

SPAIN

Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct

Brief description

The Roman aqueduct of Segovia, probably built c. A.D. 50, is remarkably well preserved. This impressive construction, with its two tiers of arches, forms part of the setting of the magnificent historic city of Segovia. Other important monuments include the Alcázar, begun around the 11th century, and the 16th-century Gothic cathedral.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1985

Agency responsible for site management

- Town Hall of Segovia and Castilla y León Regional Government

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (iii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

Ségovie, en tant qu'ensemble d'espaces urbains et édifices intégrés dans un paysage et dont la construction s'est étendue sur deux mille ans, répond à tous les critères adoptés par la Commission du Patrimoine mondial et en particulier à quatre des critères nécessaires à leur inscription en tant que biens de « valeur universelle exceptionnelle ». Ce sont les critères (i), (iv), (v) et (vi).

(i) Ségovie représente dans son ensemble une réalisation artistique ou esthétique unique et un chef d'œuvre de l'esprit créateur de l'homme, aux différentes époques et pour les différentes races et cultures qui ont contribué à sa création.

Non seulement du fait de ses monuments pris individuellement, dont l'Aqueduc, la Cathédrale et l'Alcazar, véritables jalons structurels de la ville, mais aussi en raison de la configuration de la nature urbanisée (vallées des fleuves Eresma et Clamores), sa ville fortifiée, qui constituent un paysage d'une valeur remarquable, qui relève précisément de l'esprit créateur et de l'intervention de l'homme.

(iv) Ségovie est le résultat de l'intervention d'un type de structure sociale médiévale et de la Renaissance où coexistent des groupes humains de culture juive, maure et chrétienne qui ont donné naissance à une ville « brillante et magnifique dans un étalage de vie extérieure et féconde, active et riante dans ses manifestations artistiques » comme l'écrit D. Marcelino Menéndez y Pelayo. Non satisfaite de constituer un exemple caractéristique d'un type de structure sociale qui intègre le moyen-âge et la renaissance la ville a développé jusqu'au XVI^e siècle une industrie qui a produit d'innombrables «engins» ou manufactures de drap, monnaie et farines, témoins aujourd'hui exceptionnels de son développement industriel et technologique, couronné au XVIII^e siècle par la «Maison de la Chimie», laboratoire scientifique où le savant Proust établit une de ses lois dans un édifice de correcte façade œuvre de l'architecte Sabatini.

(v) Dans cet ensemble s'intègrent différents styles architectoniques. C'est un exemple type du style architectonique mudéjar, de l'époque d'Enrique IV, et un témoignage de l'architecture industrielle et résidentielle médiévale et de ses techniques de construction particulières (tuiles creuses, structures de bois, etc.) à côté d'une riche architecture de la Renaissance qui utilise le granit et les calcaires de la région. L'intégration de ces éléments lui donne tout son intérêt.

(vi) Ségovie, finalement, est liée aux croyances religieuses et compte un grand nombre d'églises de style roman qui remontent au XI^e siècle, ainsi que des vestiges de synagogues. Ces églises ont créé l'espace urbain autour d'unités urbaines (quartier-paroisses) qui continuent à servir de référence à la structure urbaine actuelle. Ses édifices et espaces urbains sont associés aux souvenirs laissés par des personnages célèbres et des événements importants: Alphonse X le Sage a résidé à l'Alcazar devenu alors un foyer artistique et culturel qui s'est ensuite étendu à l'ensemble de la ville au temps d'Enrique IV. La Reine Dona Isabelle de Castille a été couronnée dans l'église de San Miguel (1474) reine à laquelle on doit la naissance de l'idée d'Etat Moderne; les maisons fortifiées de Ségovie sont un témoignage des luttes des Comuneros (1521).

Les premiers livres imprimés (1472) le furent à Ségovie ce qui souligne l'importance culturelle de la ville. Citons, Juan Parix de Heidelberg, imprimeur, Arias Davila mécène, Andrés Laguna, médecin, polyglotte traducteur du Dioscorides, Domingo de Soto, théologien de Trente, Correa de Araujo, organiste, Juan de la Cruz ascète, sont quelques

noms à porter sur la liste hétérogène des grands noms de notre culture et de l'art de l'époque.

Ces biens sont bien conservés du fait qu'ils ont été utilisés sans interruption tout au long des siècles et entretenus avec des méthodes de construction traditionnelles.

