KATHMANDU VALLEY
WORLD HERITAGE SITE, NEPAL

Report and Recommendations
Of
The Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS
REVIEW MISSION

14 - 30 November 1993
The information and opinions stated in this Report represent the views of the mission participants and not necessarily of UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
The UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission wishes to thank all those concerned for their kind assistance and cooperation in the preparation, organization and execution of the mission plan. The participants would especially like to express their gratitude to the Nepalese authorities for their warm hospitality.
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(Edited by Alfeo Tonellotto UNESCO, David Michelmore ICOMOS)

Summary

This report discusses changes which have occurred to the Kathmandu Valley since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1979, and the factors which are putting it at risk. The mission recommends to the concerned Nepalese authorities to envisage review of the boundaries of this Site, which in some cases should be extended to enhance protection and in some cases reduced in order to comply with the reality of increased human occupation. It concludes with the recommendation that the site as a whole should be put on the list of World Heritage in Danger and identifies the need for increased international assistance.

1.0 Terms of Reference

1.1 As a result of a symposium held by ICOMOS in Patan (Nepal) in November 1992, the World Heritage Committee, at its sixteenth session in Santa Fe, U.S.A., in December 1992, received a report expressing concern about the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site. At a meeting of the World Heritage Bureau held in Paris in June 1993, the matter was further discussed and a joint UNESCO WHC/ICOMOS review mission was requested.

1.2 The aim of the mission was to carry out the following tasks:

1.2.1 to make a global evaluation of the activities carried out, so far, for the safeguarding of cultural heritage;

1.2.2 to evaluate the boundaries and buffer zones of the seven Monument Zones belonging to the World Heritage Site and propose their revision, if necessary;

1.2.3 to check the inventory of monuments which were listed in the nomination document submitted in 1979;
1.2.4 to review the staffing of the Department of Archaeology (in the Ministry of Education, Culture and Social Welfare) and its relationship with the recently established Municipalities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, and other concerned authorities, in order to assess their relative strengths and interrelationships with regard to the protection of the seven Monument Zones belonging to the World Heritage Site; and

1.2.5 to receive information on the steps undertaken for the reinforcement of the "Ancient Monument Preservation Act 2013 (1956)" and its amendments and to advise on its improvement, in order to prevent the degradation of the World Heritage Site.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The mission visited all seven Monument Zones of the World Heritage Site and was, in most cases, able to examine recent conservation projects in the company of their designers and/or supervisors. The mission met concerned officials in the Nepalese Administration, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, Culture and Social Welfare, the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, members of parliament, the Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Social Welfare, the Director-General and senior staff of the Department of Archaeology, the Town Controllers, Chief District Officers and Mayors of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur Municipalities, the UNDP Resident Representative, representatives of the Pashupati Development Trust, as well as private individuals and Guthi members concerned with the cultural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley.

2.2 The mission worked in three groups, respectively examining:

2.3 changes which have taken place in the World Heritage Site since its inscription in 1979 and the influences which have led to these changes, special attention being given to the boundaries of the seven Monument Zones and their possible revision;

2.4 the environmental conditions affecting the World Heritage Site and its monuments, including factors such as encroachment, rebuilding, traffic pressures, the introduction of modern services, as well as assessing the present mechanisms of control, their effectiveness and any changes which might be necessary; and
2.5 current practices in the conservation of buildings and other structures within the World Heritage Site, including possible guidelines on conservation techniques appropriate to traditional Nepalese buildings and any necessary training programmes.

2.6 The mission was composed of the following experts:

Alfeo Tonellotto, UNESCO WHC, mission leader;
David Michelmore, ICOMOS representative;
Hideo Noguchi, UNESCO CLT/CH;
Niels Gutschow, consultant;
Götz Hagemüller, consultant;
Romi Khosla, consultant;
Surya Sangachhe, ICOMOS consultant;
Eduard Sekler, consultant;
Valerio Sestini, consultant;
Erich Theophile, consultant.

3.0 The World Heritage Site and its inscription

3.1 The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, known as the World Heritage Convention, was adopted by the Conference of UNESCO in Paris in 1972. His Majesty's Government of Nepal ratified the Convention on 20 June 1978. In Spring of 1979, His Majesty's Government requested UNESCO to assist the Department of Archaeology in the preparation of the nomination of Kathmandu Valley for inscription on the World Heritage List. The nomination proposed was for a single World Heritage Site, incorporating seven monument-zones which were considered as including the most significant and representing the cultural resources of the Kathmandu Valley, i.e. areas of "outstanding universal value". These were subsequently identified as: the Darbar Squares of Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur, the two Buddhist sanctuaries of Swayambhu, Baudhanath, the Hindu pilgrimage site of Pashupati and the hilltop Hindu sanctuary of Changu Narayan.

3.2 The Department of Archaeology deposited the nomination for the World Heritage List at the World Heritage Committee meeting on 25 May 1979, to be accepted by the 3rd Conference of the World Heritage Committee at Luxor/Egypt in October 1979.

3.3 In anticipation of the nomination for the World Heritage List, His Majesty's Government of Nepal had already declared the Hill of Swayambhu a "Preserved Monument Zone" in 1978, as was provided for the Ancient Monument Preservation Act of 1956 and its subsequent amendments.
3.4 Following the approval of the seven areas by the World Heritage Committee in 1979, His Majesty's Government of Nepal had five more areas (Kathmandu Darbar Square, Patan Darbar Square, Bhadgaon <Bhaktapur> Darbar Square, Baudhanath and Changu Narayan) declared Preserved Monument Zones and gazetted on 30 July 1984 (Sravan 15, BS 2041).

3.5 As the area of Pashupati was always felt to be a sensitive issue, being a pilgrimage place and highly worshipped, it was never declared a Preserved Monument Zone. However, the Pashupati Kshetra Bikas Kos trust was set up in 1988, constituting an authority that was to ensure the preservation of the site and guide development as well. The trust turned out to be extremely ambitious, extending the boundaries of authority (see Fig. 26) well beyond the area defined in the nomination for the World Heritage List. The political change of the country in 1990 resulted in severe criticism of the trust which led to a revision of the boundaries of its authority, which are under consideration at present.

3.6 The boundaries of the areas as defined for the nomination differ considerably from those gazetted by His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

4.0 Description of the World Heritage Site

4.1 Due to rapid population growth and extraordinary economic and development pressures, the Kathmandu Valley as a whole in recent years has suffered considerable degradation of its physical environment. This widely recognized process has severely affected the seven Monument Zones that make up the World Heritage Site. Among many factors that have had a negative impact, the single most disturbing has been the encroachment by new buildings of inappropriate design, in many cases of illegal, excessive, height, the visible use of cement and concrete and the demolition of historic residences in and around the Monument Zones. "Living" monuments in the Monument Zones are actively worshipped and traditional practices of renovating, repairing and adding to monuments as a votive offering are part of the act of worship. Due to these activities, it has often not been possible to conserve the World Heritage Site in accordance with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage as now defined.

4.2.0 Kathmandu Darbar Square

4.2.1 The WH nomination encloses a large area (see Fig. 3) of the centre of Kathmandu, the boundary in most cases
follows streets and lanes. Towards the West, it follows Dharma Path/Shukra Path up to Indracock, the broad streets that were laid out after the earthquake in 1934. Towards the South, it includes parts of the so-called "Freak Street", which, since the early seventies, has been under heavy development pressure.

4.2.2 The Monument Zone, as gazetted by HMG in 1984 (see Fig. 4), represents a considered attempt to define a core area around the palace and its square, incorporating the houses on both sides of the streets that are located within the Monument Zone. Logically, both sides of Shukra Path were included, thus incorporating the supermarket and the small park in front of the bank.

4.2.3 During the past years, Kathmandu witnessed of extreme development pressure, which the Department of Archaeology was unable to regulate. In the immediate neighbourhood of the palace, thirty-six violations of height regulations have been recorded. Encroachment by inappropriate new buildings is especially severe both at Makhantol and Laykubaha. The location of a modern, multi-storey, police building nearby, which generates much vehicular traffic, is disturbing. In the case of the Makhantol market, the top floor was demolished; the owner, however, filed a case against His Majesty's Government of Nepal which questioned the right of height control in a Monument Zone in general.

4.2.4 In this Monument Zone, the Hanuman Dhoka Palace complex has been the object of intensive restoration and rehabilitation efforts since the early 1970s. From a major part of the Monument Zone, motor cars and certain marketing activities have been excluded, with a suitable area next to the Kumari Chowk being set aside for street vendors. Despite good maintenance and cleaning efforts, some buildings still need attention. The overall condition of the palace complex is satisfactory, although sections of roof of the Hanuman Dhoka palace require repair. Other monuments have been seriously encroached upon, both in the heart and edges of the Monument Zone. There is a functioning site office of the Department of Archaeology in the palace.

