

New Lanark (United Kingdom)

No 429rev

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	New Lanark
<i>Location</i>	South Lanarkshire, Scotland
<i>State Party</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Date</i>	28 June 2000

Justification by State Party

New Lanark is a unique reminder that the creation of wealth does not automatically imply the degradation of its producers. The village offers a cultural response to the challenges presented by industrial society and was the test-bed for ideas that sought to reform humanity. Today the village provides physical evidence of Robert Owen's model for a New Moral World.

New Lanark is a great landscape modified, through the medium of architecture, to meet the needs and vision of a pioneer working community.

The simple grandeur of the Scottish urban tenement tradition comes through both in the tall New Buildings and in the architectural treatment of the then new demands of mill construction. Contrast and variety are given by individual buildings, but the theme remains good proportion, good masonry, and simplicity of detail. The artisan's understanding of Scottish classical vernacular, built up through the 18th century, reaches something of an apogee at New Lanark. This common building language produces a monumental unity of character remarkably suited to convey to us today the idealistic paternalism of David Dale's and Robert Owen's great enterprise.

The community spirit generated by Dale, fostered by Owen, and nurtured by subsequent owners has survived the end of manufacturing and rapid slide into decay, and also the stresses of again becoming a showpiece. New Lanark attracted attention in the days of Dale and Owen as a model village and one of the greatest sights of its kind. Today, warmed by the ideas of two of the greatest and most humane industrialists of the Industrial Revolution, it has become again one of the greatest sights of its kind.

New Lanark combines this unique cultural heritage with an outstanding natural setting. The gorge in which it is located contains, by volume, the greatest waterfalls in Britain. These became an essential stop for every late 18th and early 19th century picturesque tourist, a resource for outstanding poets and artists, the response to which is still readable in the

landscape and visible on the walls of our national galleries. The Falls of Clyde have achieved iconic status as the archetype of the picturesque or sublime landscape in Britain. They have been visited, written about, drawn, painted, and photographed for some 300 years. Today's visitors stand on the same ground to admire the Falls as did artistic and literary figures such as William Wordsworth, William Turner, and Sir Walter Scott.

Without them our appreciation of sublime scenery would not be what it is today. Owen commissioned artists' views of New Lanark that firmly place it in this awesome, yet designed, cultural landscape.

New Lanark can be seen as the model for industrial communities, and at least two cities, world-wide. Technical developments by the first manager, William Kelly, in heating, ventilation, and the self-acting mule resulted in correspondence with other leaders in the field. He was succeeded by Robert Owen, whose constant pronouncements about his management of society at New Lanark led to the intense scrutiny of the place by engineers, philanthropists, architects, and town planners the world over. The conceptual blueprint has become part of the philosophical equipment of the world's architects and planners. **Criterion ii**

New Lanark is preserved almost whole and has the most complete integration of architectural design of all the early cotton mill settlements, a type illustrating the most revolutionary element of the Industrial Revolution. The buildings and water-power system express the extension to the outermost limits of the application of building materials and techniques to the new industrial age. Owen's additions are distinctive but integrate harmoniously with the general framework devised for David Dale. New Lanark was at its time a major economic and technical development: one of the largest cotton mills in the world. It was in such sites that modern systems of manufacturing organization, management structure, and class relations began to develop, and New Lanark is outstanding in this regard. **Criterion iv**

Owenism, Utopianism, cooperation, communitarianism, industrial capitalism, concepts of the sublime landscape, and models for modern conservation partnerships were all shaped at New Lanark.

Through its founder, David Dale, New Lanark is directly and tangibly associated with the development of industrial capitalism. As a major figure in the Scottish commercial and banking world of the mid to late 18th century, Dale offers the pre-eminent example of individual enterprise and prudent financial planning that led to an unprecedented expansion of employment and productivity. Dale's success was tempered by his philanthropy. New Lanark is the place with which he was most deeply and longest associated and is best preserved.

New Lanark is famous, directly and tangibly associated with the Utopian ideas of Robert Owen, partner in the firm from 1800 to 1825. His publications, including *A New View of Society*, drew on his experience at New Lanark and inspired progressive education, factory reform, humane working practices, international cooperation, and garden cities.

