

# GERMANY

## Classical Weimar

### Brief description

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the small Thuringian town of Weimar witnessed a remarkable cultural flowering, attracting many writers and scholars, notably Goethe and Schiller. This development is reflected in the high quality of many of the buildings and of the parks in the surrounding area.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription** 1998

#### Agency responsible for site management

- Weimar Classics and Art collections Foundation (Stiftung Weimarer Klassik und Kunstsammlungen)  
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### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (iii), (vi)

#### Justification provided by the State Party

(as revised July 1998): The nominated cultural property is (in accordance with § 23 of the guidelines) an ensemble which, on account of its unity, is of extraordinary universal value for historical, scientific and to a large degree artistic reasons. At the same time it is a site (in fact comprising significant parts of an historic city) which is, for historical and aesthetic reasons, of extraordinary universal value.

This is justified in accordance with criteria III and VI under § 24 of the guidelines.

III. In its entirety, the ensemble of 'Classical Weimar' bears unique witness to a past and yet still relevant cultural epoch - the Weimar Classical period, a distinctive and special case, an example

of courtly and bourgeois culture, the way to which was paved by the European bourgeois Enlightenment, in the seat of a small central European principality around 1800. The ensemble impressively represents the legacy of architecture and landscape architecture, as well as the artistic endeavours of the Weimar Classical period.

VI. The ensemble known as 'Classical Weimar' is clearly and indivisibly linked with artistic and literary works of extraordinary universal significance - with the Weimar Classical period and with the oeuvre of the German Classical writers Goethe, Schiller, Herder and Wieland.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

The justifications for the individual properties that make up Classical Weimar proposed in the original nomination all quoted criterion vi, but only in the case of the City Castle (criteria i and iv) and the Park on the Ilm (criterion iv) were other criteria put forward.

In its evaluation presented to the meeting of the Bureau in Paris in June 1998, ICOMOS recommended that the nominated property should not be inscribed on the World Heritage List, because it felt that the case for inscription depended on the use of criterion vi in isolation. At the request of the State Party, discussion of the nomination was postponed until the extraordinary meeting before the Committee meeting in December; the State Party undertook to revise its nomination and to supply additional information.

The revised nomination (which excludes the Oßmannstedt Wieland Manor and Park) makes an effective case for the inscription of Classical Weimar, which is set out in the "Justification by State Party" section of this evaluation, replacing the earlier one.

Following a detailed study of the supplementary documentation and justification, and after consulting experts from its membership, ICOMOS has changed its recommendation.

That this property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria iii and vi:

Criterion iii: The high artistic quality of the public and private buildings and parks in and around the town testify to the remarkable cultural flowering of the Weimar Classical Period.

Criterion vi: Enlightened ducal patronage attracted many of the leading writers and thinkers in Germany, such as Goethe, Schiller, and Herder to Weimar in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, making it the cultural centre of the Europe of the day.

**Committee Decision**

Bureau (June 1998): ICOMOS had recommended that this property should not be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The State Party requested in writing the Chairperson to postpone the discussion on this site until the extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1998.

Bureau (November 1998): the Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (vi): Criterion (iii): The high artistic quality of the public and private buildings and parks in and around the town testify to the remarkable cultural flowering of the Weimar Classical Period. Criterion (vi): Enlightened ducal patronage attracted many of the leading writers and thinkers in Germany, such as Goethe, Schiller, and Herder to Weimar in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, making it the cultural centre of the Europe of the day. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the World Heritage site of "The Bauhaus and its sites in Weimar and Dessau" was culturally distinct from this site.

Session (1998): the Committee inscribed this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (vi): Criterion (iii): The high artistic quality of the public and private buildings and parks in and around the town testify to the remarkable cultural flowering of the Weimar Classical Period. Criterion (vi): Enlightened ducal patronage attracted many of the leading writers and thinkers in Germany, such as Goethe, Schiller, and Herder to Weimar in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, making it the cultural centre of the Europe of the day.

The Delegate of Thailand asked if the nomination of Weimar could stand alone on the basis of criterion (iii). ICOMOS responded that indeed it could, but underscored the linkage between criterion (iii) and (vi) in respect of this nomination.

