

Tower of Hercules (Spain)

No 1312

Original name as proposed by the State Party:

Tower of Hercules

Location:

La Coruña,
Galicia Region,
Spain

Brief description:

The *Farum Brigantium*, called in modern times the *Tower of Hercules*, was built by the Roman Empire, probably at the end of the 1st century CE or at the beginning of the next century. Located at the entrance to La Coruña harbour, this monumental lighthouse was designed to facilitate navigation along the rugged Galician coastline, at a strategic point along the sea route linking the Mediterranean with north-west Europe. It has been periodically restored and reused since it was originally erected.

Category of property:

In terms of the category of cultural property, as defined in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, it is a *monument*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 27 April 2007

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre: 29 January 2008

Background: This is a new nomination.

Consultations: ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management.

Literature consulted (selection):

Hutter, S. and Hauschild, T., *El Faro romano de la Coruña*, La Corogne, Do Castro, 1991.

Latorre Gonzalez-Moro, P., Camara Muñoz, L., 'Restauración de la Torre de Hércules (La Coruña): 1791–1992,' *Quaderns Científics i Tècnics* (5), Diputació, Barcelona, 1993. pp. 155–78.

Sanchez-Garcia J.-A., *Faros de Galicia*, La Corogne, Fondation Caixagalicia, 2004.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 14–16 October 2008

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 11 December 2008 requesting it to respond to the following points:

1. Provide assurances regarding the preparation, adoption, and implementation of a coherent management plan of

scientifically homogeneous grade, commensurate with the value of the property and submit an outline of the plan.

2. Install an overarching authority to manage the property, with significant human and material resources.

3. Clearly identify and name the persons responsible for the implementation of the conservation, within the context of an overall management plan for the property.

The State Party submitted a reply on 27 February 2009, including an addendum and an annex with a Property Master Plan (200 pages). The analysis of this documentation is included in the present evaluation.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report:

10 March 2009

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The nominated property is defined as the Tower of Hercules. It also includes its land environment – the Eiras Peninsula, where the Tower is located, and a set of headlands to its east, on the entry side to La Coruña harbour. The land section of the property is extended towards the Atlantic Ocean by a circular maritime strip with a radius of 1100m measured from the centre of the Peninsula (Statue of Breogán).

The base of the Tower, on the rock on Eiras Headland, sits at an altitude of 57m. It is a polygonal platform 32.4m wide, dating from the early 19th century.

The current Tower rises 55m above the polygonal platform. It has a first section measuring 14m square by 34m high, corresponding to the central core of Roman origin. The additional 21m of height correspond to additions made during more recent renovations (*see History*).

The current Tower rises on three progressively smaller levels. The first corresponds with the top of the Roman construction. The second is at 41m and the apex lantern is at 46.5m; their general cross-sectional shape is octagonal. The second level has a built pinnacle that rises to 55m.

The Tower is still operational as a lighthouse and indicates the entrance to the La Coruña harbour, as it did in Roman times.

The Roman part of the Tower is encircled at its base by the 19th century platform. The historical documentation referring to the successive restorations and archaeological details (remains of the cornice) suggest that the lantern of the Roman *farum* was at a height of around 41.6m. The current Roman summit section has a horizontal stiffening structure, in *grand appareil* interlocking stonework in the so-called 'double T' form. It originally bore the lantern platform, whilst at the same time ensuring the structure's homogeneity.

The massive form of the Roman construction has three successive internal levels. Each level has four square, narrow, high, vaulted chambers. They were originally joined in independent pairs for fire and military safety reasons. Their construction techniques are clearly identifiable: *opus caementicium* (mortar) for the vaults, *opus vittatum* (*petit appareil* courses) for the walls, and

opus quadratum (*grand appareil*) for the exterior openings.

The original access to the summit of the Tower was by means of an external spiral ramp, with openings into the pairs of chambers. The ramp fell into disuse, most probably at the end of the Middle Ages, to be replaced by an internal staircase, including the creation of openings for this purpose.

In addition to the summit section, which rises prominently above the original, and an internal stone staircase system, the major restoration at the end of the 18th century resulted in the current facades of the Tower. They include a new facing in dressed stone, which retains the positions of the Roman openings and indicates an inclined spiral impost where the old Roman ramp once stood.

Immediately adjacent to the base of the Tower there is a small rectangular Roman building which houses the *ex-voto* of its construction.

The section of the property surrounding the Tower of Hercules includes various heritage or cultural elements:

- The sculpture park surrounding the building forms an open-air museum, of mythological and symbolic nature in relationship with the Tower, its history, and its representation in legends, as well as with the maritime world.
- The Monte dos Bicos rock carvings dating from the Iron Age, along with the remains of the Herminia Headland military battery, are located on the small peninsula adjacent to the main one on which the Tower stands.
- There is a Muslim cemetery at the extremity of the property, with ties to the Spanish Civil War in the 20th century, and the Casa de las Palabras (House of Words) project designed to create a dialogue with civilisations.

History and development

In 61 BCE a Roman seaborne expedition, probably led by Julius Caesar himself, landed at present-day La Coruña (*Brigantium*) with the intention of installing a port and commercial settlement. There had already been Roman colonisation along the Mediterranean facade of the Iberian Peninsula and along the south and south-west from the 2nd century BCE. The port of *Brigantium* played an important role during the Cantabrian Wars (29–19 BCE). Once peace was restored, its strategic maritime role at the entrance to the Bay of Biscay, as well as that of a trading station, were confirmed. It became a rear base for the conquest of the British Isles while Galicia was being Romanised.

Under the name of *Farum Brigantium*, the Tower was probably erected in the 1st century CE, at the latest in the reign of Trajan (98–117). The votive inscription on a small ancillary construction would appear to bear this out.