4.2.5 Two specific examples of demolition which have taken place within the Monument Zone are provided by Layku Baha, where, in 1989, the entrance wing was dismantled and since been built up with a restaurant, which encroaches on the adjacent, formerly free standing, massive historic bell.

The second case was actually inspected by the mission. At the northern end of the Darbar Square, to the north of the Taleju temple, two domed shrines (one dedicated to Narayan and the other to Ganesh), which had been
reconstructed after the 1934 earthquake, have been demolished and are being rebuilt to what is supposed to be an earlier design (see Pl. 4).

4.2.6 Aiming at a realistic approach, the Department of Archaeology subsequently identified a core area (see Fig. 5) around the Darbar and its Square, which clearly defines only those buildings which represent a visual impact onto the zone's space. This core area no longer includes a buffer zone to provide a setting for the monuments themselves. In view of the extensive rebuilding of adjacent areas, the mission recommends that the existing Monument Zone should be reduced in size, to correspond with the core area defined by the Department of Archaeology, as in view of the enormous development pressure it does not seem advisable to identify a larger buffer zone, which would impose restrictions upon new construction.

4.3.0 Patan Darbar Square

4.3.1 The Monument Zone (as defined in the nomination documents encloses a large area (see Fig. 8), which incorporates all blocks around the palace and its square. The boundary line follows streets and lanes along its existing length, from Kvalakhu (NW) to Valakhu (N), Kutisaugah (NE), Saugah (E), Thaina (SE), Cakabahil (S), Ikhalakhu (SW) and Mahapal (W). The Monument Zone as gazetted by HMG in 1984 (see Fig. 9) follows an earlier proposal made by Eduard Sekler in 1980 (see Fig. 10) which incorporates Kavaba, Ilanani and Sarasvatini in the Northwest, but avoids the eastern blocks towards Valakhu and Saugah. The boundaries run again along the streets and lanes. On the occasion of the UNESCO Mission in 1984, Eduard Sekler stressed that in the case of such a delineation, both sides of the street should be considered as being part of the Monument Zone. However, subsequent experiences have shown that it is difficult to enforce such an interpretation.

4.3.2 As part of the Patan Conservation and Development Programme (see Fig. 6), funded by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), discussions on the definition of the Monument Zone have been held with the Department of Archaeology, following a request made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal in January 1992. Initial intentions were to redefine the Monument Zone and to define Secondary Monument Zones, as well as Potential Monument Zones. The Guideline Plan of August 1992 presented the first results, which were adopted by the steering committee. However, further discussions on Secondary Monument Zones were jeopardised by two new constructions in the areas of Sulimha and Mahabaudha, which destroyed the visual beauty of these squares. At Sulimha square an early 18th century house was demolished, which in a preliminary survey had been
identified as a potential National Monument. Subsequent discussions resulted in the discarding of the proposal to identify secondary Monument Zones in favour of strengthening the original Monument Zone based on the central square around the Darbar. The proposed extension of this Monument Zone (see Fig. 11) incorporates the buildings on both sides of the streets which define the boundary. Thus, important courtyard buildings, like those of Jyababahi, Ibabahi, Nhuykabahi and Dhaugabahi would become an integral part of the Monument Zone. The large courtyard of Nagbaha and the adjoining street with a number of fine early 20th century shop houses are also proposed for inclusion as are the squares of Kvalakhu and Svattha (in their entirety), the area of Kvati with the temple precinct of Kumbhesvara, two stepwells (hiti) and a few ancient Licchavi caityas.

4.3.3 Only in the case of Sankhamul Ghat, along the Bagmati river, does the identification and delineation of a satellite Monument Zone (see Fig. 7) seem desirable but any such proposal will have to be discussed within the framework of the Patan Conservation and Development Programme.

4.3.4 The revised boundaries of an extended Monument Zone, as proposed by the Patan Conservation and Development Programme and accepted in principle by the Department of Archaeology in August 1993, incorporates key landmarks on the edge of the Monument Zone, as well as buildings on both sides of the streets and lanes on its boundaries. In view of growing development pressures, it seems inadvisable to identify further Secondary Monument Zones or buffer zones which would impose restrictions on new construction. The Mission recommends that the proposed extension to the Patan Monument Zones should be gazetted and that this area of the World Heritage Site should be revised.

4.3.5 Patan Darbar Square is one of the priority sites singled out by the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of the Kathmandu Valley. A great deal of conservation work has been carried out by several international agencies, in addition to work done by the Department of Archaeology. Motor cars have been excluded from the area of the Darbar Square proper, but street hawkers still encumber many monuments and newly established restaurants have conspicuous advertisements and sun umbrellas. The Ayaguthi Sattal, built in 1760, at the northern end of the square (see Pl. 7), as well as the Thun Baha Math behind it, is dilapidated, threatening ruin and needs thorough conservation treatment, as does Lakhe Srestha Agam, also in ruins, and several buildings which are not in Darbar Square, but near it in the Monument Zone. In addition, there are numerous cases in the Monument Zone where historic buildings have been pulled down to
make room for inappropriate, illegally high, new buildings, both on the Darbar Square itself and in adjacent lanes and squares (see Fig. 31). Some small shop structures have encroached on monuments in the Darbar Square. Despite various problems of conservation, maintenance and cleaning, which need to be resolved, the overall condition of the Darbar Square area, as the core of the Monument Zone, is good. The Krishna Mandir (see Pl. 10) requires conservation by a specialist in the conservation of stone sculpture and the priest, who is still living on the first floor of the temple, should be found alternative accommodation. Only a very small site office of the Department of Archaeology exists. The mission recommends that the Monument Zone is extended in accordance with the plan which has been prepared.

4.3.6 With regard to examples of the demolition of structures within the monument zone, Sarasvati Pati, a 16th-century structure with a 1934 upper storey (see Pl. 12) has been demolished and rebuilt by Patan Chamber of Commerce to a different size, the 18th-century house adjoining it on the north (see Pl. 13) also being demolished. A house beside Ganesh temple, on the northern side of the square, was demolished and rebuilt, albeit incorporating design suggestions from Patan Programme. A small Narayan temple at Olakhu was demolished in 1993 and replaced by a concrete structure of particularly inappropriate design (see Pl. 14).

4.4.0 Bhaktapur Darbar Square

4.4.1 The Monument Zone as defined in the nomination documents encloses a large area (see Figs 13-14). The boundaries follow streets and lanes, thus incorporating all blocks around Darbar Square and Tamaudhī Square, extending from Byasi on the north, Sukuldhoka on the north east, Kyacha on the south east, Talakva on the south and Khauma on the west. While this delineation incorporates all the squares of the core area, including Khauma and Gahiti, it also encloses areas such as Byasi, which are located on the northern side of the ridge and have no visual impact on the core of the Monument Zone around the Darbar.

4.4.2 The Monument Zone, as gazetted by HMG in 1984 (see Fig. 15), retains the boundaries as proposed by the World Heritage nomination on the north, but almost everywhere else steps back for an entire block on the western, southern and eastern sides. Thus the squares of Khauma and Gahiti are not fully included and even Taumadhi Square is not fully incorporated.

4.4.3 Due to the efforts of the Bhaktapur Development Project (1974-86) and less development pressures than in Kathmandu and Patan, Bhaktapur has retained its
traditional townscape in almost every quarter of the town. Much of the modern development is centred on the new roads to the north and particularly to the south of the town, rather than in the centre of the historic city.

4.4.4 Located in the most well-preserved of the historic cities, the Bhaktapur Monument Zone has not suffered as much from encroachment by inappropriate tall buildings as the other two Darbar squares, but recently unauthorised constructions, such as roof-top restaurant and curio stalls (see Pls. 15, 16, 17), have been constructed. The general state of repair and maintenance is good, with the noticeable exception of the threatened Bhairab temple in Tamaudhi Square. In a crucial location in Darbar Square, the Cyasalin Mandap, an octagonal pavilion, destroyed in the earthquake of 1934, has been rebuilt in replica. Conservation work at the Palace of the Fifty-five Windows is scheduled to begin soon. The Darbar Square is closed to motor vehicles. Past conservation activities have largely concentrated around Dattatreya Square, where, with the restoration of the Pujari Math in 1971/2, foreign involvement in the restoration of the city's architectural heritage started. Tourist shops have become too conspicuous in their displays and a whole new row of shops have been built in the Monument Zone immediately to the north of the Nyatapola temple. The site office of the Department of Archaeology also has to take care of Changu Narayan Monument Zone, where the former site office has been abolished. Parts of the former palace, now used for other purposes, are in need of rehabilitation.

