Amiens Cathedral (France)
No 162bis

1 Basic data

State Party
France

Name of property
Amiens Cathedral

Location
Region of Picardy, Department of the Somme
Municipality of Amiens

Inscription
1981

Brief description
Amiens Cathedral, in the heart of Picardy, is one of the largest “classic” Gothic churches of the 13th century. It is notable for the coherence of its plan, the beauty of its three-tier interior elevation, and the particularly fine display of sculptures on the principal facade and in the south transept.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
6 March 2013

2 Issues raised

Background
The property was inscribed in 1981 without any buffer zone, but it is protected by the 500 metre perimeter zone stipulated in the French Law on Historic Monuments. This protective perimeter was subsequently extended, in 2007, to include the three straight avenues which, from the south, converge towards the property and provide privileged vistas for a distance of some two kilometres.

In its decision of 2011 (35COM 8D), the World Heritage Committee asked the State Party to clarify the boundaries and areas of the property, in response to the retrospective inventory. The State Party responded to this request by sending a map which specified the boundaries of the inscribed monument and its area (1.37ha).

Modification
On 1st February 2012 the State Party sent a series of maps indicating the situation of the property and its environs. The State Party proposes a buffer zone with a total area of 115ha, duly mapped out, which incorporates the existing extended zone of legal protection.

The proposed buffer zone is provided with a protective mechanism under the terms of the French Heritage Code; the modified protection perimeter (PPM).

Within this perimeter all construction work within the field of visibility of the monument is also subject to the assent of the Architect of the Buildings of France. However, outside the field of visibility, an application for authorisation of works is sent to the administrative authority, which makes its decision after obtaining the advice of the Architect of the Buildings of France.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone is a coherent whole that encompasses the property and protects the privileged vistas along the southern access routes.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Amiens Cathedral, France, be approved.
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone