Code is in force.

Conservation

Inventories, recording, research

The Inventory of Immovable Assets developed as a national programme of the National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) has been completed. In São Cristóvão, 450 properties in the protected area have been documented. The Inventory of Integrated and Movable Assets has 1269 assets in the Art Museum, the Historical Museum of Sergipe, churches and private collections. Recently, IPHAN completed the first stage of the Inventory of Cultural References for registering the intangible heritage of the State. Copies of inventory cards are included in the revised nomination.

Present state of conservation

According to the State Party, the public and religious buildings are in good condition and the private houses are in satisfactory condition. The inventory concluded in 2006 indicates that 33% of the buildings are in good condition, 42% in satisfactory condition, 25% being restored and 0% in poor condition.

ICOMOS considers that the monuments and open spaces included in the nomination property exhibit a satisfactory state of conservation.

Active Conservation measures

Some monumental buildings are being restored in the framework of the *Monumenta* Programme, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, among them Santa Cruz Convent and Church, the Courthouse, São Francisco Square, Imaculada Conceição Home, the Historical Museum of the State of Sergipe and some

private properties. Between 2004 and 2006, restoration works included Rosario Church, the Franciscan Convent, São Francisco Square, Largo do Rosario and Largo do Amparo.

The nomination dossier describes projects to be implemented during 2007, among them the removal of lamp posts, electricity and telephone wires and improvements to the circulation and parking in the historic centre. Other projects include improving public spaces, such as Getúlio Vargas Square, works in the surrounding area such as Bica dos Pintos, and improvements to the water quality of the Paramopama River.

While noting the benefits of these projects, ICOMOS is also aware that there have been some difficulties for owners to secure subsidies through the *Monumenta* Programme, and it has often funded work on facades only. In this context, it is possible to conclude that these programmes need to be further augmented to ensure the long-term conservation of the nominated property.

Recent projects include: the improvement project of the Museum of Sacred Art (located in the São Francisco complex), the completion of the restoration of the former *Ouvidoria*, the lighting improvement project for São Francisco Square, the restoration of the square's pavements and the provision of urban furniture. ICOMOS congratulates the State Party for its constant efforts to improve the physical conditions and state of conservation of the nominated property and adjacent areas, and encourages it to continue with these kind of actions.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property exhibits an adequate state of conservation. ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party continue to implement and improve conservation programs to ensure the long term conservation of the property.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

At the national level, the National Institute on Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) is responsible for the protection and management of protected properties. IPHAN has regional units (Superintendencies); one of them, with headquarters in the city of Aracajú, includes the State of Sergipe.

IPHAN is responsible for the physical conservation of heritage, and the local government is responsible for land use and compliance with planning regulations. However, without an approved conservation plan for the nominated property, there is no framework to guide these decisions, which often depend on the technical judgement of the evaluator.

The newly established Undersecretary of State for Cultural and Historical Heritage, which came into being in 2009, will support cultural heritage interests in the State of Sergipe. The Department is also linked strategically to other national departments.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

According to the information supplied by the State Party, there is no Management Plan for the nominated property, although one is in preparation. Indeed, the State Party reports in the additional information that the Participative Management Plan is currently under development by private consultants. The project was initiated in July 2007 and is expected to be finished on 30 June 2008 (a detailed timeframe of the successive steps of development was provided). ICOMOS appreciates that the Management Plan is under development and recommends that the State Party approve and implement it once it is finished.

Currently, the management of the nominated property is ensured by means of a number of different plans that are in place.

- *Master Plan, 2009*

The São Cristóvão Urban Master Plan establishes the urban policies, the urban perimeter, the conservation of historic and natural heritage, the definition of activities, subdivision of land, and standards of construction. Urban policies are defined on the basis of community consultation. Principles and rules regarding heritage conservation include the definition and additional limitations for properties and areas protected by Federal Law. There are several laws which contribute to the protection of the nominated property, among them municipal Law 08 of 6 June 1979, which regulates works done on buildings in São Francisco Square.