4.4.5 Demolition has taken place in the Bhaktapur Darbar Square monument zone, as in Kathmandu and Patan. For example, the construction of the concrete-framed Golden Gate Guesthouse in the late 1980s involved the demolition of part of one of the best residential courtyards in the city (see Pl. 19). The Bhairab shrine adjacent to the Municipality building in the Darbar Square was demolished three years ago and rebuilt in modern materials. The Bhaktapur Darbar Square Monument Zone also supplies examples of decay, such as the collapsed and derelict traditional houses to the north east of the palace (see Pl. 20), the important 16th-century stone temple nearby, which is in danger of destruction by tree roots (see Pl. 21) and the royal bath, in the garden behind the palace, where one of the sides partially collapsed during 1993.

4.4.6 The Mission recommends that the existing Monument Zone around the Darbar Square should be reduced but that a second Monument Zone around Dattatreya Square (see Fig. 17) should be created, with the entire area of the historic city as a buffer zone (see Fig. 16),
including Kamal Pokhari on the east and Siddha Pokhari on the west. The Hamnumante river with its ghats would serve as the southern boundary of the zone, including a 15-metre stretch across the river bank, as well as the temples and ancestral shrines across Chupin Ghat and the hill sanctuary of Mahesvari, one of the protective mother goddesses of the town.

4.5.0 Swayambhu

4.5.1 The Monument Zone, as gazetted by HMG in 1978 (see Fig. 19), delineates the entire hill sanctuary as a protected area, including the circumambulatory path. The Monument Zone, as defined in the nomination documents, repeats the delineation of the gazetted Monument Zone (see Fig. 18).

4.5.2 Following earlier discussions about the identification of a buffer zone around the hill sanctuary, the Swayambhunath Conservation Masterplan proposes to incorporate the square of Bhuinkhel (see "B" in Fig. 20) into the Monument Zone, to delineate a buffer zone ("C" in Fig. 20) extending 150 metres toward the north and to identify a special review zone ("D" in Fig. 20) with special height restrictions and design guidelines for new constructions. The preparation of a map incorporating these proposals is being processed by the Department of Archaeology at present.

4.5.3 The stabilisation of Swayambhu hill, carried out after extensive investigations, seems to have been successful and the main historic monuments (stupa and shikaras) are no longer in jeopardy because of threatened landslides. There has been some sympathetic new building in the Monument Zone, in the form of a well-designed mani wall (for prayer wheels) at the west end and conservation work in the form of the recovery and cleaning of ponds adjacent to the hill. At times, there are severe continuous encroachments by inappropriate, disturbing, new buildings, such as the police post close to the mani wall referred to above, religious establishments and installations of all kinds. These include ugly steel structures for the support of prayer wheels, insensitive, badly designed and executed paving of historic paths and disturbing modernisation of all kinds. Historic chaityas are daubed with whitewash and precious stone sculptures painted with enamel paint. Hawkers, stalls and refreshment shops with striking signboards strongly trespass the area where the most important historic monuments are located. A Master Plan has been prepared, but is not implemented with sufficient funds and authority of control. Proposals exist to move the dynamite factory, which is at present situated just to the north of the Monument Zone, to a new location. The mission recommends that
the proposals of the Swayambhunath Conservation Masterplan should be adopted, enlarging the Monument Zone slightly and identifying a buffer zone along its northern edge.

4.6.0 *Baudhanath*

4.6.1 The Monument Zone as defined in the World Heritage nomination documents delineates a large area (see Fig. 21) centered around the Baudhanath stupa. A radius of 500 metres defines a buffer zone around the monument, without taking the structures of the landscape into account. The Monument Zone, as gazetted by HMG in 1984 (see Fig. 22), has a considerably reduced buffer zone and was defined in relation to the buildings surrounding the central monument.

4.6.2 The buffer zone which was defined in the World Heritage Site nomination forms was intended to protect the setting of the stupa. However, any attempts to do this have been almost entirely unsuccessful and it is now engulfed by new buildings which are spreading out over the surrounding farmland (see Pl. 26). Development pressure is particularly acute at Baudhanath, which has resulted in the loss of most of the historic structures which formed a circle around the stupa, of which only twenty-six houses or parts of houses now survive (see Fig. 23); most of their replacements are illegally high (see Pls. 27,28). The UNESCO/ICOMOS Mission was particularly concerned about a large, new concrete-framed structure which it witnessed being built next to the guthi building, near the main entrance to the stupa (see Pl. 29), and requested the Minister of Education and Culture to investigate the legality of this new construction. Curio stalls intrude on the setting of the monument (see Pl. 30).

4.6.3 Apart from the demolition of adjacent secular buildings, the mission also inspected current work to the entrance shrine. The old shrine, which was constructed in rendered brickwork, was demolished in 1993 and a new brick shrine, to a different design, is in the course of construction (see Pl. 31).

4.6.4 In view of the loss of most of the stupa's historic setting, the mission recommends that the boundary of the Baudhanath Monument Zone should be reduced to encompass the surrounding houses only, in accordance with the plan it has prepared (see Fig. 24).

4.7.0 *Pashupati*

4.7.1 The Monument Zone, as defined in the World Heritage nomination documents, encloses an area (see Fig. 25) which includes the ancient Newar settlement of
Pashupati/Deopatan and Mrgasthali forest, with the sanctuaries of Guhyesvari, Visvarupa and Gorakhnath. The northern boundary is formed by the Bagmati river, thus leaving Gauri Ghat beyond the Monument Zone. Towards the west, the temple of Rajajesvari is included, while the ritual forest of Bhandarkhal is excluded. This Monument Zone has never been gazetted by HMG, although the Pashupati Area Development Trust, under the chairmanship of H.M. Queen, was established in 1988 (see Fig. 26). The boundary lines of this authority (see Fig. 27) are at present in the process of redefinition and will roughly cover the area of the World Heritage nomination of 1979.

4.7.2

This very extended area presents many problems of control and conservation. Various new buildings have disturbed the historic group, including one priest's dwelling placed in the middle of little shrines and a new concrete structure immediately adjacent to the main temple. "Improvements" and beautification by pious donors have not always conformed to conservation standards, but some positive conservation work has been done under the guidance of the Department of Archaeology. There are also major erosion problems in the Monument Zone. The mission recommends that effective system of controls and monitoring of all interventions are needed. New industrial buildings on the banks of the Bagmati river, opposite Guhyesvari, are very disturbing for the experience of the Monument Zone.

4.7.3

Examples of the demolition of monuments can again be found at Pashupati. On the terrace on the eastern side of the Bagmati river, facing the main temple, a historic pati formerly used by Indian musicians was recently demolished and has been rebuilt (incorporating fragments of historic material) as a tourist information centre (see Pl. 34). In Deopatan, the Dakshina Murti temple was totally demolished prior to restoration; although the new work is to a good standard, complete destruction of the historic fabric was almost certainly unnecessary (see. Pl. 35), and minor repairs would probably have sufficed. The dharamsalas surrounding the large Vishrarupa temple complex are in danger of collapse because of termite infestation of pine beams (see Pl. 36) and a number of adjacent small shrines are falling down.

4.7.4

The Mission recommends that the Monument Zone should conform to the proposals made by the Pashupati Area Development Trust, excluding the area which now forms part of Tribhuvan International Airport, but including the stepwell (hiti) opposite the Rajarajesvari temple, Gauri Ghat and a stretch of fifteen metres across the Bagmati. The proposed Monument Zone would thus be slightly larger than the area of the World Heritage nomination of 1979.
4.8.0 Changu Narayan

4.8.1 The Monument Zone as defined in the World Heritage nomination documents of 1979 delineates an area that covers the entire hilltop of the sanctuary along the 450 m contour line and crosses the ridge in the east (see Fig. 28). The Monument Zone as gazetted by HMG in 1984 (see Fig. 29) is smaller, incorporating the village of Kapahiti on the north and the reafforestation area on the western and southern slopes. Recently the Kathmandu Valley Religious and Cultural Sites Development Project has identified a boundary which incorporates the gazetted Monument Zone but which is smaller than the area defined in the World Heritage nomination documents (see Fig. 30).

