

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° 91bis

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : "Extra-territorial" properties of the Holy See situated in the historic centre of Rome and Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Wall.

Location : Rome

State Party : Holy See

Date : July 10, 1990

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That these cultural properties be included on the World Heritage List in complement to the inclusion of the historic centre of Rome (1980) and Vatican City (1984).

C) JUSTIFICATION

During the World Heritage Committee's 12th session (Brasilia, 1988), a member of the Bureau observed that the inclusion of Rome (1980) and Vatican City (1984) on the World Heritage List did not cover all the monuments of this city universally acclaimed for its unique character.

The Lateran treaty concluded in 1929 between Italy and the Holy See established that a number of properties termed "extra-territorial" and situated on Italian soil remained the exclusive property of the Holy See according to a statute defined by Article 13. Among these there are, in Rome, two of the major basilicas -the cathedral of Rome, St John Lateran, and Santa Maria Maggiore - and remarkable palaces.

Acting on these observations the Committee urged the Holy See to take all necessary measures to ensure, through a complementary inscription and in concert with the Italian government, worldwide legal recognition of an indivisible cultural property whose universal value UNESCO has recognized on two separate occasions. For greater coherence, it was also suggested to the representative of the Holy See that the new inscription include in addition to the extra-territorial properties situated in the intra muros zone under protection since 1980, the basilica of St Paul's Outside the Wall, indissociable from St John Lateran and Santa Maria Maggiore.

These suggestions were heeded and a complementary proposal was submitted in 1990. It would seem that all legal and cultural exigencies will now be satisfied definitively as nothing has been omitted from this plan which places under the protection of all mankind the ensemble of properties constituting the historic city of Rome irregardless of their ownership or status.

Not wishing to re-open a dossier that was examined in 1980, ICOMOS nonetheless stresses the outstanding quality of the properties included in this 1990 proposal by the Holy See and is happy that the all-inclusive classification the Committee hoped for will, with minor modifications, lead to a fully correct definition. Without the three major basilicas of Santa Maria Maggiore, St John Lateran and St Paul's Outside the Wall, all essential monuments of the capital of the Christian World, the inclusion of Rome on the World Heritage List would have lost its credibility. Without the inclusion in the city intra muros of palaces as remarkable as the Cancelleria (1483-1517), the Palazzo Maffei, Palazzo di San Callisto and lastly, the Palazzo di Propaganda Fide, renovated by Bernini and Borromini, the decision to protect the ensemble of the urban fabric of Rome down to its minor edifices would have been absurd.

The same criteria as cited in the past apply now in 1990 to this complementary proposal.

- Criterion I The extra-territorial properties enumerated above comprise a series of unique artistic achievements, to wit: at Santa Maria Maggiore, there are the mosaic decor of the atrium, the nave, the triumphal arch and the choir, and a suite of masterpieces from the 5th, 12th and 13th centuries; at St John Lateran and at St Paul's Outside the Wall, there are the marble cloisters by the Vassalletti, perfect expressions of the Gregorian reform's legacy of the ideal of community life, constructions richly ornamented in the image of a heavenly Jerusalem.

- Criterion II The extra-territorial properties proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List exerted considerable influence on the development of architecture and monumental arts throughout the centuries in a large part of the Christian world. The normative role of the great basilicas in the transmission of a structure which had been inherited from the Roman world is known, but one must also recognize the probable role played by the octagonal baptistry in St John Lateran, built under Constantine and rebuilt in the 5th century, in the adoption of this type of edifice in the Occident. Lastly, the derivational influence in Europe and elsewhere of the great masterpieces of baroque religious art- the Sistine and Pauline Chapels of Santa Maria Maggiore, the interior and the façade of St John Lateran- is highly complex due to the missionary policy followed by the Church in the new worlds.

- Criterion IV Santa Maria Maggiore and St John Lateran, despite successive embellishments and restorations, and St Paul's Outside the Wall, despite its 19th-century rehabilitation, constitute remarkable examples of great early Christian basilicas built in Rome during the 4th and 5th centuries.

- Criterion VI St Paul's Outside the Wall, a basilica begun in 386 on the site of the cella memoriae of St Paul is, on the same basis as the Vatican's St Peter's, directly and tangibly associated with the history of the origins of the Christian religion.

