

A) IDENTIFICATION

<u>Nomination</u>	:	The fortress of Suomenlinna
<u>Location</u>	:	Province of Uusimaa
<u>State party</u>	:	Finland
<u>Date</u>	:	1 October 1990

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criterion IV.

C) ICOMOS OBSERVATIONS

The World Heritage Bureau meeting of June 1991 confirmed the ICOMOS observation concerning the need for additional assurances relative to the status of the buffer zone surrounding the site.

The City Board of Helsinki is preparing a master plan in 1992 to integrate two existing master plans for Helsinki City, and its suburban areas, which previously guided development on Suomenlinna and the surrounding islands. The Master Plan 1992 reserves Suomenlinna for living and recreation and the surrounding islands for recreation and nature conservation. Suomenlinna and the surrounding islands to the west are classified as preservation areas of cultural and historical value. The City Board of Helsinki has provided additional assurance that future planning will not permit building activity that would adversely affect the cultural and historical value of Suomenlinna.

The Finnish Ministry of Defense while indicating their intention to maintain the defense arrangements on the island as part of their regional system have stated that no construction will take place within the fortification zone which would affect the characteristic landscape.

ICOMOS is satisfied that these responses provide more than adequate assurances concerning the integrity of the buffer zone around Suomenlinna.

D) BACKGROUND

In 1747, the Swedish Parliament ordered major fortification works at the kingdom's frontiers, including construction of a defensive structure in the Helsinki harbor. The purpose was to link and fortify several islands so that entry into the city's harbor could be controlled.

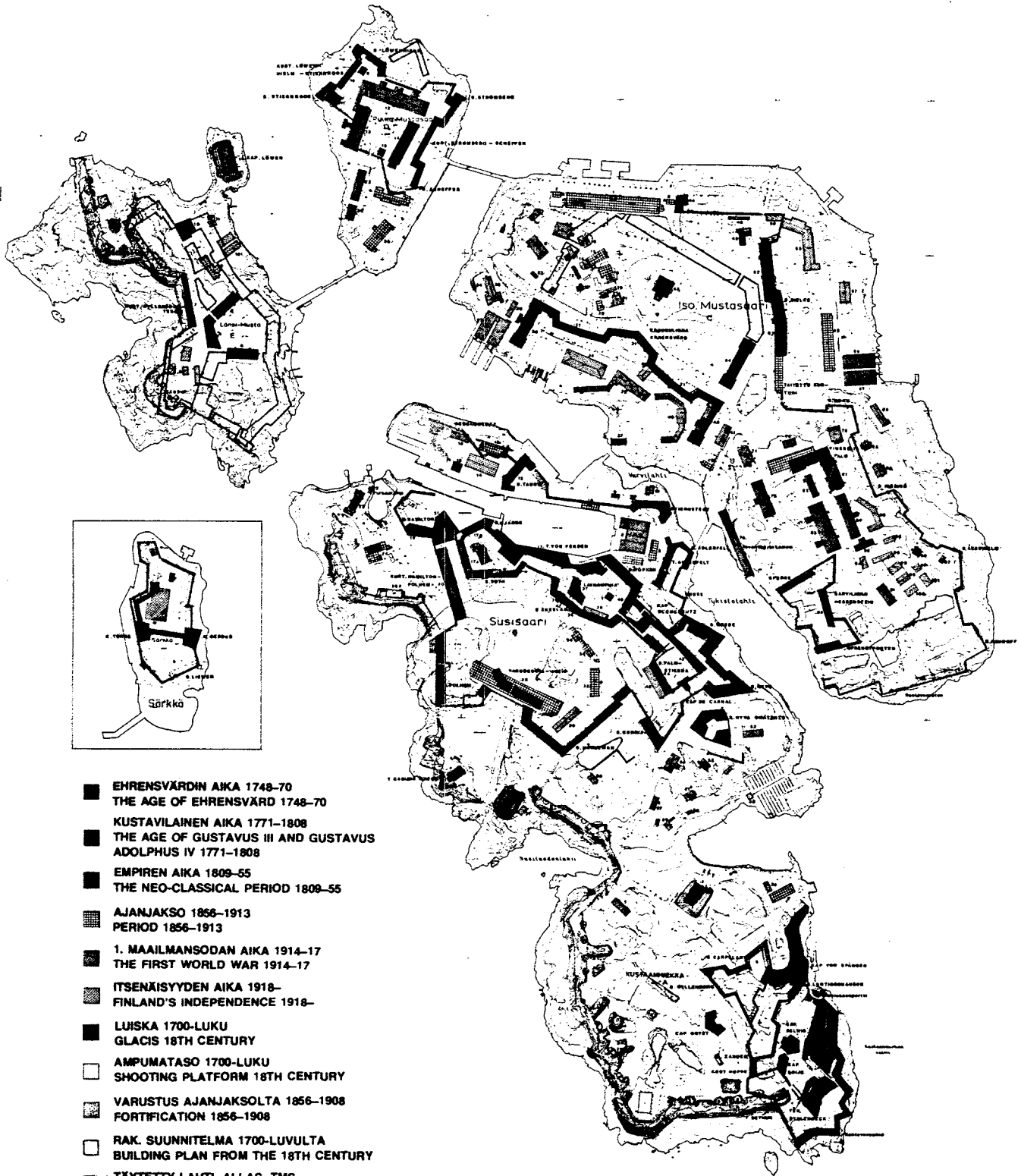
In 1748, the work began under the supervision of the Swedish Admiral Augustin Eherensvärd (1710-1772). He adapted Vauban's theories to the very special geographical features. Although the fortress (Sveaborg or Swedish Fortress) was operational at Eherensvärd's death, fortification continued. King Gustave III (1771-1792) seems to have taken a close interest in the work.

