

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

## ICOMOS

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 35

A) IDENTIFICATION	A) IDENTIFICATION
<p><u>Bien proposé:</u> Maisons traditionnelles Asante</p> <p><u>Lieu:</u> Abetifi, Abirim, Akokoanbong, Asawase, Asenemaso, Bogyease, Darkwa Jachie, (A) dwenase, Kentenkrono, Patakro (2), Obomeng, (A) saaman (g). Pays Asante Ghana</p> <p><u>Etat partie:</u> Le Ghana</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 10 Juillet 1978</p>	<p><u>Nomination:</u> The traditional Ashanti Houses</p> <p><u>Location:</u> Abetifi, Abirim, Akokoanbong, Asawase, Asenemaso, Bogyease, Darkwa Jachie, (A) dwenase, Kentenkrono, Patakro (2) Obomeng, (A) saaman(g)</p> <p><u>State party:</u> Ghana</p> <p><u>Date:</u> July, 10 1978</p>
B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS	B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION
<p>1) Que les biens culturels proposés soient inscrits sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial</p> <p>2) Que toutes les procédures administratives nécessaires soient prises par les autorités concernées afin que ces biens soient inscrits sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial en danger.</p>	<p>1) That the nominated property be included on the World Heritage List.</p> <p>2) That all the necessary administrative procedures be taken by the concerned authorities in order that these properties be included on the World Heritage List of endangered properties.</p>
C) JUSTIFICATION	C) JUSTIFICATION
<p>L'inscription sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial ne peut être envisagée qu'au titre du critère n°5, qui se trouve parfaitement illustré: les bâtiments traditionnels Asante disséminés au Nord-Est de Kumasi et énumérés sur la liste sont les derniers témoins matériels, extrêmement vulnérables, de la grande civilisation des Ashanti.</p> <p>La plupart des villes Ashanti ont été détruites au XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècle, au cours des guerres soutenues par ce peuple contre la domination anglaise de 1806 à 1901. C'est ainsi que le mausolée royal, ou Barem, fût incendié par Baden-Powell en 1895.</p> <p>Il ne subsiste qu'un très petit nombre de structures traditionnelles, maisons d'habitation des hommes ou des divinités, dont la plupart n'exèdent pas cent ans d'âge.</p>	<p>The inclusion of the nominated property on the World Heritage List may only be envisioned in conjunction with criterion 5 of which it is a perfect illustration. The traditional Ashanti buildings, which are enumerated in the above list, are spread throughout the North/Northeast of Kumasi. These buildings, which are extremely vulnerable, are the last remaining material testament of the great Ashanti civilization. The majority of the Ashanti villages were destroyed during the 19th century in the wars undertaken by these people against the English domination from 1806 to 1901. It was during this period that the royal mausoleum (or Barem) was burned by Baden-Powell in 1895.</p> <p>There exists today only a small number of the traditional structures, habitats of men and gods, of which the majority are less</p>

Les dispositions de ces bâtiments sont bien connues, par les témoignages anciens de voyageurs européens, qui se sont multipliés depuis celui de T. Edward Bowdich (1819), et par les relevés et les études modernes. Une série de poteaux et d'imposte de bois reliés par des lattes de bambou, forment un cadre de charpente qui supporte un toit de chaume. Le sol est en pisé. Une riche décoration de terre, plaquée sur une âme de bois, règne au droit de la façade principale; elle comporte une balustrade, des montants et des impostes, parfois des fenêtres à claire-voie décorées suivant le principe des transennes. Les motifs du décor sont géométriques, floraux, animaux ou anthropomorphiques.

La conservation de ces ensembles construits à partir de matériaux hétérogènes pose un problème difficile, sinon insoluble.

Le chaume des toitures constitue évidemment le matériau le plus fragile. Il y a dix ans, au moment où fut publié le livre fondamental de Michael Swithenbank, Ashanti Fetish Houses (Accra, Ghana Universities Press, 1969), la plupart des maisons avaient reçu un toit provisoire en tôle ondulée. Depuis, un effort de maintenance a été consenti par le Ghana Museums and Monuments Board.

Le bois de charpente, essentiellement emprunté à deux essences tropicales (Hippocratea Africana et Hippocratea Rowlandii) est connu pour sa résistance aux termites mais ne paraît pas durable. L'existence des revêtements d'argile sur âme de bois ne peut être non plus garantie au cours des décennies qui vont suivre, compte tenu du processus biologique de dégradation observé à la même latitude.