The Delegate of Germany informed the Committee that Weimar would be the cultural capital of Europe in 1999 and that the German authorities would take the necessary measures in conformity with the obligations of the Convention to accommodate the increase in the number of visitors due to this event. The Observer of Poland commended this inscription. His statement is attached as Annex VI.1 to this report.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Statement of significance was agreed at time of inscription
- UNESCO official description of site should be improved; State Party has provided suggestion

**Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: the buffer zone was established in line with the regulations on protecting the surrounding area pursuant to Article 13 of the Thuringian Law on the Protection of Monuments. "(1) Permission from the authority for the protection of monuments is required by those [...] 2. wanting to erect, alter or remove a facility near an immovable monument, if it can have an impact on the existence or the appearance of the monument, [...]" Mapping is therefore not possible. Most of the components - the parks only in part - are however embedded in a defined buffer zone based on their position within the ensemble of monuments (pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the Law on the Protection of Monuments)
- It is not possible to lay down by law a defined, mapped buffer zone

**Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- Significant changes to the authenticity and/or integrity of the site since inscription:
  1. The Park on the Ilm, northern periphery: extension of the library in the neighbouring historical buildings of the Red and Yellow Palace and underground beneath the Platz der Demokratie changed the surrounding area, particularly due to the construction of underground reading rooms. Instead of the previously gentle transition to the road, there is now a building.
  2. The Duchess Anna Amalia Library: fire on 2.9.2004 in the oldest section resulting in the loss of the roof area including the upper gallery of the Rococo Room dating from 1769 and its books (ca. 30,000 volumes) and 42 paintings, serious damage caused by water used to extinguish the fire in the rest of the Rococo Room and the Renaissance Rooms below and surrounding areas, and to ca. 40,000 of the books saved.
- Major changes, which might have an impact in the future on the authenticity and/or integrity of the site:
 

Planned changes:

  1. The Duchess Anna Amalia Library: the section lost in the fire is being reconstructed in line with monument conservation criteria, the damaged section is being restored. The authenticity can be regained for the area accessible to visitors. One third of the Rococo Room has been lost, the upper gallery. A painful loss but given the treasures of Classical Weimar, this is not decisive.

2. Tiefurt Castle and Park: the construction of a ring-road in the Weimar-Tiefurt area with possible negative consequences on the park (which have however not yet been sufficiently examined) has been postponed for some time by the federal government Germany. Affects on the outstanding universal value of the site are not examined sufficiently yet, consequences are not certain, but possible

- Changes affect the outstanding universal value of the site as identified at the time of the inscription.

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Foundation Law
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

### 4. Management

#### Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction (entrance free)
- Library with museum (the Duchess Anna Amalia Library), residential house (Herder's House), cultural building (Old High School), public parks (Historic Cemetery, Park on the Ilm, Belvedere Palace Park, Tiefurt Castle Park, Ettersburg Castle Park - Unused due to required restoration (Ettersburg Castle)

#### Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group
- Management under protective legislation
- No coordinator been appointed to oversee the management of the site
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional, local  
Regional: Thuringian Ministry of Culture as the controlling authority of the Weimar Classics and Art Collections Foundation (main part) and the Foundation for Thuringian Castles and Gardens (Stiftung Thüringer Schlösser und Gärten) (City Castle)  
Local: Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation of Weimar (Evangelisch-lutherische Kirchengemeinde Weimar); (City Church, Herder's House), Town of Weimar (Old High School, Historic Cemetery)
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

### 5. Management Plan

- No management plan is being implemented

- Were a management plan required and drawn up, it would be those who provide the finance: the Federal Republic of Germany and the Thuringian Ministry of Culture

### 6. Financial Resources

#### Financial situation

- There is no core funding for the World Heritage site
- No extra funding been drawn in through the World Heritage status
- Funding for the protection and conservation of the site is inadequate
- There are now increased efforts to attract finances from sponsors
- Funding for the conservation and protection of the site: 50% Federal Republic of Germany, 40% Free State of Thuringia, 10% Town of Weimar, also private support from the German Foundation for Monument Conservation (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz) and the Federal Environment Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt)

### 7. Staffing Levels

- No staff dedicated full-time to the World Heritage site
- As the World Heritage site is only part of a spectrum of the staff's tasks information about the number of full-time dedicated staff members cannot be provided.

