

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	The collegiate church, castle, and old town of Quedlinburg
<i>Location</i>	Province (<i>Land</i>) of Sachsen-Anhalt
<i>State Party</i>	Federal Republic of Germany
<i>Date</i>	5 July 1993

Justification by State Party

The extraordinary and worldwide cultural importance of Quedlinburg is based upon the close link between history and architecture, the town's history being intertwined with that of the Saxonian-Ottonian ruling dynasty.

With the coronation of Henry I the royal residence of Quedlinburg became the capital of the East Franconian German Empire, the "metropolis of the Reich" of the first German state founded by Henry I. A visible evidence of the dynasty is the collegiate church dedicated to St Servatius, which was one of the most highly esteemed churches in the whole of the Reich in the Middle Ages.

Quedlinburg is of interest in a variety of ways. For medievalists the town is an outstanding evidence of history. It is typical of the development of a medieval town, originating from a castle village and several separate settlements. Its value as a monument of urban architecture is based upon the preservation of the town wall of 1330, the still surviving urban interaction between the old parishes of St Aegidius, St Blasius, St Benedictus, and St Nicolas, and the urban structure with medieval and post-medieval timber-framed houses.

The market settlement with merchants and craftsmen to the west, and later to the north, of the castle hill which combined with smaller settlements to form the town of Quedlinburg owed its foundation and development up to the 18th century to the town rule of the Imperial foundation, which contributed considerably to its structure and appearance. The town underwent an economic boom during and immediately after the Thirty Years' War, as a result of which Quedlinburg has many more timber-framed houses of the period 1620-1720 than any comparable town in the region. This was the heyday of this type of architecture in Quedlinburg and a number of special types of building were developed. Continuing ownership rights ensured that the medieval layout of the town was preserved.

History and Description*History*

Situated in a hilly region to the north of the Harz Mountains, the *villa Quitilingaburg* is first mentioned in 922 in an official document of Henry I (the Fowler), who was elected German King in 919. He built a castle on what became known as the Castle Hill (*Burgherg*), one of the two sandstone hills that overlook the Harz valley, and this became one of his favourite residences. It became the capital of the East Franconian German Empire and was the place where many important political and religious assemblies and festivals took place. The town owes its wealth and importance during the Middle Ages to Henry I and his successors. German Kings are known to have stayed at Quedlinburg on 69 occasions between 922 and 1207.

On the death of Henry I in 936 his widow Mathilde remained in Quedlinburg at the collegiate church of St Servatius on the Castle Hill, founded by Henry's son and successor Otto I as a collegial establishment for unmarried daughters of the nobility. It was to become one of the most influential foundations of its type in the

Holy Roman Empire. From 944 the abbesses (many of whom were members of the Imperial family and were buried in the crypt of the church) had the right to mint coins at Quedlinburg.

Westendorf, the area around the Burgberg, quickly attracted a settlement of merchants and craftsmen, which was granted market rights in 994, and these were confirmed in 1040 and again in 1134. Several other settlements also developed in what was to become the early town centre, which was granted special privileges by the Emperors Henry III and Lothar IV in the 11th and 12th centuries. A Benedictine monastery was founded in 946 on the second hill, the Münzenberg.

The Quedlinburg merchants were given the right to trade without restriction or payment of duties from the North Sea to the Alps, being subject only to their own law-courts. The resulting prosperity led to a rapid expansion of the town. A new town (*Neustadt*) was founded in the 12th century on the eastern bank of the river Bode, laid out on a regular plan - a familiar pattern in medieval European towns. The two towns were merged in 1330 and were surrounded by a common city wall. Suburbs such as "Am neuen Weg" and "In den Gröpern" quickly grew up outside the city walls.

The new, enlarged town joined the Lower Saxon Town Alliance (*Städtebund*) in 1384, and in 1426 it became a member of the Hanseatic League. It seemed destined to play a major role in 15th century Germany, but it joined the losing side in one of the many political and economic conflicts that characterized this period and as a result it lost its franchises and communal privileges in 1477. However, despite this setback Quedlinburg retained an important economic role, as evidenced by the many elaborate timber-framed houses from the 16th and 17th centuries.

