

GERMANY

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin

Brief description

With 500 ha of parks and 150 buildings constructed between 1730 and 1916, Potsdam's complex of palaces and parks forms an artistic whole, whose eclectic nature reinforces its sense of uniqueness. It extends into the district of Berlin-Zehlendorf, with the palaces and parks lining the banks of the River Havel and Lake Glienicke. Voltaire stayed at the Sans-Souci Palace, built under Frederick II between 1745 and 1747.

1. Introduction

Year of Inscription 1990, 1992, 1999

Agency responsible for site management

- Monument Protection Division of the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of Land Brandenburg (Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur des Landes Brandenburg, Referat für Denkmalschutz)
Dortustr. 36
D - 14476 Potsdam
- Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development (Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung Berlin)
Behrenstr. 42
D - 10117 Berlin
website: www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de
- Potsdam City Administration (Stadtverwaltung Potsdam)
Lindenstraße 54/55
D - 14467 Potsdam
e-mail: Denkmalpflege@Rathaus.Potsdam.de
website: www.potsdam.de
- Berlin-Brandenburg Foundation of Prussian Palaces and Gardens (Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg)
Postfach 601462
D - 14414 Potsdam
website: www.spsg.de

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

C (i), (ii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

The National Castles and Parks of Potsdam-Sanssouci represent a self-contained ensemble of architecture and landscape gardening in the 18th and 19th century. This ensemble having an outstanding artistic rank has its origin in the work of the most significant architects and landscape gardeners of their time in North Germany - G.W. von Knobelsdorff, C. v. Gontard, C.G. Langhans, K.F. Schinkel, P.J. Lenné and their cooperators. Together with highly imaginative sculptors, painters, craftsmen, building workers and gardeners, they have created Sanssouci, the New Garden, the Park of Babelsberg and other grounds in the surrounding of Potsdam as an overall work of art of European rank and inter-national standing.

Within a few years of Knobelsdorff's work starting from 1740, the distinct stamp of the Rococo style under Frederick the Great as it went down in art history came out successfully in architecture as well as in the invention of ornaments. A lot of works of those days situated outside Potsdam have been destroyed due to the war. That is why it is only possible to get to know this style here in Potsdam as far as the original substance and a nearly complete presentation of its development in, different phases are concerned. This also refers to the buildings and interiors of the Berlin style of early classicism in a comparable way. Thus, the total loss of the living rooms, and banqueting halls in Berlin enhanced the importance of those rooms and halls which have survived in their precious furnishings in the Castle of Sanssouci, the Marble Palace and the Orangery in the New Garden based on designs of F.W. von Erdmannsdorff, C.von Gontard and C.G. Langhans who had also designed those rooms in Berlin. Schinkel's works in the area of the National Castles and Parks Potsdam-Sanssouci have their origin in various phases of his creations. They have an exemplary influence on architects of his and the subsequent generations at home and abroad. The buildings of the Zaritzi-Island in Peterhof near Leningrad created by A. Stakensneider bear direct reference to the Roman Baths in the Charlottenhof part of Sanssouci Park, to mention just an example.

Buildings created by Schinkel's followers, such as Persius, Stiller, Hesse and von Arnim in the area of the Potsdam Parks reveal the stylistic variety and the artistic powers of the Berlin School of Architecture around the middle of the 19th century.

As late as at the beginning of the First World War, the Castle of Cecilienhof had been completed according to plans submitted by P. Schulze-

Naumburg and in cooperation with significant artisans of that time and represents the latest testimony to the Brandenburg-Prussian castle building tradition.

The works of architecture, sculpture, painting and arts and crafts which are to be found in the area of the National Castles and Parks are mainly of an outstanding rank in terms of art history. Thereby, it is of high value that the works of art have remained at their original locations. The range of the museums belonging to the National Castles and Parks of Potsdam-Sanssouci comprises the Picture Gallery of Frederick II as one of the oldest European museum buildings with an authentic collection and exhibition of paintings, the Palace Museums, the Film Museum in the Marstall (Royal Stables) of the Town Castle, the Historic Memorial Site of the Potsdam Agreement in the Cecilienhof Castle as well as the House for Steam-Driven Engines at the Havel river being a technical museum. Latter includes demonstrations of historical steam-driven engines in a building dating back to 1841 - 1843 and designed by L. Persius with rich decorations in the Moorish sense of taste.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

With its 500 hectares of parks and its 150 constructions spaced over time from 1730 (hunting lodge) to 1916 (Cecilienhof), the ensemble of parks of Potsdam is a cultural property of exceptional quality. ICOMOS recommends its inclusion on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria I, II and IV.

