

ICOMOS

Paris, 7 June 1978

Mr. Firouz Bagerzadeh
 Chairman, World Heritage Committee
 UNESCO
 Place Fontenoy
 75007 Paris

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Having reviewed the nominations of cultural properties, duly submitted by States party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, for consideration by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, meeting in its first session, for the purpose of inclusion in the World Heritage List, the following have been found (in the opinion of ICOMOS) to meet minimum standards of documentation and therefore (in the opinion of ICOMOS) to be eligible for consideration at this time. They are listed in the order given in documents CC-78/CONF.009/3 and CC-78/CONF.009/3 Add.1.

Canada	°	l'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park	(4)
Ecuador	°	City of Quito	(2)
Ethiopia	°	Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibela	(18)
		Fasil Ghebbi, Gandar region	(19)
Poland	°	Historic Urban and Architectural Center of Cracow	(29)
		Historic Center of Warsaw	(30)
	°	Auschwitz, concentration camp	(31)
	°	Wieliczka, salt mine	(33)
United States	°	Mesa Verde	

Of the nominations listed above, those marked (°) have been found (in the opinion of ICOMOS) to satisfy the criteria for cultural properties. It is believed that the Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar region, Ethiopia, while plainly of national significance, needs further expert opinion regarding its world importance. There is a question as to whether the Historic Center of Warsaw meets the general rule of authenticity, and it is accordingly believed that further expert opinion is required on this nomination.


Additionally, the following two nominations (in the opinion of ICOMOS) have been found to meet the criteria for cultural properties although they lack the required photographic and cartographic documentation:

Federal Germany	Aachen Cathedral	(3)
Senegal	Island of Gorée	(26)

It is suggested that the two preceding nominations be provisionally recommended, subject to receipt of adequate additional documentation.

The remaining eight nominations of cultural properties, all from Ethiopia, are deficient in terms of documentation.

A separate report on the technical aspects of nominations is being prepared for your consideration. ICOMOS remains ready to assist the World Heritage Committee in every way possible.

Sincerely yours,

 Ernest Allen Connally
 Secretary General

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
 CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
 CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
 МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 27

<p>A) IDENTIFICATION</p>	<p>A) IDENTIFICATION</p>
<p><u>Bien proposé</u>: Mesa Verde</p> <p><u>Lieu</u>: Colorado</p> <p><u>Etat partie</u>: Etats Unis d'Amérique</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 5 juin 1978</p>	<p><u>Nomination</u>: Mesa Verde</p> <p><u>Location</u>: Colorado</p> <p><u>State party</u>: United States of America</p> <p><u>Date</u>: June 5, 1978</p>
<p>B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS</p>	<p>B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION</p>
<p>Que le bien culturel proposé soit inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial au titre du critère III.</p>	<p>That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion III.</p>
<p>C) JUSTIFICATION</p>	<p>C) JUSTIFICATION</p>
<p>Parmi les civilisations amérindiennes que les ethnologues et les préhistoriens ont reconnues, celle des Anasazi et de leurs lointains descendants, les Pueblos du Nouveau Mexique et de l'Arizona, présente une originalité certaine, due en partie aux contraintes très fortes du milieu naturel : le sud-ouest du Colorado, avec ses "mesas" coupées de cañons profonds; sur le haut plateau calcaire et gréseux qui s'élève localement à 2620 m au-dessus du niveau de la mer règne un climat semi-aride caractérisé par l'irrégularité des précipitations atmosphériques et l'écart sensible des températures diurnes et nocturnes.</p> <p>Les premières traces d'occupation humaine régulière remontent au VIème siècle de notre ère. Elles se rencontrent principalement sur le plateau, où des villages semi-enterrés, regroupant des</p>	<p>Among the American Indian civilizations recognized by ethnologists and prehistorians, that of the Anasazi Indians and of their distant descendants, the Pueblos of New Mexico and Arizona are indeed quite original, owing in part to the substantial rigors of their natural environment : the southwestern part of Colorado with its mesas cut by deep canyons. On the high limestone and sandstone plateau which in one place reaches an altitude of 2620 meters above sea level the climate is semi-arid, being characterized by irregular precipitation and great differences between daytime and nighttime temperatures.</p> <p>The first signs of regular human occupation go back to the 6th century of the current era. They are principally located on the plateau where partially buried villages, consisting of silos and low dwellings have existed since this period. Original handicrafts, in which the pro-</p>

silos et des habitations basses, existent dès cette date. Un artisanat original, faisant une large place à la production d'objets en fibre de yucca, apparaît alors. Cette vannerie restera caractéristique de la civilisation des Anasazi pendant sept siècles.