Other existing programmes are:

- *Training for tourism employment.* The “Friends of São Cristóvão” project, initiated in 2005, trains young people to act as tourist guides. Currently, 20 teenagers take history, tourism, English and environmental education classes, while receiving monthly allowance benefits.
- *Sustainable recovery of the historic heritage of São Cristóvão.* The *Monumenta* Programme of the Ministry of Culture, sponsored by the Inter American Development Bank and UNESCO, funds projects in São Cristóvão that will have direct or indirect effects on the local economy, education and culture, facilitating the involvement of the local population. The aim is to stimulate the economy by improving cultural tourism, expanding employment opportunities and supporting heritage education. Some

relevant projects funded by this programme are described above in the section on “Conservation”.

ICOMOS notes that these programs place a strong emphasis on physical conservation of cultural heritage. In order to ensure an adequate quality of life for the local population, a closer relationship between planning instruments concerning conservation and development is required.

With regard to visitor management and presentation of the property, the State Party reports on the “Friends of São Cristóvão” project discussed above, but no information on tourism facilities and presentation is included in the nomination dossier.

Involvement of local communities

According to the State Party, the historic centre of São Cristóvão is inhabited by approximately 1750 people (out of 71 572 in the municipal district) and 40 of them live within the nominated property. The nominated property is highly recognised and valued by the local community, which uses São Francisco Square as one of the liveliest spaces in town. The urban plan defines the guiding principles for urban policy, which is based on community consultation.

ICOMOS considers that the involvement of local communities is in a relatively early stage of development and can be improved over time. In order to guarantee the participation and involvement of all stakeholders, a stronger awareness by citizens of the responsibilities to care for cultural heritage is required; thus it is necessary to implement programmes of community awareness and participation and to provide adequate and effective financial resources.

Resources, including staff levels, expertise and training

The municipal Secretariat of Construction, Urbanism and Environment has a total of 155 employees and the municipal Secretariat of Culture and Tourism has 38 employees. The 18th Regional Superintendence of the National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) has 16 employees (including 4 trainees). The nomination dossier does not include specific information on staff training and skills of these organisations.

ICOMOS notes that the main financial resources for the conservation of the nominated property are provided by state agencies, although the legislation encourages financial support by private enterprises.

ICOMOS considers that added resources for the updating of staff skills, increases in the number of staff members involved in conservation and management of the property, and the inclusion of different disciplines (engineering, archaeology, art conservation, etc.) are needed.

ICOMOS considers that the management structure and procedures could be improved by the development and implementation of a management plan for the nominated property, which was expected for completion by June 2008. ICOMOS considers also that the management system of the property should be extended to include a better articulation between the different levels of government, greater participation of community associations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of plans, visitor management, and the increase, diversification and improved skills of the staff involved in the management of the property.

6. MONITORING

The State Party states that the public and religious buildings are in a reasonable state of conservation, but the key indicators are not included in the nomination dossier.

Concerning administrative arrangements, the 18th Superintendence of the Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN), the *Monumenta* Programme, and the State and local governments participate, jointly or separately, in restoration works in the protected area.

ICOMOS notes that it is mainly the Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) which carries out monitoring and control actions. These actions are quite limited due to minimal staff members and financial resources.

ICOMOS considers that no systematic monitoring system is currently in place for the nominated property. ICOMOS recommends that a systematic monitoring programme be implemented, including the identification of key indicators.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The revised nomination dossier provides some amplification of the first dossier in terms of supplementary text on description, integrity and authenticity, and protection. The boundaries remain unchanged as do the justifications for the criteria. Small amendments have been made to the proposed justification for outstanding universal value.

What this re-presentation has confirmed is that the São Francisco Square together with the Franciscan convent is one of a group in north-east Brazil that can be seen to reflect an overall coherence that is differentiated from monasteries in Spain, Portugal and elsewhere in terms of their urban squares or atria some with monumental stone crosses, the interface with the surrounding urban plan, their galleried entrances, elaborate cloisters, lack of ornamentation and set back bell towers.