This monumental lighthouse is located at the entrance to La Coruña harbour, in the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula. It is designed to facilitate navigation along the rugged Galicia coastline, on a strategic point on the sea route linking the Mediterranean to northwest Europe.

A wood-fired system was located on the summit platform in a shelter opening on to the seaward facade; it possibly

had columns used for navigational alignment when making the difficult approach and entry into the harbour.

On the basis of the surviving structure, the original tower had a horizontal cross-section measuring 11.75m (33 Roman feet) square. It was surrounded by a spiral ramp providing access to the platform. The base of the Tower rested on 18m square foundations.

The Tower's use as an illuminated lighthouse probably persisted for a relatively long time throughout the Roman Empire. It seems not to have been lit throughout most of the High Middle Ages, although it remained intact and continued to play a role as a landmark and watchtower. The gazetteer lists the names of *farum* and *faro* in the 9th and 10th centuries, probably with periods of return to nocturnal service depending on the historical context and the state of maritime navigation. It is difficult to determine exactly the Tower's use and upkeep in medieval times. It seems to have been abandoned and in poor condition after the Viking invasions (854–56), as was the city; it is, however, referred to in two 10th century texts as the *Farum Precantium*.

Medieval chronicles mention the creation of a fort and a small town in the 11th–12th centuries, in this same position. The Tower is referred to as the *Castellum Pharum*; at this time it was used for defensive purposes and as an observation post, which most likely saved it from probable ruin. The urban and port development of *Burgo de Faro Novo*, later *Crunia*, started at the end of the 12th century and into the following century, in connection with the reign of Ferdinand II and the Pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela. The contemporary toponymy shows that the name then given to the Tower was *Turrin de Faro* suggesting its restoration as a lighthouse, but the external ramp appears to have been in ruins, perhaps as a result of the Tower's use for defensive purposes in the preceding centuries. The reuse of dressed stone from the collapsed parts of the Tower is reported during the late Middle Ages, until a 1557 municipal edict forbade this practice.

Starting in the 14th century, La Coruña became one of the kingdom's largest and most cosmopolitan ports. It was an essential stage between northern Europe and the Mediterranean world. The lighthouse's function would appear to have been fully restored at that time. The Tower of Hercules was a major symbol of the city in the 15th century, and was the main heraldic motif on the city's seal.

Iconography from the 16th century shows a highly restored Tower, notably fitted with a dome-shaped lantern. The external ramp no longer exists, but traces of its spiral shape are still visible. Work on the timber staircase is mentioned in the same period. There are several descriptions of the Tower in the 17th century. The first truly identifiable restoration was that led by the Duke of Uceda, the Captain General of Galicia in 1684–85. The presence of an internal staircase is again reported.

In 1755 the Lisbon earthquake affected many buildings in the La Coruña region, but the Tower survived thanks to its architectonic design and the quality of its mortar (see Description).

The major restoration-reconstruction work on the Tower was undertaken in two stages at the end of the 18th century, from 1788 to 1806. The work was carried for navigational reasons, the external condition of the Tower, and changes in lighting systems. The work was entrusted

to the naval engineer Lieutenant Eustaquio Giannini. It was preceded and accompanied by measurements and plans that are invaluable in understanding the Tower in modern times. At this time, its height was significantly raised and it was fitted with a new bell lantern; the interior staircase was rebuilt; and the exterior facing and the openings were completely reconstructed (see Description). It assumed its current external form in Neo-Classical style. Additional work was carried out by José Giannini, Eustaquio's brother, between 1799 and 1806. The lantern and the lighting system were replaced for operational reasons and to take account of the most recent innovations, the bell turret was replaced by a new higher one, and a platform was added around the base of the Tower.

The optical system was again changed in 1847 for a very efficient catadioptric system using Fresnel lenses.

In the 1860s, ancillary buildings were erected and the access ways repaired. Further work was carried out in 1905: the internal staircase was again restored, this time entirely in stone.

The lighthouse was fitted with electric lighting in 1926, with its beam visible for up to 32 nautical miles.

In the 1990s excavations were undertaken at the base of the Tower, under the platform added in the early 19th century, to reveal the Roman foundations and buried remains.

In 1991–92 the facades of the Tower and the small Roman building were restored.

Numerous legends surround the Tower's history, from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. They attempt to explain in mythical and popular terms the Tower's origins and its construction, regardless of any historical or archaeological understanding. There are three main families of legends: the legend of Breogán in the Celtic-Irish tradition, the Greco-Roman legend of Hercules, the demigod of mythical strength who gave the Tower its contemporary name, and the tale of Trecenzonio halfway between the former two legends. There is evidence of these mythical tales in Galicia starting from the 14th century, but they probably predate that time.

Given that the lighthouse continues in use, ICOMOS regrets the absence of any description of the optical systems, which are an integral part of the lighthouse and its history, and the changes that they have undergone, notably in modern and contemporary times, in relation to Atlantic shipping.

Tower of Hercules values

Built in the 1st century CE or at the beginning of the following century, the Tower of Hercules bears witness to the development of the sea routes linking the Mediterranean with north-west Europe from Roman times and their continuation over almost two thousand years. It indicates the entrance to the Roman port of *Brigantium*, later called La Coruña. Located in Galicia, near Cape Finisterre, this port and its lighthouse occupy a strategic position at the entry to the Bay of Biscay, marking the last stage in the route north, before Brittany and the British Isles.

It is a monumental lighthouse, standing more than 40m tall, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean from a height of almost 100m. The Tower was used as a lighthouse during the Roman Empire, and with less certainty in the High

Middle Ages. It appears again to have been in use after the refounding of the city of La Coruña and the port in the 11th and 12th centuries. Whilst it has lost its external access ramp, its underworks are intact and various repairs and restorations have maintained its purpose.

