

Identification

<u>Nomination</u>	The historical monuments zone of Zacatecas
<u>Location</u>	State of Zacatecas
<u>State Party</u>	Mexico
<u>Date</u>	7 October 1992

Justification by State Party

With Guanajuato, Zacatecas is among the most important mining towns of New Spain. It was a major centre of silver production, and also of colonization, evangelization, and cultural expansion (criterion ii).

The townscape of the ancient centre is moulded to the topography of the steep valley in which it is situated and is of outstanding beauty (criterion iv).

The cathedral, which towers over the heart of this townscape, is exceptional by virtue of its overall harmonious design and the Baroque profusion of its facade, in which Christian and native elements combine (criterion i).

History and DescriptionHistory

Zacatecas was founded in 1546, following the discovery of the very rich San Bernabé silver lode. This was to be followed later by working of the Veta Grande, Panuco, and Albarrada lodes in the same massif. The town developed to the south of the mining area, on the road from the capital of New Spain. It centred on the present-day San Agustín quarter, where the first church was built, with houses along the Calle Real, now Arroyo del Plata, the present main street. Unlike other Spanish colonial towns, the street layout of Zacatecas was irregular, because of the need for communication between the mines and the ore-working sites, which determined the siting in a steep valley.

The silver mining activities were so extensive that by 1550 there were 34 mines in operation. In 1588 the Spanish Crown granted Zacatecas the title of city and a coat-of-arms. The discovery of the Guanajuato lode shortly afterwards led to the construction of the Silver Road to link the two centres to the capital of the colony, Mexico City. By 1630 more than 60% of the silver exported from the Spanish colony was moved along this road. The consequent wealth resulted in the embellishment of both cities with fine public and private buildings.

Zacatecas became the economic centre for the region, with a system of forts (presidios), villages, and agricultural estates (haciendas) for defence and supply. It was also the base for colonization and the spread of Christianity further to the north; first the Convent of San Francisco and later the College of Guadalupe were responsible for establishing over 70 missions, as far north as Texas and California.

The apogee of silver production in Zacatecas was in the 16th and 17th centuries, but then it was overtaken by Guanajuato, although it retained an important role as the site of a mint. Silver production continued after Independence, despite the interruption of the 1910 Revolution, during which it was the site of a major battle in 1914, but it fell off as the century progressed, to the extent that Zacatecas was not included in the new communications network being developed. As a result of this economic decline, the city has retained many of its original urban features.

Description

Zacatecas is situated in the narrow valley of the Rio de la Plata, at an altitude of 2400 m. Its main north-south street, with two parallel streets, branches into two to the south, and these are linked by narrow lanes, often opening out into small plazas. Many are steep or at different levels, and there is considerable revetting and terracing. The cathedral and other churches tower above the compact mass of houses, backed by the La Bufa hill.

The 110 ha historic area comprises 127 plots and 456 buildings of historical importance. These include 15 religious complexes, mostly of the 17th and 18th centuries, among them the convents of San Juan de Dios, San Francisco, San Agustín, and Santo Domingo, the Cathedral, the Seminary, the Colleges of San Luis Gonzaga and Guadalupe, and the Chapel of the Patrocinio. The Cathedral (1730-60) is a highly decorated Baroque structure with exceptional facades and other features that reflect the absorption of indigenous ideas and techniques into Catholic iconography. The Jesuit church of Santo Domingo (1746-9), with its Churrigueresque Baroque retablos, has a quiet beauty which contrasts with the Baroque flamboyance of the College alongside it. Its massive dome and towers provide a counterpoint to the nearby Cathedral. It now houses a new Fine Art Museum.

Important secular buildings include the 18th century Mala Noche Palace, the Calderón Theatre of 1834, the iron-framed Gonzalez Market of 1886, and the pink stone Governor's Residence from the early years of the 20th century. The many steep lanes, named after trades or local topography, contain fine examples of humbler urban architecture from the 17th century onwards.

Outside the town are the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora del Patrocinio, with its observatory and loggia (1882) on the summit of La Bufa, and the Apostolic College of Propaganda Fide of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (1707) on its eastern slope.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The public and religious buildings are in Federal Government ownership; of the remainder, some belong to the State or to the municipality of Zacatecas and others are in private ownership.

