

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

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 367

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Roman Monuments of Trier (including the Igel Column) and the Cathedral and the Church of Our Lady

Location : Rhineland-Palatinate

State Party : Federal Republic of Germany

Date : August 6, 1985

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, III, IV and VI.

C) JUSTIFICATION

Sometimes referred to as "the second Rome", Trier had no claim to this title until the division of the Empire by Diocletian (286) and the institution of the Tetrarchy (293). But even before this era, the Roman city founded as Colonia Augusta Treverorum (derived from the name of the Trevires, a Gallic tribe conquered by Caesar) flourished considerably. The original centre of the colonial town layout, the regular insulae of which were for the most part built during the reign of Claudius (41-54 A.D.), had so spread out by the middle of the 2nd century that a wall 6,500 meters in perimeter, fortified by more than 47 towers, was built, encompassing the industrial quarters and the nearest thermae to the south, the amphitheatre which extended beyond the decumanus maximus to the east and, most likely already, a hippodrome. At the same time, a sandstone and basalt bridge was built over the Moselle, extending westward from the decumanus, replacing an earlier construction, the foundations of which have been found. Outside the 2nd century wall and primarily to the north and the south, large expanses of necropolises were built before long. The stelae and the cippus in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, the Igel Monument, which is the tomb of the Secundinii, a family of drapers, and which is preserved in situ in this little village to the southwest of Trier all testify to the wealth of the city, a major trading centre which sent its merchants to Milan, Lyons and Bordeaux and to the existence of a very characteristic regional school of sculpture.

It was between 258 and 268, when Postumus took up residence there in order to foil the threats of the Franks and the Alamans on the limes that Trier became a capital for the first time. When

Constantius Chlorus, ruler of Brittany and Gaul since the division of 293, moved there, it gave more perennity to this choice. The reconstruction of the city, whose name was changed to Treveris, was then undertaken on a large scale by Constantine after 306. The restored amphitheatre and thermae, the Circus maximus, the various remains of an immense imperial palace, the construction of which required the destruction of several insulae, reflect a purposeful political choice which grew out of the new balance established by the Tetrarchy.

The founding of Constantinople in 330 cannot hide this essential fact. Moreover, it was in Trier that in 326 Constantine founded the twin basilicas to commemorate his twenty years of power. They live on in the form of the Cathedral and the Church of Our Lady. After the death of the great emperor in 337, Trier was the place of residence of his son, Constantine II, and afterward of Valentinian and Gratian. Capital of the Empire, Trier was furthermore the location of the Prefecture of Gaul, an immense administrative district which stretched from the limes germanicus to the Atlantic Ocean and from Hadrian's Wall to Tingitane Mauritania. People from the provinces of the south, such as Ausonius from Bordeaux, a confident of Gratian, flocked to the Court and to the Prefecture. During the reign of Constantine, the primordial role of Trier in the spread of Christianity became manifest. Lactantius died there about 325 after having been the crown prince Crispus's private tutor. Saint Jerome, Saint Ambroise and Saint Martin of Tours all spent time there. The great prelates from Aquitaine -Maximinus, Paulinus and Leontius- forged the reputation of the episcopal see founded in 328 by Agriculus of Antioche.

The invasions of the Goths ushered in the decline of Trier. The imperial capital was then moved to Milan, which was the Gallic Prefecture of Arles. But the evolution of the city was marked by historical continuity. The layout of the city still corresponds to its 2nd century configuration, with the major thoroughfares of the cardo (Simeonstrasse) and the decumanus (bridge). For a long time, the major monuments were used in their original capacity, such as was the case with the Aula Palatina where Constantine gave audiences, which became the palatium of the Frankish counts before falling, ca. 1200, into the hands of the bishops of Trier who, also Prince-Electors, made this great hall a part of their palace between 1615 and 1647. Others changed in terms of form but not in terms of use, such as Constantine's two basilicas, which were nearly entirely reconstructed between the 11th and 13th centuries and which fossilize, as it were, the primitive religious centre whose location has endured. However, most of the "pagan" monuments were saved from destruction due to their being assigned a new use in medieval times, e.g. the horrea (storehouses), which were made a part of the Saint Irminen convent and especially the famous Porta Nigra which was transformed into a church in the 11th century.

All of the Roman monuments of Trier, which are indissociable from the Christian monuments built successively on their ruins, deserve to be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, III, IV and VI.

