

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Lushan National Park
<i>Location</i>	Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province
<i>State Party</i>	People's Republic of China
<i>Date</i>	15 August 1995

Justification by State Party

The cultural heritage of Mount Lushan has an important bearing on the history of China and is of extremely high scientific and aesthetic value.

Mount Lushan was the first of China's famous mountains to serve as the inspiration of outstanding cultural creations. Tao Yuanming, the pioneer of Chinese pastoral poetry, was a native of Lushan and his masterpiece, *Notes on the Peach Flower Land*, was written there. Hui Yuan, pioneer of the Chinese sect of Buddhism, Lu Xiuqing, who wrote the first chronicle of Taoism, Zong Bing, first theorist of traditional nature painting, and Wang Xizhi, the greatest calligrapher in Chinese history, all worked on Mount Lushan.

There are three cultural sites on Mount Lushan that reflect major periods in Chinese history. The East Grove Temple, built by Hui Yuan, reflects the appearance of a Buddhist China during the Jin Dynasty. The White Deer Cave and its Academy was where the great philosopher Zhu Xi initiated the method of teaching through lectures in the Song Dynasty, taking the political and ethical ideas of Confucianism forward to create the system of Lixue, which became the major ideology of China's feudal society and influenced Chinese history for seven hundred years. Kuling was where foreigners from Europe and the United States began to build villas from 1895 onwards, turning it into an internationally known summer resort through which western culture penetrated China.

The natural beauty of Mount Lushan has inspired many Chinese artists, writers, philosophers, and scientists. The combination of the waters of the Yangtze river and Lake Poyang, the precipitous peaks of the mountain, its peaceful valleys, its grotesque rocks, its rare and ancient trees, its waterfalls, and its many ponds and pools provides a majesty that is heightened by the colours, shapes, and reflections that change from one time of day to the next and from one season to the next.

- Notes**
- 1 This property is nominated as a mixed site. This evaluation is concerned solely with the nomination under the criteria for cultural properties, the evaluation of the natural qualities being covered in the IUCN evaluation.
 - 2 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 ensemble of cultural properties on Mount Lushan is a *group of buildings*. It should also be considered as a cultural landscape of the type proposed in paragraph 39 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

History and Description*History*

Human activities in Lushan date back to at least the Neolithic period (c 4000 BC). Its importance began in the Han Dynasty, beginning in the late 3rd century BC: Emperors of this and succeeding dynasties ordered the building of a long series of monumental structures and it became a centre for study and religion. The monk Hui Yang founded the influential Jingtu Sect of oriental Buddhism in the East Grove Temple, and it was from here that Jian Zhen set out to carry Buddhism to Japan around 750.

During the Tang Dynasty (618-907) Lushan became the centre of other sects - the Linji, the Caodong, and the Huang Long. This identification as a spiritual centre resulted in other religions being attracted to Lushan. Lu Xiujing built the Simplicity and Tranquillity Temple as the repository of Taoist scriptures. Other great religions, such as Islam and Christianity, also established centres at Lushan.

Its spiritual and political significance has endured to the present day. During the 1930s and 1940s it was the official Summer Capital of the Republic of China, and with the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 it was the venue for meetings of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party under the chairmanship of Mao Tzedong on no fewer than three occasions.

Description

Note The physical description of Lushan National Park is to be found in the IUCN evaluation and so will not be repeated in the ICOMOS evaluation, which is confined to the cultural properties within the nominated area.

The cultural properties in Lushan National Park fall into four groups: archaeological sites; inscriptions; historic buildings; and Chinese and foreign villas.

- Archaeological sites

Twenty prehistoric and over six hundred early historic sites are known and protected. They include the large Neolithic village of Tingzi Dun (4th millennium BC), the farming, hunting, and fishing settlement of the Shang and Zhou Dynasties of Fanzhou Yan (1600-1000 BC), the residences of Tao Yuan-ming, who moved several times during his lifetime (AD 365-427), and the battlefield of Boyang Lake (Three Kingdoms Period, 220-65).

- Inscriptions

More than nine hundred inscriptions on cliffs and stone tablets have been recorded in Lushan. The oldest of the cliff inscriptions is in the calligraphy of the great pastoral poet of the Jin Dynasty (265-420), Tao Yuan-ming. Others are the work of the famous Song Dynasty (960-1279) poet Huang Ting-jian, calligrapher Mi Fu, and philosopher Zhu Xi. Equally famous are those from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the work of such notables as the philosopher Wang Shouren and the writers Li Mengyang and Wang Siren. The inscribed tablets range in date from around 1050 to as recently as 1938, when the Chinese words "Reverence and Respect" were inscribed to encourage the army fighting the Japanese invaders.