The protectorate (*Vogtei*) of the town was sold by its hereditary owner, the Elector of Saxony, to the house of Brandenburg-Prussia in 1698, and in 1802 its special free status as an Imperial foundation came to an end when it was formally incorporated into the Kingdom of Prussia. During the 19th and 20th centuries it developed steadily, with the addition of new residential and industrial areas and important administrative buildings.

Description

The area proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List comprises the historic town enclosed within the city walls, consisting of the old (10th century) and new towns (12th century), the Westendorf district with the collegiate church and the buildings of the Imperial foundation, St Wipert's Church, and the Münzenberg.

The importance of the town rests on three main elements: the preservation of the medieval street pattern, the wealth of urban vernacular buildings, especially timber-framed houses of the 16th and 17th centuries, and the important Romanesque collegiate church of St Servatius.

The original urban layout is remarkably well preserved. It is a classic example of the growth of European medieval towns. The nucleus is the castle hill, with its administrative and religious buildings, around which settlements of craftsmen and traders quickly grew up to service the requirements of the rulers and their households. The granting of special trading privileges led to rapid expansion and the creation of a civic structure. As was so often the case in central Europe, an independent mercantile settlement with civic rights was founded on the opposite side of the river, which was to be merged after a short time with the original town to create a new administrative unit whose integrity was demonstrated with the construction of an encircling town wall. To this in turn were accreted new extra-mural suburbs. The history of the medieval and early modern town is perfectly illustrated by the street pattern of the present-day town. Mention should also be made of the four ancient parish churches of St Aegidius, St Blasius, St Benedictus, and St Nicolas, which are key elements in the understanding of the evolution of the town. A section of the city wall of 1330 has also been preserved.

Both the quality and the quantity of the medieval and early post-medieval timber-framed buildings of Quedlinburg are outstanding. Those in the Market Place, for example, represent a wide range of styles and periods, and bear witness to the wealth of their original owners and the inventiveness of their architects and craftsmen. More modest but equally important buildings are to be found in quarters such as Neuendorf. The town also has a number of interesting *Art Nouveau* buildings from the late 19th century.

The original collegiate church of St Servatius was built when Henry the Fowler established his residence on the castle hill. The first basilica, in the crypt of which Henry and his wife Mathilde were buried, was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1070. The crypt was incorporated into the new structure, also basilican in plan, that was constructed between 1070 and 1129. The two western bays of the three-aisled crypt survive, with their remarkable Ottonian "mushroom" capitals. The groined vaulting of the new, raised crypt, stucco capitals, Imperial and other tombs, and wall paintings make this one of the key monuments of the history of art from the 10th to 12th centuries. Raising the level of the crypt resulted in the transformation of the choir into a striking *podium*, reached by two staircases. The twin-towered western facade was added at the time of the reconstruction. Much of the decoration is in Northern Italian style, emphasizing the Imperial connections of the church. The tombs, which also include those of three abbesses of the Imperial family, are among the artistic treasures which make this building a unique blend of architecture and art of the highest quality.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The buildings included in the nomination are variously in the ownership of the local authority (Stadt Quedlinburg), the Church, and private individuals.

The historic town area is protected as a monument by the Law of Monument Conservation of Land Sachsen-Anhalt of 21 October 1991. In addition, 770 individual buildings are protected as historic buildings.

Management

Direct management of individual properties remains the responsibility of the owners, as listed above. However, the Town Council of Quedlinburg has initiated a number of projects designed to improve the management and preservation of the historic quarters of the town; these include:

- new evaluation and recording of monuments, as required by the Land Sachsen-Anhalt Law of 1991;
- urban architecture studies for the preservation and development of Quedlinburg;
- preparation of new regulations relating to the historic sections of Quedlinburg;
- optimization, assessment, and control of construction work in the historic part of the town.

To date a catalogue of monuments has been prepared (Town Council Resolution No. 443/24 of 18 June 1992) and regulations relating to urban reconstruction in the inner town are included in the Construction Decree of 28 March 1991.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

Quedlinburg suffered only slight damage during World War II: the most serious was to the tower helms of the collegiate church. However, maintenance of the historic buildings had been inadequate during the war, and the situation was aggravated afterwards by a lack of housing which resulted in serious overcrowding. A survey in 1956 revealed serious dilapidation, especially in the timber-framed houses.