The physical evidence of New Lanark's role as test-bed for his Rational Social System is shown by the presence today of his New Institution for the Formation of Character, School, Store, and Counting House. The greater extent of the buildings that preceded Owen offer evidence that it was

Dale's village that moulded many of Owen's ideas, rather than *vice versa*, and this serves to heighten the significance of the village. The rational classicism of the fabric of the village gave credibility to Owen's ideas.

The landscape of the Falls of Clyde, of which New Lanark forms part, was highly influential to the career of Scottish landscape painter Jacob More, and was also painted by Turner, alluded to by Sir Walter Scott, and versified by Wordsworth. The Falls had an important role in shaping Scottish culture. **Criterion vi**

Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

History and Description

History

New Lanark was founded in 1785 to take advantage of the cotton-spinning patents secured by Richard Arkwright, which allowed yarn to be spun in water-powered mills on an unprecedented scale. Arkwright came to Scotland in 1783 and met David Dale, a leading West of Scotland linen yarn merchant and Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland. The splendid latent water power at New Lanark led to Dale to undertake development on his own, and with the quashing of Arkwright's patents in 1785 his involvement ceased.

The first mill at New Lanark went into production in 1786 and was soon followed by another. Dale continued to build, the third and fourth mills being designed for Samuel Crompton's mule, which was capable of spinning finer yarn than Arkwright's frame. The fourth mill was not used for spinning in Dale's time, housing instead child apprentices and a mechanics' shop.

Housing had to be provided for the workers. Owing to the restricted site in the gorge of the river Clyde, this was built in the form of blocks three or four storeys in height rather than the two-storey buildings favoured at other Scottish cotton mills. The houses were superior in quality to those general occupied by working people at that time. Rapid technical changes led to increases in the workforce and so new houses were added, the last in 1798 (known as "New Buildings").

Dale was a humane employer, who treated his workers well. He established a school in New Lanark which by 1796 had eighteen teachers for 510 pupils. As the most successful cotton spinner in Scotland his was an important example.

In 1799 a partnership was formed by Robert Owen, a Welsh cotton spinner, who had married Dale's daughter. Owen tightened up the management of the mill, introducing new standards of book-keeping and factory discipline. He began to remodel the village around 1809. The fourth mill was brought into production, a house being built for the apprentices as well as a foundry and machine shops.

Owen became convinced that by treating his workers as being responsible for their actions and by encouraging them to realize their mutual dependence productivity would rise and a community spirit would develop. He also realized that an educated workforce was more likely to achieve his

objectives, and so in 1809 he began the construction of his "New Institution for the Formation of Character." He failed to get the support of his partners for this project, but after several changes in the partnership the building was finally opened in 1816; a school was added in the following year.

Because of its location, on the route from Lanark to the famous Falls of Clyde, the mills became one of the features of a tour of Scotland. Contact with distinguished visitor and a high level of public consciousness widened Owen's ideas. His vision of a society without crime, poverty, and misery had a wide appeal in the years following the Napoleonic Wars, and he was encouraged by this to write and to travel widely to promote his views. In 1824 a bitter quarrel with his partners over his educational methods led him to leave New Lanark to develop a community at New Harmony, Indiana (USA), on the cooperative lines that he had described in his influential *Report to the County of Lanark* (1820). This community failed because it lacked the central focus provided by a disciplined factory and Owen left it in 1828, though he continued to develop and promote his ideas until his death in 1858.

The mill was sold by the surviving partners to the Walker brothers in 1828 and they continued to spin cotton until they sold it in 1881 to a partnership which introduced net-making and canvas weaving. From them it passed to the Gourcock Ropework Company, the world's largest rope and net producers, who made cotton canvas and nets there until 1968.

Description

The area proposed for inscription consists of the village of New Lanark and an area around, which includes areas of woodland and a number of minor monuments. The total area nominated is 146ha. It is surrounded by a buffer zone covering 667ha.

Details follow of the major monuments within the nominated area.

- Residential buildings

1–10 Braxfield Row: Built 1785–95, four- and five-storey tenements, one room deep.

1–8 Caithness Row and the Counting House: Built *c* 1792, three storeys high, one room deep. The bowed Counting House was added at the north end by Owen *c* 1810–16.

