

**Identification**

<b><u>Nomination</u></b>	Town of Bamberg
<b><u>Location</u></b>	Bavaria
<b><u>State Party</u></b>	Germany
<b><u>Date</u></b>	1 October 1991

**Evaluation**

This nomination was considered by the World Heritage Bureau at its 16th Meeting in Paris in July 1992. It was deferred "to allow the competent German authorities to reconsider the proposed boundary, as well as the buffer zone. The new boundary should not include recent constructions".

In May 1993 a revised nomination was submitted to the World Heritage Centre, proposing a more limited area of the town for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

The revised nomination has been studied by ICOMOS, which is satisfied that the new boundaries conform with its earlier recommendation (a copy of the original ICOMOS evaluation is appended).

**Recommendation**

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

- **Criterion ii**: The layout and architecture of medieval and renaissance Bamberg exerted a strong influence on urban form and evolution in the lands of central Europe from the 11th century onwards.
- **Criterion iv**: Bamberg is an outstanding and representative example of an early medieval town in central Europe, both in its plan and its many surviving ecclesiastical and secular buildings.

ICOMOS, October 1993

**A) IDENTIFICATION**

**Nomination** : Town of Bamberg  
**Location** : Bavaria  
**State Party** : Germany  
**Date** : 1 October 1991

**B) EVALUATION**

This nomination was considered by the World Heritage Committee

**C) ICOMOS OBSERVATIONS**

The area nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List is that of the three original settlements that were combined in the Middle Ages to form the town of Bamberg. Whilst the ICOMOS Bureau accepts that evidence survives over the whole area in the form of early street patterns, and also that there are extensive undisturbed archaeological deposits within these areas, it is concerned by the fact that substantial parts of the nominated area contain exclusively post-World War II buildings. It is therefore of the opinion that the proposed World Heritage Site should be confined to those areas where a significant proportion of historic structures survive. Furthermore, the name of the proposed World Heritage Site should be changed to "The Historic Centre of Bamberg".

Five ICOMOS Bureau members had personal knowledge of Bamberg.

**D) BACKGROUND****The Site**

The Counts of Babenberg had a castle on the hill around which Bamberg developed as early as the late Carolingian period. This became Royal property in 906, and then passed to the Dukes of Bavaria. When Henry II, Duke of Bavaria, became King of Germany in 1007 he made Bamberg the seat of a bishopric, intended to become "a second Rome." It played a significant role as a link with the Slav peoples of eastern Europe, especially in modern Poland and Pomerania. The town was laid out according to medieval planning rules as a cross, with the churches of St Michael, St Stephen, St Gangolf, and St Jacob at the four cardinal points.

With the advent of Bishop Otto I it became the seat of a powerful Prince-Bishopric in the early 12th century. This marked the beginning of a period of great prosperity, as demonstrated by the lavish restoration of the cathedral in the early 13th century. This prosperity continued into the later Middle Ages, being helped by the fact that it was the starting point for shipping on the Main, as well as a renowned cultural centre.

The late 17th and early 18th centuries saw a remarkable cultural flowering, represented by artists such as Dientzenhofer and Balthasar Neumann. This cultural role became even more important in the late 18th century, when Bamberg was the centre of the Enlightenment for southern Germany under Prince-Bishop Franz-Ludwig von Erthal. This intellectual supremacy continued after Bamberg was ceded to the Elector of Bavaria in 1803, through such eminent writers as Hegel and Hoffman.

Bamberg was not affected to any great extent by 19th century industrialization; its economic basis continued to be trade, particularly in hops. It will be remembered as the birthplace of the first democratic constitution for Germany after World War I.

The area proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List covers the three centres of settlement that coalesced when the town was founded. These are the Bergstadt, with the cathedral and its precincts, the former Prince-Bishop's Residence, and the burgher area with the parish Church of Our Lady and the former vintners' settlement; the Inselstadt, defined by the two arms of the Regnitz River, which was founded in the 12th century with a market and pre-urban settlement; and the Theuerstadt, a late medieval area of market gardens with scattered houses and large open spaces, which has retained this character up to the present day.

### **Qualities**

Bamberg is a good example of a central European town with a basically early medieval plan and many surviving buildings. Of particular interest is the way in which the present town illustrates the link between agriculture (vineyards, hop gardens, market gardens) and the urban distribution centre. The town had early cultural links with eastern Europe. Its architecture had strong influences on north Germany and Hungary in the Gothic period, whilst its Baroque element is intimately linked with developments in Bohemia.

### **Authenticity**

The street layouts of the three historic core areas retain their medieval features. The many historic buildings in these areas seem to be authentic, to judge from the voluminous supporting material supplied with the dossiers.

### **Management and Conservation**

The historic centre of Bamberg, covering some 250 ha, is protected under the Bavarian Preservation of Monuments Act, under the supervision of the Monuments Service of the municipality.

In 1973 Bamberg collaborated with Lübeck and Regensburg in a joint study on the conservation of historic towns. Three years later the recommendation of a report on the preservation of Bamberg was approved by the municipal authorities and nine conservation areas were designated. The 1987 Strategic Plan for Bamberg contains clearly defined goals for the protection of the town's historic elements.

Since 1958 there has been a continuous programme of restoration of historic properties and areas. This proceeded by means of a series of small projects (the "Bamberg model") rather than large ambitious schemes, but the result after 35 years is that the level of conservation in the town is uniformly high.

ICOMOS, April 1992