

## Potsdam (Germany)

### No 532ter

#### Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (extension)
<i>Location</i>	State of Brandenburg
<i>State Party</i>	Germany
<i>Date</i>	3 June 1998

#### Justification by State Party

The Baroque residential town of Potsdam with its royal palaces and gardens has been systematically expanded and designed by Prussian kings as an extraordinary man-made landscape. Peter Joseph Lenné's comprehensive plan for the embellishment of the "Potsdam Island," located in the Havel river, served as the basis for this. Accordingly the town and the adjacent royal park ensembles have been designed as a unique comprehensive composition, using the special topography. The extensions proposed to the World Heritage site consist of central elements of this development of remarkable single creations of architecture and gardening into a man-made landscape. The latter has been preserved and can be enjoyed to a large extent despite the development of the town in the 20th century. From the European angle the Potsdam man-made landscape is a unique example of landscape design against the background of monarchic ideas of the state and common efforts for emancipation.

[The existing World Heritage site is inscribed under *criteria i, ii, and iv.*]

#### 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

##### - *The Lindenallee*

The first alley lined with lime trees, c 700m long, intended to continue the main axis from Sans Souci to the area of Golmer Luch, outside the boundaries of the park, was opened in 1769, after the New Palace had been completed. Just over a century later Friedrich III ordered it to be extended and a stretch 2km long was prepared by the Royal gardener, Emil Sello.

##### - *The former Gardeners' School*

A tree nursery and school, intended for the raising of plants, the training of young gardeners, and teaching the art of gardening, was set up by Lenné in 1823. When the nursery was transferred to Alt Geltow the Gardeners' School moved into the main building, in the street alongside the New Palace. It was given the name of the Royal Gardeners' School Potsdam, Wildpark in 1854. It was expanded in the Classical style in 1869, and additional farm buildings and greenhouse were added in 1880-82, covering an area of over 4ha. The School transferred to Dahlem in 1902, since when the building has been used as a residence.

When the Berlin-Potsdam railway was extended to Magdeburg in 1846, a new station was built on the access road from Wildpark to the New Palace, principally for the use of the Royal family and their guests, but also for the general public. A new Imperial station was built at the command of Wilhelm II and opened in 1909.

##### - *The Palace and Park of Linstedt*

An existing palace was bought in 1828 by the Crown Prince for his own use. He sketched out plans for its conversion in the style of a rural villa, and the work was carried out in the mid 19th century. The garden was planned by Lenné, but not completed until 1860.

##### - *Bornstedt*

The village of Bornstedt, founded in the later 12th century, came into the possession of the Grand Elector in 1664 and was given to the Potsdam military orphanage by Friedrich Wilhelm I in 1722. It was reacquired in 1841 by Friedrich Wilhelm IV, who assigned it to the Kronfidei Army manors.

Lenné became responsible for laying out the village anew. He changed the orientation of the streets and lanes and carried out extensive landscaping of its surroundings in an Italianate style. The Baroque manor house burned down in 1846, and was replaced by a new structure designed by Johann Heinrich Häberlin, who was responsible for the church with its campanile, also strongly reminiscent of Italy.

##### - *The Seekoppel*

The landscaped area known as the Seekoppel, between the Bornstedt Lake and the Ruinenberg, was laid out by Lenné in 1842.

##### - *Voltaireweg*

The "green belt" of Voltaireweg was first laid out in the late 18th century as a Royal riding circuit and later elaborated by Lenné, with trees, meadows, and gardens. Later buildings have reduced the impact of the original landscape, but it still preserves the character of a narrow green belt.

##### - *The Allee nach Sans Souci*

Before the Sans Souci Park was laid out this was the entrance to Friedrich Wilhelm I's kitchen garden. This area expanded with the addition of a hothouse and solid gardeners' houses. After the creation of Sans Souci as a summer residence for the Prussian monarchs the street attracted court officials, who built villas there. Ludwig Persius converted two existing residences into an administrative building for their use at the command of Friedrich Wilhelm IV in 1842-43, and its Italianate style was followed in later constructions.

- *Alexandrovska*

Tsar Alexander I of Russia died in 1825, and Friedrich Wilhelm III, who was interested in Russian culture, as well as having dynastic ties with the Russian Royal family, ordered the creation of a "Russian Colony" in his memory. The overall planning was entrusted to Lenné, and the buildings were in the charge of Captain Snethlage, commander of the Guards Engineer Unit. The plan included a hippodrome, which symbolized the concept of freedom; it was Friedrich Wilhelm himself who added the Cross of St Andrew, patron saint of Russia.