The policy of the German Democratic Republic encouraged the use of industrially prefabricated new buildings and the closure of small craft workshops, which contributed further to the degradation of the stock of historic buildings. Despite a declared policy of preserving the cultural heritage, the GDR authorities did little to implement this policy in Quedlinburg. As a result many of the timber-framed buildings, which are especially susceptible to continued neglect, were in such a condition in the early 1980s that demolition was seen to be the only course open.

A programme of demolition began which, had it continued, would have resulted in the loss of the historic buildings in the whole of the northern sector of the town and their replacement by prefabricated

structures. With the political changes that began in 1989, however, this came to an abrupt end as a direct result of vigorous protests by the citizens of Quedlinburg. The present programme of restoration was begun in 1990 by the first freely elected Town Council, one of whose first decrees formally brought the demolition campaign to an end and banned the use of industrially prefabricated building materials.

The comprehensive programme is based on a report prepared by an architectural and engineering consultancy in 1991 (*Stadt Quedlinburg: Innenstadtsanierung - Bericht über das Ergebnis der vorbereitenden Untersuchungen*; Architekten- und Ingenieurgruppe Luc Lepère). The approach and intentions of the Town Council are set out in the brochure *Sanierung des Flächendenkmals Quedlinburg* (1992). They conform in every particular with international standards, such as the Venice Charter of 1964, and with the principles enunciated in the *Operational Guidelines*.

Authenticity

The authenticity of place in Quedlinburg is irrefutable. The town plan and urban fabric retain intact the essentially medieval townscape. Many of the buildings, especially the timber-framed residential structures, have undergone little or no modification in the course of the centuries. The policy of the GDR which favoured the use of industrially prefabricated structures to replace buildings that were demolished in the late 1980s has meant that there are elements within the town where all authenticity of material and construction has been lost. However, these represent a relatively small proportion of the total housing stock and, moreover, in details such as scale and window lines the overall townscape has been respected.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

The nomination dossier was submitted to the ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages for comment. An ICOMOS expert mission visited Quedlinburg in May 1994, as a result of which certain ambiguities and lacunae in the original nomination dossier were clarified. The mission was of the opinion that the restoration and conservation work now being carried out was to the highest international standards.

Qualities

Quedlinburg is among the most outstanding historic towns in central Europe which preserves a high proportion of timber-framed buildings of the medieval and later periods. It is also of great historical importance as the first capital of the Saxonian-Ottonian dynasty of Holy Roman Emperors.

Comparative analysis

Quedlinburg justifies inscription on the World Heritage List primarily because of its Imperial origins rather than for its rich architectural heritage. There is, however, a relatively urgent need for a comparative study of historic European towns with predominantly timber-framed architecture, such as Rothenburg-ob-der-Taube and Troyes.

ICOMOS comments

At its 14th Meeting in Paris in June 1990 the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee recommended that "the examination of this nomination be deferred until the authorities of the German Democratic Republic have decided to nominate either the Collegial Church and the whole of the Burgberg, or the whole town... In the latter case, it would be necessary to have elements of comparison, in the light of the global study." The revised nomination, submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany, has adopted the second alternative proposed by the Bureau.

Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion iv:

