

IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin
Location : Land of Berlin
State Party : Germany
Date : 8 March 1991

DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The Sacrow estate includes the 18th century seigneurial residence (converted from a 14th century castle), the Church of St Saviour, built to the designs of the architect Ludwig Persius in 1841-44, and the park, created for Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia by Persius and the gardener Peter Joseph Lenné. This was integrated into the overall landscape of chateaux and gardens of Potsdam and Babelsberg, most of which survives relatively intact.

The estate stood until recently on the boundary between the former German Democratic Republic and the territory of West Berlin and was in consequence seriously neglected. Access to the church was prohibited and the building was abandoned. It was only following the intervention of the West Berlin authorities, strongly supported by the press, who demanded that restoration work be carried out and supplied the necessary funding, that work began to put at least the roof of the church into repair in 1981-82. Work is continuing in the interior of the church, the chateau and the gardens, under the management of the Berlin-Potsdam chateaux and parks administration.

COMMENTS

The chateaux and parks of Potsdam-Sanssouci were included on the World Heritage List, nominated by the former German Democratic Republic, in 1990. The World Heritage Site was extended in 1991 with the inclusion of the castles and parks of the Berlin-Zehlendorf district, nominated by the Federal German Republic following the reunification of Germany. The German Government now wishes to extend the area covered by this site with the inclusion of the Park at Sacrow.

The ICOMOS Bureau is strongly in favour this proposal, since it completes the inscription of a remarkable piece of early 19th century large-scale landscaping.

ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That this cultural property (included under cultural criteria i, ii, and iv) be extended to cover the park and architectural features at Sacrow.