Criterion I. The ensemble of the chateaux and parks of Potsdam is an exceptional artistic achievement whose eclectic and evolutive features reinforce its uniqueness: from Knobelsdorff to Schinkel and from Eyserbeck to Lenné, a series of architectural and landscaping masterpieces have been built within a single space, illustrating opposing and reputedly irreconcilable styles without detracting from the harmony of a general composition, designed progressively over time.

The beginning of construction of Friedenskirche in 1845 is a symbol of deliberate historicism: this "Nazarene" pastiche of San Clemente Basilica in Rome commemorates the laying, on 14 April 1745, of the first stone for Sanssouci, the rococo palace par excellence.

Criterion II. Potsdam-Sanssouci -- frequently called the "Prussian Versailles" -- is the crystallization of a great number of influences from Italy, England, Flanders, Paris and Dresden. A synthesis of art trends in European cities and courts in the 18th

century, the castle and the park offer new models that they have greatly influenced the development of the monumental arts and the organization of space east of the Oder.

Criterion IV. Like Versailles (included on the World Heritage List in 1979), Potsdam-Sanssouci is an outstanding example of architectural creations and Landscaping development associated with the monarchic concept of power within Europe. By the vastness of the program, these royal ensembles belong to the very distinct category of princely residences such as Würzburg and Blenheim (included on the World Heritage List in 1981 and 1987 respectively). The bombing of 14 April 1945 has made it impossible to nominate to the World Heritage List the urban ensemble developed by Frederick William I in two stages: the "first new town", from 1721 to 1725, and the "second new town", beginning in 1733.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1990): the Bureau recommended that this property be included in the List and noted with satisfaction the intention expressed by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the German Democratic Republic to submit a joint nomination concerning the entire site of Potsdam-Sanssouci

Session (1990): the Committee noted with satisfaction that the additional nomination, including the Palaces and Parks of Berlin-Zehlendorf (Glienecke and Pfaueninsel), adds to the coherence of the initial nomination of the Palaces and Gardens of Potsdam-Sanssouci. The Committee pointed out to the German authorities that it would be advisable to include the Sacrow Church and its park in the protected area.

Bureau (1992): the Bureau recommended that the Castle and the Parks of Potsdam and Berlin be extended to include Potsdam, the Park with Sacrow Castle and Sauveur Church.

Session (1992): the Committee decided that the Castle and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin would be extended to include the Park with Sacrow Castle and Sauveur Church.

Bureau (July 1999): the Bureau recommended that this extension to the World Heritage site of the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin should be approved, subject to the provision of maps showing revised boundaries, as agreed with the ICOMOS expert mission. These maps should be submitted by 1 October 1999 for verification by ICOMOS.

Session (1999): the Committee approved this extension to the World Heritage site of the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin, on the World Heritage List under the existing criteria (i), (ii) and (iv).

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- UNESCO's official description: proposal for text has been made by State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- The buffer zone is defined in line with the other protection categories such as the Act on the Protection of Monuments in Berlin, the Berlin Act on the Protection of Nature and various legal instruments

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- Possible impact in the future on the authenticity and/or integrity of the site: extension of the Teltow Canal with possible impact on the bank area of Glienicke Hunting Lodge

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Federal level: Federal Building Code (Baugesetzbuch) and the zoning ordinance (Baunutzungsverordnung); Land Use Plan (Flächennutzungsplan); Brandenburg Law on the Protection of Monuments (Denkmalschutzgesetz)
- Local level: Local Plan (Bebauungsplan); Green Regulation Plan (Grünordnungsplan); Statute on Conservation Areas to protect the World Heritage in Potsdam (Denkmalbereichssatzung)
- EU Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; Landscape protection area: Düppeler Forest
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction (entrance fee), urban centre, national park (or other national protected area), religious use, rural landscape
- Public park area and recreational forest