4.8.2 This extremely important hill sanctuary of great historic and artistic significance, deserves special care and attention. At present, the temple precinct and the adjoining village are still largely untouched by major changes and encroachments, but some work to improve the approach by repaving, has been undertaken and a larger parking lot with shops next to it are planned. New stone paving has been laid but the problem of drainage still needs a final solution so as not to pollute the pond at the village entrance. Any paving in the precinct itself must respect the present design.

4.8.3 Considerable work was carried out at Changu Narayan between 1987 and 1989. In the village, the Ganesh Temple was entirely demolished and reconstructed in replica: treatment which was also accorded to the two-storey sattal which faces it across the village street (see Pl. 37), as well as to the L-shaped pati which adjoins the entrance to the temple. Repair work to the monuments inside the temple precinct was generally more conservative, apart from a Bhairab shrine, which had largely collapsed. Many of the sculptures inside the temple courtyard were covered with crude brick arches during the course of this work (see Pl. 38) and crude plastic repairs were carried out on another early sculpture at the site. The roof of the main temple is leaking and allows water to fall on the image within it and there is extensive decay to the brickwork of the surrounding dharamsalas (see Pl. 39).

4.8.4 The mission recommends that the gazetted boundaries of the Monument Zone should be adjusted to correspond with the boundaries defined in the Nomination of 1979 (see Fig. 28) and that the construction work in the parking lot should only be carried out under the guidance of an experienced conservation architect. Any inappropriate new building development in the Monument Zone, including inappropriate replacement of existing buildings, must be prevented.
5.0 Legal framework for the protection of the World Heritage Site

5.1 The legislation in force for the protection of the Kathmandu Valley Site is based on the "Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 2013, 1956" and its amendments. The fourth amendment is dated 29 March 1987.

5.2 The mission was informed, by the Nepalese Authorities, that a workshop on the conservation of Cultural Heritage was organised in Kathmandu by the Department of Archaeology on the 6 July 1993 and was provided with an English translation of the minutes of that meeting. On that occasion, the revision of the Act, fifth amendment, was discussed. The mission was briefed, on 16 November 1993, on the intentions and content of the document. The mission was also briefed, by the Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, on those provisions of the proposed Urban Planning Act which would affect the World Heritage Site. However, since further amendments are yet to be promulgated in Law, the mission has based its considerations, recommendations and conclusions on the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, fourth amendment, since this represents the legislation currently in force.

5.3 The legislation in force applies to only six out of the seven Monument Zones belonging to the World Heritage Site. Pashupati Monument Zone has not been gazetted in respect of the law and therefore no legal action, in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, could, at present, be taken with respect to that Monument Zone.

5.4 The Department of Archaeology is responsible, within the Monument Zones, for granting permission for the installation of utilities/technological services, giving authorisation for new construction, reconstruction, restoration work and repair. The Department also has the power to request the demolition of unauthorised construction or construction work that does not correspond with the standards it has prescribed.

5.5 At the moment, the preservation of the World Heritage Site can only be attempted through the control of new construction, not through the safeguarding of existing historic structures. This is because the law has no mechanism for designating any structure per se as a monument, but instead the "place (tuan) or area (ksetra)" where the monument is located is declared a monument rather than the structure itself. It is essential that new legislation should be able to protect the structure of monuments, and should be worded accordingly.
5.6 Penalties could be inflicted on any person who "destroys, demolishes, removes, changes, disfigures, or steals any ancient monuments". The existence of financial penalties enforced by the present legislation for the illegal demolition or reconstruction of buildings in the Monument Zones should not be utilised by the concerned authorities in preference to the demolition of such illegal structures. The mission recommends that there should be a strategy of intervention for the demolition of buildings constructed illegally or not conforming to any granted authorisation.

5.7 The perimeters of the Monument Zones shown in the maps in use by the Nepalese Authorities differ quite often from the ones submitted in 1979 and annexed to the Nomination for the World Heritage Site.

5.8 At the present time, demolition of traditional timber-and-brick buildings and their reconstruction in reinforced concrete has become the norm. The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, Fourth Amendment, 1987, has not prevented the demolition of traditional buildings within the World Heritage Site, because the existing legislation lacks clarity and is largely not implemented. The mission appreciated the willingness of the concerned Nepalese Authorities to make efforts for improving the existing legislation and co-ordination between the concerned parties. However, the mission has to report that, since the last session of the World Heritage Committee, no substantial improvement has taken place.

5.9 The bye-laws of the three Municipalities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur must include provisions prohibiting the demolition of traditional buildings and monuments under semi-public and private control within the Monument Zones. These must include the requirement for a demolition permit.

5.10 On the international level, the acceptance of Kathmandu Valley as World Heritage Site in 1979 and the subsequent launching of an international safeguarding campaign by UNESCO placed certain responsibilities on the concerned bodies. Too little has been done and achieved over the last fourteen years. The severe deterioration observed by the mission could have been modified and to a great part avoided with much stronger control, support, and commitment by the international agencies.

5.11 On the national and local level, a number of laws and bye-laws have a bearing on the World Heritage Site, which places the greatest responsibility on the Department of Archaeology for controlling and monitoring all activities within the seven Monument Zones. However, without sufficient funds and
professional manpower, and given the low ranking of heritage conservation within the hierarchy of national priorities, this legal responsibility has not been exercised adequately.

5.12

Excerpts from the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (Fourth Amendment) 1987:

(5) Anyone wishing to install or connect a telephone line or electricity, to dig ground for drinking water or sewerage, to construct or repair road, to shoot-out a film, to organise a fair or festival, to perform dancing or singing ceremony, to park vehicles or to paste a poster and painting with the Preserved Monument Area shall have to take permission, as prescribed, from the Department of Archaeology. Provided that permission shall not be needed to be taken from the Department of Archaeology to conduct and perform traditional dancing and singing or to organise a fair or festival.

(6) Anyone who, on his own land within the Preserved Monument Area, is willing to construct a new house or building or to repair, alter or reconstruct a house or building so as to make changes on its original shape, shall have to construct, repair, alter or reconstruct it as is in consonance with the standard prescribed by the Department of Archaeology.

(7) If a person has submitted to the Town Panchayat the drawing of a house or a building to be constructed, repaired, altered or reconstructed within the Preserved Monument Area, the Town Panchayat shall, before giving its consent on the drawing under the prevailing law, have to take approval of the Department of Archaeology on such drawing. After reviewing the drawing received from the Town Panchayat the Department of Archaeology may give its approval, reject it or give its approval with amendment.

(8) While constructing, repairing, altering or reconstructing the house or building in the Preserved Monument Area, if the construction, repair, alteration, or reconstruction is done in accordance with the approved drawing, the Department
of Archaeology may issue an order to stop such work.

(9) The Chief District Officer may, by giving an ultimatum of thirty-five days, issue an order to demolish the house or building if it is constructed, repaired, altered or reconstructed in defiance of the order issued by the Department of Archaeology pursuant to Sub-section (8). Any person, who is dissatisfied with such order, may lodge a protest to His Majesty's Government within thirty-five days of the issuance of such order. The verdict of His Majesty's Government regarding such protest shall be final.

(10) The concerned person shall demolish the house or building within thirty-five days of the decision taken by His Majesty's Government to demolish such house or building in case no protest is lodged within thirty-five days of the issuance of order by the Chief District Officer, pursuant to Sub-section (9). If the house or building is not demolished within the said period, the Chief District Officer may demolish such house or building and the cost of such demolition shall be realised from the concerned person.

6.0 Rebuilding

6.1 The historical setting of the monuments and their surrounding fabric are being seriously eroded by new building activities which are permanently altering the historical character of the site, often in violation of existing building regulations, by:

(i) the demolition of historic houses and their replacement by unfitting modern buildings;
(ii) additions of floors to historic buildings;
(iii) building of new structures in spaces that have historically been left open.

6.2 As the principal institution charged with the care and protection of monuments, defined in detail by the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1956, the Department of Archaeology has insufficient budget, technical manpower and political backing to carry out this mandate which would include co-ordination with other government agencies, more detailed review processes for restoration and renovation projects, intensive site monitoring and more efficient
maintenance of records pertaining to monuments. The Guthi Sansthan, a centralised government trust also charged with maintenance of monuments and ritual activity, has not demonstrated an ability to manage cultural property.

6.3 A strategy should be developed to motivate and mobilise local government and the communities themselves to upgrade and conserve the urban environment within the Monument Zones. A programme of incentives and subsidies should be developed to encourage the retention and repair of traditional buildings.

6.4 The heightening of traditional buildings through the construction of additional storeys must be avoided in the Monument Zones.