The main protection comes from the Federal Law on Monuments and Archaeological, Historic, and Artistic Zones 1972 and the Regulation of 8.12.1975. The Historic Zone of Zacatecas is placed under the control of the State Government by Law No 60 of 15.4.87, with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) charged with carrying out special studies and projects. Urban development and the use and conservation of publicly owned historical monuments are controlled by the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL).

Under the Urban Development Plan for Zacatecas (1965) the State of Zacatecas is responsible for ensuring the protection of the historic centre. A partial buffer zone is provided by the Natural and Ecological Reserve of La Bufa Hill to the east.

Management

There are regional centres of INAH and SEDESOL in Zacatecas, each with some 50 people, and the local commission employs ten more. Since 1986 SEDESOL has been operating its Partial Plan for the Urban Development of Zacatecas. This embraces complete control over development of the natural reserve of La Bufa, encouragement of modern development away from the historic centre, towards Guadalupe, and the diversification of economic activities in the historic centre, in order to maintain its vitality.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

Conservation of buildings in the historic zone is supervised by a Commission set up in 1965, and INAH and SEDESOL contribute financially and with technical assistance. As a result the quality of conservation in the historic zone is generally high.

Major restoration projects have been carried out on the Convent of San Agustín (begun by the Church in 1948 and finished in 1969), the Convent of San Luis Gonzaga (1983 conversion to Museum of Fine Art), and the Convent of San Francisco (1990 conversion to Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology).

Work has also been completed in the burial of electricity cables and other services and in the repaving of many streets and squares.

Authenticity

The original street pattern of the town has been preserved intact and, because of the economic decline over much of the 20th century, there have been very few modern interventions among the buildings. Development has been strictly controlled over the past three decades. Restoration work on public buildings has been carried out to the high standards of INAH, and there is overall supervision of other conservation and repair activities by Federal, State, and municipal bodies.

Evaluation

Qualities

Zacatecas is a well preserved and carefully conserved example of a Spanish colonial town, with the irregular layout characteristic of those whose economy is based on mining.