The fortress was occupied by the Russians after the war of 1808-1809 (despite its reputation as being invulnerable), and was again strengthened and its name was changed (Viapori). In 1855 (during the Crimean War), Franco-British soldiers bombarded the fortress to no avail. However, reconstruction work and new construction were undertaken. Following Finland's independence (1918), the name was changed a final time to Suomenlinna (or Fortress of Finland).

Six kilometers of walls and 190 buildings have been preserved. The first restoration work began in 1927 and continued until 1976. A new development program (1987) aims at protecting the monuments, upgrading the natural environment and enhancing the sociocultural value of the ensemble.

- **Criterion IV.** In the history of military architecture, the Fortress of Finland is an outstanding example representative of both the general fortification principles of the period and specific characteristics.

ICOMOS, November 1991



- EHRENSVÄRDIN AIKA 1748-70
THE AGE OF EHRENSVÄRD 1748-70
- KUSTAVILAINEN AIKA 1771-1808
THE AGE OF GUSTAVUS III AND GUSTAVUS
ADOLPHUS IV 1771-1808
- EMPIREN AIKA 1809-55
THE NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD 1809-55
- AJANJAKSO 1856-1913
PERIOD 1856-1913
- 1. MAAILMANSODAN AIKA 1914-17
THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-17
- ITSENÄISYYDEN AIKA 1918-
FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE 1918-
- LUISKA 1700-LUKU
GLACIS 18TH CENTURY
- AMPUMATASO 1700-LUKU
SHOOTING PLATFORM 18TH CENTURY
- VARUSTUS AJANJAKSOLTA 1856-1908
FORTIFICATION 1856-1908
- RAK. SUUNNITELMA 1700-LUVULTA
BUILDING PLAN FROM THE 18TH CENTURY
- TÄYTETTY LAHTI, ALLAS, TMS
FILLED-UP BAY, BASIN ETC.
- PURETUT VARUSTUKSET JA RA-
KENNUKSET 1700-LUVULTA
DEMOLISHED FORTIFICATIONS AND
BUILDINGS FROM THE 18TH CENTURY.

52.400 : 14.400

Suomenlinna : plan de la forteresse /
plan of the fortress