

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Hwasong Fortress
<i>Location</i>	Kyonggi-do Province
<i>State Party</i>	Republic of Korea
<i>Date</i>	26 July 1996

Justification by State Party

Hwasong Fortress has had great influence on the development of Korean architecture, urban planning, and landscaping and related arts for many centuries. It is the epitome of this type of structure in the Far East and is a landmark in the history of military architecture. It differs from fortresses in China and Japan in that it combines military, political, and commercial functions.

Criterion ii

The nominated property illustrates an important development in architectural history, and also the cultural, artistic, architectural, and scientific level of 18th century Korea. It was built making use of elements of both the eastern and the western military architecture of the period, under the influence of the political philosophy of *Shirhak* ("Practical Learning").

Criterion iv

Hwasong Fortress is of great associative importance, since it was built by Chongju, 22nd ruler of the Choson Dynasty, in memory of his father, Crown Prince Sado, who had been unjustly condemned and done to death. This act of filial piety is still commemorated, two centuries later, by an annual ceremony.

Criterion vi

Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

History and Description

History

Crown Prince Sado Seja, son of the 21st Choson ruler Yongjo, was the victim of a court conspiracy and unjustly condemned and executed by his father. When Sado's son Chongjo succeeded Yongjo in 1776, he had his father's remains exhumed and buried in a tomb on Mount Hwasan, which was considered to be the most auspicious geomantic site. He built Yongjusa Temple nearby for the repose of his soul, and moved the seat of government to the foot of Mount P'altalsan in Suwon.

Chongjo had another reason for moving his seat of government. By doing so he would be able to bring factional strife to an end, to enhance the authority of the throne, and provide greater security for the court within the walls of the new fortress that he caused to be built. This was laid out in accordance with the work by Chong Yag-Yong, a leading scholar of the School of Practical Learning (*Shirhak*). Published in 1793 under the title *The Strategy of Fortifications* (*Songwha Churyak*), this influential work covered both eastern and western developments in military architecture.

Building was completed between January 1794 and September 1796, under the supervision of Ch'ae Chae-Gong, a former minister and magistrate of Yongjungch'u Prefecture. Cranes, pulleys, and other special pieces of equipment were designed and built specially for the project, which is described in detail in *Archives on the Construction of Hwasong Fortress* (*Hwasong Songyok Uigwe*).

Various other structures were built around the Fortress, including the Hwasong Country palace and Sajiktan, the altar for sacrifices to the guardian deities of the state. These were burned down during the course of later wars and rebellions, and only Nangnamhon Hall, an annex of the Country palace, has survived to the present day. Parts of the Fortress were destroyed or damaged during the Japanese occupation and the Korean War, but the availability of the *Archives* has made it possible for the fortress to be restored to its authentic original form.

Description

The massive *walls* of the Fortress, 5.74km in length, enclose an area of 130ha which includes the foot of Mount P'altalsan. They follow the topography of the land, rather than taking up a regular or symmetrical form.

The walls take into account the general use of artillery at this time. There were originally 48 defensive features along the length of the walls - four gates, floodgates, observation towers, command posts, multiple-arrow launcher towers, firearms bastions, angle towers, secret gates, beacon towers, bastions, and bunkers - and most of these survive intact. The height of the walls, which are slightly concave up to rampart level, varies between 4m and 6m, depending on the topography. The parapet, averaging 1.2m in height, is crenellated. Each merion has three gun embrasures.

There are four main *gates*, on the cardinal points. The P'altalmun Gate in the south and the Changanmun Gate in the north are impressive two-storey wooden structures on stone bases, flanked by guard platforms and shielded by half-moon ravelins built of fired brick. They are linked by the main road running through the complex. The west (Hwasomun) and east (Ch'angnyongmun) gates are single-storey structures, also protected by ravelins.

There were originally five secret gates, but one has been destroyed. They were sited so as not to be easily visible to besiegers and were used for supplying the defenders and for launching attacks. The single surviving floodgate (there were originally two), known as Puksumun, is a well built sluice gate on the upstream side of the Fortress, used to control the flow of the stream running through the site.

The angle towers, command posts, observation towers, bastions, and other defensive features are all solidly constructed and strategically sited for maximum utility and minimum visibility.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The Hwasong Fortress is designated as a cultural management zone in accordance with Article 18 of the Urban Planning Act and as a park in accordance with Article 2 of that Act.

Under the terms of Article 6 of the Cultural Property Protection Act, it is also designated and managed as an Historical Site. The P'altalmun and Hwasomun Gates are designated Historical Treasures as defined in Article 4 of this Act.

The 191ha enclosed by the walls are designated and managed as a protection area in accordance with Article 8 of the Cultural Property Protection Act.

These designations require all interventions to obtain official authorization. There is also a requirement that only qualified personnel may carry out restoration and conservation work.

Management

The nominated property is government property. Overall responsibility for its protection and management is vested in the Office of Cultural Properties, Ministry of Culture and Sports, which has as collaborating agencies the Ministries of Construction and Transportation and of Home Affairs and the Kyonggi-do Provincial Government.

The nominated property is the circuit of walls, with its gates, towers, and other components. The area within the walls is a cultural protection zone and so subject to regulation, and there is a thin protection zone outside. These are taken to constitute a buffer zone.

Under the terms of the statutory protection, all restoration and repair work must be carried out by authorized specialists. The Office of Cultural Properties has a Cultural Properties Research Institute to assist in this work and to ensure that the

results of research and development projects are reflected in restoration and conservation policies. Funding for all aspects of the management and conservation is provided from the national budget.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

Considerable damage was caused to some parts of the Fortress during the Korean War. The Changanmun and Ch'angnyongmun Gates were completely destroyed, and sections of the walls were demolished.