It underwent exemplary and very careful architectural restoration at the hands of the Giannini brothers at the end of the 18th century, including new facades and a significant increase in height (55m). It is still in use, which makes it the oldest lighthouse in use in the world.

Highly symbolic values are attached to the Tower of Hercules, in terms of the importance of its legends and the identification value it had for 19th and 20th century emigrants from Galicia as they set sail from the port of La Coruña for America or northern Europe.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

The integrity of the property as a Roman monument is limited, being restricted to the central core and visible only from the interior. It has experienced significant and irreversible deterioration when compared with the original Roman construction. This refers in particular to the complete refurbishment of the external facing and the disappearance of the external access ramp. Nonetheless, the architectural presence of this ramp as being long visible in the walls of the Tower's central core and its iconographic importance are repeatedly reported from the end of the Middle Ages to modern times. The great restoration of 1790 marked its presence in the form of a continuous, well marked, spiral impost indicating its position on the new facades.

The State Party emphasises the need for this extensive restoration to save the Tower and its use as a lighthouse. In an aggressive maritime environment, the external Roman walls, whilst still in place despite probable medieval and modern restorations (see History), were endangered; at the time, they were more than seventeen centuries old. Moreover, the architectural condition no longer corresponded to the original external envelope because the external ramp was in ruins.

The Tower's functional integrity as a lighthouse and landmark at the entrance to La Coruña harbour and on the European Atlantic route has been maintained over the centuries, ever since its Roman origins.

The Tower's architectural integrity, in the sense of a monument that is complete in its structural components and stylistic homogeneity, is good. It was defined in its current visual form by the great restoration of 1790, required because of the state of the building's exterior, changing navigational needs, and the technical changes occurring in lighting. The Roman platform bearing the lantern had remained in place through to this date. Stable and rudimentary for centuries, the lighting systems then entered a period of profound change in terms of the light source for the catadioptric system. The visible changes in the superstructure (lantern rotunda, turret, etc) are merely the architectural translations of these new technical requirements.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the Roman central core of the Tower of Hercules is unquestionable. The initial presence of an imposing external spiral ramp is certain, notably in the light of the archaeological remains that demonstrate the presence of its base in the foundations (see Description). The iconography reveals this ramp but in an imprecise manner or in variable forms of restitution after its degradation. Finally, the exact exterior shape of the original Roman Tower and its access ramp is not really known: historians provide hypotheses, not certainties, in this respect.

The written archaeological documentation, mapping, and reports documenting the historical knowledge are completely authentic.

The 1790 restoration was carried out with considerable care, directly under the architectural and architectonic influence of the Roman original: conformity with the original openings, the impost as an architectural trace of the ramp, conformity with the original materials, *and grand appareil* stone facing in Roman style. This work, conceived and carried out by the engineer architect Eustaquio Giannini, is presented as a precursor to modern restoration practices in conformity with the original choices.

With regard to the delicate issue of the integrity and authenticity of the Tower of Hercules, ICOMOS accepts most of the arguments presented in its favour by the State Party, but at the same time finds them incomplete. Maintaining functional integrity has necessarily led to major alterations in the authenticity, in the sense of an object that conforms perfectly to its original state. Nonetheless, in the spirit of the Nara Document on Authenticity (UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, 1994, point 13 in particular), and in the spirit of the evaluation of a monument with a technical function, there is a case for an evaluation to be made in terms of the context and circumstances of this qualitative factor.

ICOMOS also lays stress on the very small number of lighthouses that predate the 18th century and are still in service, all of which have undergone extensive restoration, for example, Cordouan lighthouse in France, dating from the Renaissance, which is also on the European Atlantic seaboard.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Comparative analysis

The definitive lighthouse of Greco-Roman antiquity is, of course, the Pharos of Alexandria, built with three storeys, the height of which seems to have exceeded 100m. However, it was destroyed by a succession of earthquakes between the 8th and the early 14th centuries. There is no doubt that it exerted an influence throughout Roman antiquity as an architectural model and as a technical reference.

The Roman Empire developed lighthouses to indicate the entrance to harbours. The oldest is without doubt that in Ostia, the harbour city of Rome, built with three storeys, as in Alexandria, but far less monumental in size. It was without doubt modified on several occasions in Roman

times, before finally being vandalised at the end of the Empire, and then replaced by a late medieval castle, with one of the latter's existing towers probably indicating the position of the old lighthouse.

A series of harbour lighthouses was built in the 1st and 2nd centuries within the Roman maritime space – in the Mediterranean, notably in Messina, Naples, Ravenna, and Civitavecchia in Italy, Fréjus and Narbonne in France, Laodicea in the Middle East, and Leptis Magna (Tripoli) in Africa. The last-named, of which some traces remain, has an internal structure with high chambers that recalls that of the Tower of Hercules.

In southern Spain, several ancient lighthouses played an important role, such as Chipiona at the entrance to the Guadalquivir and the two Roman lighthouses in Cadiz.

The Roman Atlantic route, which made its first significant appearance with the conquests of Julius Caesar in the 1st century BCE and developed throughout the following two centuries, led to the construction of several lighthouses signalling harbour entrances. In addition to the Tower of Hercules in Spain, there are, in particular, that at Boulogne-sur-Mer (France) and the two constructions in Dover (UK).

With the notable exception of the Tower of Hercules, these lighthouses exist today purely as literary references (Laodicea and Narbonne), as Roman remains without any contemporary function (Leptis Magna, Cadiz, and Dover), as reused and highly modified elements within fortified constructions (Ostia and Fréjus), or as lighthouses totally rebuilt in the modern and contemporary era (Messina and, Chipiona).