De 750 à 1100 environ, des caractères spécifiques très nets apparaissent dans les établissements humains de Mesa Verde. Tandis que les villages du plateau adoptent un plan plus régulier, en L ou en U, les habitats de vallée gagnent en importance : dans des abris sous roche protégés par le surplomb d'impressionnantes falaises, au flanc de cuestas profondément déchiquetées par l'érosion, des villages mixtes, à la fois troglodytiques et construits, se développent, assumant des fonctions multiples : agricoles, artisanales, ou religieuses (les premières "kivas", structures souterraines ou enfouies de plan sub-circulaire, apparaissent à cette époque).

Cette civilisation connaît son apogée de 1100 à la fin du XIII^{ème} siècle avant de disparaître brutalement. Des constructions imposantes à plusieurs étages (les plus connues sont "Cliff Palace" et "Long House", avec ses 181 pièces et ses 15 kivas) sont élevées à l'abri des falaises. Elles dénotent une surprenante évolution des techniques de construction et un sens très sûr de l'aménagement de l'espace. Parallèlement, les techniques agraires se perfectionnent : l'irrigation, commandée par un système de réservoirs et de barrages, pallie les rigueurs d'un climat peu propice à la culture des céréales et des féculents, bases de l'alimentation des Anasazi. "L'âge d'or" que détermine cette maîtrise du milieu naturel est encore illustré par la qualité exceptionnelle de la production artisanale : vannerie, tissage et surtout céramique atteignent à une qualité étonnante, soulignée depuis longtemps par les premiers explorateurs de Mesa Verde.

Découverts en 1874, les villages rupestres de Mesa Verde furent en effet pillés par des collectionneurs (une vente de poterie très importante eut lieu en 1889) avant d'être étudiés et fouillés par des archéologues. Néanmoins, la protection du site, acquise aux termes du Federal Antiquities Act de 1906, est une des plus efficaces et des plus anciennes du continent américain. Le Parc national de Mesa Verde constitue à l'heure

duction of yucca fiber objects played a major role then came into being. This wickerwork was to remain characteristic of Anasazi civilization for seven centuries.

From roughly 750 to 1100 some highly specific features appeared in the human settlements of Mesa Verde. While the plateau villages were increasingly built in an L or U-shape layout, the valley villages grew larger. In rock shelters under the refuge of imposing overhanging cliffs, on the side of cuestas deeply lacerated by erosion, composite, both troglodytic and built, villages were established having various functions : agricultural, handicrafts or religious (the first "kivas", subterranean or buried structures of a sub-circular layout, appeared during this period).

This civilization reached its apogee between 1100 and the end of the 13th century before suddenly disappearing. Impressive, multi-storey constructions (the best-known being "Cliff Palace" and "Long House", with its 181 rooms and 15 kivas) were erected under the shelter of the cliffs. They are demonstrative of surprising progress in building techniques and a very keen sense for use of space. At the same time, agrarian techniques were improved : irrigation, based on a network of reservoirs and dams was used to offset the rigors of a climate largely hostile to the cultivation of cereals and starches, staples of the Anasazi diet. This "golden age" facilitated by the control of natural environment is further illustrated by the outstanding quality of the handicrafts. As the first explorers of Mesa Verde claimed on many an occasion, the wickerwork, weaving and especially ceramics were of astonishing quality.

Discovered in 1874, the rock-cut villages of Mesa Verde were pillaged by collectors (there was a very large pottery sale in 1889) before being studied and excavated by archaeologists. However, the protection of the site which came into effect in 1906 under the Federal Antiquities Act is one of the most effective and longstanding on the American Continent. At present, Mesa Verde National Park is one of the world's best managed natural, biological and archaeological reserves.

actuelle une des réserves naturelles, biologiques et archéologiques les mieux gérées du monde.

Cet ensemble peut être inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial au titre du critère III, comme offrant un témoignage unique sur une civilisation disparue.

This ensemble can be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion III as bearing a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.