

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

DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 89

A) IDENTIFICATION	A) IDENTIFICATION
<u>Bien proposé</u>: Le Caire Islamique <u>Lieu</u>: Gouvernorat du Caire <u>Etat partie</u>: Egypte <u>Date</u>: 9 Mars 1979	<u>Nomination</u>: Islamic Cairo <u>Location</u>: Governorship of Cairo <u>State party</u>: Egypt <u>Date</u>: March 9, 1979
B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS	B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION
Que le bien culturel proposé soit inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine Mondial.	That the cultural property proposed be included on the World Heritage List.
C) JUSTIFICATION	C) JUSTIFICATION
Il est peu de villes au monde qui soient aussi riches que le Caire en édifices anciens, remplis de signification historique et de beauté formelle. Le centre historique (8 x 4 kms), sur la rive orientale du Nil, ne contient pas moins de 600 monuments classés, datables du VIIe au XIXe siècle, implantés dans de larges fragments d'un tissu urbain bien préservé. Le destin historique de la ville, importante métropole (Fostât) dès les débuts de l'Islam, capitale des califes Fatimides, fondateurs du Caire proprement dit (El-Qahirah), du Xe au XIIe siècle, puis capitale des Ayoubides (1171-1250), dont le premier dynaste, Saladin, unit les deux cités de Fostât et du Caire, riche et brillante encore sous les Mamelouks (1250-1517, explique cette longue série de monuments prestigieux: mosquée d'Amr Ibn el-As (fondée en 641) à Fostât (dont il faut signaler aussi la forteresse romaine et les églises coptes), mosquée d'Ibn Touloun	There are few cities in the world which are as rich as Cairo in old buildings, filled with historic significance and formal beauty. The historic centre (8 x 4 kms) on the eastern bank of the Nile includes no less than 600 classified monuments dating from the 7th through the 20th century, distributed over various parts of the well preserved urban fabric. The historic destiny of the city, important metropolis (Fostât) from the beginnings of Islam; from the 10th century to the 12th century, capital of the Fatimid caliphs, who founded Cairo (El-Qâhirah); then, the Ayoubidas (1171-1250) whose first ruler, Saladin, united the two cities of Fostât and Cairo; still rich and ebullient under the Mamelukes (1250-1517), explains the long series of prestigious monuments : the mosque Amr Ibn el-As (founded in 641) at Fostât (whose Roman fortress and Coptic churches should also be pointed out), the mosque Ibn Tulun

(879), l'une des plus célèbres du monde islamique, mosquées d'El-Ahzar (972), d'Al-Hakim (990-1003), d'Al-Akmar (1125), de Mouayed (achevée en 1420) et grands complexes architecturaux de la mosquée-madrassa du sultan Hassan (1356) et de celle de Kaït-bey (1472). A ces grandes réalisations publiques, il convient d'ajouter les mausolées à coupoles de l'époque fatimide, les tombeaux mamelouks, les demeures privées, dont certaines sont fort anciennes, les fortifications (portes fatimides Bab en-Nasr, Bab el-Foutouh, Bab-Zoueila, citadelle de Saladin). La conservation de cet ensemble exceptionnel est une nécessité si universellement ressentie que des travaux de restauration sont actuellement menés par des missions polonaise, allemande, italienne et indienne, tandis que des projets financés par les Etats-Unis, le Danemark, la Hollande, la Grande-Bretagne, la France, sont à l'étude.

L'ICOMOS recommande l'inscription du Caire Islamique sur la Liste du Patrimoine Mondial au titre des critères I, V et VI.

I) Plusieurs des grands monuments du Caire sont des chefs-d'oeuvre incontestés. Ses arcs brisés, légèrement outrepassés, soulignés de frises en méplat, confèrent dégagement et rythme à l'architecture, longuement vantée, de la mosquée d'Ibn-Touloun. Les décors de l'époque fatimide ont, par le choix des éléments et leur mise en oeuvre, une importance décisive dans l'histoire de l'art musulman monumental : à El-Azhar et Al-Hakim, on voit se fixer des types d'entrelacs, de décor épigraphique et linéaire avec leurs caractères spécifiquement musulmans. Tandis que triomphent, inoubliables, dans le ciel du Caire, les monuments mamelouks, les raffinements de leurs architectures colorées, hardiment découpées, originales et imprévues (coupoles en arc persan incrustées d'entrelacs, minarets à encorbellements précieusement ciselés, façades à hauts défoncements en arcs brisés, à balcons sur stalactites de la madrassa du sultan Hassan, de la mosquée de Kaït bey).