- Historic buildings

Some two hundred historic buildings are scattered over the Lushan National Park. The most celebrated is the East Grove Temple complex at the foot of Xianglu Peak, to the west of Lushan. Begun in AD 386, this ensemble was added to progressively over the centuries. The group of prayer halls is important for the study of Buddhism in China and relationships between China and Japan. It is considered to be the earliest garden temple in China.

Construction of the seven-storey brick West Grove Pagoda began around AD 730, during the Jin Dynasty. It was restored and reconstructed on a number of occasions in succeeding centuries, but preserves its basic form intact.

The White Deer Cave Academy at the foot of Five Old Man Peak was established in 940 but fell into disuse; it was revived towards the end of the Song Dynasty (late 12th century) by Zhu Xi, who made it a renowned centre for academic research. It attracted many additional structures up to the 19th century and is a complex of temples, study halls, and libraries.

Other important structures are the stone single-span Guan Ying Bridge of AD 1015, with its seven parallel arches, the tomb of Jin Dynasty poet Tao Yuan-ming (AD 427), the massive granite revetment on Boyang Lake known as the Zi Yang Bank (1102), a group of ornate imperial pavilions of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and the remarkable Tower of Chan Master Gong Qian, consisting of tablet pavilion, scripture pillar, and stone tower in a single structure (1618).

- Chinese and foreign villas

The closing years of the 19th century and the earlier part of the 20th century saw Lushan become a fashionable holiday area, and many villas were built by Chinese and foreign visitors. Their styles reflect various architectural fashions, and their siting is based on American national park theory and English landscape design. Over six hundred survive, of which three are under state protection as key cultural sites. These are the Mei Lu Villa (1903), the former Williams Villa (1902), and the former Russian Asiatic Bank Villa (1919), all outstanding examples

of western villa design. Most of the villas are in stone, although the former Japanese Villa of 1903 is in traditional Japanese wooden construction.

There are five more recent buildings within the park, in stone and concrete, dating from 1934 to 1970. The two later ones were the residences of Mao Zedong (1960) and Lin Biao (1970).

Management and Protection

Legal status

The State Council of the People's Republic of China declared Lushan to be one of the major places of scenic and historic interest in the country in 1982, under the provisions of Article 9 of the Constitution, which states that "Mineral resources, waters, forests, mountains, grasslands, unreclaimed land, beaches, and other natural resources are owned by the State."

Various Chinese statutes provide the legislative protection for the Park and its components. These include laws on forestry, environmental protection, and the protection of cultural relics. Other local laws, byelaws, regulations, and administrative decrees also have functions in the overall protection.

Management

The area that is the subject of this nomination is the property of the People's Republic of China. Its management and protection are the responsibility of the Administrative Bureau of Lushan National Park, with a staff of 630 scientists and technicians specializing in scientific research, technical development, and management of scenic gardening, nature protection, and protection of cultural properties. The Bureau works under the guidance of the Jiangxi Provincial Bureau of Construction.

Management follows strictly the central government's Overall Plan for Scenic Places. The provisions of this Plan include the formulation of local regulations and plans, coordination of activities, and comprehensive management. Strict control is exercised over the numbers of permanent residents and all immigration is prohibited. Visitor numbers and access is controlled and plans are being prepared for greater dispersion of visitors. New construction projects within the Park will be strictly controlled, and their planning and design will be subject to approval and authorization. Tourist developments will be planned so as to avoid impact on natural and cultural values.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

Since the region has been under Imperial protection since the Han Dynasty, there has been regular maintenance and conservation from the start. In the later 14th century the Ming Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang conferred the honorific title of *yue* on Lushan and decreed that it should receive an annual grant, which has been honoured in one way or another ever since. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties (until 1911) Mount Lushan was a "forbidden zone" with clearly delineated boundaries, within which activities were subject to Imperial authorization.

When the villa development began a century ago strict measures were enforced to protect the ecological environment of the Kuling area. In 1924 the area was designated the first official summer resort and tourist area by the central government. A Notice on the Protection of Forests was promulgated in 1934 by the Jiangxi Provincial Government. The Lushan Administrative Bureau was set up by the People's Republic of China in 1949 and began work on a long series of activities designed to strengthen and extend protection and conservation in the Mount Lushan area.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the cultural elements in Mount Lushan National Park is high. Of more significance than the authenticity of individual buildings, however, is their relationship with their natural environment. Here the authenticity is incontestable: the qualities that attracted so many writers and artists to the area in past centuries and the tourists of the present century are intact.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

A joint ICOMOS-IUCN expert mission visited Mount Lushan National Park in May 1996. ICOMOS and IUCN were also advised by ICOREC (International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture) of Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom.