Tout en donnant l'avis le plus favorable à l'in-

scription sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial, ICOMOS recommande donc que toutes les procédures administratives nécessaires soient prises par le gouvernement du Ghana afin que ces biens soient inscrits sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial en danger. Elle recommande en outre que les maisons traditionnelles Asante fassent l'objet d'une étude scientifique approfondie avant même que de nouvelles mesures ne soient prises.

than 100 years old. The disposition of these structures is well known through eyewitness reports of early European travelers which were added to by T. Edwards Bowdich (1819) and by plan as well as contemporary studies. A series of poles and wooden imposts linked by bamboo slats form the framework which supports the thatched roof. The floor is of puddled clay. A rich decor of earth-facing over a core of wood reigns over the principal facade; this is comprised of a balustrade, uprights, imposts and sometimes windows whose decorative openwork maybe likened to that of the "transenna" (a heavy grill-work closing off the tombs of Christian martyrs). The decoration consists of geometric, floral, animal or anthropomorphic motives. The preservation of these structures built from heterogenous material poses a difficult, if not insolvable, problem. The thatched roofs are made from obviously fragile material. Ten years ago, at the time of the publication of Michael Swithenbank's basic book, Ashanti Fetish Houses (Accra Ghana Universities Press, 1969), the majority of the houses have been given a roofing of corrugated iron. Since then, maintenance efforts have been agreed to by the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board.

The wood of the framework of the roof, essentially derived from 2 tropical elements (Hippocratea Africana, and Hippocratea Rowlandii), is known for its resistance against termites. But it does not appear to be very durable, owing to the process of biological deterioration at this latitude. The existence of the clay facings covering the wood core can likewise not be guaranteed over the coming decades.

While giving the most favorable opinion for the inclusion of these structures on the World Heritage List, ICOMOS would recommend that the necessary procedures be taken by the government of Ghana, in order that these properties be included in the World Heritage List of endangered properties. Moreover, it would recommend that the traditional Ashanti houses be made the subject of a thorough scientific study even before new measures of conservation are taken.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

1 November 1978

WORLD HERITAGE LIST (CULTURAL PROPERTY)  
ICOMOS TECHNICAL REVIEW NOTES

N.B. All comments are keyed and numbered according to the World Heritage Nomination Forms. Information requested is underlined.

1. (a) Country: Ghana  
(c) Asante Traditional Buildings/Houses (Identification °35)
2. (a) Owner: Specify the name and address of the current owner(s) of property.
3. (a) Description and inventory: A more detailed inventory would be useful particularly if individual buildings (or groups of buildings forming a coherent whole could (a) be described and (b) be precisely located on appropriate scale maps.  
  
(b) Maps and/or plans: Detailed maps showing the location and boundaries of the property (see section 1d of the World Heritage Nomination Form) should be attached to the World Heritage Nomination Form referring to official survey maps where possible.  
For properties which are located in urban areas, it may be necessary to use in addition to small scale map on which geographical coordinates will be indicated, a large scale map or detailed plan so that the location of the property will be accurately indicated. List under item 3b of the World Heritage Nomination Form the maps and/or plans attached.  
  
(c) Photographic and/or cinematographic documentation: Supporting documentation in the form of photographs, slides, etc., may be attached. List under section 3c of the World Heritage Nomination Form all such documentary items, and indicate their source.

N.B. In order to be considered by the World Heritage Committee during 1979, all materials requested must be forwarded to  
The Secretariat  
World Heritage Committee  
Division of Cultural Heritage  
Unesco  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris

on or before 1 March 1979.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

6 April 1979

WORLD HERITAGE LIST (CULTURAL PROPERTY)  
ICOMOS TECHNICAL REVIEW NOTES

N.B. All comments are keyed and numbered according to the World Heritage Nomination Forms. Information requested is underlined.

1. (a) Country: Ghana  
(c) Name of property: Asante Traditional Buildings (Identification ° 35)
5. Justification: the World Heritage Nomination Form calls for a justification which can be evaluated in terms of the criteria for inclusion in the World Heritage List adopted by the World Heritage Committee and set forth under 5(a) and 5(b).

Information requested above should be forwarded to:

The Secretariat  
World Heritage Committee  
Division of Cultural Heritage  
UNESCO  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris

ICOMOS

April 10 1979

Nominations for the World Heritage List

REVIEW SHEET

The Traditional Houses/Buildings - Ghana - 035

The rarity of the houses in Ghana need to be more clearly shown by photographs and explanations in order to consider them better and to permit their inclusion among the "universal monuments".

Panel:

M. André Chastel

Mr. Henry Millon

M. Jean Taralon

ICOMOS

10 Avril 1979

Propositions d'inscription à la liste du patrimoine mondial

FICHE CRITIQUE

Maisons traditionnelles - Ghana - n°35

La rareté des maisons du Ghana aurait besoin de photographies et d'explications pour mieux en rendre compte et permettre de les insérer parmi les monuments universels.

Panel :

M. André Chastel

Mr. Henry Millon

M. Jean Taralon