

APPENDIX B

WORLD HERITAGE DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA

Since the ratification of the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage Committee has developed operational guidelines which it maintains and revises as necessary. These operational guidelines constitute what amounts to a substantial technical operating manual. For more information or a copy of the manual, write to the World Heritage Center, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France. Below are excerpted sections from the operational guidelines most useful for reference in the context of this volume. This chapter begins with three definitions taken from the World Heritage Convention.

World Heritage Definitions

The following definitions are set out in Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention

Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, and areas including archeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

Criteria from the Operational Guidelines

Outstanding Universal Value

(24) A monument, group of buildings or sites - as defined above - which is nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List will be considered to be of

outstanding universal value for the purposes of the Convention when the Committee finds that it meets one or more of the following criteria and the text of authenticity. Each property nominated should therefore:

- (a)
- (i) represent a unique artistic achievement, as masterpiece of the creative genius; or
 - (ii) have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts or town-planning and landscaping; or
 - (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared; or
 - (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of buildings or architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant state in history; or
 - (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a culture and which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
 - (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances or in conjunction with other criteria);

and also meet the test of management and authenticity set down in paragraph 24(b)."

Criteria for Urban Buildings

(27) Groups of urban buildings eligible for inclusion in the World Heritage List fall into three main categories, namely:

- (i) towns which are no longer inhabited but which provide unchanged archeological evidence of the past; these generally satisfy the criterion of authenticity and their state of conservation can be relatively easily controlled;
- (ii) historic towns which are still inhabited and which, by their very nature, have developed and will continue to develop under the influence of socio-economic and cultural change, a situation that renders the assessment of their authenticity more difficult and any conservation policy more problematical;
- (iii) new towns of the twentieth century which paradoxically have something in common with both the aforementioned categories: while their original urban organization is clearly recognizable and their authenticity is undeniable, their future is unclear because their development is largely uncontrollable.

(28) The evaluation of towns that are no longer inhabited does not raise any special difficulties other than those related to archaeological sites in general: the criteria which call for uniqueness or exemplary character have led to the choice of groups of buildings noteworthy for their purity of style, for the concentrations of monuments they contain and sometimes for their important historical associations. It is important for urban archaeological sites to be listed as integral units. A cluster of monuments or a small group of buildings is not adequate to suggest the multiple and complex functions of a city which has disappeared; remains of such a city should be preserved in their entirety together with their natural surroundings whenever possible.

(29) In the case of inhabited historic towns the difficulties are numerous, largely owing to the fragility of their urban fabric (which has in many cases been seriously disrupted since the advent of the industrial era) and the runaway speed with which their surroundings have been urbanized. To qualify for inclusion, towns should compel recognition because of their architectural interest and should not be considered only on the intellectual grounds of the role they may have played in the past, of their value as historical symbols under criterion (vi) for the inclusion of cultural properties in the World Heritage List (see paragraph 24 above). To be eligible for inclusion in the List, the spatial organization, structure, materials, forms and, where possible, functions of a group of buildings should essentially reflect the civilization or succession of civilizations which have prompted the nomination of the property. Four categories can be distinguished:

(i) Towns which are typical of a specific period of culture, which have been almost wholly preserved and which have remained largely unaffected by subsequent developments. Here the property to be listed is the entire town together with its surroundings, which must also be protected;

(ii) Towns that have evolved along characteristic lines and have preserved, sometimes in the midst of exceptional natural surroundings, spatial arrangements and structures that are typical of the successive stages in their history. Here the clearly defined historic past takes precedence over the contemporary environment;

(iii) Historic centres that cover exactly the same area as ancient towns and are now enclosed with modern cities. Here it is necessary to determine the precise limits of the property in its widest historical dimensions and to make appropriate provisions for its immediate surroundings;

(iv) Sectors, areas or isolated units which, even in the residual state in which they have survived, provide coherent evidence of the character of a historic town which has disappeared. In such cases surviving areas and buildings should bear sufficient testimony to the former whole.

(30) Historic centres and historic areas should be listed only where they contain a large number of ancient buildings of monumental importance which provide a direct indication of the characteristic features of a town of exceptional interest. Nominations of several isolated and unrelated buildings which allegedly

represent, in themselves, a town whose urban fabric has ceased to be discernible, should not be encouraged.

(31) However, nominations could be made regarding properties that occupy a limited space but have had a major influence on the history of town planning. In such cases, the nomination should make it clear that it is the monumental group that is to be listed and that the town is mentioned only incidentally as the place where the property is located. Similarly, if a building of clearly universal significance is located in severely degraded or insufficiently representative urban surroundings, it should, of course, be listed without an special reference to the town.

(32) It is difficult to assess the quality of new towns of the twentieth century. History alone will tell which of them will best serve as examples of contemporary town planning. The examination of the files on these town should be deferred, save under exceptional circumstances.

(33) Under present conditions, preference should be given to the inclusion in the World Heritage list of small or medium-sized urban areas which are in a position to manage any potential growth rather than the great metropolises, on which sufficiently complete information and documentation cannot be provided that would serve as a satisfactory basis for their inclusion in their entirety. In view of the effects which the entry of a town in the World Heritage List could have on its future, such entries should be exceptional. Inclusion in the List implies that legislative and administrative measures have already been taken to ensure the protection of the group of buildings and its environment. Informed awareness on the part of the population concerned, without whose active participation any conservation scheme would be impractical, is also essential.