Comparative analysis

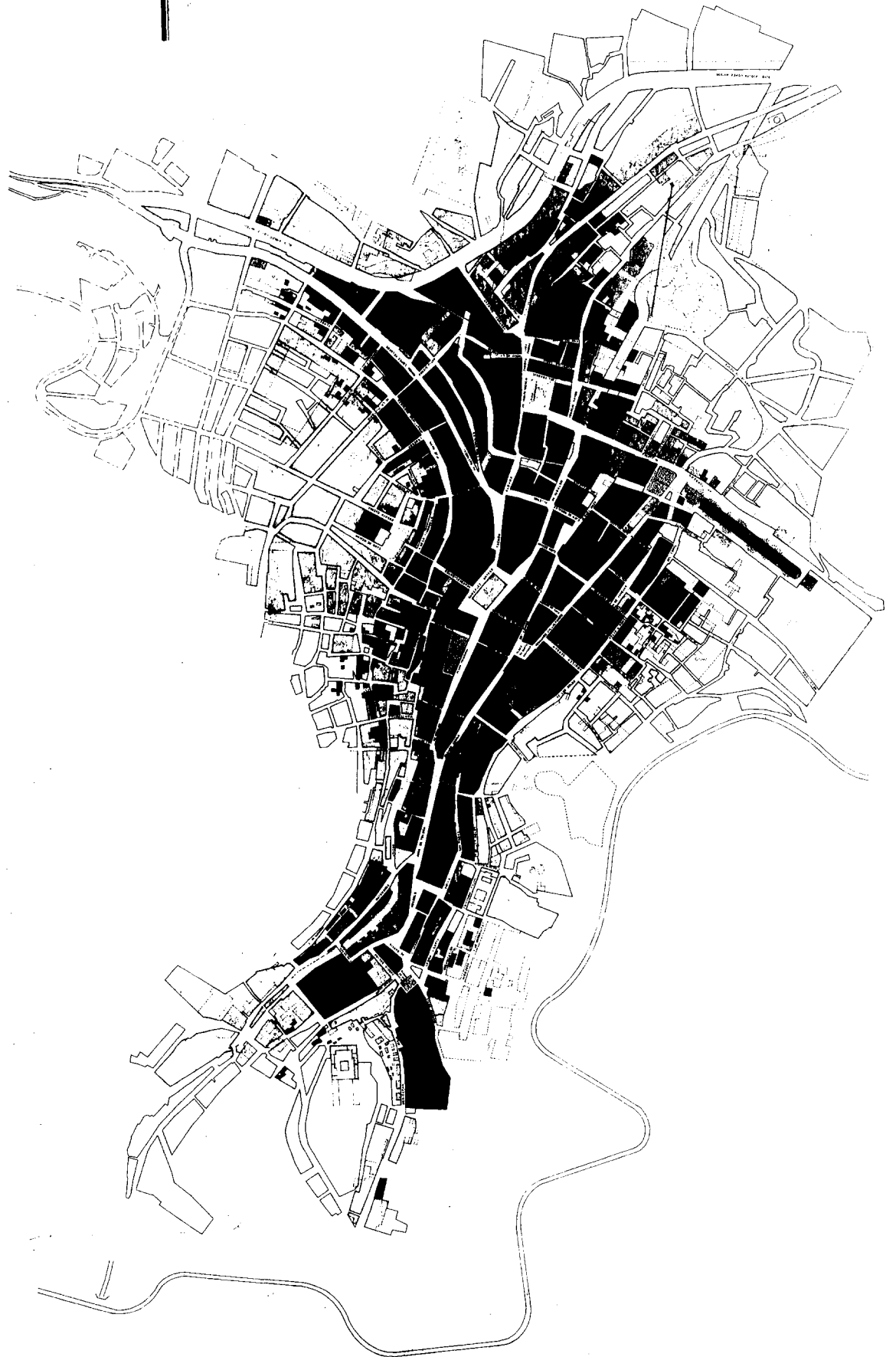
It is difficult to dissociate Zacatecas from Guanajuato: they were established almost simultaneously and jointly supplied the greater part of the silver production of New Spain and, later, Mexico. It may be argued, nevertheless, that they are the pre-eminent examples of this type of settlement, comparable only with Potosí (Bolivia) for their influence on the economic and political history of Europe in the 16th century.

Recommendation

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

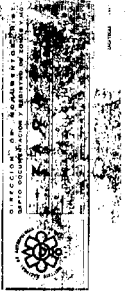
- Criterion ii Zacatecas was one of the principal centres of silver mining from the early Spanish period until the 20th century and its architecture and layout reflect its economic importance and the resultant cultural flowering which influenced developments in these fields in central and north America.
- Criterion iv Zacatecas is an outstanding example of a European colonial settlement that is perfectly adapted to the constraints imposed by the topography of a metalliferous mountainous region.