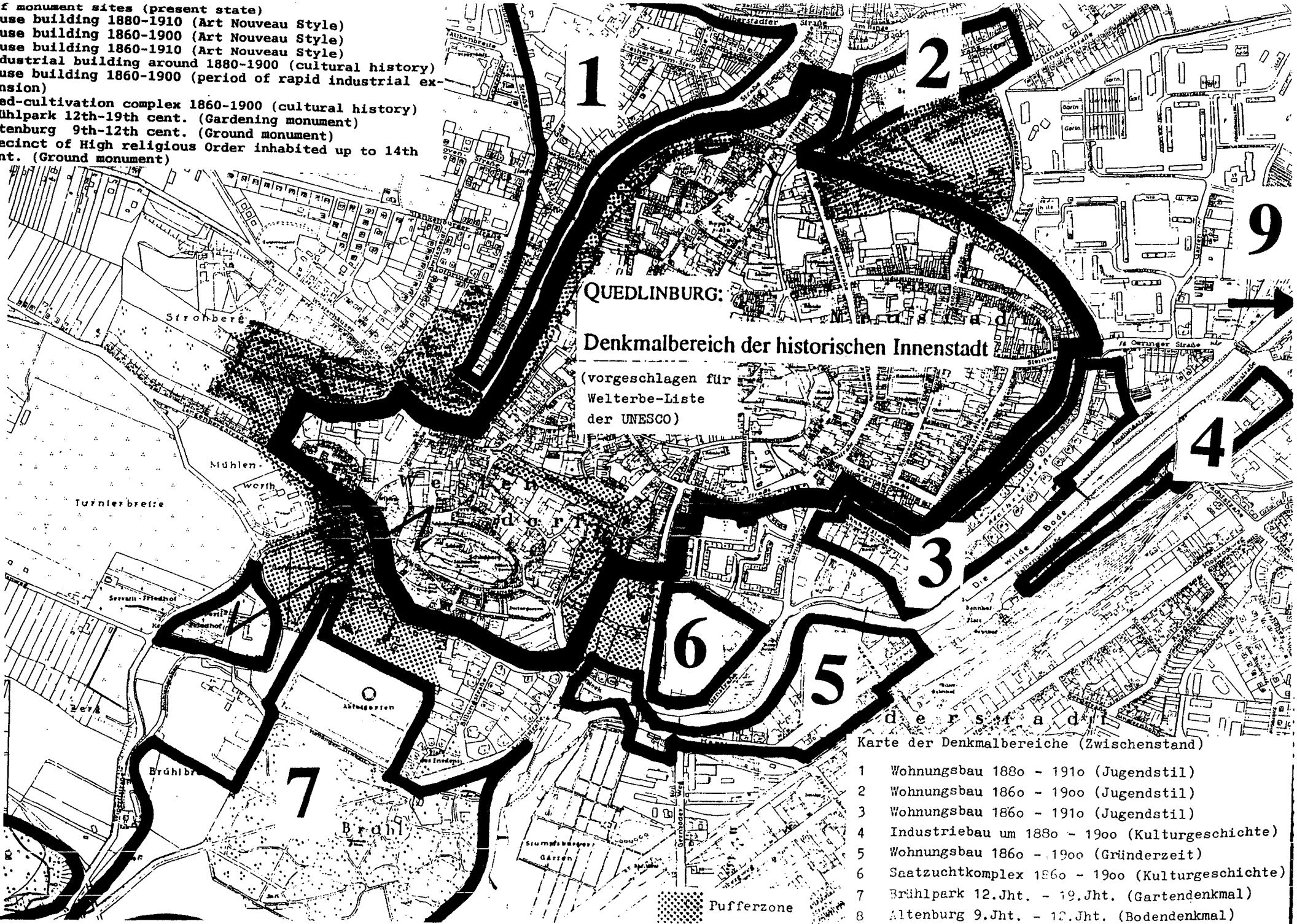
- ***Criterion iv*** Quedlinburg is an outstanding example of a European town with medieval foundations which has preserved a high proportion of timber-framed buildings of exceptional quality.

ICOMOS, October 1994

- Map of monument sites (present state)
1. House building 1880-1910 (Art Nouveau Style)
 2. House building 1860-1900 (Art Nouveau Style)
 3. House building 1860-1910 (Art Nouveau Style)
 4. Industrial building around 1880-1900 (cultural history)
 5. House building 1860-1900 (period of rapid industrial expansion)
 6. Seed-cultivation complex 1860-1900 (cultural history)
 7. Brühlpark 12th-19th cent. (Gardening monument)
 8. Altenburg 9th-12th cent. (Ground monument)
 9. Precinct of High religious Order inhabited up to 14th cent. (Ground monument)

Quedlinburg : délimitation du site et de la zone tampon /
delimitation of the site and buffer zone

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QUEDLINBURG:

Denkmalbereich der historischen Innenstadt

(vorgeschlagen für
Welterbe-Liste
der UNESCO)

Karte der Denkmalbereiche (Zwischenstand)

- 1 Wohnungsbau 1880 - 1910 (Jugendstil)
- 2 Wohnungsbau 1860 - 1900 (Jugendstil)
- 3 Wohnungsbau 1860 - 1910 (Jugendstil)
- 4 Industriebau um 1880 - 1900 (Kulturgeschichte)
- 5 Wohnungsbau 1860 - 1900 (Gründerzeit)
- 6 Saatgutkomplex 1860 - 1900 (Kulturgeschichte)
- 7 Brühlpark 12.Jht. - 19.Jht. (Gartendenkmal)
- 8 Altenburg 9.Jht. - 12.Jht. (Bodendenkmal)