The colony itself consisted of twelve small log houses and a larger one for the commander, plus a church and house for the priest.

- *The Pfingstberg*

The Allée to the Pheasant Garden laid out by the Great Elector in the 17th century led directly to the Pfingstberg. Friedrich Wilhelm II planned to build a Neo-Gothic belvedere palace on top of the hill, with its fine vistas, but the project had to be abandoned for lack of money. A small pavilion there was rebuilt as a "Greek" garden Temple of Pomona in 1800-01 by Karl Friedrich Schinkel as his very first architectural project.

The panoramic view over Potsdam island inspired another project of Friedrich Wilhelm IV. The hill was to be surmounted by a colonnaded casino with towers and surrounded by water cascades, like an Italian villa. However, only the colonnades and cascades were ever built, in the period between 1847 and 1863.

- *Between the Pfingstberg and the New Garden*

The narrow strip connecting Lenné's parks on the Pfingstberg and the New Garden was laid out as a park in 1862.

- *The southern shore of the Jungfernsee*

A coffee-house with its own vineyard and a restaurant existed on the path along the lake-shore at the end of the 18th century. The former was rebuilt as a tower villa by Persius, and established a model for future villa building in Potsdam. No construction has been permitted on this stretch, now known as Berninistraße, so as not to interfere with Lenné's landscaping of Potsdam Island.

- *The Royal Forest*

The area around the village of Sacrow was owned by several aristocratic families in the 19th century. It was purchased by Friedrich Wilhelm IV and converted into a Royal forest and park by Lenné. The village itself became an integral part of the designed landscape.

- *The approaches to Babelsberg Park*

The landscape of Babelsberg Park is another masterpiece of Lenné, extended from 1842 onwards by Prince Herman von Pückler-Muskau. The approaches, including the wetlands along the Nuthe river, form part of the overall landscape.

- *Babelsberg Observatory*

The Berlin Observatory was obliged to move from the southern outskirts of the fast-growing city, where it had been since 1877. Neubabelsberg was selected as the area for the

new location, and part of a neglected Royal estate was identified in 1911. In 1928 this was extended to the west.

## Management and Protection

### *Legal status*

The nomination states that "The entire territory of the expansion has been classified as a monumental area according to the Brandenburg State Law about the Protection of Monuments, dated 22.07.91, and is protected by the Statutes for the Protection of the Monumental District of the Berlin-Potsdam man-made landscape according to the UNESCO World Heritage List, administrative district of Potsdam Monumental Districts Statutes dated 30.10.96."

It is also covered by the "Constructional guiding plans of the City of Potsdam" and the "State Treaty about the establishment of the Berlin-Brandenburg Prussian Palaces and Garden Foundation [*Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg*], dated 23 August 1994 .

The ICOMOS expert mission discovered that the buildings and historic gardens and parks are protected individually as monuments. However, no monument list/register was attached to the nomination.

The "Town Planning Situation/Planning Intentions" paragraphs of the nomination lay considerable emphasis on the plans for Potsdam's environmental planning which are to be drawn up. The final environmental planning plans were not yet available at the time of the mission. A number of issues are expected to be finalised in February/March 1999. These issues will then be discussed in the *Stadtparlament*, after which Potsdam can make the plans official.

The proposal to expand the site is based on sections which belong to the core zone or which can be considered as buffer zones. Mention is also made of planned/possible new developments in some areas.

### *Management*

The nomination does not provide precise information on the management of the property. The *Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg* has detailed documentation (photographs, measurements/surveys, maps) on all park components. Each park has been assigned its own engineer. The *Stiftung* has a staff of four garden historians. Five-year plans are being drawn up for each park.

The *Stiftung* has a *Denkmalkommission* (Monuments Committee) to consider fundamental measures concerning such matters as restoration issues.

## Conservation and Authenticity

### *Conservation history*

The *Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg* owns and manages parks and historic buildings in these parks and is extremely active in restoring them or having them restored in an exemplary fashion. Examples include the Roman Bench (*Römische Bank*), which has been brought back to its original site on the western slope of the Ruinenberg, the restoration of the Temple of Pomona on the Pfingstberg and the eight re-opened vistas from the Pfingstberg, the restoration of the original course of the paths

there, and the forthcoming restoration of the left tower of the Belvedere with its Roman Cabinet (Pfungstberg). The spatial relationship between the Pfungstberg and the New Garden, linked by the so-called *Mirbachwäldchen*, has been reinstated, including the restoration of the course of the original paths. Part of the path structure in the New Garden near the Cecilienhof is currently being reconstructed.

