

**IDENTIFICATION**

- Nomination** : Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos
- Location** : Province of Samos
- State Party** : Greece
- Date** : 27 August 1991

**DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

The nomination is for an area on the NE coast of the island that is clearly defined by the surrounding mountains. It consists of the ancient city (Pythagoreion) and the classical temple of Hera (Heraion).

Pythagoreion is a classic site from the period of Greek colonization, situated round a good natural harbour on a peninsula that is protected by steep mountains behind it. It also had the advantage of being very close to the mainland of Asia Minor. The earliest finds are pre-classical, dating back to the 4th or 3rd millennium BC, but the main settlement began in the 16th century BC, when it was colonized by Minoans from Crete, later to be supplanted by Mycenaeans.

The ancestors of the classical Samians arrived from the Epidauros region in the 11th century BC, following the turmoil of the Trojan War. By the 6th century BC Samos had become a major nautical power in the eastern Mediterranean, with close trade links with Asia Minor and the Greek mainland. It was strong enough to establish trading colonies on the coast of Ionia, in Thrace, and even in the western Mediterranean. Samian political influence waned after the island was conquered by the Persians at the end of the 6th century BC, but it continued to be an important mercantile city throughout the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

The city was sacked by Germanic peoples in the 3rd century AD and never properly recovered thereafter. Samos alternated between Byzantine, Turkish, and Venetian rule for many centuries, not being fully united with Greece until 1910.

The fortifications round the ancient town date back to the classical period, with Hellenistic additions. Excavations over many years have revealed a great deal of the street plan of the ancient city, together with its aqueduct, sewage system, public buildings, sanctuaries and temples, agora (market place), public baths (Roman), stadium, and town houses (Roman and Hellenistic). One of the most dramatic and famous features is the Eupalineio, a tunnel running for 1040 m through the mountainside to bring water to the city, the work of Eupalinos of Megara in the 6th century BC. It is described by one authority as "a miracle of ancient surveying [which] was begun at both ends running level, and the miners met in the middle with only the smallest of errors."

The great Temple of Hera, or Heraion, had its origins in the 8th century BC, when it was the first Greek temple to be surrounded by a peristyle of columns; its 7th century successor was also innovatory in that it was the first temple to have a double row of columns across the front. But these were surpassed by the temple begun around 570 BC by Rhoecus and Theodorus, who built a colossal structure measuring some 45 m by 80 m, the earliest in the new Ionic order. It was supported by at least 100 columns, whose moulded bases were turned on a lathe designed by Theodorus. Thirty years later this temple was destroyed in a Persian raid and a replacement was planned on an even vaster scale, but it was never to be completed. The complex around the Heraion includes altars, smaller temples, stoas, and statue bases, all located inside the sanctuary, along with the remains of a 5th century Christian basilica.

### **AUTHENTICITY**

Most of the proposed site has been in ruins for at least a thousand years, and the archaeological remains have an authenticity all of their own.

### **MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION**

The proposed World Heritage Monument is protected as an archaeological site under the Greek Antiquities Act of 1932, which imposes stringent conditions for protection. The designated Pythagoreion site is surrounded by a buffer zone of 500 m, whilst the Heraion has a protection zone of 2 km.

Like all archaeological sites in Greece, the Pythagoreion and the Heraion are managed by the Greek Antiquities Service (Ephorate). Excavations have been in progress there since the early 18th century. The German Archaeological Institute of Athens worked there from 1925 until the 1960s in collaboration with the Ephorate, which has continued alone continuously since that time.

The amount of conservation on the sites has been minimal and limited to piecemeal interventions on individual monuments in response to problems arising from earth movement, humidity, and the marine environment. There are currently plans to develop an Archaeological Museum at the Pythagoreion, which will involve more systematic conservation and presentation of the remains.

### **EVALUATION**

#### **Qualities**

The remains of Samos are among the most impressive and complete in the Greco-Roman world. They are also notable for two outstanding engineering and architectural structures - the Eupalineio and the Heraion.

### **Additional comments**

The nomination has been strongly supported by leading Greek scholars in France and in the United Kingdom, who were consulted by ICOMOS. They agree that this is one of the most important sites of Greek classical antiquity.

Like all coastal sites, it is menaced constantly by natural environmental conditions and it is to be hoped that the archaeological museum project, with its associated conservation activities, will be put into effect without delay. The Greek Government should also provide assurances that it is introducing measures to protect the natural environment of the site.

Three ICOMOS Bureau members had personal knowledge of the site.

