

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	The City of Safranbolu
<i>Location</i>	Province of Zonguldak
<i>State Party</i>	Turkey
<i>Date</i>	12 July 1991

Justification by State Party

Safranbolu is a city which preserves all its values: monuments, sites, groups of buildings, and an historic shopping area. There is a great homogeneity between these elements. It is a typical Ottoman city that has survived to the present day. It also displays an interesting interaction between the topography and the historic settlement (criterion ii).

The architectural forms of the buildings and the streets are illustrative of their period (criterion iv).

History and Description*History*

The site of Safranbolu has been occupied by human settlements since prehistory, as evidenced by rock-cut tombs and a Roman temple in the vicinity. The present settlement developed as a trading centre after the Turkish conquest in the 11th century. In the 13th century it became an important caravan station on the main east-west trade route. Surviving buildings from this early period include the Old Mosque, the Old Bath, and the Medresse of Süleyman Pasha, all built in 1322.

The caravan trade reached its apogee in the 17th century, when the central market was extended to meet the requirements of travellers rather than the local inhabitants. Many buildings survive from this period, including the Cinci Inn with its sixty guest rooms (1640-48), the Köprülü Mosque (1661), and the İzzet Pasha Mosque (1796), as well as many stores, stables, and baths.

The 19th century saw considerable investment in private estates and a sharp increase in the size of the town. The richer inhabitants donated public buildings, including eighteen fountains, the Kaçak and Hamadiye mosques, the Ali Baba convent, and the town hospital.

Changes in trading structures and the advent of the railways brought this long period of prosperity to an end in the early 20th century. The town underwent a period of economic deprivation until the building of the Karabük steelworks, which provided a great deal of employment in the region. Safranbolu residents who went to work at Karabük preferred to retain their original homes, thus bringing limited economic stability back to the town.

Description

Safranbolu consists of four distinct districts - the market place area of the inner city, known as Çukur (The Hole), the area of Kıranköy, Bağlar (The Vineyards), and an area of more recent settlement outside the historic area (which does not form part of the area proposed for the World Heritage List).

The original Turkish settlement was immediately south of the citadel, but this declined in the 15th and 16th centuries and the Çukur district developed to the south-east. Expansion in the 18th century meant that

the town spread westwards to Kıranköy, and 18th century prosperity resulted in the vineyard area to the north-west (Bağlar) becoming an area of summer houses.

Çukur is so named because it lies in the lower part of the town. Its centre is the market place, which is surrounded by the houses and workshops of craftsmen, such as leather workers, blacksmiths, saddlers and shoemakers, and textile workers. The area is triangular in shape, defined by two rivers.

Kıranköy was formerly a non-Muslim district, with a socio-architectural pattern similar to that in contemporary European towns (ie craftsmen and tradesmen living above their workshops, cellars used for winemaking and storage, etc).

The pattern of settlement in Bağlar is one of single houses set within large gardens.

The streets in Çukur and Kıranköy are narrow and curved, following contours. They are surfaced with stone paving, sloping inwards to evacuate surface water. The older houses are half-timbered, the spaces between the timbers being filled with various materials (clay, brick, etc). There are no windows on the street frontage, so that the stone walls resemble extensions of garden walls. The main rooms are on the first floor, usually panelled with built-in cupboards, fireplaces, shelves, and benches all built in. Many of the ceilings are lavishly carved and painted.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The buildings that make up the town are in private and public ownership.

The historic quarters of Safranbolu were protected as a conservation area by Decree of the High Council of Immovable Antiquities in 1976. A Decree of 1985 declared 810 houses, 165 natural monuments, and four historic settlements to be protected.

Management

Management of the historic areas is in the hands of the Municipality of Safranbolu.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

Despite the Decree of 1976, restoration of individual buildings did not begin until 1982. This movement has been accompanied by the organization of cultural events, in order to make the inhabitants of the town aware of the importance of their urban heritage.

A major Conservation Programme, which receives central government financial aid, began with the restoration of the market place and the adaptive reuse of some major buildings.

The dossier admits that the level of conservation in much of the town is not good. It attributes this to the fact that many of the old buildings are not adapted to the requirements of modern living, to the low incomes of many inhabitants of Safranbolu, and to the high costs of traditional materials. The result is lack of maintenance and consequent deterioration.

Authenticity

There is no doubt about the authenticity of the street layout and the general townscape of Safranbolu, which is evocative of pre-industrial Turkey. The level of authenticity in individual buildings is difficult to judge from the dossier submitted. Certain public buildings have been adapted for alternative uses (eg the creation of an hotel in a large traditional house by the Touring and Automobile Club of Turkey) but most of the less

important buildings appear to have been left in their original state (often deteriorating) owing to lack of funds for restoration.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

Safranbolu has not been visited by an ICOMOS mission. However, it is well known to several members of the ICOMOS Bureau.

An opinion was sought from the ICOMOS International Committee on Vernacular Architecture. In his reply, the President of the Committee strongly supported the nomination. The town was preserved in good condition "without being invaded by concrete" and the Turkish Government had taken all the measures necessary for its protection.