The restoration and revitalization of the park layout on the Pfungstberg and of Babelsberg Park have received funding from the *Landesarbeitsamt Berlin-Brandenburg* and the *Internationaler Bund für Sozialarbeit eV*.

During the past few years, the *Stiftung* has restored the Gothic Library in the New Garden (largely financed by the *Land* of Berlin, which contributed 1.6 million DM on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of Potsdam in 1993).

The *Stiftung* has undertaken various conservation measures for buildings that are waiting for restoration, among them the Belvedere on the Pfungstberg and the Villa Quandt at its foot.

Potsdam has an active policy on monuments, redevelopment, and renovation, the results of which are clearly, and increasingly, visible.

The nomination reports only in general terms on restoration and renovation activities that have taken place at each of the component properties.

#### *Authenticity*

The history of the past fifty years has left its mark on Potsdam property through neglect, collective re-use of buildings, and the construction of military facilities.

The underlying concept is Peter Joseph Lenné's plans, which he designed after the mid 1800s to transform the Havel landscape into the cultural landscape. These designs still determine the layout of Potsdam's cultural landscape.

The policies of the Federal state of Brandenburg, of Potsdam, and of the *Stiftung* are aimed at restoring or emphasizing the historical structure and layout of this planned landscape plan are necessary, while forming the framework for new environmental and urban developments.

The layout of the Alexandrovka has remained virtually unchanged. Regarding the other proposed sections the integrity of the spatial environment seems to have been somewhat disrupted near the Voltaireweg, the southern shore of the Jungfernsee, the approaches to Babelsberg Park, and the Babelsberg Observatory.

Extensive historical research (archives, archaeology, architectural history) precedes and supports the *Stiftung's* restoration activities. It guarantees conscientious and responsible restoration and renovation. Partial reconstruction does occur, but this is also based on intensive preliminary studies or research.

#### **Evaluation**

##### *Action by ICOMOS*

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Potsdam in January 1999. Prior to this mission, ICOMOS had been consulted on aspects of planning in Potsdam in 1997 and 1998.

#### *Qualities*

The nomination is a logical supplement to and completion of the existing World Heritage site, first inscribed in 1990 and extended in 1992, because of the historic unity of landscape, composition, architecture, structure, and culture with the existing inscribed property.

#### *Comparative analysis*

The exceptional significance of this site has already been recognized by the World Heritage Committee. The extension now proposed completes the historic cultural ensemble.

#### *ICOMOS recommendations and comments*

ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee should congratulate the Federal State of Brandenburg, the *Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg*, and the City of Potsdam on the exemplary quality of the many restoration, renovation, and redevelopment projects carried out over the past ten years.

The Committee should propose that a communal board should be set up to coordinate plans for the site composed of members of this Board from Berlin and Potsdam.

All possible means should be sought to stop the *Projekt Quartier Am Bahnhof* and to draw up an urban development plan and a plan for the landscape architecture which will provide an organic link between the City, the Alter Markt, and the Quartier Am Bahnhof to achieve a spatially logical walking route between the city and current entrance to the Potsdam-Stadt station.

To date, no detailed plans for the German Unity Transport Project No 17 have been submitted to the World Heritage Committee. The plans will have an immediate and dramatic visual and technical impact on the heart of the World Heritage site in view of the size of the ships concerned (185m in length) and the desired volume of the shipping traffic.

It must be assumed that there will be far-reaching consequences for the intrinsic quality and significance of the site, greater than those of the Quartier Am Bahnhof which lies outside the boundaries of the site. The World Heritage Committee should request the State Party to provide full information in the 5th Report on the state of conservation, which should be submitted before 15 September 1999.

The environmental and architectural development of and on the Berliner Vorstadt, on both sides of the Berliner Straße (a small peninsula situated between the Heiliger See and the Tiefer See/Havel, which are part of the site) should be included in future reports by the Federal State of Brandenburg on the state of conservation. Changes to scale and size of the buildings there will have a major visual and spatial impact looking from the New Garden, Kleinglienicke, and Babelsberg Park seen from the Havel. In effect, the Berliner Vorstadt should be taken into consideration as a buffer zone.

During the ICOMOS mission it was agreed that the Federal State of Brandenburg would submit a map with a revised spatial layout of the proposed areas

Biotope are being itemized by the City in those sections already on the World Heritage List as well as in the sections proposed as extensions. The responsible officials have

recognized that nature conservation in such circumstances can enhance the cultural value.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that this extension to the World Heritage site of the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin should be *approved*, subject to the provision of maps showing revised boundaries, as agreed with the ICOMOS expert mission.

ICOMOS, September 1999