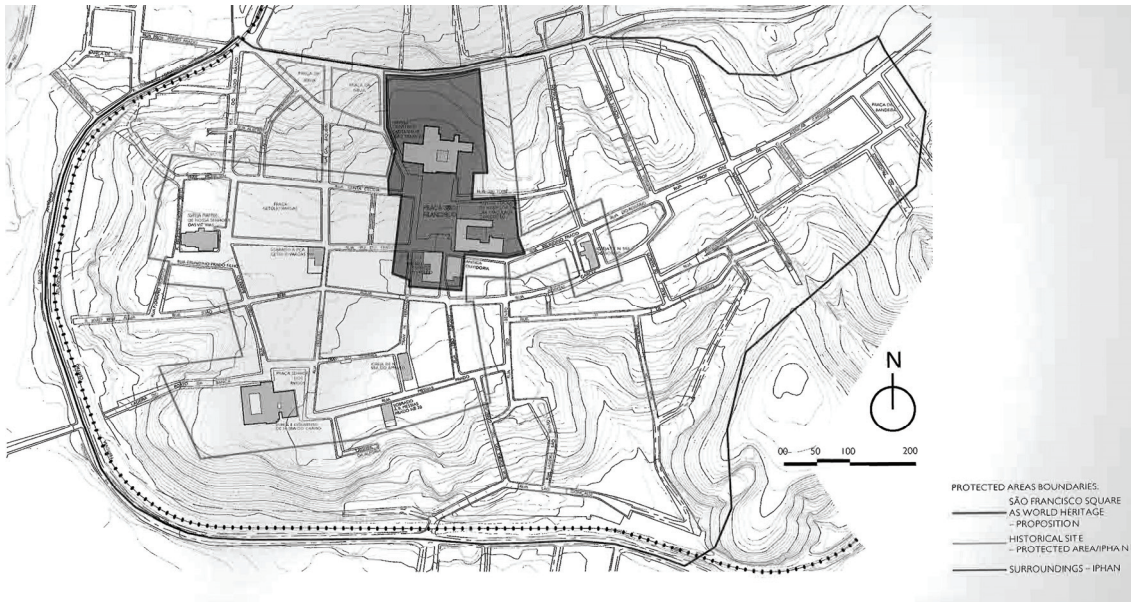
Many of these complexes have evolved and changed over the years and none survive as built. Several can be seen to have components that are similar to São Cristóvão. What has been demonstrated is that although the relationship between the monastery and square of São Cristóvão persists, the combination of plan and buildings, although visually attractive, harmonious and coherent, is not exceptional within the north-eastern group of monasteries or more widely.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of São Francisco Square in São Cristóvão, Brazil, to the World Heritage List, be **deferred** in order to allow the State Party to:

- Reconsider the proposed boundaries of the nominated property in order to include other sectors of the São Cristóvão historic centre that might contribute to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property. In determining the boundaries of the nominated area and the buffer zone, it is recommended that the State Party take into account the geographical, historical, urban, architectural and cultural factors that have shaped the structure and the urban landscape of São Cristóvão over the centuries. This could enable a more accurate identification of cultural values and defined boundaries of areas that can clearly express them;
- Define a complete statement on the Integrity and Authenticity of this property, based on the requirements set out in the *Operational Guidelines* and the Nara Document on Authenticity;
- Ensure that the urban Planning Code has been approved;
- The management structure and procedures should be improved by the development and implementation of a management plan for the nominated property;
- The management system of the property should be extended to include a better articulation between the different levels of government, greater participation of community associations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of plans, visitor management, and the increase, diversification and improved skills of the staff involved in the management of the property;
- Define and implement a monitoring system for the long term state of conservation for the property, including key indicators and designation of a monitoring organization.

ICOMOS considers that any revised nomination with revised boundaries would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



São Francisco Square: aerial view



Aerial view of the convent



São Francisco Monastery



Historical museum