

HUNGARY

Old Village of Hollókő and its Surroundings

Brief description

Hollókő is an outstanding example of a deliberately preserved traditional settlement. This village, which developed mainly during the 17th and 18th centuries, is a living example of rural life before the agricultural revolution of the 20th century.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1987

Agency responsible for site management

- Municipality of Hollókő
Hollókő Önkormányzata
3176 – Hollókő
Kossuth L. u. 74.

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (v)

Justification provided by the State Party

III. Le village, monument classé, situé au pied d'une imminence couronnée des ruines d'un château-fort médiéval est l'exemple rare de l'harmonie parfaite de l'environnement naturel et la réalisation architecturale. Les habitants du village témoignent d'une sensibilité pour le paysage exceptionnelle a ce niveau en Hongrie. En même temps ce village est un bon exemple de ce que la protection des monuments attire le tourisme et que les exigences du tourisme ne sont pas en contradiction avec le programme de la sauvegarde des monuments. On a même réussi à satisfaire aux besoins des habitants de Hollókő par l'infrastructure dû au programme de la restauration des biens architecturaux.

On peut donc conclure qu'en dehors de la reconstruction, il est indiqué - même dans un cadre villageois - de développer le centre et de l'équiper de telle sorte qu'il réponde aux exigences de la vie moderne. Pour cela il faut faire appel aussi bien aux constructions anciennes qu'aux constructions modernes harmonieusement associées.

IV. V. L'architecture traditionnelle paysanne est preuve du processus de la créativité humaine, réfléchissant de façon adéquate la teneur idéatique

par la forme externe appropriée aux besoins, fruit d'une longue maturation, dont les variantes nombreuses forment ici un ensemble plus grand dont l'effet esthétique est fort agréable.

Le trait caractéristique des maisons dont l'ancienne agglomération est formée et tout en s'adaptant les unes aux autres (ce qui fait une entité des éléments du Vieux Village), elles gardent leur individualité, des différences, des particularités de formes dans le cadre même de l'uniformité. La liberté de l'expression est donnée.

En Hongrie, la sauvegarde de l'ensemble d'architecture paysanne de Hollókő accompagnée de la sauvegarde de son environnement naturel et de la zone cultivée qui lui appartient, est la première mesure prise dans ce domaine. Cette décision exemplaire démontre fort bien que le paysage et l'agglomération ne font qu'une unité et exigent la sauvegarde de leur connection harmonieuse, leur sauvegarde et réhabilitation conjointe. L'humain et son environnement, le paysage modifié par l'homme, la culture agricole traditionnelle et les plantes de jadis, c'est ce qui est le patrimoine historique à Hollókő, digne à prendre sa place à côté des autres biens architecturaux et culturels qui doivent être préservés.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

In recommending that Hollókő should be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion V of the "Guidelines", ICOMOS wishes to point out clearly the reasons for this decision.

1. Hollókő is not a museum village devoid of any traditional activity but a living community whose conservation not only includes farming activity but also ensures its success.

2. Hollókő provides a certainly exceptional and may be unique example of voluntary conservation of a traditional village with its soil. The plots that were modified by the regrouping of land were returned to their original strip shape within the framework of the 1983 "preserved natural region" project, which is so characteristic of the old system of land occupancy linked with family farming. The vineyards, orchards and vegetable gardens have been recreated, the ecological balance has been restored, even in the forestry environment, taking infinite care to respect historical authenticity.

3. Hollókő not only represents the Palócz sub-group within the Magyar entity, but also bears witness, for the whole of Central Europe, to the traditional forms of rural life which were generally abolished by the agricultural revolution in the 20th century.

Committee Decision

Session (1987): The Committee took note with satisfaction of the statement made by the observer from Hungary who recalled that Hollókő was protected not only by legal provisions but also by the will of all its inhabitants.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Additional changes proposed by State Party include changes to the official description of the site to reflect threats to the site

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- no buffer zone has been defined
- Change to buffer zone proposed by State Party: the State Party hopes to define a buffer zone

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have not been maintained: the traditional agricultural activity is limited; deep demographic crisis of the village; negative impact of the process of indemnification (the re-demise of the producer's cooperative areas) endanger the basis of agricultural activity; the inhabitants of the Old Village are being moved out; the trading with the folklore traditions decreases authenticity; the pressure of external commercial fields (business initiatives don't conform to the criterion of the authentic village)

3. Protection**Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Decree No. 960488/1989 of the Ministry of Transport, Telecommunications, és Construction and by Resolution no. 5840/1989 of Ministry of Education and Culture define borders of Hollókő Region of Landscape Protection.
- The protection arrangements are considered not sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- An Action Plan is needed for the realization of the local protection determined in the Master Plan
- Timeframe: 2006-2007

4. Management**Use of site/property**

- Rural landscape

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group does not exist at this time. There are plans for the establishment of an interdisciplinary working group with representation from relevant ministries
- There is no site manager at this time
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: local
- The current management system is not sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Establishment of a management structure for the World Heritage site.

5. Management Plan

- Management plan: implementation began: January 2005, prepared by staff and consultant and based on the Statement of Significance.
- Issues addressed: authentic delineation and analysis of the changes (unbeneficial effects); drafting of the strategic ends; establishment of a diverse version scenario and analysis of future actions and tendency; establishing management liability and institute coordination; enhancement and revaluation of the value-preservation, and interpreting it in relation to the present tendencies. Available on CD.

6. Financial Resources**Financial situation**

- Budget sources: full budget is incorporated into the budget for the Municipality of Hollókő; some national financing
- Bi-lateral: EU tenders (INTERREG), ORPHEUS
- Insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- number of staff: 12

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

- Good: visitor management
- Average: promotion, interpretation, education
- Bad: conservation, management

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

- Training needs currently not met in the areas of architecture, ethnography, heritage

preservation, tourism, environmental and natural preservation, economics

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: number not given, counted by admission tickets
- Trend: slowly growing
- Visitor facilities: museums (4), gift shops, restaurants and cafes, accommodation

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; studies relating to the value of the site; condition surveys; visitor management; Natural Heritage protection
- Studies used for: evolvement of the Public Housing Program; to preserve the historic buildings area by the help of the regularization and local enactment tools; the Hollókő Public Foundation organizes its tourism services by the Development Plan; initiation of the interested organization coordination; initiation of management organization; action for preserving the ethnic values

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Many signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, businesses, local authorities
- Need for awareness raising: including local authorities in strategic planning, education and training projects
- Events: Annual festivals
- Web site available: through Hollókő Public Foundation
- Local participation: inclusion of local community in projects; establishment of a local heritage club; inclusion in the Management Plan process and related projects

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Conservation: renovation of historic buildings; extension restoration and modernization of the castle ruins

- Present state of conservation: needs more resources

Threats and Risks to site

- Visitors and Tourism
- Specific issues: loss of traditional methods; inadequate tourism management; weakness in value awareness; loss of community identity
- Emergency measures taken: reconciliation of the Old Village as a holiday-village and the living village community through Management Planning (December 2006)

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme exists at this time
- Future indicators to consider: proprietary, demographic, tourism, agricultural protection, employment

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation
- Strengths of management: infrastructure development; renovation of specific historic buildings
- Weaknesses of management: lack of human and financial resources; lack of experts

Future actions:

- Maintain the Living Village character (Management Plan); Reconciliation of the Old Village as holiday-village concept and a living community