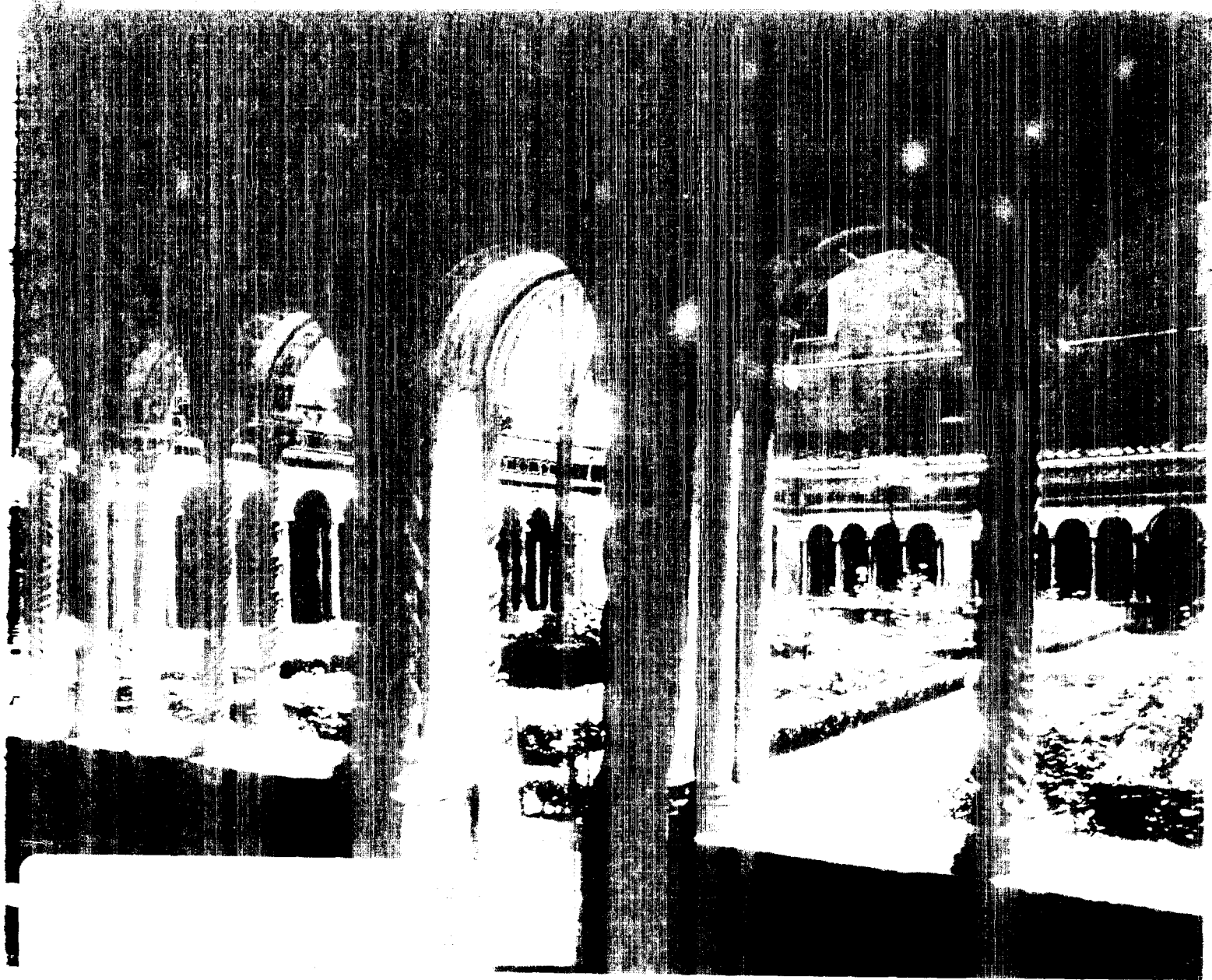
ICOMOS, October 1990



Rome: Palazzo della Cancelleria
façade principale /
main façade

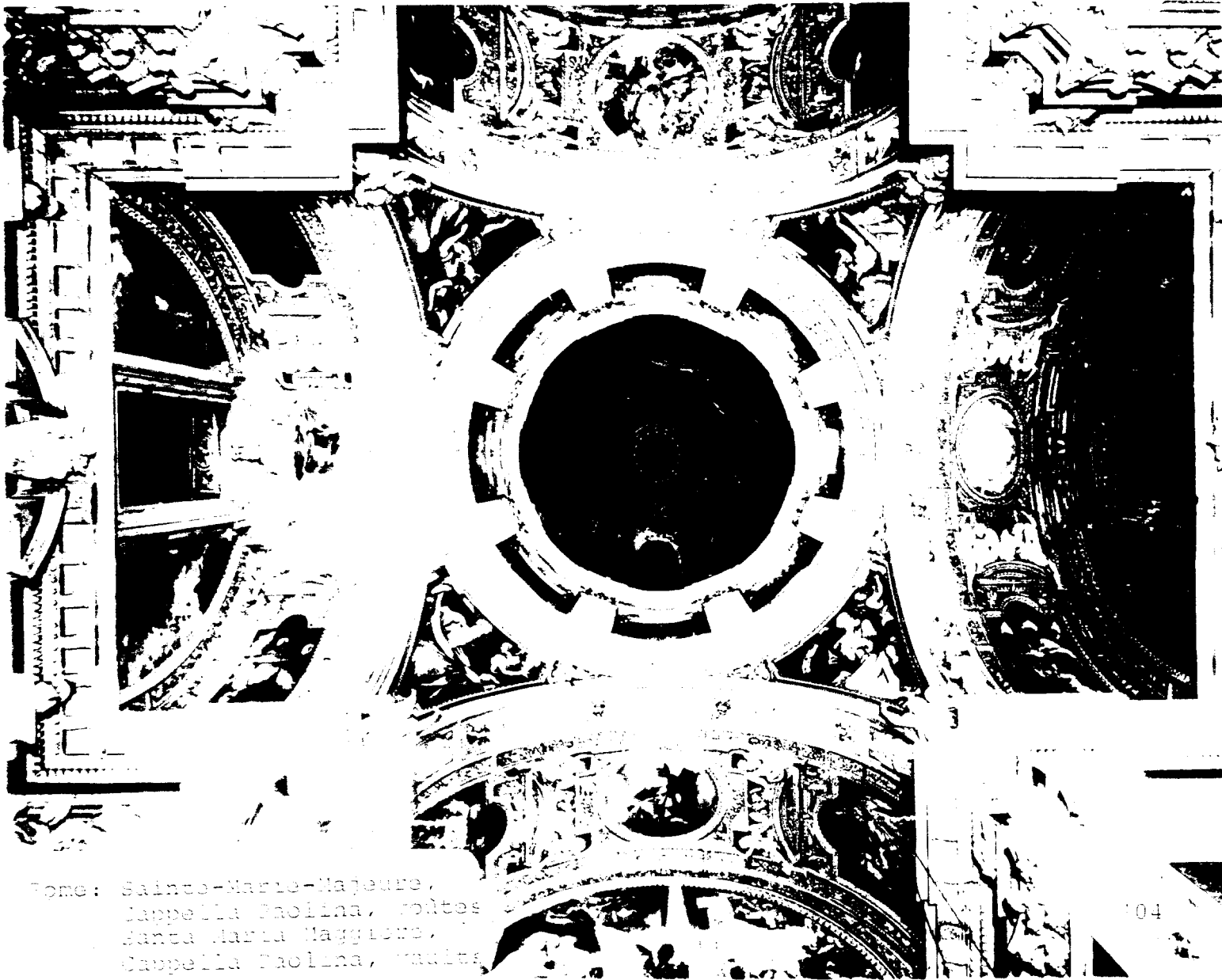


Rome: Palazzo della Cancelleria
Sala dei Cento Giorni





Rome: Sainte-Marie-Majeure,
interieur /
Santa Maria Maggiore,
interior



Rome: Sainte-Marie-Majeure,
Cappella Paolina, intes
Santa Maria Maggiore,
Cappella Paolina, intes