6.5 Designs for new buildings should harmonise with adjacent historic structures and model designs for typical façades and details should be developed. As a minimum, restrictions on maximum floor-to-floor height, number of storeys and a ban on cantilevers should be strictly enforced. It is essential that the use of traditional materials should be encouraged and their more efficient supply secured.

6.6 Central and local government should discourage new constructions in the Monument Zones, but should instead support adaptive re-use and acquire threatened historic properties in private ownership.

6.7 His Majesty's Government and the three concerned municipalities should provide a funding mechanism to support the conservation of historic property in private hands where owners are unable to meet such costs. Maximum tax exemptions should be given to donors who contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage.

6.8 The Mission recommends that HMG should strengthen the technical manpower and budget of the Department of Archaeology and elaborate procedures with, and emphasis on, improved management of the sites rather than actual implementation of projects, while at the same time developing new models for private-sector technical support to the Department for necessary documentation, monitoring and management activities. In particular, the municipal government's recently increased budgets and aspirations for conservation projects will have to be carefully directed and monitored.

7.0 Encroachment

7.1 Monuments within the seven Monument Zones are being increasingly encroached upon by commercial vendors,
advertisers and religious donations. These encroachments are extensive enough to seriously deface the historic character of the core areas. Curio vendors are using public space and the monuments for the exhibition and sale of their wares. Hoardings, signboards and commercial merchandising is being displayed on the walls of historic buildings. Unauthorised additions and alterations of places and objects of worship are taking place.

7.2 Apart from encroachment on individual monuments and Historic structures, encroachment by private individuals on open public space is also a serious problem. Given the high population densities in the cities of the Kathmandu Valley, encroachment at ground level reduces the public living space available, as well as impairing the appearance of the streets (see Pl. 42) or even actually damaging individual monuments (see Pl. 43). Encroachment by illegal projecting cantilevers of upper storeys also compromises the historic character of the streets whilst at the same time reducing the amount of light which reaches the ground, already restricted by their generally narrow width (Fig. 31, for Patan Darbar Square Monument Zone, illustrates for this one area the distribution of illegal cantilevers and height violations).

8.0 Traffic pressure

8.1 Vehicular traffic constitutes a danger to the Monument Zones and historic buildings which are constructed with timber and mud mortar. The recently promulgated regulations prohibiting the entry of vehicles into the three Darbar Squares of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur are to be commended. Traffic management measures should be extended throughout the Monument Zones and their buffer zones. The existing system of access to streets and courtyards should be maintained and the loss of rights of way resisted.

9.0 Introduction of modern services

9.1 The introduction of modern services has caused significant deterioration in the historic character of the Monument Zones. Overhead electrical wiring, the placement of poles and suspended transformers in the immediate vicinity of the monuments, as well as in the streets, are intrusive. The installation of dish antennae, telephone and cable-T.V. cables, as well as street-lighting equipment on historic façades are detracting from their character.

9.2 The cutting of paving to install underground services, with subsequent sub-standard restoration, leads to rapid deterioration of the paved surface.
9.3 The Mission recommends that overhead wiring and transformers within the Monument Zones should be put underground (paying due regard to archaeological cultural levels), dish antennae should be banned and the introduction and repair of water supply and sewage services should respect historic fabric.

10.0 Documentation

10.1 The mission inspected a large number of conservation projects within the World Heritage Site. The restoration of the Radha Krishna temple in Patan, carried out by the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust in co-operation with the Department of Archaeology, provided a model of in situ repair, extensive documentation, the use of mud mortar and private-sector implementation in conjunction with Nepalese government agencies. This project has demonstrated that high standards in conservation can be achieved, which should be the aim of all future projects undertaken in the Monument Zones. There are undoubtedly local problems in achieving this but, to balance this negative aspect, traditional craft skills are still current, making the replication of traditional practices and detailing possible in a way which would be extremely difficult to achieve in the West.

10.2 Kathmandu Valley, the preservation of physical, environmental and cultural heritage: protective inventory (1975) is annexed to the nomination form for the World Heritage Site. This inventory and the list of individual monuments in the nomination form are neither complete nor do they identify buildings in private ownership as monuments. Due to the lack of such identification, many buildings, which provided the major part of the fabric of the Monument Zones and the setting for the listed monuments, have been demolished.

10.3 Documentation and recording must therefore play a primary role in the management and preservation of the structures within the Monument Zones.

10.4 The mission recommends that detailed inventories should be compiled to identify national monuments, the status of which should exclude demolition. Special attention will have to be directed towards monuments in private ownership. Since these inventories will take a number of years to complete, preliminary lists should be prepared and gazetted annually.

10.5 Recording of monuments and historical buildings in the World Heritage Site will need to be at a different level of detail, due to the large number of structures contained within the seven Monument Zones. In the case of monuments in which intervention in the form of
repair or restoration is undertaken, it is essential that detailed and accurate records are prepared.

10.6 In order that effective planning control in the Monument Zones can be implemented, house and street elevations should be prepared to document the urban fabric of the Monument Zones as they at present exist.

10.7 Since 1971, various parties have been engaged in architectural surveys, but there has been no co-ordination or effort to set up an archive. Those undertaking architectural research in the future should be asked to deposit copies of their drawings in an archive which, it is suggested, might be located in the Nepal Architecture Museum, which is part of the Patan Museum. The mission recommends that international assistance should be provided for this documentation programme.

11.0 Conservation Practice

11.1 The mission examined conservation projects undertaken by the Department of Archaeology, UNESCO, the Bhaktapur Development Project, the Patan Conservation and Development Programme (UDLE/German Technical Co-operation), the Austrian Institute for International Co-operation, the Nippon Institute of Technology, the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, private Guthis, individuals and other agencies. These included the Department of Archaeology's repair of Ganesh Temple at Chhabahil, Patan Programme's rebuilding of the tower at Vabaha, Patan, a Buddhist quadrangle (executed with German Technical Co-operation/Urban Development through Local Efforts), and the American Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust's conservation of Radha Krishna Temple, Kwalkhu Pati and Uma Maheswar Temple in Patan.

11.2 "Living" monuments in the sub-areas actively worshipped; traditional practices of renovating, repairing and adding on to monuments as votive offerings are the norm. These practices, in combination with a popular taste for cement plaster and other modern materials, make preservation of historical fabric challenging. One must acknowledge that traditional and historical practices of rebuilding in Nepal differ radically from building conservation norms as prescribed by the International Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural Heritage. To achieve conservation of historical fabric will require greater efforts to direct and monitor local endeavours insensitive to the beauty of things past.

11.3 At the same time one should mention that while hasty reconstructions after the 1934 earthquake generally incorporated historical materials, their poor
structural detailing would often favour dismantling and reconstruction, especially as the date of that reassembly is rather recent. The lack of bonding between veneer brick and inner wall layers often combined with dramatic voids in the wall's middle fill layer also encourages simple repairs to be redefined as rebuilding efforts.

11.4.0 Repair in situ versus rebuilding

11.4.1 With notable exceptions, the majority of conservation projects executed by local groups, government agencies, and international organisations has favoured rebuilding of historical structures over repairs in situ, and has often replaced rather than conserved historical materials. Over the years a great deal of valuable and irreplaceable historical fabric has been thus sacrificed, detracting greatly from the authenticity of the World Heritage Site.

11.4.2 The tendency to rebuild when repair only would have been necessary has also been the norm in more recent conservation by international and local efforts. Yogeshwar Parajuli, an architect active in the Bhaktapur Development Project (BDP) and author of "Experiences in a Preservation and restoration of a Medieval City" reported that BDP was at times overeager to rebuild when in situ repair would have sufficed.

11.4.3 The Dakshina Murti temple, Deopatan (Pashupati Monument Zone), carried out by the Department of Archaeology, represents a typical recent example of local conservation practice, where satisfactory workmanship is overshadowed by the fact that the building needed repair (see Pl. 35), not rebuilding.

11.4.4 A similar rehabilitation project, involving complete dismantling of the roof and wall structure and reconstruction of the historical configuration, has been completed by the Department of Archaeology at the Ganesh temple, Changu Narayan (see Pl. 37).

11.4.5 The unfortunate recent rebuilding of two resthouses (sattal) at Pashupatinath by the Pashupatinath Development Board represents a different kind of activity, one in which the rebuilding may have been necessary, but makes no attempt to replicate the historical form. A similarly dramatic and distressing illustration of general disregard for historical fabric is found at the entrance shrine of the great Stupa at Baudhahanath, where portions of the historical entrance shrine have been recently destroyed and new construction of different design and poor quality is underway, supported and directed by local funding.
11.4.6 An interesting example in the Kathmandu Darbar Monument Zone (adjacent and north of Taleju Temple, Makhan) consists of two small temples of reportedly post-1934 earthquake domed-roof constructions which were dismantled to reconstruct earlier pagoda forms, based on an earlier engraving. The work, undertaken by a local group, should be carefully assessed.

