

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 369

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast

Location : County Antrim, Northern Ireland

State Party : United Kingdom

Date : December 10, 1985

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion II.

C) JUSTIFICATION

ICOMOS believes that the Giant's Causeway, though a natural site, is no less a part of mankind's cultural heritage. It meets criterion II of the guidelines for cultural properties, since it influenced considerably the development of the arts during the pre-Romantic and Romantic periods.

According to Celtic oral tradition the giant, Finn Mac Cool, built with its own hands this causeway in order to go from Ireland to Scotland. After 1760 this tradition stimulated wide interest in Europe thanks to the apocryphal works of Macpherson (Ossian in 1760, Fingal in 1761 and Temora in 1763). In this way the grandiose basalt formations of County Antrim in Ireland and Staffa Island in the Hebrides became part of system of literary references, which were later added pictorial elements (in 1801, in order to flatter the tastes of Napoleon Bonaparte, Girodet began an Ossian cycle at the Chateau of Malmaison) and musical ones (in 1830 Mendelssohn composed the Fingal's Cave symphonic poem).

If the Committee wants the Giant's Causeway to be included as a cultural property, it would be only logical to require that a complementary proposal be made. This would add the Great Causeway and Fingal's Cave on Staffa Island, since these two properties are indissociable from the legend.

ICOMOS, May 1986.