ICOMOS has some reservations regarding some of the comparisons made with reference to the architecture of the Roman period and antiquity. The qualities of the Tower of Hercules in this area remain somewhat crude by comparison with several of the great monuments referred to. To raise the Tower to the status of an ancient model of anti-seismic architecture is dangerous, since little is really known in this area in ancient history. Its strength probably results rather from the quality of the mortar than its stereotomy and its bond. ICOMOS also regrets the weakness of the comparative analysis for the modern and contemporary era, despite the lighthouse being presented within the context of continuity of service.

ICOMOS considers that, despite several weaknesses, the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- It is the only truly preserved Roman lighthouse.
- It is one of the rare Roman buildings still in use today for the same purpose as that originally intended, in this case to indicate the entrance to a harbour and to assist maritime navigation.
- The Tower of Hercules provides a remarkable example of Roman construction techniques designed

to ensure maximum stability and an ability to withstand earthquakes.

- The Tower of Hercules provides an understanding of the history of maritime signalling techniques, from the Roman world through to the present day.
- The Tower of Hercules was restored in the 18th century, in an exemplary manner, which has protected the central core of the Roman monument in accordance with its values, while rehabilitating its technical functions.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilisation or cultural tradition which is living or which has disappeared.

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Tower of Hercules is a unique testimony of Roman civilisation, as it was the last lighthouse built during antiquity and is still in use.

These lighthouses, and more generally coastal signalling to aid navigation into harbours, were developed by the main seafaring civilisations in antiquity in the Mediterranean world (Egyptians, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans), but also in the east (China in the Tang and Zhou dynasties) and in pre-Columbian America (Mayas and Incas).

Within this maritime history, the Tower of Hercules, built in the late stages of antiquity, provides a unique link between the most symbolic elements of the first monumental maritime signalling that today have disappeared, such as the Pharos of Alexandria and the Colossus of Rhodes, and modern and contemporary maritime signalling.

ICOMOS considers that the main elements provided in favour of criterion (iii) are sufficient, notably with regard to the testimony of the use of lighthouses in antiquity. The Tower is also proof of the permanence of the Atlantic route from when it was first organised by the Romans, during a large part of the Middle Ages, and through to its considerable development in the modern and contemporary era.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Tower of Hercules is a unique example of Roman construction, for which there is nothing comparable within the Empire. It is a monument of great interest, in terms of both its imposing proportions and the diversity of construction techniques employed, in a highly complementary manner. It is testimony to the various Roman building arts and to the sophistication of its summit platform.

The Tower of Hercules illustrates the great seafaring tradition of the Romans and their domination of the seas. It is also an important aspect of their military capabilities and of their commercial power, which was at the very root of the Empire. They had the ability to transfer and adapt their

seafaring capabilities from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. The Tower is a symbol of a vast Roman presence in Europe, in difficult but strategic maritime zones.

Its restoration in the 18th century was respectful of its Roman architectural heritage while at the same time focussing on its modern functional rehabilitation, and it is an example of the spirit of the Enlightenment in north-western Spain. The Tower then became an image of modernity in Spain reconciled with respect for historical heritage. A model was exhibited at the 1873 Universal Exhibition in Vienna.

ICOMOS considers that several of the arguments presented for this criterion largely apply to criterion (iii). Given the absence of its architectural integrity and the real level of its qualities as a Roman monument, ICOMOS considers that criterion (iv) has not been fully demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (iii) and that the Outstanding Universal Value has been demonstrated.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressures

The need for technical change in lighthouse lighting became very apparent from the end of the 18th century, as an aspect in its modernisation and the continuity of its activity. It has been managed here in harmony with the property's heritage and value for more than 200 years. There is no reason for this not to continue in the future should other technical changes be necessary for the lighthouse or its immediate environment.

The lack of building space in the urban area of the city of La Coruña has in the past exerted pressure on the property's neighbouring space. This may possibly occur again if care is not taken.

At present, the property is perceived and used by the city's inhabitants as an outer urban area for leisure and sporting activities.

Tourism pressures

For the present the monument copes reasonably with the relatively high number of visitors (120,000 in 2006), including during the summer peak (40,000 in August 2007). However, several problems are becoming apparent: minor vandalism when there is a lack of surveillance and early signs of atmospheric changes in the upper chambers after the effort made by many people to climb the 290 steps.

Specific tracking of these issues is planned: increased prevention and surveillance, hygrometric monitoring, and ventilation if required.

Environmental pressures

There is a risk of oil spills nearby, because of the danger of vessels running aground when entering the harbour, as happened in 1976 and 1992.

Dynamiting the shallow waters near the harbour entrance has made its sea approach less dangerous. Following these two catastrophes, the technical measures for combating oil spills have been stepped up, as has control of the traffic nearing the port. The project to build a new oil terminal would distance this traffic from the zone near the Tower of Hercules.

Natural disasters and impact of climate change

The Tower satisfactorily withstood the 1755 earthquake.

A modern lightning rod avoids any lightning risk.

It is not considered there is any risk from climate change at present.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are pressure from urban growth and managing mass tourism in the monument.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The property is defined by the end of the peninsula (52ha) and a circular maritime sector centred on the tower (181ha) forming a total surface area of 233ha. There are no residents within the boundaries of the property.

The buffer zone is defined by a strip of land encircling the property and a ring-shaped section centred on the tower and surrounding the maritime section of the property, the total surface area of which is reported to be 1936ha (there is some discrepancy in the data supplied by the State Party on this point: addendum, point 0.5). There are 2200 people living within the buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the core and buffer zone of the nominated property are adequate.

Ownership

The property is public property of the State. Its technical function as a lighthouse means that the exercise of this ownership right falls to the Ministry for Development, which delegates its implementation to the La Coruña Port Authorities.

Protection

Legal protection

In addition to its status as public property delegated to the Port of La Coruña, the recognition of the Tower of Hercules as an historical monument gives it a specially protected territorial status.