11.4.7 International efforts reiterate local trends, the Ibaha-bahi project of Nippon Institute, Japan has chosen to largely reconstruct this early Buddhist quadrangle in Patan, while the Austrian-funded Patan Darbar Project rebuilds one post-1934 earthquake wing with earlier façade elements to house an improved museum.

11.4.8 The mission recommends the promotion of more conservative practices of repair. In particular, the current practice of dismantling as an inherent element of repair should be avoided wherever possible in favour of repair in situ.

12.0 Masonry wall construction

12.1 With respect to specific conservation techniques, the mission recommends that future schemes for the conservation of monuments in the World Heritage Site should give primacy to those materials used historically. Modern materials should only be used where particular circumstances demand this.

12.2 The traditional wall construction is typically deficient in both corner and through-wall bonding. Noteworthy is the three-layered wall section of outer conical veneer brick (Newari: dací apa), interior common brick (Newari: ma apa) and middle rubble fill. Traditionally, only mud mortar has been used for historical construction (see Fig. 33).

12.3 One of the most important visual characteristics of the historical façade is the hairline jointing of the veneer brick whose tapering height and width allows sufficient mortar thickness behind the face of the wall.

12.4 Damp-proofing measures are not part of traditional practice, thus many historical walls are severely spalled at heights of up to two metres.

12.5 Contemporary repair and reconstruction of masonry walls necessitates custom-ordering of bricks in traditional size, finishes and shapes. New brick is generally deficient in hardness, finish and regularity of size. Restoration work by the Department of Archaeology achieved very fine dací apa jointing at Dakshina Murti Temple (Deopatan) and Ganesh Temple, Chhabahil. Recent work at the Austrian Keshav Narayan
Chowk project and the American Radha Krishna Temple project has achieved the necessary tight jointing of the traditional veneer brick (dacija apa) by pre-cutting bricks with a radial saw.

12.6 The primary concern of the mission has been the current and near-universal use of cement mortar where it could have been avoided. This practice has resulted in damage to brickwork through efflorescence and the impermeability of cement, which is also irreversible and prevents re-use of the historical materials. The mission recommends that cement mortar should not be used where mud mortars could be used. It further recommends that alternative mortars, especially lime and surkhi, a traditional brick-dust pozzolana, should be investigated.

12.7 From the early nineteenth century, rendered brickwork became increasingly used in Nepalese architecture and the tradition of erecting high quality stone buildings died out. As a result, there is no living tradition of skilled banker masons (for shaped and moulded stonework) and stone carvers to match that which survives in many other traditional crafts.

12.8 It is essential that conservation of the important stone monuments in the World Heritage Site, such as the Krishna temple, Patan Darbar Square (see Pls. 10,11), for example, should be undertaken by skilled craftsmen and conservators. This will, in the first instance, require the assistance of stone conservators from outside Nepal.

12.9 The pointing of plain stonework in a manner appropriate to an ancient monument involves simple and easily learnt techniques which could soon be taught to local craftsmen.

13.0 Seismic reinforcement

13.1 A major technical challenge is presented by the possible need for seismic reinforcement, given that the Kathmandu Valley is located in an high-risk earthquake zone and has historically suffered a serious earthquake at roughly 100-years intervals. Nevertheless, the possibility of earthquake damage should not be used as an excuse for overzealous and destructive interventions.

14.0 Timber repairs

14.1 A number of recent repair schemes incorporate high-quality timber repairs, as at Dakshina Murti temple (Deopatan), I Baha Bahi and Radha Krishna temple (Patan). Nevertheless, the mission recommends that locally active authorities and agencies should
seek further co-operation with specialised organisations on future programmes and projects. It also suggests that alternatives for the corrodbile, mild-steel fixings at present used should be explored.

15.0 Roof repairs

15.1 Contemporary practice for the rebuilding of historical roof covers has been somewhat standardised since the two early and large-scale conservation programmes of Hanuman Dhoka and Bhaktapur Development Project. This practice introduces two untraditional layers, timber planking and tar felt, between the rafters and the mud bed into which the terra cotta tiles (Newari: jhingati) are laid. The planking, which replaces traditional mixed lath, reeds and bamboo sections, provides a more regular base for the waterproof membrane of the tar felt.

15.2 Given the limited life of tar felt, estimated at ten years, the reintroduction of traditional detailing or the use of alternative methods should be investigated. During its visit at Hanuman Dhoka Palace (Kathmandu), the Mission was provided by the Department of Archaeology with information on recent repairs to the palace roof which had failed as a result of embrittlement of the tar felt (see also P1.2). Recent experience has favoured the use, where possible, of old roof tiles for conservation work, as newly produced tiles are inferior in quality. A long-term solution must, however, be found to encourage the production of high-quality new tiles.

15.3 A traditional wood pegging detail, used to secure rafters to wall plates and purlins, can be identified as the Achilles' tendon of traditional roof constructions. When this peg (Newari: chuku) is improperly detailed, i.e. allowed to extend upward into the mud bed, it channels moisture from the mud into the structural rafters. The deterioration of rafters at such improperly chuku locations is ubiquitous, although difficult to detect from the outer surfaces of the rafters. Recent and dramatic collapses of the Biswanath and Radha Krishna temple roofs resulted from such chuku related problems.

16.0 Beautification

16.1 Additional undesirable norms in work to monuments, both in terms of maintenance and what are perceived as improvements, include the application of modern finishes, including enamel paints (see P1. 24), lacquers and cement plasters and pointing. Surviving traditional crafts, on the other hand, offer great potential for the restoration of monuments, but should not be used to create additional unhistorical, decorative, detail, such as the replacement of plain
historic doors by new carved ones, as has occurred at both the Bhaktapur (see Pl. 45) and Patan Palaces.

17.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 The Review Mission unanimously recommends that the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site should be put on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger, that there should be increased international support for the World Heritage Site by UNDP and other appropriate organisations, that in accordance with the request made to the mission by the Prime Minister, there should be a guarantee of a permanent UNESCO presence at the World Heritage Site, and that the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site should be removed from the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger after a period of one to three years and returned to the World Heritage List when the following conditions have been met by the concerned Nepalese Authorities.

17.1.0 Conditions

17.1.1 That the next (fifth) amendment to the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act should be consistent with the "Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage" and its guidelines.

17.1.2 That the boundaries to the seven Monument Zones of the World Heritage Site should be reconsidered and redefined and must be gazetted according to the provisions of Nepalese legislation. Each Monument Zone within the World Heritage Site should display a notice as required by the World Heritage Convention and its Guidelines. It is also recommended that the boundaries of the Monument Zones should be physically defined by stone markers.

17.1.3 That the monument listed in the Nomination, accepted by the World Heritage Committee in 1979, should be gazetted immediately and that detailed inventories of monuments and other structures within the World Heritage Site should be commenced and gazetted annually in additive sections.

17.1.4 That the concerned authorities should initiate the preparation of detailed master plans for those Monument Zones for which they do not yet exist.

17.1.5 That responsibilities for conservation and restoration activities among the concerned authorities should be clearly defined and that the Department of Archaeology should be strengthened in its administrative, technical and professional capacities, especially with regard to its monitoring activities. That the role of the three recently created Municipalities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur should be defined in relation to management of the Monument Zones within
their jurisdiction.

17.1.6 That, in order to ensure control of new development within the World Heritage Site, concerned authorities (Department of Archaeology and Municipalities) should begin preparing complete documentation of all house and street elevations (see Fig. 32) within the Monument Zones in their jurisdictions.

17.1.7 That no demolition of any kind of structures, buildings or other remains within the Monument Zones should be permitted without the written authorisation of the Department of Archaeology.

17.1.8 That the concerned authorities should prepare a funding mechanism to support the conservation of historic properties in private hands, together with a scheme for tax exemptions to encourage private donations towards the conservation of cultural heritage.

17.1.9 That projects for the conservation of individual monuments within the Monument Zones should meet high standards of quality; most importantly, demolition and reconstruction as an integral part of restoration should be discouraged in favour of repair in-situ, with minimal dismantling. The Department of Archaeology should reject projects which favour demolition and rebuilding or beautification instead of the conservation of historic fabric.