9–16 Caithness Row: A detached continuation of the previous row. An abattoir, later used as a wash-house and water-closets, was added on the opposite side of the street later (now a double garage).

1–8 Double Row (Wee Row) and 9–24 Double Row: Built before 1799, three storeys high, double room depth.

1–14 Long Row: Built *c* 1792, two storey and basement, one room deep. Cellarage and wash-houses were located in the basements.

1–3 Mantilla Row: Built *c* 1790, two-storey with basement, one room deep.

New Buildings: Single-storey cottages built in 1798 were replaced twelve years later by large tenements of double room depth. The block was extended by Owen soon after his arrival to provide rooms for Sunday schools, and a pediment, an oculus, and advanced end bays were added. Some time in

the 19th century the bellcote was removed from Mill 1 and re-erected here.

1–11 Nursery Buildings and Store: Built in 1809 for pauper apprentices, but adapted for family dwellings soon after. It is three- and four-storey high, with a single-storey bakery (later a post office) added c 1850. The village store was set up by Owen c 1810 and run by the company until 1933, when it was purchased by the local cooperative society.

Robert Owen's House, Rosedale Street: One of the two detached houses built for David Dale and William Kelly. Owen lived here from 1799 to 1808, when a growing household compelled him to move to Braxfield House. It is plain in form, in the Georgian style, with two storeys and an attic.

David Dale's House, Rosedale Street: This is the largest detached house in the village. It is similar in style to Owen's house, but with tripartite wings.

Braxfield House: This house has a 17th century core, extended to form a U-plan in the 18th century. Since 1931 it has been a roofless ruin.

- Public buildings

The Institute for the Formation of Character: Begun in 1809 but not completed until 1815. This austere building has two floors and an attic, a central Doric portico its only concession to contemporary public building styles in the village. The first floor was originally divided into large galleries for study and teaching. The lower storey was divided into three halls for infants; it has hollow iron pillars for heating which vent into the floor above.

The School: Built 1817, it is a two-storey building with a symmetrical layout of equal-sized classrooms. The basement houses water cisterns and the furnace for the heated air system, which is similar to that in the Institute.

New Lanark Church: This is a simple Neo-Gothic church dating from 1898, now no longer in ecclesiastical use.

- Industrial buildings

Mill No 1: Building started on a site facing the river Clyde in 1785 and it was spinning cotton by March 1786. After being burned down in October 1788 it was rebuilt the following year. It measures 47m x 8.20m by 18.3m high. Three waterwheels placed transversely drove 4500 spindles in 1793 and 6556 in 1802. It has a projecting Venetian-windowed stair tower.

Mill No 2: This mill was added in 1788 and is similar in form and proportions to No 1.

Mill No 3: This mill was built c 1790–92, at which time it measured 40m x 9m by 18.3m high. After it burned down in 1819 it was completely rebuilt in the late 1820s as a 37.75m three-bay iron-framed mill. Brick arches spring between cast-iron beams on cast-iron columns, and the roof trusses have iron queen-posts. It was originally the Jenny House, for self-acting spinning jennies to William Kelly's patent. It was linked by a three-bay extension to No 4 Mill of an unusual construction: iron plate floors laid on a grid of short cast-iron joists and a roof of iron purlins.

Mill No 4: This mill was built in 1791–93, when it measured 47.5m x 10m by 21.3m high. It was not fitted up as a mule-spinning mill until 1813. The original structure burned down

in 1888. Its north gable survives as the south gable of No 3 Mill. In 1990 a waterwheel was brought in from elsewhere in Scotland and installed here.

The Mechanics' Workshop and Foundry: Built in the early years of the 19th century, it was used for making equipment for New Lanark, and also for other Scottish mills. It is one of the oldest engineering workshops in Scotland. The Neo-Classical style, used at the Institute and School, is repeated here, with pediments to the east and north gable elevations.

The Dyeworks: This long low building was originally the brass and iron foundry of the mill, built c 1806.

Waterhouses: Originally each of the mills had one of the two-storey structures, which straddle the tailraces of the water wheels to prevent back-watering (reverse flow). Only parts of those fronting Mills Nos 1 and 2 survive.