ICOMOS, October 1993

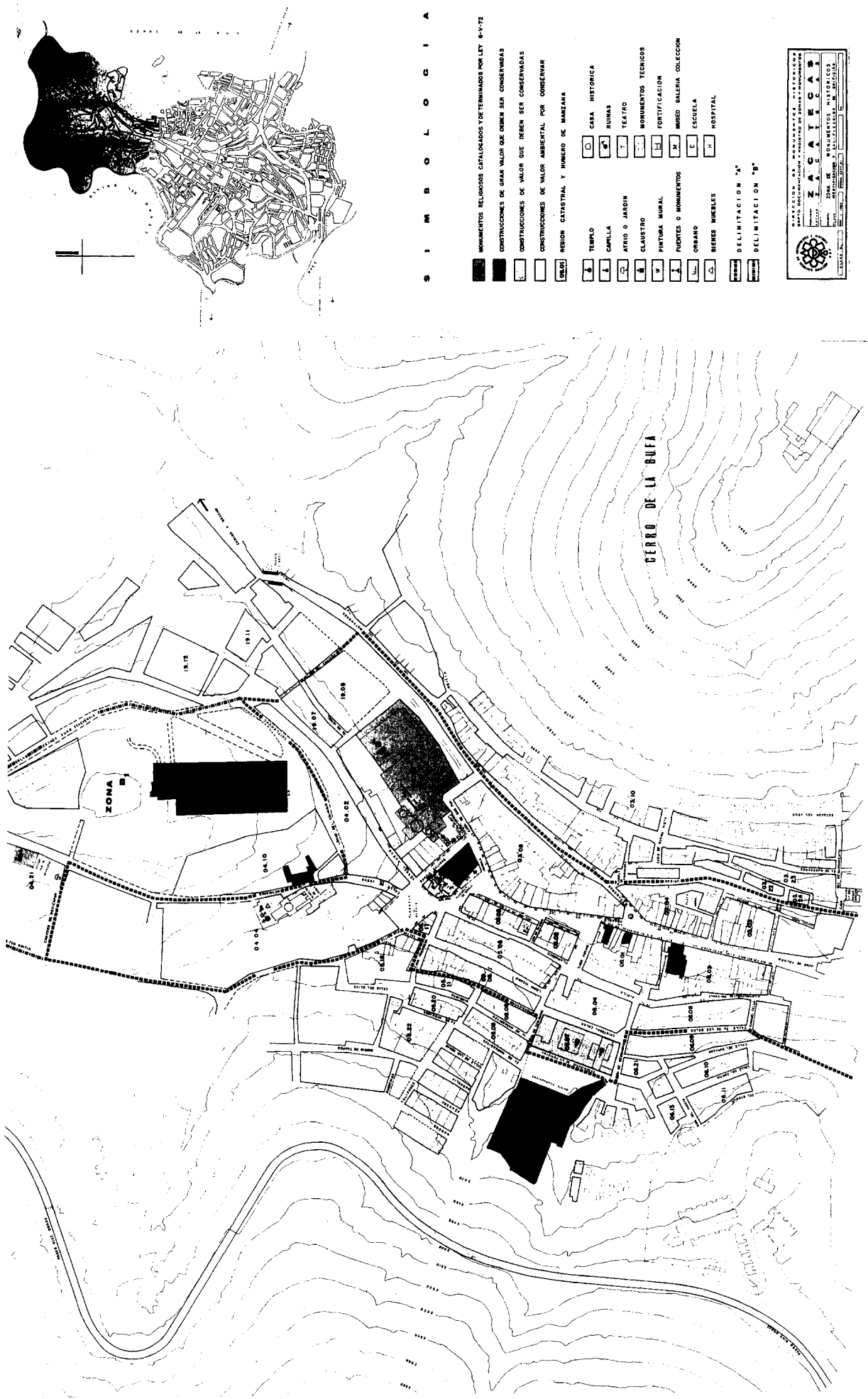


SIMBOLOGIA

■	CRECIMIENTO HASTA 1734
■	CRECIMIENTO HASTA 1799
■	CRECIMIENTO HASTA 1834
■	CRECIMIENTO HASTA 1884
□	CRECIMIENTO ACTUAL



Zacatecas : plan de développement historique de la ville (1982) /
 map of the historic development of the city (1982)