17.1.10 Standard forms of cost estimates, quantities and specifications for new buildings, as scheduled by H.M. Government of Nepal, should not be applied to conservation works in the Monument Zones. A new schedule of rates, costs and materials applicable to the use of traditional materials and repair works, such a mud mortars and construction with timber, should be prepared and made mandatory for conservation work within the Monument Zones.

17.1.11 That, in places where mud mortar could be used, cement mortar and plaster should never be used for repairs to historic structures.

17.1.12 That the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act with regard to monitoring and design control by the Department of Archaeology should be fully implemented in co-operation with the relevant enforcement authorities.

17.1.13 That the provisions of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act with regard to the demolition of illegally erected structures within the Monument Zones should be implemented, without allowing the alternative of paying a fine for such illegal construction.
17.1.14 That obtrusive public utilities within the Monument Zones, such as electrical transformers and floodlights fixed on, or immediately adjacent to, monuments, should be made less conspicuous, by placing cabling underground, or other means, paying due regard to archaeological cultural levels.

17.1.15 That, in the Monument Zones, public and commercial advertising should be severely restricted and the display and sale of merchandise, other than within licensed shops and designated market areas should be banned.

17.1.16 That the present restrictions on vehicular traffic within the three Darbar Squares in Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur should be maintained and gradually extended.
Kathmandu review mission, 13 November 01 December 1993

General schedule:

13.11 Saturday  Departure to Nepal.

14.11 Sunday  Dipavali Holiday.
Kathmandu, arrival of mission participants.
Briefing of the mission members coming from Europe
and India. A briefing addressed to the specialists
and discussion on the different tasks to be
undertaken was held in the late afternoon.

15.11 Monday  Dipavali Holiday.
A.M. Visit to Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
(KVWHS) Monument Zone 4: Swayambhu.
P.M. Visit to KVWHS Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar
Square

16.11 Tuesday  A.M. Meeting at Department of Archaeology (DOA),
attended by DOA's Director, senior staff and
mission representatives.
P.M. Meeting at Ministry of Education, Culture and
Social Welfare (MOECSW), attended by MOECSW's
Secretary General, DOA's Director and mission
representatives.

17.11 Wednesday  KVWHS Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār
Square. A.M. Meeting with Chief District Officer
(CDO), Town Controller (TC). P.M. Meeting with
Deputy Mayor, senior staff and mission
representatives.

18.11 Thursday  KVWHS Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbār Square. P.M.
meeting with Chief District Officer (CDO), Town
Controller (TC). Meeting with Mayor, senior staff
and mission representatives. Meeting and discussion
between Mission participants.

19.11 Friday  KVWHS Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbār Square.
A.M. : meeting with Mayor, senior staff and mission
representatives, and site visit accompanied by the
Mayor and his staff. P.M. : meeting with Chief
District Officer (CDO), Town Controller (TC).
Patan Darbar Square: visit to recent conservation
projects. Visit to sawmill.
Late afternoon party hosted by the Mayor of
Kathmandu. Dinner hosted by UNDP Resident
Representative.

20.11 Saturday  Visit to Gorkha, Upallo and Tallo Darbar.
P.M.: KVWHs Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath. Dinner hosted by Director-General, Department of Archaeology.

22.11 Monday KVWHs Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan. P.M. Meeting with Secretary Department of Housing Physical Planning, senior staff DOA's Director and mission representatives.

23.11 Tuesday A.M.: meeting at UNDP, attended by Resident Representative and mission representatives. Meeting of mission participants discussing the mission's findings, conclusions and recommendations for the preparation of the draft report.

24.11 Wednesday P.M.: meeting at Ministry of Education, Culture and Social Welfare, attended by H.E the Minister MOECSW's Secretary General, DOA's Director-General and mission representatives. Draft report writing session.

25.11 Thursday (Departure of Mr Hideo Noguchi, UNESCO Programme Specialist). A.M.: Bhadgaon, meeting with Deputy Mayor of Bhadgaon, senior staff members and mission representatives. P.M.: Patan Darbar Square visit of on-going projects funded through international assistance.
Mission participants meeting and final discussion on the preparation of mission report.

26.11 Friday (Departure of Prof. Sestini, Consultant). A.M.: meeting at Department of Archaeology, attended by DOA's Director-General, senior staff members and mission representatives. The discussion focussed on the findings, conclusions recommendations of the mission and future actions to be undertaken.
P.M.: at the request of His Excellency The Prime Minister, the mission representatives participated in a meeting reviewing the outcome of the monitoring visit to the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site. The meeting was also attended by His Excellency the Minister of Education, Culture and Social Welfare.
The mission representatives were received at the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation by His Excellency the Minister.

27.11 Saturday Report writing.
Team 1: changes which have taken place in the KVWHs.
Team 2: environmental condition affecting the KVWHs.
Team 3: current practices in the conservation of buildings and other structure within the KVWHs.
28.11 Sunday Report writing, compiling the different part of the draft report.

29.11 Monday A.M. Meeting with DOA's Director General. Report writing, final draft report.
P.M.: Bhadgaon, at the invitation of the Mayor, the mission was invited to participate in a workshop attended by H.E. Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Bhaktapur Municipality officials as well as citizens.
Dinner hosted by the Bhadgaon Mayor.

30.11 Tuesday Mission participants departure from Kathmandu.

01.12 Wednesday Mission participants reached their final destination.
List of Nepalese Authorities and Experts met
during the course of the mission

The Prime Minister’s Office
His Excellency The Prime Minister, Girija Prasad Koirala

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Ms. Carroll Long, Resident Representative
Mr. Naresh P. Sharma, Programme Officer

Nepalese National Commission for UNESCO
Mr. Govinda Raj Joshi, Chairman
Dr. Ishwar Prasad Upadhaya, Secretary General
Mr. Chuman Singh Basnyat, Secretary

Ministry of Education, Culture and Social Welfare
H.E. Mr. Govinda Raj Joshi, Minister
Dr. I.P. Upadhaya, Secretary,
Mr. B.P. Lohani, Joint Secretary
Mr. Chuman Singh Basnyat, Under Secretary

Department of Archaeology
Dr. Khadga Man Skrestha, Director-General
Mr. Tara Nanda Mishra, Senior Archaeologist
Mr. Jaya Charan Kasti, Senior Engineer
Mrs. Riddi Balia Pradhan, Senior Exploration Officer
Mrs. Shoba Shresta, Senior Research Officer
Mr. Uddliar Archaryi, Archaeologist
Mr. Prakash Darnal, Archaeologist

Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
H.E. Ram Hari Joshi, Minister

Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning
Dr. Umesh B. Malla, Secretary

Kathmandu Municipality
Mr. P.L. Singh, Mayor
Mr. Ashok Nath Upreti, Town Controller
Mr. R. N. Mishra, Chief District Officer

Patan Municipality
Mr. Bekha Ratna Sakya, Mayor
Mr. Surya B. Sangachhe, Town Controller
Mrs. Usha Napal, Chief District Officer

Bhaktapur Municipality
Mr. Gyar Bahadur Nyaichef, Mayor
Mr. Bekha Ratna Sakya, Deputy Mayor
Mr. Chandra Maharjan, Deputy Mayor
Mr. Chaitya Raj Shakya, Deputy Mayor
Mrs. K. C. Ambika, Chief District Officer
Mr. Narayan Man Bijuhehhe, Member of Parliament
Kathmandu Valley Development Bodies
Mr. Suraj Raj Karnikar, Town Controller Kathmandu Valley Town Development, Implementation Committee (KVTDIC)
Mr. Mahendra Subba, Chief, Kathmandu Valley Religious and Cultural Site Development Project, Building Department

Hanuman Dhoka Palace
Mr. Tej Ratna Tamrakar, Archaeologist
Mr. H.R. Ranjitkar, Archaeologist (retired)

Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust
Mr. Rohit Ranjitkar, Architect

Pashupati Pasupati Area Development Trust
Mr. Chetu Nath Gautam, Secretary

Tribhuvan University
Dr. Suddarshan Raj Tiwari, Department of Engineering
Mr. Jiba Raj Pokharel, Department of Engineering

Others
Mr. Raimondo Boenni, Conservator (ISMEO)
Mrs. Lisa Choegyal, Director, Tiger Tops Mountain Travel
Mr. Robert Fowell, Architect/Painter
Mr. Yogeshwar K. Parajuli, Architect
Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, Director, Dwarika's Kathmandu Village Hotel
Mr. Roberto Vitali, Archaeologist
Fig. 2
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Kathmandu City Core
Scale 1:10,000
Fig. 3
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbar Square
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Fig. 4
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbar Square
Boundaries as gazetted by HMG on 30 July 1984
Fig. 5
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbar Square
Boundaries of proposed core area, identified by the Department of Archaeology, HMG, 1992
Fig. 7
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Patan City Core
Scale 1:20,000

PATAN CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SANKHAMUL GHAT
Fig. 8
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbār Square
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Scale 1: 2000

I hereby certify that this part of the plan of Patan is a photocopy of the original which was deposited on 25 May 1979 by the Government of Nepal. The depiction has been verified in accordance with the World Heritage Convention. It shows the delineation of the monument zone of Patan which is protected under the World Heritage Convention.