Management /Administrative Body

- No Steering group: through Periodic Reporting a steering group for both Berlin and Brandenburg was set up to meet regularly and bring together the stakeholders (Monument Protection Division of the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of Land Brandenburg, as the Supreme Authority for the Conservation of Monuments, Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development as the Supreme Authority for the Conservation of Monuments). In December 1999, the Land capital Potsdam and the Berlin-Brandenburg Foundation of Prussian Palaces and Gardens agreed on close cooperation on several issues
- Overall management system: management by the State Party; management under protective legislation; management under contractual agreement between the State Party and a third party; management under traditional protective measures or customary law; consensual management
- No site manager
- Site manager needed and planned
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Establishment of a steering group: preparing for the appointment of a coordinator
- Timeframe: 2007
- Monitoring: regular reviews of the impact of the management system
- Timeframe: 2007

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: January 1995; revised January 2005
- Management plan only exists for the parks/forested areas, for the Park of Klein-Glienecke and Böttcherberg: Parks Service; for Nikolskoe: Cultural Landscape Service
- Adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Land Berlin Office for the Conservation of Monuments

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Federal Republic of Germany, Land Brandenburg, Land Berlin, Artists' Social Fund (KSK), lottery money, City of Potsdam, German Foundation for Monument Conservation (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalpflege), Federal Environment Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt), Cornelsen Foundation (Cornelsen Stiftung), Reemtsa Foundation (Reemtsa-Stiftung), Otto (Otto Konzern), Friends of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens (Freunde der Preußischen Schlösser und Gärten e.V., private foundations and donors
- Sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 500

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: interpretation
- Good: conservation, management, education, visitor management
- Average: promotion

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Cooperation with the specialist departments of Potsdam University and Potsdam University of Applied Science, Cologne University of Applied Science, Hildesheim; Berlin Technical University, Humboldt University Institute of History and Art History (Institut für Geschichte und Kunstgeschichte der Humboldt-University), Art History Seminar Scientific institutions
- Vocational training, symposia on topics relating to monument conservation and tourism management

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: not provided
- Visitor facilities: visitor centre, shops
- Visitor needs: Information and visitor guidance
- Tourism/visitor management plan is being drawn up

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management

- Flora/fauna/habitat/biotope mapping as part of the EU report procedure; Cultural Landscape Service Nikoskloe; studies connected to the value of the sites (for example, Loggia Alexandra), Parks Service Klein-Glienicke and Böttcherberg with expert input on the restoration of the Persius Waterfall in Klein-Glienicke. Hunting Lodge: Archaeological surveys, construction history analysis, materials analysis
- Studies used for research, restoration, conservation, reconstruction, tourism promotion, maintenance and upkeep

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Need for awareness raising: publication on World Heritage
- Tours and seminars concerning buildings, gardens and art history, special events such as International Museums Day, International Heritage Day
- Web sites available

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 17th (1993); 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 22nd (1998); 24th (2000); 25th (2001)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 22nd (1998); 23rd (1999); 24th (2000); 25th (2001); 26th (2002); 27th (2003); 28th (2004)

Conservation interventions

- Numerous conservation and restoration works (reference made to publications)
- Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, environmental pressure, natural disasters, visitor/tourism pressure, forestry regimes
- Specific issues if mentioned: development of area for residential and commercial purposes;

Federal transport planning concerning both roads and the project Deutsche Einheit no. 17; development of waterways; conflicts between nature protection and conservation of gardens given the legal precedence of nature protection; problem due to the planned development of the Teltow Canal, possible impact on the bank area of Glienicke Hunting Lodge; ageing of tree stocks; certified forestry, limited range of newly planted species is against conservation of gardens

- Emergency measures taken: framework planning for the immediate area around the World Heritage site. This planning provides a basis for internal administrative action
- Measures planned: creation of a steering group

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures planned: setting up of steering group

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic
- Strengths of management: comprehensive work with intense financial commitment on the part of public and private donors, above all to catch up on maintenance, restoration and rebuilding projects and to remove traces of Germany's division
- Weaknesses of management: conservation and restoration backlog since 1918 and/or since 1945 has not been entirely overcome
Lack of traffic signposting. In Berlin in part: poor standard of care in parks; building maintenance (garden and small architectural features, paths, system for visitor guidance etc.)

Future actions:

- Financing and conservation: simple conservation steps through job-creation project; restoration of garden features (small buildings, historic Persius Waterfall); basis provided by the Parks Service and the Cultural Landscape Service, where applicable change of ownership
- Timeframe: 2010