

Identification

<u>Nomination</u>	The Old City of Dubrovnik
<u>Location</u>	Zupanija of Dubrovnik-Neretva
<u>State Party</u>	Croatia
<u>Date</u>	2 September 1993

Justification by State Party

The immediate surroundings of the monumental centre of Dubrovnik consist of a narrow urban strip that follows the town ramparts from east to west, within which are situated certain properties which are integral components of the monumental unity of Dubrovnik.

The island of Lokrum protects the town on its southern side, and with its luxuriant vegetation provides a counterpart to the stone of the old city itself.

History and Description

The proposed extension to the west of the old city includes part of the Pile suburb, with the Brsalje plateau. It marks the point where a major road entered the Roman town that preceded medieval Dubrovnik, and archaeological excavations have revealed the presence there of a Palaeochristian basilica, as well as medieval cemeteries. The Lovrijenac Fortress, located on a cliff, is first mentioned in a document of 1301, but its defensive importance is such that it must have been built much earlier (as early as the 11th century according to some scholars). The fortress owes its present appearance to the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Pile suburb was a planned development of the 15th century, around a clearly defined industrial zone dating back to the 13th century. It was devoted to tanning and leather-working, the casting of cannon, soap manufacture, etc - activities which, for reasons of hygiene and security, were placed outside the walls but within the protection of the fortress. In the early 15th century an important dyeing industry developed in the area, and this was followed by other industries, such as glass-making, bell-casting, and weaving.

These industrial operations led to the construction of workers' houses, and the settlement had its own Church of St George, dating back to the 14th century but rebuilt in its present form in 1590. The Pile suburb has retained its original character, although some changes resulted from the building in the late 19th century of a new road linking Pile with Gruz and passing outside the ramparts of the medieval town.

The area known as Iza Grada (Behind the city) lies outside the northern part of the ramparts, and has remained an open space, for defensive reasons, throughout the town's history. The road joining Pile and Gruz marks its northern boundary.

On the eastern side of the old city lies Ploce, which has served as the centre for trade with the hinterland for centuries. The area proposed for the extension of the World Heritage Site lies to the south of the main road and includes the Lazarets and the Revelin Fortress.

The Kase moles were built around 1485 on the plans of Paskoje Milicevic, the most famous Ragusan engineer of the Renaissance period, to protect the port against south-easterly gales while at the same time improving the facilities for controlling vessels approaching the town.

The building of the Lazarets began in 1627 and they were completed in 1648. Their siting at the eastern entrance to the city was practical: this is where traders and travellers would approach Dubrovnik from potentially plague-ridden parts of central Europe or the Orient. They have preserved their original appearance to a remarkable degree.

The Revelin Fortress, built to command the town moat on its northern side, dates from 1449, though its present appearance is that of the 16th century, when it was remodelled by the architect Antonio Ferramolino di Bergamo.

The island of Lokrum lies to the south-east of Dubrovnik, some 500 m from the coast. In 1023 it became a Benedictine abbey, the first of several in the Republic of Dubrovnik. The monastic complex (and especially the Church of the Virgin Mary, destroyed by the earthquake of 1667 and not rebuilt) was continually enlarged in succeeding centuries. Following the reform of the Benedictine Order in the later 15th century, the monastery passed to the Congregation of St Justina of Padua, which was responsible for the building of a new monastery in Gothic-Renaissance style to the south of the ruins of the Benedictine establishment.

During their occupation of the island in the early 19th century the French began work on the construction of the Fort Royal Fortress, which was completed by the Austrians in the 1830s. In 1859 Archduke Maximilian of Austria (later Emperor of Mexico) bought the island with the intention of building a villa in classical style on the ruins of the Benedictine abbey, but only a small part of this work was completed.

Management and Protection

Legal status

Ownership is multiple - state, municipality, church, and private individuals.

The areas in the proposed extension to the World Heritage Site are protected by a series of statutory instruments, including the following:

- Decisions of the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of Dubrovnik Nos. 12-8/1-66 of 15.1.1966, 12-8-3-66 of 10.11.1966, and UP/I-86/1969 of 25.6.1969;
- Law declaring the Island of Lokrum a natural reserve: Decree of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Croatia No. 6113-1963 of 6.4.1963;
- Law on the Rehabilitation of the Monumental Centre of Dubrovnik in Danger: Decree of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Croatia No. 746-1968 of 6.5.1968;
- Order of the Municipal Assembly on the Adoption of the Executive Directive Plan (PUP Contact Zones) No. 350-03/89-01/508 of 23.11.1989;
- Order of the Municipal Assembly on the External Planning of the Town, 25.6.1976.

Management

Different aspects of the management of the historic town are the responsibility of the following organizations:

- Institute for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Monuments of Dubrovnik (Dubrovnik);
- Institute for the Protection of Monuments, Ministry of Culture and Education, Republic of Croatia (Zagreb);
- Assembly of the Commune of Dubrovnik (Dubrovnik).