V) Le centre du Caire recèle quantité de rues et de demeures anciennes et maintient donc, au sein d'un tissu urbain traditionnel, des formes d'habitat humain remontant jusqu'au Moyen-Age.

VI) Le centre historique du Caire constitue le témoin matériel impressionnant de l'importance internationale de la ville à l'époque médiévale, sur les plans politiques, stratégique, intellectuel et commercial.

(879), one of the most celebrated of the Islamic world; the mosques El-Ahzar (972), Al-Hakim (990-1003), Al-Akmar (1125), Mouayed (complete in 1420) and the large architectural complexes of the mosque-madrassa of the sultan Hassan (1356) and that of Qait Bey (1472). To these great public monuments should be added the domed mausoleums of the Fatimid period, the Mameluke tombs, the private dwellings (some of which are very old), the fortifications (the Fatimid portals of Bab en-Nasr, Bab el-Foutouh, Bab-Zoueila, the citadel of Saladin). The preservation of this exceptional group of buildings is such a universally accepted necessity that restoration work is presently being undertaken by Polish, German, Italian and Indian missions, and projects to be funded by the United-States, Denmark, Holland, Great Britain and France are under study as well.

ICOMOS recommends the inscription of Islamic Cairo on the World Heritage List based on criteria I, V, and VI.

I) Several of the great monuments of Cairo are incontestable masterpieces. Its bearily pointed horseshoe arches underscored by friezes in bas relief convey an openness and rythm to the mosque Ibn-Tulun for which it has long been praised. The decoration of the Fatimid period is, by the choice of its elements and of their application, of decisive importance to the history of monumental Musulman art: at El-Ahza and Al-Hakim, various types of interlace and of epigraphic and linear decor with their specifically Musulman characteristics were developed. Unforgettable, the Mamuluke monument reign triumphant above the skyline of Cairo, the refinement of their colorful architecture, boldly defined, original and unexpected : domes with Persian arches incrustated with interlace, minarets with finely chiselled cantilevers, tall facades with pointed arches, balconies mounted on stalactites like those of the madrasa of sultan Hassan and the mosque of Qait Bey.

V) The centre of Cairo groups numerous streets and old dwellings and thus maintains, in the heart of the traditional urban fabric, forms of human settlement which go back to the Middle Ages.

VI) The historic centre of Cairo constitutes the impressive material witness to the international importance, on the political, strategic, intellectual and commercial level, of the city during the medieval period.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

April 10 1979

Nominations on the World Heritage List

REVIEW SHEET

THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF CAIRO - Egypt - °89

Proposed for ICOMOS Bureau recommendation

We question the geographical definition which is proposed and complementary details would be useful. Even so, the historical, archeological and urbanistic importance of Cairo is absolutely unquestionable.

Panel:

M. André Chastel

Mr. Henry Millon

M. Jean Taralon

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

6 April 1979

WORLD HERITAGE LIST (CULTURAL PROPERTY) ICOMOS TECHNICAL REVIEW NOTES

N.B. All comments are keyed and numbered according to the World Heritage Nomination Forms. Information requested is underlined.

1. (a) Country: Egypt

(c) Name of property: Islamic Cairo (Identification ° 89)

2. Juridical Data

(a) Owner: "State property" is insufficient. Please give the name of the State agency which owns the property which is not privately held.

(b) Legal status: what are the provisions of law no. 215 of 1951? Provide details of protective, legal and administrative measures envisaged or already taken for the conservation of the property (e.g. creation of national park). Give details on the state of occupancy of the property and its accessibility to the general public.

(c) Responsible administration

Please give mailing address for bodies responsible for administration of property.

5. Justification

Property nominated to the World Heritage List is evaluated against specific criteria adopted by the World Heritage Committee. Although the Cairo nomination states, "as a site of outstanding universal value it meets all the criteria for inclusion for inclusion in the World Heritage List", it would have been most useful if specific criteria had been cited as a part of the justification section. As the World Heritage Nomination Form states: each property should:

(i) represent a unique artistic or aesthetic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; or

(ii) have exerted considerable influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on subsequent developments in architecture, monumental sculpture, garden and landscape design, related arts, or human settlement;

Information requested above should be forwarded to:

The Secretariat
World Heritage Committee
Division of Cultural Heritage
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris

Information requested above should be forwarded to:
The Secretariat