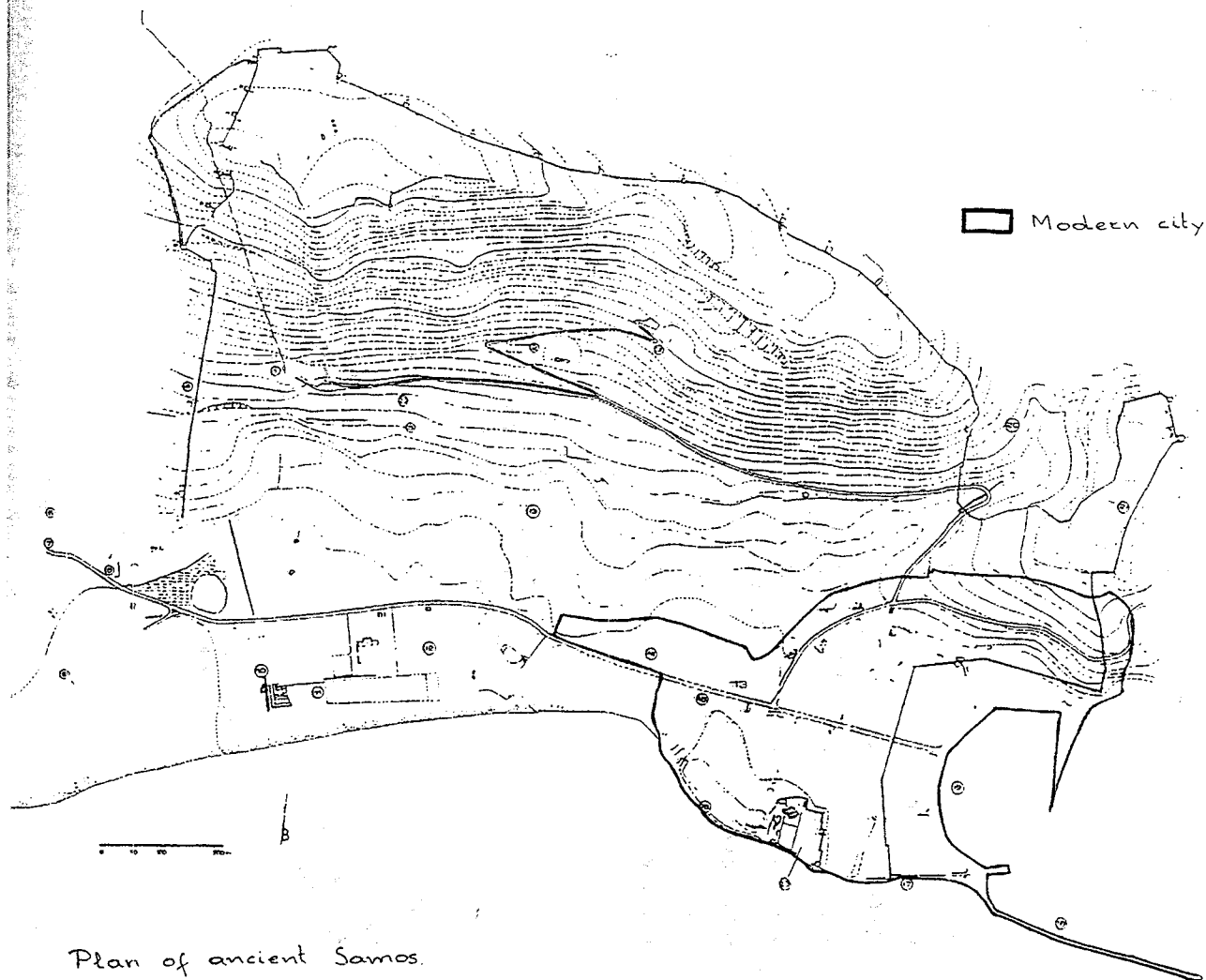
### **ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION**

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria ii and iii.

- **Criterion ii** : The temple of Hera at Samos is fundamental to an understanding of classical architecture. The stylistic and structural innovations in each of its successive phases strongly influenced the design of temples and public buildings throughout the Greek world. The technological mastery of the Eupalineio similarly served as a model for engineering and public works.

- **Criterion iii** : Samos was the leading maritime and mercantile power in the Greek world in the 6th century B.C., and this importance is reflected in the extent and richness of the archaeological remains, which are largely untouched by subsequent development.