Associated institutions include:

- Association of the Friends of the Antiquities of Dubrovnik;
- Institute for the Rehabilitation of Dubrovnik;
- Lokrum Nature Reserve.

Conservation

The major monuments, such as the Revelin and Lovrijenac Fortresses, the Kase breakwaters, and the Lazarets, have been extensively documented and restored over many years by the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Monuments of Dubrovnik. Houses in the Pile suburb are covered by the Executive Directive Plan, and full surveys have been made of the more important of them.

Many of the buildings in the proposed extensions suffered damage during the earthquake of 1979, and were included in the major reconstruction programme that began in 1980 under the control of the Institute for the Rehabilitation of Dubrovnik. They suffered again heavily during the bombardment of 1991/1992. This led to the development of a documentation programme by the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Monuments of Dubrovnik, which served as the basis for reconstruction work according to the methodology set out by UNESCO experts.

All the residential, commercial, public, and religious buildings in the extensions are now functioning again, although in some cases the repairs so far carried out are only temporary.

The Law on the Rehabilitation of the Monumental Centre of Dubrovnik in Danger covers these areas in exactly the same way as the old city within the walls, and the same conservation and restoration programmes are applied. The various plans relating to Dubrovnik, at national and local level, all treat these areas in exactly the same way as the old city.

Evaluation

Qualities

The areas proposed for the extension of the existing World Heritage Site are integral to the overall historic cultural monument of the old city of Dubrovnik. In the opinion of ICOMOS, their inclusion would greatly increase the cultural significance of the inscription.

Additional comments

At the 17th Meeting of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee held in Paris in June 1993 (VIII.3) ICOMOS requested that construction of new buildings be avoided in the proximity of the Lovrijenac and Revelin Fortresses, and also proposed that legislation be enforced in order to prevent the construction of high buildings along and close to the coastline, which would spoil the best view of the skyline of the old city of Dubrovnik when approached from the sea. The Rapporteur, in supporting the ICOMOS proposals, requested that measures be taken to limit the use of billboards and neon signs in and around the old city. This is in effect a request for the definition of a buffer zone, with statutory control over development, building heights, etc, which was not requested when the original inscription of the old city on the World Heritage List was made in 1979.

At the time of preparation of this evaluation (27 October 1993) this information had not been supplied by the State Party.

Recommendation

That consideration of this proposal for extension be deferred to await provision by the State Party of satisfactory evidence of an effective buffer zone around the site. In the event of such information being received, ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Site be extended to include the areas indicated in the additional nomination.

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Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

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Many of the buildings in the proposed extensions suffered damage during the earthquake of 1979, and were included in the major reconstruction programme that began in 1980 under the control of the Institute for the Rehabilitation of Dubrovnik. They suffered again heavily during the bombardment of 1991/1992. This led to the development of a documentation programme by the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Monuments of Dubrovnik, which served as the basis for reconstruction work according to the methodology set out by UNESCO experts.

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Authenticity

The buildings in the areas proposed as extensions to the World Heritage Monument have preserved a high degree of authenticity in design and materials.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

Dubrovnik is well known to most of the members of the ICOMOS Bureau, who are familiar with the proposed extensions, and so it was not deemed necessary in this case to send an evaluation mission.

Qualities

The areas proposed for the extension of the existing World Heritage Site are integral to the overall historic cultural monument of the old city of Dubrovnik. In the opinion of ICOMOS, their inclusion would greatly increase the cultural significance of the inscription.

Additional comments

At the 17th Meeting of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee held in Paris in June 1993 (VIII.3) ICOMOS requested that construction of new buildings be avoided in the proximity of the Lovrijenac and Revelin Fortresses, and also proposed that legislation be enforced in order to prevent the construction of high buildings along and close to the coastline, which would spoil the best view of the skyline of the old city of Dubrovnik when approached from the sea. The Rapporteur, in supporting the ICOMOS proposals, requested that measures be taken to limit the use of billboards and neon signs in and around the old city. This is in effect a request for the definition of a buffer zone, with statutory control over development, building heights, etc, which was not requested when the original inscription of the old city on the World Heritage List was made in 1979.

The responsible authorities have now provided details of the buffer zone proposed, which entirely meet the requirements of the Committee and ICOMOS.

Recommendation

That the World Heritage Site be extended to include the areas indicated in the additional nomination.

ICOMOS, October 1994

NEPOSREDNA ZONA SPOMENIČKE JEZGRE
GRADA DUBROVNIKA

ZONE IMMEDIATE DU NOYAU MONUMENTAL
DE LA VILLE DE DUBROVNIK



Dubrovnik : délimitation du site et de la zone tampon /
délimitation of the site and buffer zone