The Tower of Hercules and the associated land within the scope of the property proposed for inscription are under the protection of the following laws and general regulations:

- Under the Spanish Constitution of 27 December 1978 (Article 20.a), the Law on Ports and the Merchant Navy (27/1992) places the Port of La Coruña under the exclusive jurisdiction of the State. The Ministry for Development is responsible for its implementation.

- The land surrounding the Tower is part of the coastal fringe. It is under the protection of the Laws on the Coastal Seaboard (22/1998, 158/2005, and 6/2007).

As a national historical site (first declaration in 1931), the Tower and its immediate surroundings are under the protection of the Ministry of Culture, under the Law on Spanish Heritage (16/1985). As this is a property of the State, this law takes precedence over the Regional or local legal framework.

The laws governing territorial systems (7/1985 and 8/2007), the Regional Planning Law (9/2002), and the Law on the Cultural Heritage of Galicia (8/1995) entail obligations for the Government of the Autonomous Region of Galicia and for the Municipality of La Coruña, in terms of urban management, policing, and protecting historical and/or artistic heritage sites.

In August 1995 an agreement was signed between the Ministry for Development, represented by the Port of La Coruña, and the Municipal Council allocating the internal use of the Tower and the tourism management of the site to the City of La Coruña. In January 2002 the implementation of this agreement was placed in the hands of the Tourism Consortium of La Coruña.

Buffer zone: The Municipality is responsible for projects that affect the area immediately surrounding the property (buffer zone), in terms of regulations and planning urban growth. It exercises this prerogative under the Special Plan for the Tower's Peninsula (1997).

Traditional protection

The symbolic and historical value of the Tower of Hercules in Galicia, and especially in La Coruña, contributes to the popular recognition of its value and its protection.

Effectiveness of protection measures

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection is sufficient. Its practical application is the responsibility of the relevant national administrative services, the Port Authority, the Regional Government, and the Municipality of La Coruña.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate.

Conservation

Inventories, archives, research

An inventory of the property was drawn up as part of the General Inventory of the Cultural Properties of the Historical Heritage of Spain and the Cultural Heritage Properties of Galicia. This is registered as R-I-51-0000-5400000 and can be consulted at the Ministry of Culture in Madrid and at the Cultural Heritage Department of the Galicia Region in Santiago de Compostela. Its most recent update was in 1995.

The series of reports on recent restoration actions and archaeological excavations in 1992 are presented in Annex D to the submission for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The archival materials relating to the Tower of Hercules are spread across numerous archival centres and libraries in Spain and abroad. These are in particular the Municipal

Archives of La Coruña, the National Historical Military Archives Department in Madrid, the National Historical Archives in Madrid, the Simancas General Archives, the archives of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the Royal Library of La Coruña, the National Library of Madrid, and the Royal Academy in Madrid.

Recent research began with an archaeological study of the bases of the Tower in the 1990s. Today, it is focussed on the structural analysis of the monument's pathologies in order to improve its long-term conservation.

Numerous research articles concerning the Tower of Hercules have been published by the Universities of Santiago de Compostela and La Coruña.

Present state of conservation

The State Party considers the general state of conservation of the property to be very good, considering its various uses and the modifications it has undergone, the Atlantic climatic conditions to which it is exposed, and its lengthy periods of abandonment in the past. This is particularly attributable to the quality of the original Roman construction, which still constitutes the bearing structure of the monument.

This does not exclude various types of aggression and deterioration:

Facades and roofing:

- Overall, the external facades are excellent in appearance, but atmospheric agents (rain, saline mist) and wind are causing gradual erosion, which is occasionally visible on certain stones on the east and south facades, and more generally in the mortar joints. Adequate restoration was carried out in 1992. Rust stains were observed here and there on the facades and on the dome.
- *Water infiltration* is apparent on the upper terraces and in the staircase. It is being monitored.
- The overall condition of the *timber frames* is good.

Interior:

- The *internal Roman structure* is still in excellent condition overall, in terms of its homogeneity and structural stiffness. It has long proven its strength (see Threats). Nonetheless, some small fissures are visible and loss of material has occurred in some arches around openings.
- There is *internal erosion* due to atmospheric agents, mainly in the second level; this is the result of the abandonment of the Tower in medieval times.
- Whitish *crystallised saline deposits* are visible on the upper platforms.
- A *saline pathology* is affecting some mortar joints, linked to recent repairs carried out inappropriately using sea sand.
- *Water infiltration or condensation* on the coldest walls have caused humidity stains and the appearance of colonies of microorganisms.

The Tower access platform currently forms a partial roof over the archaeological dig. It is not in good watertight condition, resulting in associated damage in the form of

humidity, drips, and mould. A monitoring and prevention programme is currently being drawn up.

Vandalism and the phenomenon of 'tagging' have caused some minor damage in places to the material and visual changes to surfaces within hand reach.

ICOMOS notes the various potential factors in the deterioration in the state of conservation and confirms that it is important to pay attention to them and to control them.

Active conservation measures

Regular inspections and a detailed study of the structural pathologies are in progress.

A thermo-hygrometric study of the Tower's interior atmosphere must be initiated, related to the number of tourists and a potential study of a ventilation system.

Effectiveness of the conservation measures

ICOMOS considers that the conservation research and inspection measures for the property as well as the diagnostics provided are of a good level. Nonetheless, their implementation and the supervision and standard maintenance could be made more effective.

In its documentation dated 27 February 2009, the State Party indicated, in reply to the question regarding the authority in charge of the conservation, that a decision had just been made (26 January 2009) to create a Tower Management Plan Monitoring Committee comprising the La Coruña Port Authority, the Ministry of Culture of the Spanish Government, the Cultural Heritage Department of the Region of Galicia, the Municipality and the Tourism Consortium.