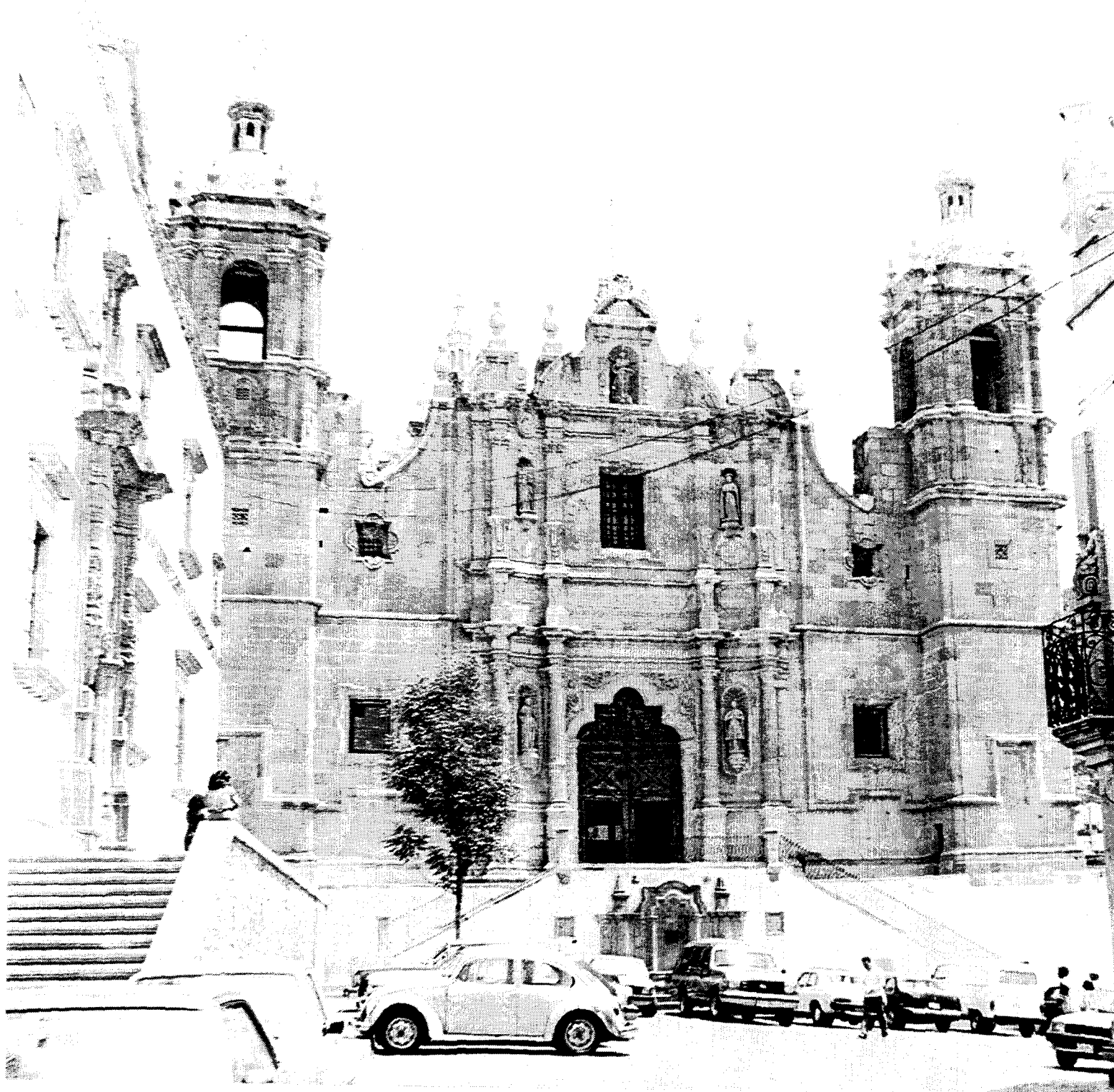


- S I M B O L O G I A**
- MONUMENTOS DECLARADOS PATRIMONIO POR LEY 6-11-72
 - CONSTRUCCIONES DE GRAN VALOR QUE DEBEN SER CONSERVADAS
 - CONSTRUCCIONES DE VALOR QUE DEBEN SER CONSERVADAS
 - CONSTRUCCIONES DE VALOR AMBIENTAL POR CONSERVAR
 - ZONA CATASTRAL Y NUMERO DE MANZANA
 - TEMPLO
 - CAPILLA
 - ARBO O JARDIN
 - CLAUSTRO
 - PINTURA MURAL
 - FUENTES O MONUMENTOS
 - ORNATO
 - BIENES MUEBLES
 - DELIMITACION "A"
 - DELIMITACION "B"
 - CASA HISTORICA
 - RUINAS
 - TEATRO
 - MONUMENTOS TECNICOS
 - FORTIFICACION
 - MUSEO GALERIA COLECCION
 - ESCUELA
 - HOSPITAL

ZACATECAS

SECRETARIA DE CULTURA Y TURISMO
 DIRECCION DE MONUMENTOS Y ZONAS PATRIMONIALES
 INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES Y RESTAURACIONES ARQUITECTONICAS Y ARTISTICAS
 ZONA DE MONUMENTOS HISTORICOS
 AV. CALLES 100 N. 100
 C.P. 38000
 ZACATECAS, S.L.P.

Zacatecas : plan d'identification et de qualification des bâtiments de valeur historique (1981) / map identifying and describing the buildings of historic value (1981)



Zacatecas : Santo Domingo (1746-1749)



Zacatecas : ancienne "rue Royale" / ancient "Royal Street"