Qualities

Mount Lushan is an area of striking scenic beauty and interest from the point of view of the natural environment that has attracted spiritual leaders and scholars, and also artists and writers, for over two millennia. The mountains have been the inspiration for some of the finest Chinese classical poetry. It is a landscape that has inspired philosophy and art, and into which high-quality cultural properties have been selectively and sensitively integrated up to the present century, and as such it qualifies for recognition as a cultural landscape as defined in the *Operational Guidelines*.

Comparative analysis

The harmonious interaction of natural beauty and cultural appreciation is a special feature of Chinese culture and is not unique to Lushan. However, it may be considered with justification to represent the pinnacle of this aesthetic approach to nature, along with Mount Taishan, which is already on the World Heritage List (No 437). It would be intellectual arrogance to seek to differentiate between the competing claims of the two in order to select just one as being of outstanding universal significance.

ICOMOS observations

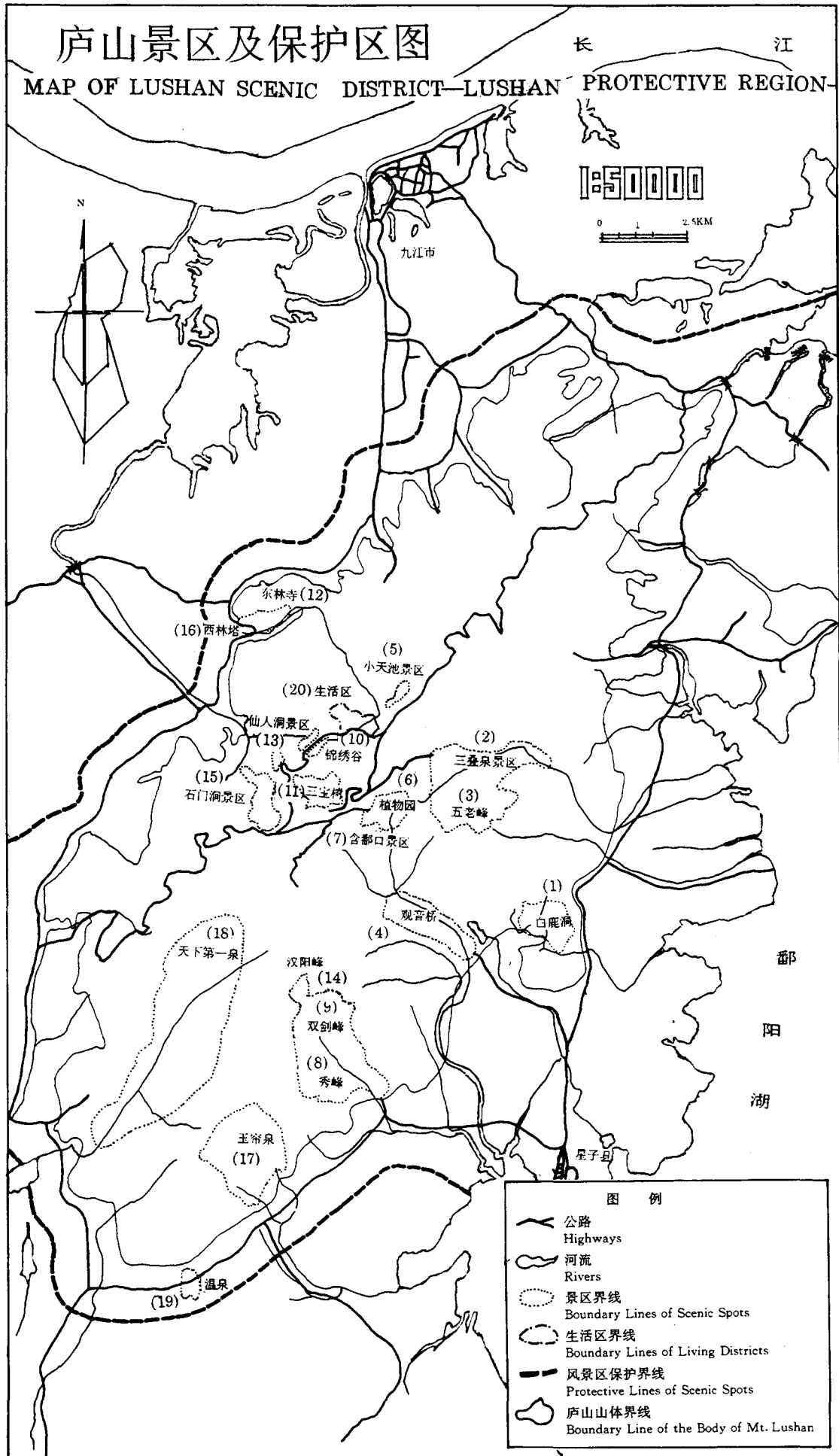
The boundaries of the area proposed for inscription on the List were not clearly defined. At its meeting in June 1996, therefore, the Bureau requested the State Party to provide more precise details. These were supplied and were approved by ICOMOS as appropriate.

Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *cultural criteria ii, iii, iv and vi*:

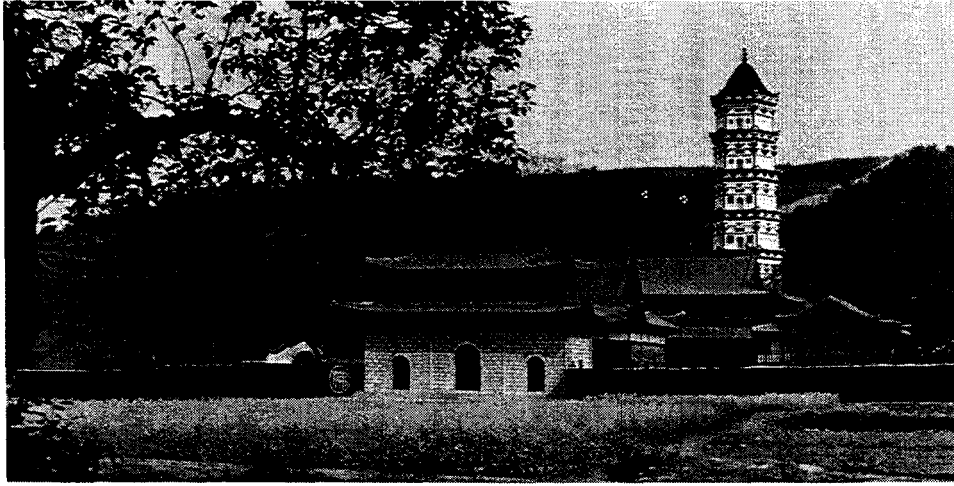
The monuments of the historical heritage on Mount Lushan blend in their style and, more particularly, their settings with its outstanding natural beauty to create a cultural landscape of outstanding aesthetic value, and also powerful associations with Chinese spiritual and cultural life.

ICOMOS, October 1996

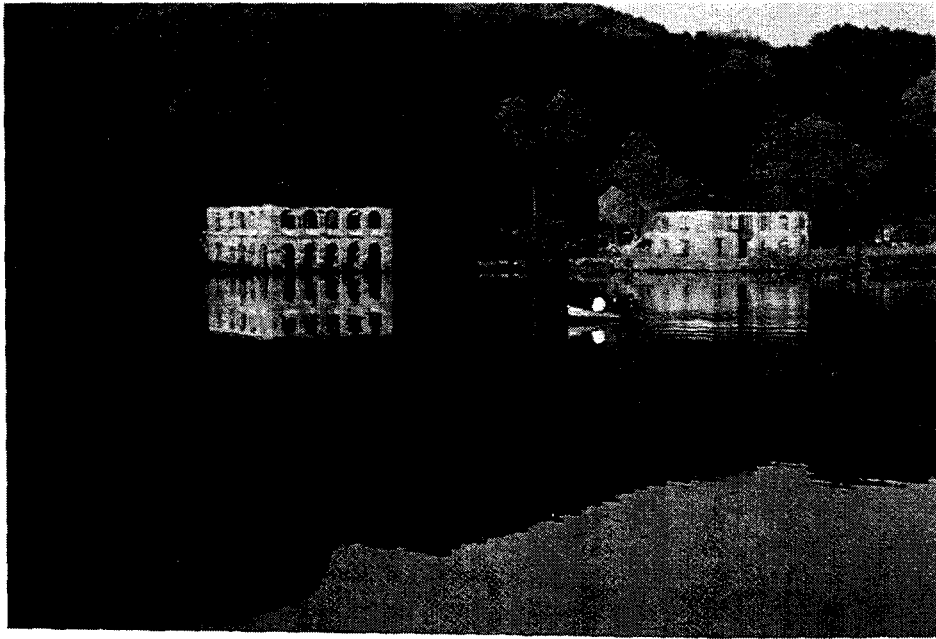


Lushan : plan du parc national

Lushan : map of the National Park



Lushan : Plantation de l'Ouest, temple et pagode
Lushan : the West Grove Temple and Pagoda



Lushan : villas au bord du lac

Lushan : villas on the lake