ICOMOS considers that the Monitoring Committee meets all the conditions required to provide proper monitoring of the property's conservation, but that it would be useful to define its required work schedule.

ICOMOS considers that the basic data for the conservation of the property are well collated, and that the right diagnoses have been made regarding the occasional failings noted.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The Port Authority of La Coruña is responsible for the general management of the building and the management of the lighthouse.

Ministerial services, especially the Ministry of Culture, are responsible for conservation diagnosis of the property and for defining proposed actions.

The current municipal concession contract with the La Coruña Tourism Consortium is responsible for the building's interior and visitor management.

The Municipality of La Coruña is responsible for the management of the Tower's surroundings and the public areas in the buffer zone.

The Municipality of La Coruña is responsible for controlling urban development in the buffer zone.

In its reply dated 27 February 2009, the State Party explains that the Tourism Consortium is an inter-agency authority in charge of the management of the Tower; it comprises the Port Authority, the Municipal Council, and the Chamber of Commerce.

ICOMOS questions the ability of the Tourism Consortium at the present time to manage a property of outstanding universal value.

Management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The following plans and arrangements apply:

- The *Conservation Master Plan* includes diagnosis and conservation recommendations for the Tower, mainly under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

- The management of the property's geographic space is handled under a *Special plan for the management, protection and conservation of the Tower's peninsula* (April 1997), for which the Municipality is responsible. It covers the urban areas and the natural coastal zones included in the property; it also includes the archaeological excavations.

- The area surrounding the Tower includes a project to develop cultural actions associated with the existing historical, landscape, environmental, and artistic values. In particular, it is planned to create a museum at the foot of the Tower for the interpretation of the monument.

- Since 2001 a series of six tourism and/or commercial action plans (promotion of tourism abroad and Spanish tourism, fairs, etc.) reflect the actions by the Consortium in charge of the management of the Tower, and more generally the promotion of the City. The seventh and last of these concerns a project to promote the Tower of Hercules as a World Heritage site. Almost 25% of the pages in the main file are devoted to a photographic compilation of the promotional and tourism actions.

The buffer zone is managed under the general municipal planning and regulations programme (October 1998).

ICOMOS considers that the following points in the management and promotion of the property need to be improved:

- The current human resources of the Tourism Consortium are not suitable for a museographic and interpretation centre project at a property of outstanding universal value. In its reply dated 27 February 2009, the State Party gives the following information: there are at present one administrator, two administration assistants, nine tourism and two maintenance employees, but no museographic professional, historian, or archaeologist.

- The proposed plans and programmes in the original file contain little evidence of any correlation. The document presented as the *Monument Management Plan* (Annexe C) is mainly a review of the tourism promotion action by the Consortium, simply placed under the heading of a potential text for the *Promotion of the value of the Tower as a World Heritage Site* and it includes the museum project (these texts not translated into either of the World Heritage Committee's official working languages).

In its reply dated 27 February 2009, the State Party supplied an additional voluminous document (Addendum 2, annex 1) containing a Master Plan for the property. Following information previously provided about the description of the property and its history, this document repeats the data for the conservation of the property and reviews the plans and projects concerning the property. The following facts should be noted as important aspects of the management system:

- The Spanish Government has just passed (December 2008) a budget of one million euros for the museographic project and the management of the Tower.

- An interpretation and visitor centre is planned on the site of the former prison, in the vicinity of the Tower. Temporary visitor facilities are planned, in the form of light constructions that are fully reversible, pending the restoration of this former building.

ICOMOS considers that the museographic project within the property must contribute to better information and to generating public awareness of the monument's value and the need for it to be respected. In this respect, strengthening the museographic capabilities of the Consortium personnel is essential.

ICOMOS considers that this group of measures for the management system would benefit from being harmonised by writing a more comprehensive and more detailed management plan, setting out its planning, and clarifying who is responsible for its implementation.

Risk preparedness

ICOMOS considers the risk preparedness to be satisfactory (see *Threats*).

Involvement of local communities

The Municipality of La Coruña is a central stakeholder in the management of the property, as is the Port Authority. There is, however, no mention of any private citizen association nor the involvement of the local population in the various projects or the management bodies.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise, and formation

There are several sources of funding relating directly to the organisations in charge of the management, their plans, and programmes:

- The Port Authority is responsible for the technical management of the lighthouse; port staff and budget funds may be allocated to the Tower in this respect.

- The tourism and promotional resources, entrance fees used to pay the site's maintenance and tourism management staff.

- Allocated funds from the Ministries of Culture and the Environment.

- The municipal budget.

- Subsidies from the Autonomous Region of Galicia.

The Ministry of Culture, under its Conservation Master Plan, provides specialists – historians, archaeologists, restoration architects, engineers, chemists, etc. Under the various plans and programmes, cultural property specialists

from the Region and universities may be called upon to contribute.

The Consortium has provided very little information about its staff (eleven people, of whom nine are for tourists).

ICOMOS presumes that the City of La Coruña has competent staff to implement its plans and programmes, such as engineers, town planners, architects, etc, but this is not indicated in the nomination.

ICOMOS notes that there is no local scientific staff allocated to the property and trained in conservation, nor is there any in the management plan, or the organisations responsible for its management, as presented in the nomination. The additional document dated October 2008 indicates that the Consortium recently recruited an archaeologist. However, this is not confirmed by the list of employees provided in the addendum 2, point 0.2.2.

Effectiveness of the current management

ICOMOS considers that the proposed management system is an ensemble segmented between the various stakeholders of very variable scientific and professional level. In its current state, this system does not form a true management plan for a property of outstanding universal value.

