

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome
<i>Location</i>	Hiroshima Prefecture
<i>State Party</i>	Japan
<i>Date</i>	28 September 1995

Justification by State Party

Firstly, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome, stands as a permanent witness to the terrible disaster that occurred when the atomic bomb was used as a weapon for the first time in the history of mankind. Secondly, the Dome itself is the only building in existence that can convey directly a physical image of the tragic situation immediately after the bombing. Thirdly, the Dome has become a universal monument for all mankind, symbolizing the hope for perpetual peace and the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons on earth

Note The State Party does not make any proposals concerning the criteria under which the property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List in the nomination dossier.

Category of property

In terms of the categories of property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the Genbaku Dome is a *monument*.

History and Description*History*

In 1910 the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly decided to build the Hiroshima Commercial Exhibition Hall to promote industrial production in the prefecture. Work started on a site on the eastern side of the Motoyasu river, to the designs of the Czech architect Jan Letzel, in 1914 and was completed the following year. In 1933 its name was changed to the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall.

When the first atom bomb exploded over Hiroshima at 8.15 am on 6 August 1945, causing the deaths of 140,000 people, this building was the only one left standing near the hypocentre of the bomb blast, albeit in skeletal form. It was preserved in that state when reconstruction of the city began, and became known as the Genbaku Dome (Atomic Bomb Dome). In 1966 Hiroshima City Council adopted a resolution that the Dome should be preserved in perpetuity.

The Peace Memorial Park, in which the Dome is the principal landmark, was laid out between 1950 and 1964. The Peace Memorial Museum in the Park was opened in 1955. Since 1952 the Park has been the scene of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, held annually on 6 August.

Description

The Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall was a three-storey brick building with a five-storey central core topped by a steel-framed elliptical dome clad with copper. It covered 1023 m² and stood to a height of 25 m. The exterior walls were faced with stone and cement plaster. The dome was reached via a staircase located at the central entrance.

The main building, which is situated some 150 m from the hypocentre of the explosion, was almost completely shattered and gutted: the roof and floor collapsed, along with most of the interior walls from the second floor upwards. However, because the force of the blast came from almost directly above, the foundations of the core section of the building under the dome remained standing. The remains of the fountain that had

stood in the Western-style garden on the south side of the hall also survive. In its present form the building preserves in every detail its exact state after the blast.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome, is designated an Historic Site under Article 69 of the 1950 Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. This stipulates that Historic Sites should be properly managed by the owner or relevant local government authority, that permission must be sought from the national Government for any alterations or restoration affecting the existing state, and that the national Government may provide technical guidance and subsidies for repair work and management.

Management

The property is owned by the City of Hiroshima.

Matters relating to the 1950 Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties are the concern of the national Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunka-cho). Other bodies participating in the management of the monument are the Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties and its Committee of Experts, the Ministry of Construction, Hiroshima Prefecture and its Board of Education, and the Board of Education of the City of Hiroshima.

A management office operated by the City of Hiroshima located in the Peace Memorial Park is responsible for the daily management of the Dome. The City assigns specialists for the preservation maintenance of the Dome and carries out a survey every three years to monitor the degree of stability of its structure and its general condition.

The Peace Memorial Park within which the Dome is situated is managed in accordance with the City Parks Law and the Byelaw for the Parks of Hiroshima. There is a buffer zone around the Dome within which no structures may be erected other than park facilities (which are limited to 12% of the total area of the Park). The City has also set up regulatory guidelines relating to the environment around the Park which control all construction in the surrounding area.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

The objective of all work on the Dome is to preserve it in its condition immediately after the atomic bomb blast. Work was carried out in 1967 and in 1989-90 as a precaution against collapse caused by deterioration as a result of weathering. This has involved the use of epoxy resins as binding agents and steel reinforcement where the risk of collapse was believed to be serious. A little rebuilding of the deteriorating masonry structure also took place, using the original bricks.

Following the 1989-90 work, it was decided to carry out monitoring at three-yearly intervals to check for peeling cement plaster, deteriorated masonry joints, corrosion of reinforcing plates, deterioration of synthetic resins, and the extent of subsidence or inclination.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the Genbaku Dome is not open to challenge: the ruined structure stands exactly as it did after the atomic bomb exploded on 6 August 1945. The only interventions since that time have been minimal, designed to ensure the continuing stability of the ruins. This may be likened to work carried out on archaeological sites around the world.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome, was visited by an ICOMOS expert mission in August 1993. It is also known to several members of the ICOMOS Bureau.

Qualities

The overriding significance of the Dome lies in what it represents: the building has no aesthetic or architectural significance *per se*. Its mute remains symbolize on the one hand the ultimate in human destruction but on the other they communicate a message of hope for a continuation in perpetuity of the worldwide peace that the atomic bomb blasts of August 1945 ushered in.