[Signature]
Ayadi, Chief, Section of International Standards, Division of Cultural Heritage

[Stamp]

Scale 1:2000
Fig. 9
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Boundaries as gazetted by HMG on 30 July 1984
Scale 1: 2000
Fig. 10
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Boundaries proposed by Prof. Eduard Sekler in 1980
Fig. 11
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbār Square
Boundaries proposed by the Patan Conservation and Development Programme in August 1992
Fig. 13
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbar Square
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Scale 1: 2,500
Fig. 14
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār Square
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Scale 1: 2,500
Fig. 15
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār Square
Boundaries as gazetted by HMG on 30 July 1984
Scale 1: 2,500
Fig. 17
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur)
Boundaries of a core area around Dattatreya Square, as proposed by the UNESCO/COMOS mission in November 1993
Fig. 19
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 4: Swayambhu
Boundaries as gazetted by HMG in 1978
Scale 1: 4,000
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Fig. 23
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
Extant traditional houses as observed in November 1993
Scale 1: 500
Fig. 24
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
Boundaries as proposed by the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in November 1993
Scale 1:500
Fig. 25
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Scale 1: 10,000
Fig. 26
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
Boundaries of the "Pashupati Area Development Trust", 1988
Scale 1: 20,000
Fig. 27
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
Boundaries as proposed by the "Pashupati Area Development Trust" and the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in November 1993
Scale 1: 10,000
Fig. 28
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan
Boundaries as inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1979
Scale 1: 10,000

Scale 1: 10,000
Fig. 29
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan
Boundaries as gazetted by HMG on 30 July 1984
Scale 1: 5,000
Fig. 30
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan
Boundaries of the Changu Narayan Area Development Plan, 1992
Scale 1: 5.000
Fig. 32
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Konti: elevation of street frontage on the outside edge of the present monument zone, from the Golden Temple (Kva Baha) to Lalita Sattal, prepared by Institute of Engineering student, December 1992. This elevation shows how six-storey "skyscraper", almost twice the height of traditional buildings, destroy the streetscape
Scale 1:200
Wall construction from N. Gutschow *Newar Towns and Buildings.*
Pl. 1
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbār Square
Rebuilt structure directly facing Hanuman Dhoka Palace; the small building with the Aagan Dega shrine on its roof is a recent rebuilding of a demolished traditional building (Monument D/K 208 in the Protective Inventory)
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbār Square
Hanuman Dhoka Palace: roof pulling away from the restored Kirtipur tower
Pl. 3
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbār Square
Derelict shrine facing Hanuman Dhoka Palace, encroached on by modern structures
Pl. 4
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site

Monument Zone 1: Kathmandu Darbār Square

Domed shrines dedicated to Narayan and Ganesh have been demolished and are being rebuilt to their supposed original forms.
Pl. 5
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Unlicensed curio stalls occupying patsis outside the palace
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Intrusive sun umbrellas on cafe roof adjacent to the palace; in the background, a modern concrete building of illegal height
Pl. 7
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Ayaguthi Sattal (1760), with derelict Thum Baha Math behind
Pl. 8
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Thum Bah\a Narayan temple, half collapsed. It is illustrated in the Protective Inventory (C/P 172) in a complete form, before the traditional buildings behind it had been replaced by the present concrete houses illustrated here.
Pl. 9
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Rebuilt modern buildings, of illegal height (see Fig. 31), now form the background to the Char Narayan temple, 1565 (on left), and Krishna temple, 1637 (on right)
Pl. 10
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Krishna temple, 1837
Pl. 11
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Efflorescence, possibly caused by salts from cement used in previous repairs, activated by the water thrown on the balcony by the priest, who still lives there, is destroying the surface of the carved stonework.
Pl. 12
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Sarasvati Pati, photographed before its recent demolition and rebuilding to different dimensions
PL. 13
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
18th-century house adjoining the northern gable of Sarasvati Pati, now demolished.
Pl. 14
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Olakhu: the historic Narayan temple which formerly stood on this site was demolished in Spring 1993 and replaced by this inappropriate modern concrete structure
Pl. 15
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbar Square
The Shiva Guesthouse towers next to the 15th-century Pashupati temple; illegal additions have been made to this building on a regular basis
Pl. 16
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār Square
Curios and advertising cover the front of this traditional house next to the Pashupati temple
PL. 17
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār Square
Curio stalls swamp the dharamsalas at the eastern end of the square
Pl. 18
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur)
Part of the proposed extension to the monument zone at Dattatreya Square
Pl. 19
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār Square
Part of a historic domestic courtyard (remaining portion on the right) was demolished to build the concrete-framed Golden Gate Guesthouse
Pl. 20
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbār Square
Collapsed and derelict traditional houses to the north-east of the palace
Pl. 21
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbar Square
16th-century stone temple threatened by tree roots
Pl. 22
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 4: Swayambhu
Uncontrolled new building in the monument zone
Pl. 23
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 4: Swayambhu
The damaging practice of pouring whitewash over monuments as an act of worship is not traditional in the Kathmandu Valley and is a recently introduced custom of Tibetan origin. Note the advertisements which form the backdrop to this monument.
Pl. 24
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 4: Swayambhu
This historic chaitya has been defaced as a result of its previously unpainted carvings being painted with unsuitable modern enamel paints
Pl. 25
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 4: Swayambhu
Intrusive advertisements adjacent to the principal monuments
Pl. 26
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhhanath
The stupa has been engulfed by new buildings since its inscription on the World Heritage List, which have destroyed its formerly rural setting.
Pl. 27
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
The ring of traditional houses round the stupa is being progressively demolished and replaced by illegally high new concrete buildings
Pl. 28
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhhanath
Traditional houses have been demolished to make way for taller, concrete-framed, buildings
Pl. 29
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
Some surviving traditional houses; part of the large new concrete structure which caused concern to the UNESCO/ICOMOS Mission can be seen on the extreme right
Pl. 30
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
Curio stalls encroach on the area round the stupa
Pl. 31
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 5: Baudhanath
The entrance shrine has been demolished and is being rebuilt to a different design
Pl. 32
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
The mission inspecting a new dharamsala being constructed in concrete
Pl. 33
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
Goraknath: the polished marble used in the construction of this new shrine is out of keeping with the surrounding historic structures
Pl. 34
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
A historic pati, formerly used by Indian musicians, was demolished to build a new tourist information centre
Pl. 35
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
Deopatan: this official record photograph of the Dakshina Murti temple, taken before work commenced, suggests that total demolition, as carried out, was unnecessary in order to repair the building.
Pl. 36
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 6: Pashupati
The dharmasalas surrounding the Vishrurupa temple are in danger of collapse due to termite infestation of pine beams
PL 37
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan
The Ganesha temple was entirely demolished before being reconstructed in replica, 1988-9, as also was the sattal in the background.
Pl. 38
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan
In common with many of the sculptures in the temple courtyard, this 16th-century image of Mahavishnu (monument V-MZ 9.5 in the Protective Inventory) was covered with a crude brick arch during the works of 1987-89
Pi. 39
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 7: Changu Narayan
Decayed brickwork of the dharamsalas surrounding the temple
PI. 40
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Extra storeys added to historic houses in Swatha Square
Pl. 41
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbār Square
In order to build this concrete structure, an 18th-century resthouse has been demolished (off the lane between Thum Baha and Waliaku)
Pl. 42
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbār Square
Ganesh temple, Olakhu; the concrete-framed structure to the right is built on former open ground (monument B/P 175 in the Protective Inventory, where it is illustrated before the encroachment took place)
Pl. 43
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Dattatraya temple, Balkhutol, showing encroachment by a new concrete-framed house into the actual structure of the temple (monument C/P 176 in the Protective Inventory, where it is shown before this encroachment took place)
Pl. 44
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 2: Patan Darbar Square
Sundari Chowk: electrical wiring immediately adjacent to the palace
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site
Monument Zone 3: Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) Darbar Square
New, carved doors in the Palace of Fifty-five windows, which have replaced what were probably 17th-century plain ones. Traditionally, plain doors made from a single plank of wood act as a foil to the richly carved door frame