Qualities

Safranbolu is an excellent illustration of the growth of Turkish trading towns on one of the great caravan routes linking east and west. Its layout demonstrates the organic growth of the town in response to economic expansion and its many old buildings are representative of its evolving socio-economic structure up to and beyond the disappearance of the traditional caravan routes.

Additional comments

At its 16th Meeting in July 1992 the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee recommended the inscription of this property, but requested the competent Turkish authorities to transmit to ICOMOS a plan clearly showing the boundary of the site proposed for inscription. This information has now been received and is acceptable to ICOMOS as constituting the appropriate area for inscription.

Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria ii, iv, and v:

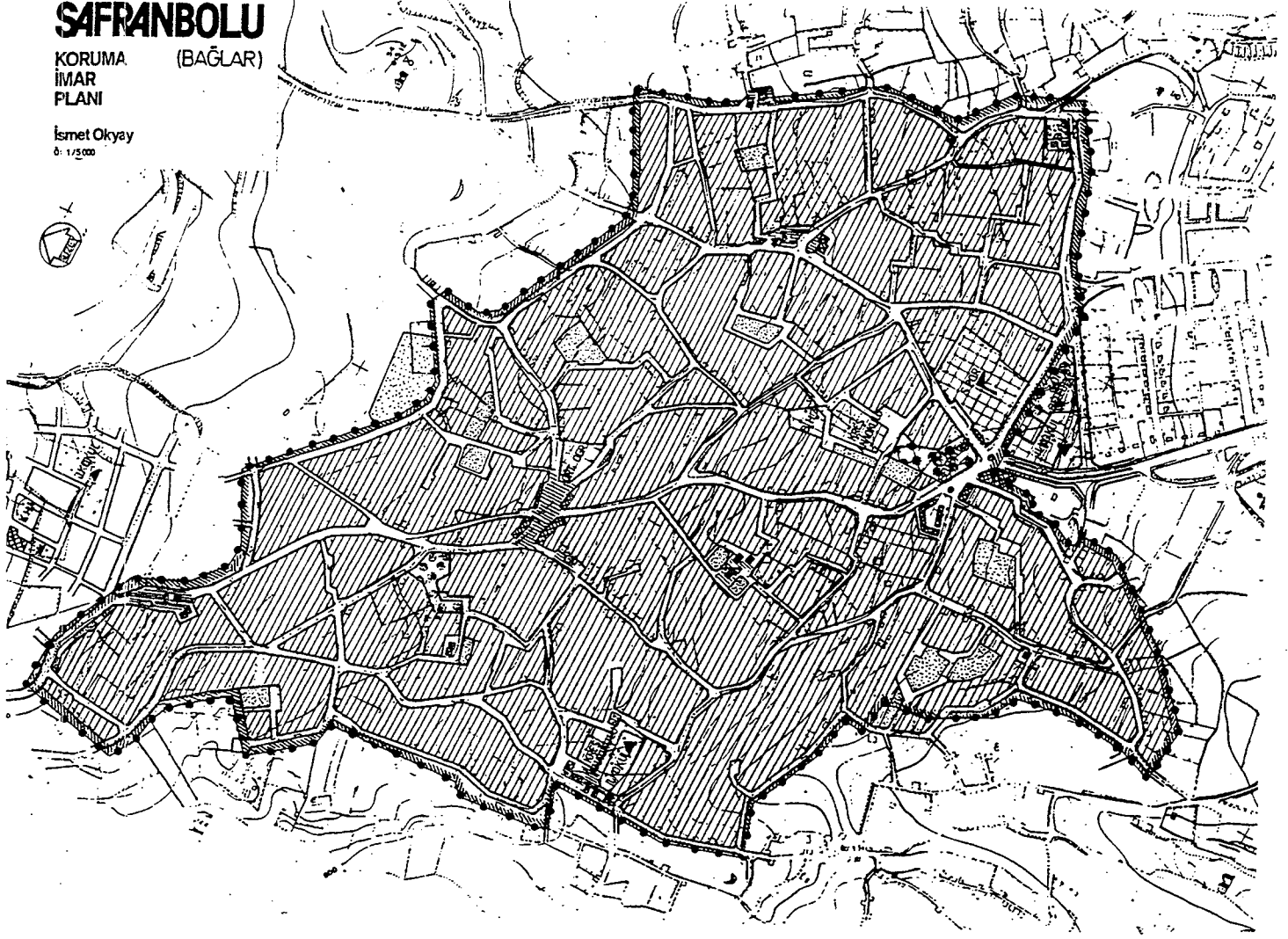
- **Criterion ii** By virtue of its key role in the caravan trade over many centuries, Safranbolu enjoyed great prosperity and as a result it set a standard in public and domestic architecture that exercised a great influence on urban development over a large area of the Ottoman Empire.
- **Criterion iv** The caravan trade was for centuries the main commercial link between the Orient and Europe. As a result, towns of a characteristic type grew up along its route. With the coming of railways in the 19th century, these towns abruptly lost their *raison d'être*, and most of them were adapted to other economic bases. Safranbolu was not affected in this way and as a result has preserved its original form and buildings to a remarkable extent.
- **Criterion v** The collapse of the caravan trade had a catastrophic effect on Safranbolu. Its proximity to the Karabük steelworks has given it a new socio-economic role, but it is still vulnerable to external pressures, and so continuous efforts must be made to preserve the traditional townscape.

