

Hanseatic City of Lübeck (Germany)

No 272 rev

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Germany

Name of property: Hanseatic City of Lübeck

Location: State of Schleswig-Holstein

Inscription: 1987

Brief Description:

Lübeck – the former capital and Queen City of the Hanseatic League – was founded in the 12th century and prospered until the 16th century as the major trading centre for northern Europe. It has remained a centre for maritime commerce to this day, particularly with the Nordic countries. Despite the damage it suffered during the Second World War, the basic structure of the old city, consisting mainly of 15th- and 16th-century patrician residences, public monuments (the famous Holstentor brick gate), churches and salt storehouses, remains unaltered.

Date of ICOMOS' approval of this report: 10 March 2009

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The Hanseatic City of Lübeck is a serial inscription of three historic parts of the old town of Lübeck that exemplify the power and the historic role of the Hansa:

Zone 1- Burgkloster – Aegidienstrasse contains a Dominican convent (the Burgkloster) including the original foundations of the castle built by Count Adolf von Schauenburg on the Buku isthmus; Koberg late 18th century neighborhood built around a public square bordered by two important monuments, the Jakobikirche and the Heilig-Geist-Hospital; medieval structures between the Glockengiesserstrasse and the Aegidienstrasse.

Zone 2 - Petrikirche to the north and the Cathedral to the south with rows of patrician residences from the 15th and 16th centuries between them; the enclave on the left bank of the Trave including salt storehouses and the Holstentor.

Zone 3 - Marienkirche, the Rathaus and the Marktplatz at the heart of the medieval city.

The inscription excludes the part of the old town (the central business area around Zone 3) that was destroyed during World War II, due to concerns about authenticity and integrity in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, which was inscribed on the basis of

criterion (iv). The destroyed part has been reconstructed, generally maintaining its medieval morphology and preserving archaeological evidence, but with some widened streets. No buffer zone was included at the time of inscription, although the ICOMOS evaluation in 1987 expressed the wish that the peripheral areas extending beyond the Trave and the Wakenitz rivers should constitute a buffer zone governed by specific urbanization regulations compatible with those of the historic city.

The creation of a buffer zone at the national level for the World Heritage Site was reported in the 1st Cycle Periodic Report received in 2005. The State Party was subsequently advised that for this buffer zone to be accepted by the World Heritage Committee as the buffer zone for the World Heritage property, it should be formally submitted to the World Heritage Centre as a "minor" boundary modification, so that it can be reviewed by ICOMOS and adopted by the Committee. The State Party submitted this request in January 2009, together with the required maps. However no additional information such as pictures or plans of the Hanseatic town's former fortifications in the proposed buffer zone was provided.

Modification

The State Party reported the following objectives for the proposed buffer zone:

- *The historically developed city view and city silhouette of the old part of town with the seven towers and the en bloc old part of town quarters are to be preserved.*
- *In the buffer zone, protection must be given to the view perspectives and vista correlations towards the old part of town which constitute the particular monument value of the old part of town.*
- *The three dimensional view of the historic old part of town is to be protected. It is decisive for the height development and the proportions of the development structuring in the buffer zone.*
- *Also archaeological interests must find consideration when establishing the buffer zone.*

This last objective presumably refers to the remains of the former bastion and moat fortifications that surrounded the town in the 16th and 17th centuries, as shown in early images (Frans Hogenberg / Georg Braun 1572, *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* and Matthäus Merian, 1641 - Lübeck Germany).

The proposed buffer zone includes the central part of the old town around Zone 3 that suffered destruction in World War II, and thereby unites the three parts of the World Heritage Site. It also extends around the whole old town island, taking in its rampart bastion embankments, the surrounding Trave and Wakenitz waterways and canal, and adjacent urban area, and it takes into account open view lines, especially in the Trave river valley from the northern and southern directions, and also along key access routes into the city.

The surface area of the inscribed site is 81.1 ha.

The surface area of the proposed buffer zone is 693.8 ha.

ICOMOS notes that information on the archaeological remains and urban area within the buffer zone should be provided by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre.

Protection

The buffer zone within the municipal area is protected legally as a preservation area according to §172 of the Federal Building Code. It will also be protected under the monument protection law in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein.

The State Party reports that it has also considered views of the World Heritage Site from outside the buffer zone from 11 key viewpoints and appropriate designations have been made in the town's zoning map for four sites located inside the municipal area and in local and regional development plans for seven sites located outside the municipal area. This enables restrictions on height and use to be decreed in the case of building projects within the field of vision.

Management

The State Party reports that a Management Plan is to be compiled for the World Heritage Site.

ICOMOS notes that the Management Plan should encompass the buffer zone as well as the World Heritage Site, and also the view corridors from locations identified by the State Party that are outside the buffer zone.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Hanseatic City of Lübeck, Germany, be **approved**.

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

- The Management Plan currently being prepared for the World Heritage Site should be comprehensive and cover the nominated areas, the buffer zone and the view corridors from the designated locations outside the buffer zone;
- Information should be provided to the World Heritage Centre on the archaeological remains and urban area within the buffer zone, particularly in relation to the bastion fortifications, which make an important contribution to the understanding of the power and historic role of the Hansa.