In its reply dated 27 February 2009, the State Party provided important financial guarantees for the development of a museum and visitor centre. It referred to the creation of a Tower Management Plan Monitoring Committee which would appear to be fully capable of exercising the role of inter-agency authority at the level required for a property with outstanding universal value. Nonetheless, ICOMOS considers it somewhat surprising that it appears to report to the local Tourism Consortium, which so far has only been identifiable as a structure focused on tourism and commercial promotion.

ICOMOS considers that, given the guarantees provided and the measures taken by the State Party in December 2008 to January 2009, all the measures presented make up an acceptable management system. Nonetheless, ICOMOS recommends the production of a more complete and detailed management plan, setting out its planning and clarifying who is responsible for its implementation.

6. MONITORING

The monitoring indicators for the building's components can be broken down into conservation analysis topics (see Conservation). They are generally implemented either on an annual basis or every six or three months for the more delicate issues of humidity and deterioration of the mortar joints.

Monitoring the conduct of visitors is daily and performed by the visitor staff.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring of the property is guaranteed by the expertise of the specialist personnel of the Ministry of Culture and the Heritage Department of the Region of Galicia, and by the recent creation of the Tower Management Plan Monitoring Committee.

ICOMOS considers that the property monitoring is satisfactory.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS recognises the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tower of Hercules.

Recommendations with respect to the inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the Tower of Hercules, Spain, be inscribed on the World Heritage List, on the basis of **critera (iii)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

- It is the only fully preserved Roman lighthouse that is still used for maritime signalling, hence it is testimony to the elaborate system of navigation in antiquity.
- The Tower of Hercules provides an understanding of the Atlantic sea route in Western Europe.
- The Tower of Hercules was restored in the 18th century in an exemplary manner, which has protected the central core of the original Roman monument while restoring its technical functions.

Criteria (iii): The Tower of Hercules is testimony to the use of lighthouses in antiquity. The Tower is also proof of the continuity of the Atlantic route from when it was first organised by the Romans, during a large part of the Middle Ages, and through to its considerable development in the modern and contemporary eras.

The architectural integrity of the property, in the sense of a structurally complete building, and its functional integrity are satisfactory.

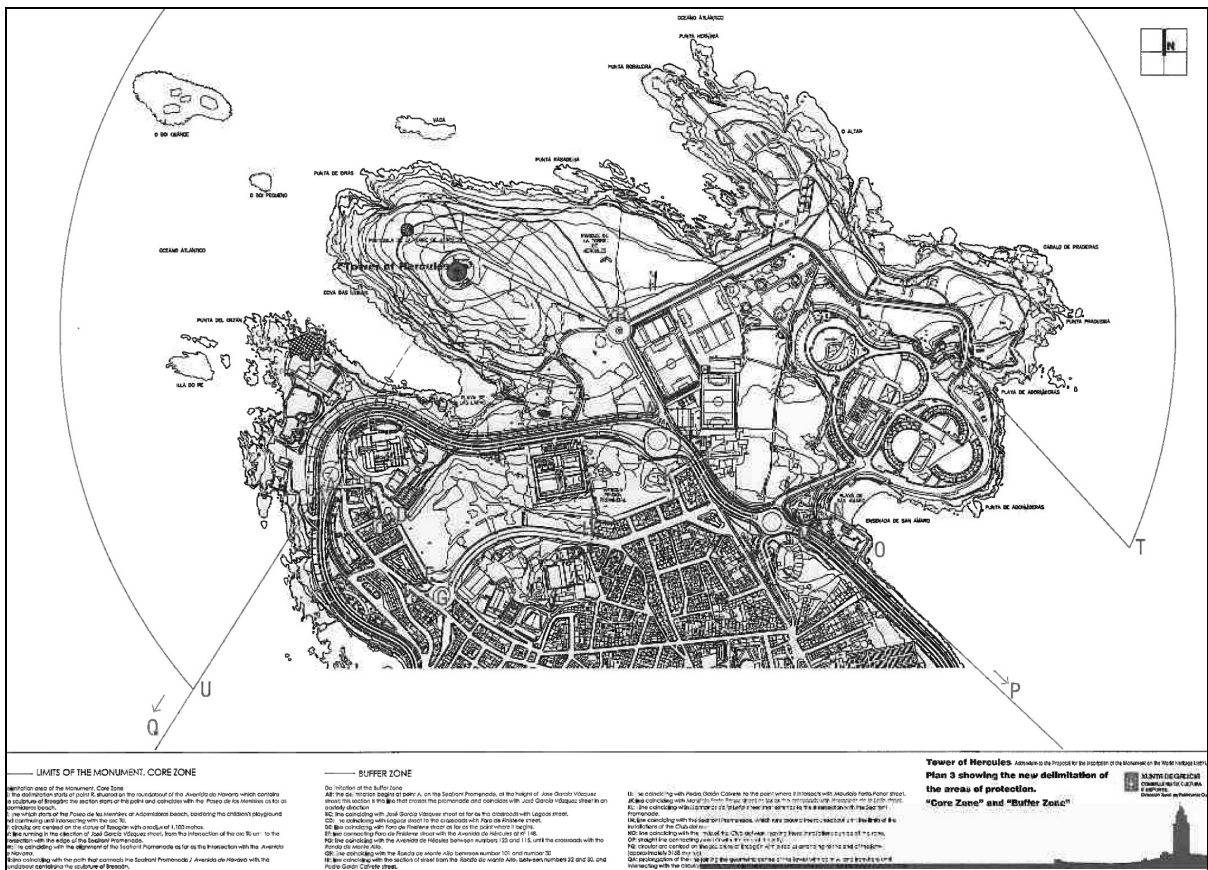
While the authenticity of the central Roman core is certain, the authenticity of the building only makes sense when judged from the point of view of a technological property that has required numerous renovations and functional adaptations.

