
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, Tlautila, 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 Matías 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 Propaganda 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 unpaired

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 Bartolomeo, 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, Chalcihuites, 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.

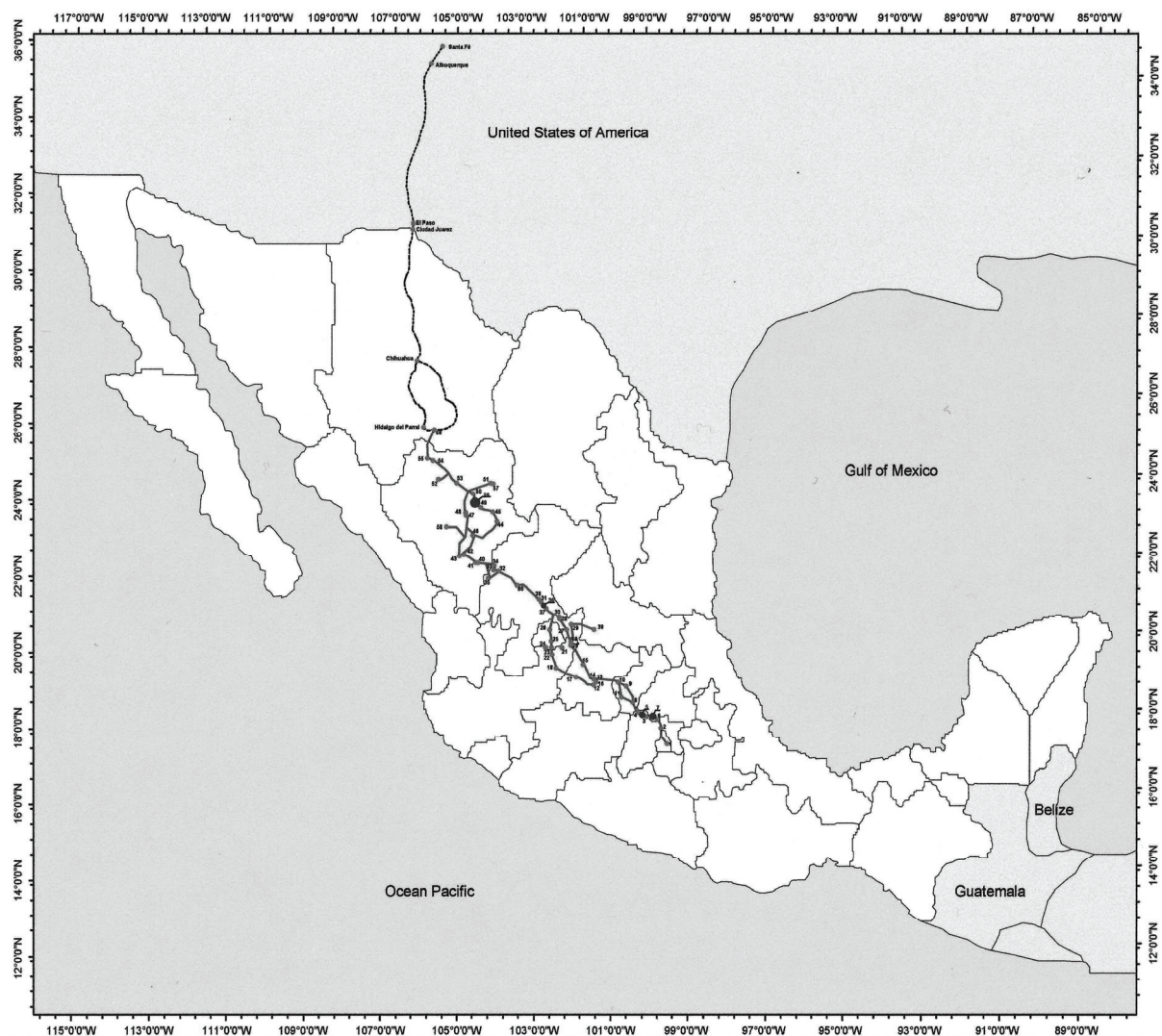
Extensive serial nominations such as this one cannot in ICOMOS's view be open ended and have to be put forward on the basis of a tightly chosen selection that can be justified on the basis of an ensemble of sufficient attributes rather than an extensive catalogue of attributes where the end is not defined. 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