- The buffer zone

The landscape of the extensive buffer zone contains a number of elements that are complementary to that of the main New Lanark nominated area. These include farms, estates, woodland, bridges, etc of historical interest. Worthy of mention is Bonnington Power Station, the first large-scale hydro-electric scheme for public power supply in Britain, which still includes two original turbines.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The whole of the nominated area is within the New Lanark Conservation Area, one of the first to be designated in 1973 under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act. Within a designated Conservation Area no buildings which are not protected by other statutory instruments (Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings) may not be demolished without authorization.

Within the nominated area there are 27 Listed Buildings protected under this Act. It is noteworthy that no fewer than 21 of these are protected as category A buildings, the highest level, reflecting the high national and interest of New Lanark. There is a number of Listed Buildings in the buffer zone.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 makes it a criminal offence to alter, damage, or destroyed any Scheduled Ancient Monument without the written consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland. There is one Ancient Monument (the Museum Stair at Double Row) in the nominated area and two in the buffer zone.

In addition to these statutes, some measure of protection, especially of gardens and designed landscapes, is also conferred by the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedures) Scotland Order (1992), under which developers must consult the Secretary of State for Scotland when any development is proposed which may have an adverse impact on Listed Buildings, Ancient Monuments, or historic landscapes and gardens on the official Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Management

Ownership of New Lanark Village is shared between the New Lanark Conservation Trust, the New Lanark

Association, South Lanarkshire Council, and twenty private householders (for which restrictive covenants apply).

Management at the local level is the responsibility of the New Lanark Conservation Trust. This is a non-profit-making charitable trust through which the development of New Lanark Village has been managed and through which the majority of funding for capital projects is channelled.

South Lanarkshire Council is the local government body responsible for structure and local planning and for development control in South Lanarkshire. It also has powers and duties under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act (1997) and powers under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).

Historic Scotland is the executive agency within the Scottish Executive responsible for discharging the Government's functions in relation to the protection and presentation of Scotland's built and archaeological heritage. So far as the natural heritage is concerned, the responsible Government agency is Scottish Natural Heritage.

There is a long history of management planning and control in New Lanark, beginning with *A Future for New Lanark: a Report to the New Lanark Working Party by the Feasibility Study Team* published by the County Council of Lanark in 1973. This led to the creation of the New Lanark Conservation Trust and established the policy and principles that have governed the management of New Lanark ever since. No fewer than 47 discussion papers have been produced since 1975. The Trust has an outline Business Plan, prepared by consultants KPMG, and to this will shortly be added a Conservation Plan, as required by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is perhaps relevant to mention in this context that in 1996 a team from the Trust prepared a business plan and development report for the World Heritage site of the historic salt mine at Wielicka (Poland).

These plans are set within the framework of the land-use planning system established in the United Kingdom by the Town and Country Planning Act (1947). The regional strategic Strathclyde Structure Plan (1995) includes a policy specifying New Lanark as being of special heritage significance. At local level the Lanark Local Plan (1983) lays down policies for the conservation and management of New Lanark, stressing the need for a development policy. The consultative document for the Lower Clydesdale Local Plan (1999) concentrates on traffic and the need to establish links between New Lanark and Lanark, reflecting the progress made since 1983.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

The conservation and rehabilitation of New Lanark has now been in progress for more than a quarter of a century. It has been guided throughout that period by the commitment and the expertise of the New Lanark Conservation Trust and its collaborators. This effort continues through to the present day and a number of projects are in progress.

Authenticity and integrity

The authenticity of the historic industrial and other buildings at New Lanark is relatively high. As the economic and industrial basis of the community fluctuated and eventually died between 1785 and 1968, new buildings were constructed, others were demolished or destroyed by fire, and many underwent radical changes in use. From the 1970s onwards careful research has preceded the restoration and rehabilitation of these buildings.

The appearance of the village is now very close to that of its heyday, the first half of the 19th century, as confirmed by the voluminous graphic and written archive available for research. It might be argued, however, that the integrity of the village has been destroyed. This has been a conscious act, involving the demolition of many more recent buildings: in a sense New Lanark has been arrested at a certain time of its history.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS-TICCIH expert mission visited New Lanark in January 2001. ICOMOS consulted TICCIH experts on the cultural significance of this property.