Comparative analysis

There is no comparable building anywhere in the world.



Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List, exceptionally, on the basis of *critera vi* alone:



The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome, is a stark and powerful symbol of the achievement of world peace for more than half a century following the unleashing of the most destructive force ever created by humankind.

ICOMOS, October 1996

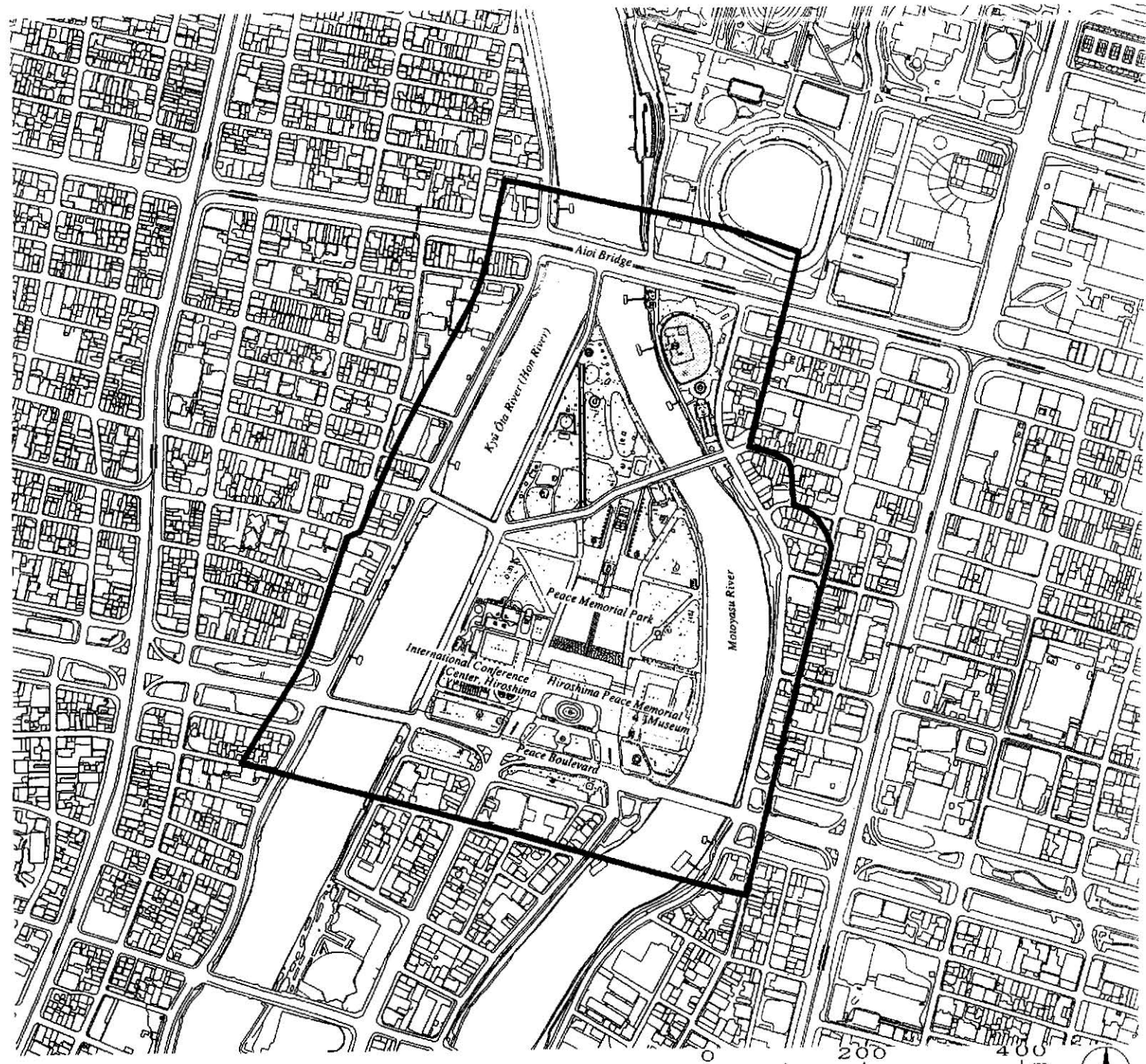
APPENDIX - 3a
MAP INDICATING THE EXTENT OF
THE PROPERTY

-  **Nominated Property: 0.4ha**
-  **Nominated Property Buffer Zone: 42.7ha**

Total: 43.1ha

-  **NOMINATED PROPERTY**
-  **NOMINATED PROPERTY BUFFER ZONE**

JAPAN / HIROSHIMA



1 : 5.000

Hiroshima : plan de délimitation du bien et de la zone-tampon
 Hiroshima : map of the nominated property and buffer zone



Hiroshima : le Dôme vu de l'est

Hiroshima : the Dome, from the east