

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : The core of the historic centre of Lima

Location : City of Lima

State party : Peru

Date : 25 September 1990

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List as an extension to site C500, on the basis of Criterion IV.

C) ICOMOS OBSERVATIONS

The World Heritage Bureau recommended inscription of this property in June 1991, subject to submission by the Peruvian authorities of details of the proposed regulation to safeguard the historic centre which could clarify the approach to delimitation of the area, and to its conservation, and also subject to confirmation of commitment to the proposed legislation by the competent authorities.

In the intervening period, the local group most involved in proposing inscription, the Historical Lima Foundation has been very active. A comprehensive Regulation for Lima's Historic Centre has been drawn up, and approved by the Republic of Peru on Oct. 18, 1991. The National Cultural Institute, responsible for effective implementation of the Regulation in the national context, and which participated in the drawing up the Regulation has adopted it formally as the key instrument in guiding future development of Lima's historic centre on Oct. 30, 1991. In parallel, a federal decree promoting private investment in urban reorganization (for the benefit of cultural heritage) has been promulgated, and efforts begun to remove street vendors and uncontrolled commercial exploitations to peripheral "popular business centres" in order to decongest downtown Lima.

ICOMOS has had the opportunity to review the enacted Regulation and finds it an excellent instrument of its kind, one which could serve as a model for other historic centres in similar circumstances. Its quality is evident in the following major characteristics:

- linking of permitted interventions to the particular qualities of sites and structures; uses of a zoning (and sub-zoning) approach to identify desirable tendencies, within which precise needs, circumstances and values may define appropriate situations;
- focus on management of activity and use as the keys to providing a framework within which physical conservation may be encouraged;
- focus on integrating the overlapping and competing mandates, jurisdictions and programmes of the federal and municipal governments in Lima;
- focus on a management approach which links activity and life within the historic centre to the functions and activity of the entire city.

The area proposed for inscription takes an unusual tentacle-like form in order to identify and link only those structures of the highest architectural significance. Its use and development is explicitly controlled within the Regulation as is the development of surrounding urban and natural zones on both sides of the Rimac River.

D) BACKGROUND

The proposal to place the historic nucleus of Lima on the World Heritage List is, in reality, a request to extend a site already included, the convent ensemble of San Francisco (C 500, included in 1988).

Lima, whose name is a deformation of the Indian word 'rimac' (orator), which designates the river that bisects the town, was founded in 1535 by the Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro. As it was located so close to the coast, it was chosen over Cuzco as the site for the residence of the viceroy of Peru. The fortified port of Callao defended the town from attack by sea, while a fortified

enceinte was built at the end of the 17th century to protect Lima from potential invaders attacking from inland territories.

The University of San Marcos was established in the Peruvian capital in 1551 and the first print shop opened in 1584. The town's cultural life was strongly influenced by the many religious orders (the monasteries of San Francisco, Santo Domingo, San Augustin and others) founded within it. In the 17th century Lima flourished as an economic and cultural center.

The historic nucleus of the town is located on the two banks of Rio Rimac. The monuments built around the Plaza de Armas (cathedral, Sagrario chapel, the archbishop's palace) or nearby (monastery of Santo Domingo), as well as the entire quarter lying between Plaza de Armas and San Francisco monastery, are on the left bank of the river. On the other side are a residential district with promenades and one of the oldest convent ensembles in the town, the monastery of Descalzos.

The historic monuments (religious or public buildings, such as the Torre Tagle palace) which lie within the perimeter defined in the proposal, date from the 17th and 18th centuries and are typical examples of Hispano-American baroque. The architecture of the other buildings is often representative of the same period. Thus, despite the addition of certain 19th century constructions (such as Casa Courret in the Art Nouveau style) to the old urban fabric, the historic nucleus of the town recalls Lima at the peak of development of the Spanish Kingdom of Peru.

- **Criterion IV.** The historic center of Lima bears excellent witness to the architecture and urban development of a Spanish colonial town of great political, economic and cultural importance in Latin America.

ICOMOS, November 1991