Qualities

New Lanark is an exceptional example of an early 19th century purpose-built cotton milling town, in which the majority of the original buildings survive intact and well conserved. It is of special interest because it was there that Robert Owen first applied his form of benevolent paternalism in industry, building on the altruistic actions of his partner, David Dale. It was there, too, that he formulated his Utopian philosophy of vision of a society without crime, poverty, and misery.

Comparative analysis

The model industrial settlement is a phenomenon of the Enlightenment. The San Leucio silk factory was set up in 1789 as part of the never to be realized utopian town of Ferdinandopolis in the park of the Royal Palace at Caserta (Italy): it forms part of the World Heritage site inscribed in 1997. Many more were created in the 19th century: the textile mill settlement at Crespi d'Adda in northern Italy became a World Heritage site in 1995. Other notable settlements of this kind are Le Grand Hornu (Belgium) from the 1830s, Noisiel, near Paris (started in the 1870s), and Port Sunlight, United Kingdom (from 1888).

When Crespi d'Adda was nominated, TICCIH prepared a comparative study of "Workers' villages as elements of the industrial heritage," at the request of ICOMOS. This defined a workers' village as "any group of residential buildings created on the initiative of an employer in a symbiotic relationship with the workplaces," and laid down certain criteria for the evaluation of monuments of this kind when proposed for the World Heritage List. Two main criteria were identified, relating to the expression on the part of employers of their wish to provide their workers with quality housing:

1. the size, number, and degree of comfort of the dwellings and their disposition in relation to the settlement pattern or the surrounding landscape – ie the provision of a way

of life for their workers that would ensure their remaining, but for more than simple financial reasons;

2. the quality of the materials used and their architectural style linked with a local or regional identity.

In this study New Lanark was cited as admirably fulfilling both criteria. Stress was laid upon the moral and social philosophy that underlay Robert Owen's creation, which was recognized as the paradigm of this form of heritage.

When this nomination was first considered in 1987 some concern was expressed about its relationship with Owen's later foundation, New Harmony (USA). ICOMOS is of the opinion that the two are not comparable. New Lanark was an existing textile village under benevolent management where Owen was given the opportunity to develop and put his moral and social ideas into practice in a flourishing industrial context. New Harmony (which is on the US tentative list) by contrast was set up by Owen as a Utopian settlement without any industrial or economic foundations where he hoped to be able to create a new kind of morally impeccable. Lacking this material backing it did not succeed and he left it after a short time. The differences between the two settlements become clear when the buildings and institutions that survive are compared: the monumentality of New Lanark is completely lacking in New Harmony.

Consideration should also be given to the influence of Owen on later industrialists and planners in the United Kingdom. The nature and layout of New Lanark inspired other benevolent industrialists to follow his example, and this movement laid the foundations for the work of Ebenezer Howard in creating the concept of the Garden City.

Brief description

New Lanark is a small village in a beautiful Scottish landscape where in the early years of the 19th century a model industrial society was created by the philanthropist and Utopian idealist Robert Owen. The imposing mill buildings, the spacious and well designed workers' housing, and the dignified educational institute and school still survive to testify to Owen's humanism.

Statement of Significance

The creation of the model industrial settlement at New Lanark, in which good-quality planning and architecture were integrated with a humane concern on the part of the employers for the well-being and lifestyle of the workers, is a milestone in social and industrial history. The moral and social beliefs that underlay Robert Owen's work there provided the basis for seminal material and intangible developments that have had lasting influences on human society over the past two hundred years.

ICOMOS Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii, iv, and vi*:

Criterion ii When Richard Arkwright's new factory system for textile production was brought to New Lanark the need to provide housing and other facilities to the workers and managers was recognized. It was there that

Robert Owen created a model for industrial communities that was to spread across the world in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Criterion iv New Lanark saw the construction not only of well designed and equipped workers' housing but also public buildings designed to improve their spiritual as well as their physical needs.

Criterion vi The name of New Lanark is synonymous with that of Robert Owen and his social philosophy in matters such as progressive education, factory reform, humane working practices, international cooperation, and garden cities, which was to have a profound influence on social developments throughout the 19th century and beyond.

Bureau Recommendation

That New Lanark be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii, iv, and vi*.

ICOMOS, September 2001