The conservation of the property is monitored to a good scientific level. In the final analysis, all the measures and projects presented form an acceptable management plan. The role of the Tower Management Plan Monitoring Committee needs to be upgraded by virtue of its being the coordinating authority for the management of the property.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Clarification of the relations between the Tourism Consortium, the responsibilities of which are up to now only of a tourism and commercial nature, and the Tower Management Plan Monitoring Committee, the member organisations of which indicate that it is designed to be the real coordinating authority for the management of the property; the State Party should specify how it is to operate and its working schedule;
- Production of a more comprehensive and more detailed management plan, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee in 2011;
- Indication of who will assume the scientific responsibility for the future museum and visitor centre, given that the Tourism Consortium currently has no qualified personnel;

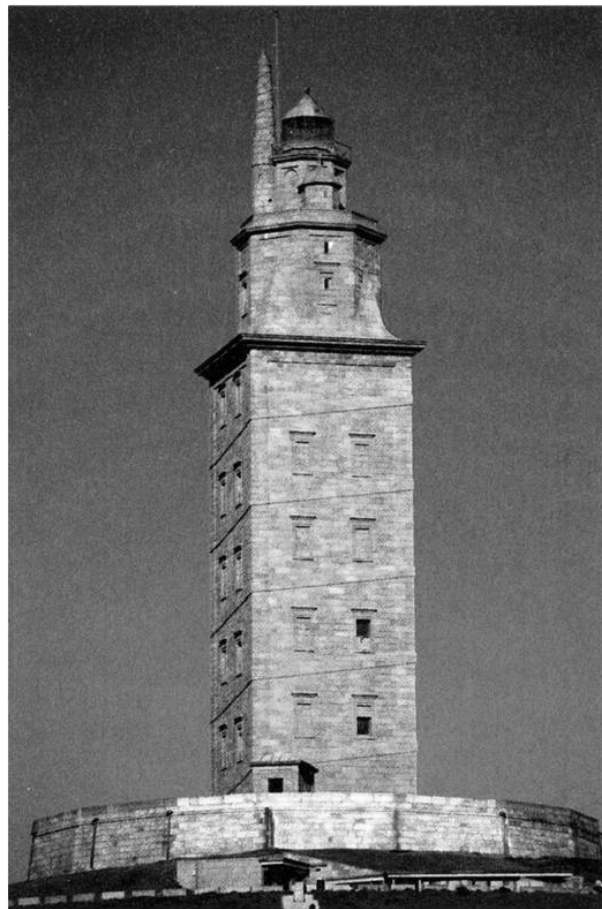
- Institution of permanent monitoring of the hygrometry in the rooms associated with water infiltration and condensation phenomena, and planning of the necessary measures for ventilation and possibly limiting visits;
- Development and strengthening of control over urban and outer urban development in the buffer zone that are commensurate with the monumental and landscape values of the property;
- Provision of details about the progress on the interpretation and visitor centre.



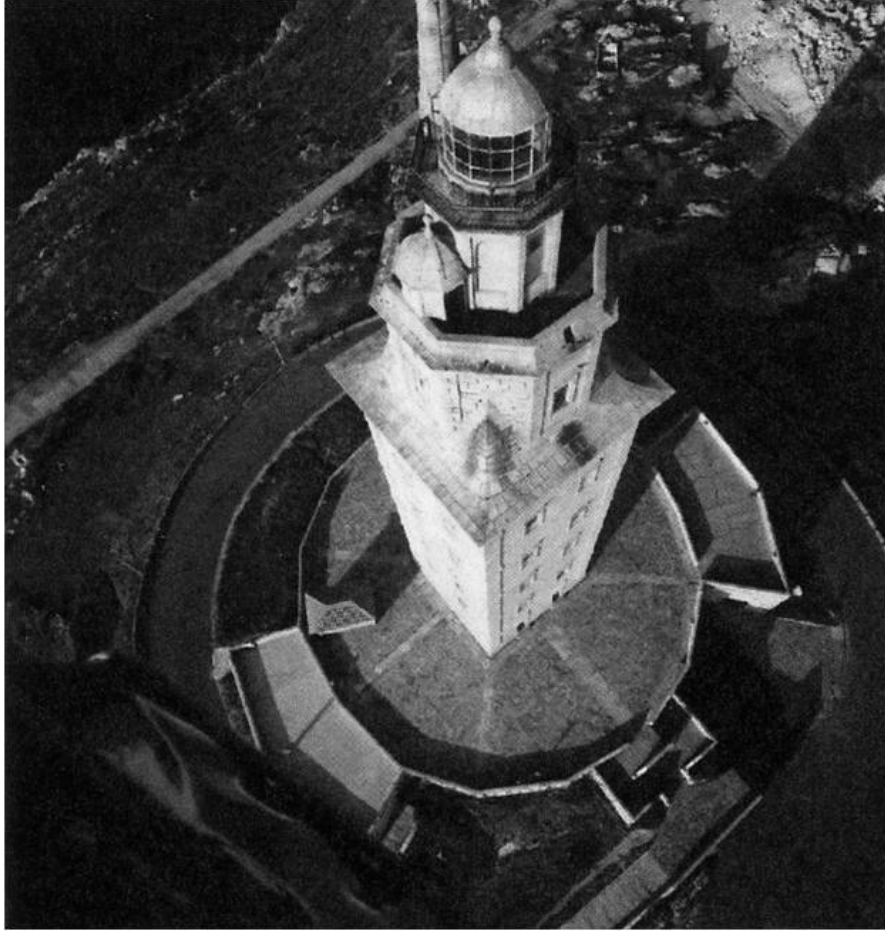
Map showing the revised boundaries of the nominated property



View of the Punta Herminia



View of the tower



Aerial view of the tower



Space under the platform showing the archaeological excavations