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, promotion, interpretation, education, visitor management
- Advice received from the Thuringian Office for the Conservation of Monuments (Thüringisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege) and commissioned restorers
- Regular volunteers: Tiefurt Park as part of the ensemble: 10-14 members of the local council serve as voluntary park wardens

### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Courses by the Thuringian Office for the conservation of Monuments, specialist conferences, working meetings with similar cultural institutions

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 500,000 in 2002, sale of museum tickets. Trend: decreasing

- Visitor facilities: visitor information: advice on programmes, booking programmes and tours, reservation and sale of tickets, sending information material, introductions, tours, museum talks, seminars, presentations, events for children; museum shop
- Tourism/visitor management plan: Goethe's House: regulation of visitor numbers

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment
- Risk assessment concerning fire protection is currently being drawn up
- The designation as a World Heritage site does not play a decisive role for the Weimar Classics and Art Collections Foundation as the properties as an entirety do not belong to the World Heritage site Classical Weimar and the main importance lies in the furnishings and contents (museums, Goethe and Schiller Archive, Library)

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: businesses, local authorities
- Need for awareness raising: Information through publications (e.g. pamphlet, see annex), special tours by tourist information office
- No education strategy or programme for the site
- No special events or heritage days
- Information materials: leaflet in three languages; Tours: the Tourist Information Bureau of the town of Weimar regularly offers special tours about the "World Heritage in Weimar"
- Weimar Classics and Art Collections Foundation: <http://www.swkk.de/de>

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 25<sup>th</sup> (2001); 26<sup>th</sup> (2002)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 24<sup>th</sup> (2000); 25<sup>th</sup> (2001); 29<sup>th</sup> (2005)

#### Conservation interventions

- Major restoration and conservation measures: Schiller's House (roof); City Church (roof, facade, ducal tomb); Herder's House (roof,

facade); Old High School (start of construction work, historic windows); City Castle (outside facade and facades facing the courtyard, start of reconstruction of the south wing); Widow's Palace (restoration of main staircase); Roman House (complete renovation inside and out); Goethe's Garden House (fundamental renovation); Belvedere Orangery (Renovation of the Red Tower and the Long House); Ettersburg Castle (static work)

- Present state of conservation: adequate

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, natural disasters, visitor/tourism pressures
- Specific issues if mentioned: development pressure: Tiefurt Castle and Park: planned ring road see 04.07; natural disasters: the Duchess Anna Amalia Library: fire, see 04.06; visitor/tourism pressure: too many visitors to Goethe's House and the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, at peak times also to the Park on the Ilm
- Major problems and threats: Goethe's House is the main attraction for tourists in Weimar and, as it was not built as a museum, it cannot cope with the number of visitors in high season. Because of problems with the interior climate, only a limited number of visitors can be admitted to the Duchess Anna Amalia Library. As a major recreation site located on the outskirts of the old town, the Park on the Ilm is in good weather sometimes overused as well as misused
- Measures taken: visitor limitation - the visitor numbers for Goethe's House and in future also for the Duchess Anna Amalia Library will be regulated by selling time-limited tickets. Studies are being conducted concerning the problems of the overuse of the park (also in conjunction with comparable institutions), but no final solution has been found

### 13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: the Weimar Classics and Art Collections Foundation and the other three owners of parts of the Classical Weimar World Heritage site carry out their maintenance measures in a professional manner and in conjunction with the Thuringian Office for the Conservation of Monuments. The outstanding universal value of the site is thus sustained in the long-term

#### ***14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions***

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic
- Conservation: through WH status, the financing agencies value the property more, providing funds above and beyond legal requirements. Economic: tourist numbers are presumably also influenced but this is not or only barely quantifiable
- Strengths: comprehensive restoration and renovation, as well as smaller-scale restoration work and ongoing maintenance
- Weaknesses of management: there is still no long-term use for Ettersburg Castle meaning restoration and renovation cannot be completed

#### **Future actions:**

- Finding an adequate use for Ettersburg Castle: Ettersburg Castle: together with the Free State of Thuringia an adequate use is being sought, including the possibility of selling the property to secure its maintenance in the long-term
- Timeframe: end 2007