ICOMOS, October 1992



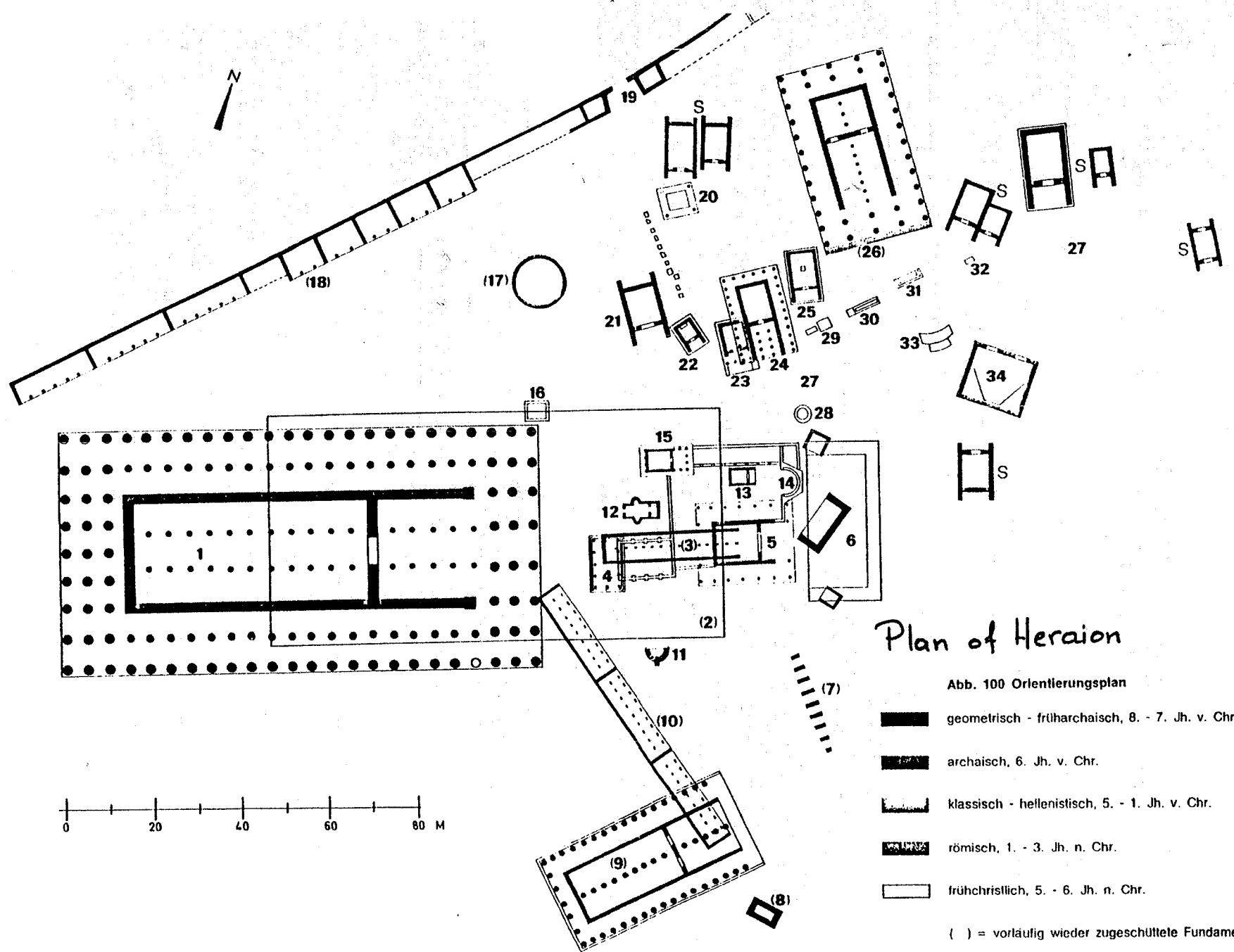
Plan of ancient Samos.

1. Eupalinos tunnel
2. Theatre
3. Monastery of Panagia Spiliani
4. Fortification wall.
5. Roman aqueduct.
6. West cemetery
7. Early christian cemetery.
8. Sanctuary of Artemis.
9. Port of the archaic period.
10. Early christian basilica church.
11. Stadium
12. Roman baths.

13. Ancient city
  14. Agora
  15. Sanctuary of Aphrodite.
  16. Castle
  17. Byzantine fortification wall.
  18. Dock of Polykrates.
  19. Port
  20. North-east cemetery
  21. Kasteli
  22. Hellenistic villa
  23. Hellenistic villa
- Early christian basilica church

Samos : plan du site /  
plan of the site

Samos : plan de l'Héraïon /  
 plan of the Heraion



### Plan of Heraion

Abb. 100 Orientierungsplan

- geometrisch - früharchaisch, 8. - 7. Jh. v. Chr.
- archaisch, 6. Jh. v. Chr.
- klassisch - hellenistisch, 5. - 1. Jh. v. Chr.
- römisch, 1. - 3. Jh. n. Chr.
- frühchristlich, 5. - 6. Jh. n. Chr.

( ) = vorläufig wieder zugeschüttete Fundamente