Work on the restoration and reconstruction of the Fortress began in 1964, and has continued since that time. It has been carried out by the Office of Cultural Properties, Kyonggi-do Province, and (more recently) the Suwon City Fortress Management Office.

As part of forward programming, a scientific survey of all remaining unrestored sections is planned, and research is being conducted into measures to prevent collapse resulting from vehicle vibrations.

Authenticity

The circuit of walls and most of its elements (gates, towers, bastions, etc) preserve the authenticity of their origin in terms of site, materials, and techniques. Severe damage to parts of the enceinte during the Korean War in the 1950s has necessitated substantial reconstruction and restoration. However, all this has been carried out according to the principles of the 1964 Venice Charter and the 1994 Nara Document.

The work of reconstruction and restoration was aided immeasurably by the existence of the exhaustive original documentation in the form of the *Archives on the Construction of Hwasong Fortress (Hwasong Songyok Uigwe)*, and ICOMOS congratulates the State Party on its curation of this priceless documentation.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the property in March 1997.

Qualities

The Hwasong Fortress represents the pinnacle of 18th century military architecture, incorporating the best of that from Europe and from the Far East. As such it has a unique historical importance.

Comparative analysis

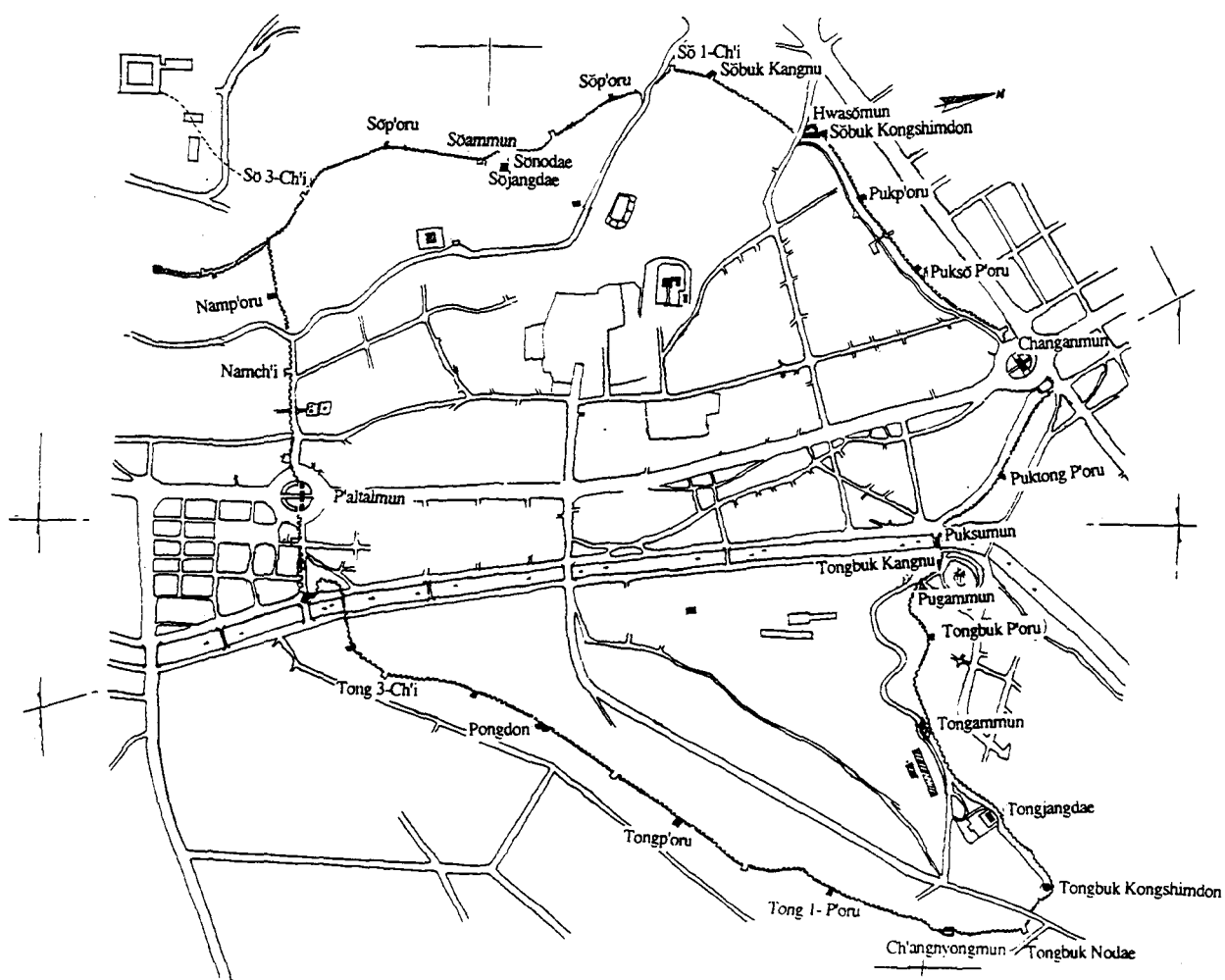
These fortifications cannot be paralleled elsewhere in the Far East (except in the Great Wall of China). Chinese and Japanese fortresses are invariably built on flat ground, with a symbolic as well as a defensive role. Hwasong is unique in that it covers both flat and hilly land, making use of the terrain for maximum defensive efficacy.

Recommendation

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

Hwasong Fortress is an outstanding example of early modern military architecture, incorporating the most highly developed features of that science from both east and west.

ICOMOS, September 1997



Hwasong :
Plan indiquant la disposition de la forteresse
Map showing the layout of the Fortress