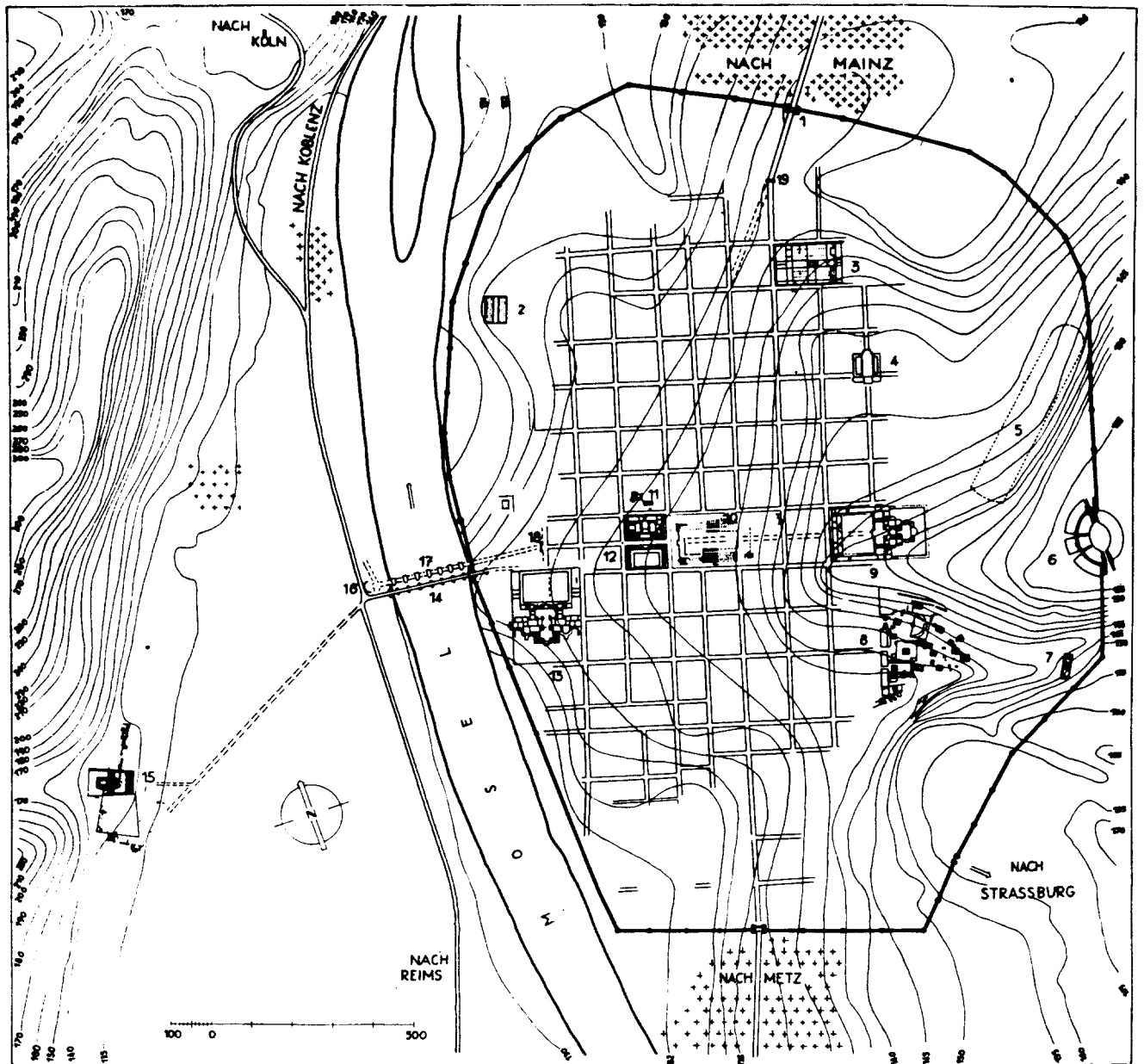
Criterion I. The Porta Nigra, which is an enormous fortified gate built of large stones, flanked by two semi-circular four-storey towers, is a unique achievement of 2nd century Roman architecture. The remains of the choir and the cloister of the two-level church built within its walls by Archbishop Poppo between 1034 and 1042 further enhance the monument.

Criterion III. Trier bears exceptional testimony to Roman civilisation due to the density and the quality of the monuments preserved: the bridge, the remains of the fortified wall, thermae, amphitheatre, storehouses, etc. Funeral art, as demonstrated by the nomination of the Igel Column, and the craftsmanship of potters, glassworkers and minters flourished particularly.

Criterion IV. Trier, along with Istanbul, is the example of a large Roman capital after the division of the Empire. The remains of the imperial palace, in addition to the Aula Palatina and the imperial thermae (the largest of the Roman Empire after those of Diocletian and Caracalla in Rome) are impressive in their enormity. Under the north basilica (now the Cathedral), the decoration of a painted ceiling, where members of the imperial family (Helena and Fausta ?) appear to be identifiable, also bears testimony to the Aulic character of the architecture.

Criterion VI. Trier is directly and tangibly associated with one of the major events of human history, Constantine's march against Maxence in 312, which was a prelude to the Edict of Milan (313) and which meant the recognition of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

ICOMOS, April 1986.



Plan de Trèves romain. 1 Porta Nigra, 2 Horrea de St. Irmine, 3 La double basilique. Cathédrale et église Notre Dame, 4 Aula Palatina, 5 Cirque, 6 Amphithéâtre, 7 Temple, 8 Ensemble culturel d'Altbachtal, 9 Thermes impériaux, 10 Forum, 11 Palais, 12 Double Palais, 13 Les Thermes de Sainte Barbe, 14 Pont romain, 15 Sanctuaire de Lenus Mars, 16 Exèdre de tête de pont, 17 Pont sur pilotis, 18 Vestiges du Bollwerk, 19 Vestiges de la rue St. Siméon.