ICOMOS, October 1994

SAFRANBOLU

KORUMA (BAĞLAR)
İMAR
PLANI

İsmet Okyay
0: 1/5000

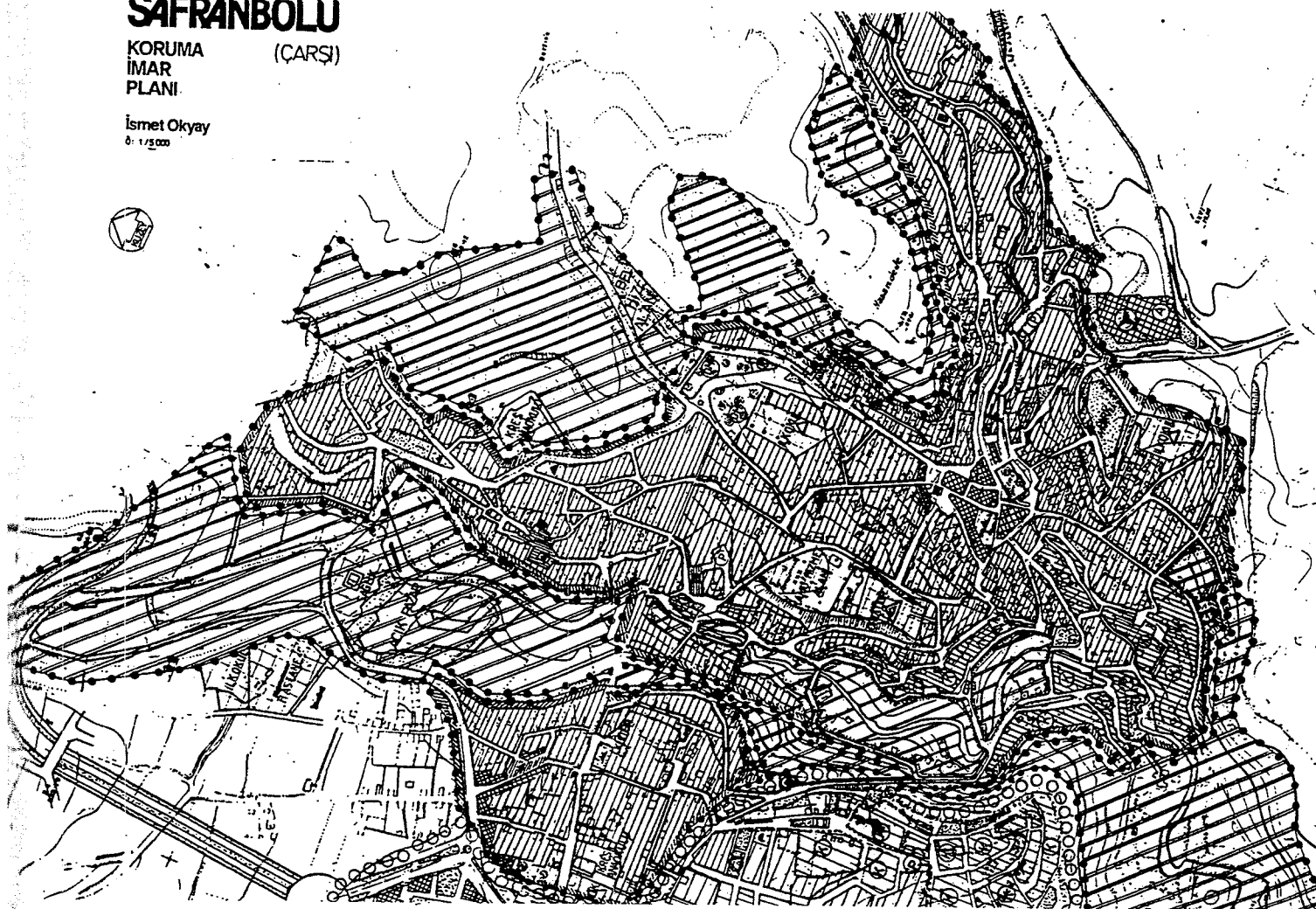


Safranbolu : secteur de Baglar proposé pour inscription /
Baglar area for inscription

SAFRANBOLU

KORUMA
IMAR
PLANI (ÇARŞI)

İsmet Okyay
0: 1/2000



Safranbolu : zone centrale proposée pour inscription /
central area for inscription

SAFRANBOLU

Yükseltiler - Altitudes
in meters

- 375-450 M
- 450-500 M
- 500-550 M
- 550-700 M

- Mahalle sınırları - boundaries of the districts
- 14 Önemli evler - outstanding houses
- Önemli yapılar, camiler - important buildings, mosques

Çiz. 2. Safranbolu Haritası
(Map)