Les biens compris dans cet ensemble répondent aux critères d'authenticité appliqués par les organismes officiels chargés de leur protection depuis qu'ils ont été déclarés monument historique et artistique.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

(July 1985): While ICOMOS extends a warm welcome to a future inclusion of the Aqueduct of Segovia on the World Heritage List, it would prefer to review a proposal concerning the "city of Segovia and its Roman Aqueduct" and considers that the present phrasing is dangerously restrictive. [...] Furthermore, the aqueduct which is a symbol of the city can in no way be divorced from Segovia as a whole.

(November 1985): Segovia, the centre of which is crowded together on the rocky bluff delineated by the confluence of the Eresma and Clamores rivers, comprises an array of monuments which in terms of beauty and exemplary historical significance are truly outstanding. The aqueduct, the Alcazar and the Cathedral are among the major structures which met the requirement of uniqueness (criterion (i)).

But the city as a whole is also indicative of a complex historical reality. Its neighbourhoods, streets and houses are laid out in accordance with a social structure in which hierarchy was overshadowed by the belonging to one of the different cultural communities; Moors, Christians and Jews coexisted for a long time in the medieval city and toiled together during the 16th century manufacturing boom.

Segovia also provides outstanding testimony on a Western city based upon a number of traditions. All the component parts of the built environment, from domestic architecture to the great religious and military structures, can be found here in a broad range of construction techniques and styles.

This property can be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv).

Committee Decision

Bureau (1985): The Bureau recommended the property for inscription on condition that it is

redefined so as to include at the same time the old town which forms with the aqueduct an inseparable whole.

- Does the Statement of Significance adequately define the outstanding universal value of the site? No reply provided

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined but needed
- Other measures include municipal ordinances defining areas around the monuments, Governmental Decree for the delimitation of the picturesque sector

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- General Urban Planning scheme, Spanish Historical Heritage Law, Decrees creating the Historical and Artistic Heritage Commissions, Territorial Cultural Heritage Commissions, Law regarding Cultural Heritage in Castilla y León
- Decrees regarding the declaration of National Monuments and National Historic Artistic Monuments and Cultural Interest Sites
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions taken:

- Work is being carried out on the development of new areas of integrated rehabilitation; Administrative Schemes and a catalogue of buildings at risk

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Urban centre

Management /Administrative Body

- Legal steering group 2003 -2007
- Coordinator on full-time basis, (etc if applicable)
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- A Management Plan

5. Management Plan

- Management plan under preparation
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Town Hall of Segovia and the Castilla y León Regional Government

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- State, regional and municipal funding
- Private institutions, savings bank
- The Jewish Quarter as an Area of Integral Rehabilitation (Spanish acronym ARI)
- Extra funding for Rehabilitation of the Aqueduct, Preventive Conservation (2004)
- Sufficient for management, not sufficient for the protection and conservation of the site

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 4

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

- Good: conservation, management, promotion
- Average: interpretation, education, visitor management
- Support of regular volunteers through Advisory Support in History and Art

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

- Training on site management

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 1,000,000 (Tourist office)
- Trend: rising
- Visitor facilities: Visitors Centre (Tourist Office) Information Centre at the Segovia Wall; Learning Centre in the Jewish Quarter; Synagogue; Tourist information area
- Visitor management plan: www.aytosegovia.com
- Visitor needs: more hotel rooms

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, studies related to the value of the site, monitoring exercises, condition

surveys, impact of WH designation, archaeological surveys

- Studies used for management of site, visitor management, transportation studies
- Preventive Conservation Scheme for the Aqueduct; awareness heightening campaigns; catalogue of buildings in danger or in ruins

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, local authorities
- Need for awareness raising campaign
- Heritage days; Celebration of "Heritage Cities' Day" for the 20th anniversary. -Segovia in Roman times (re-creation of life in the city 2000 years ago). El Ladrón de Voces (theatrical representation to familiarise people with the Romanesque)
- Web site available
- Local participation: Participation in cultural heritage activities is fostered through the Heritage Forum

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 21st (1997)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 21st(1997); 29th (2005); 30th (2006)

Conservation interventions

- Aqueduct Restoration (2000); Cathedral Restoration
- Integral Rehabilitation Plan focusing on the Jewish Quarter
- Renovation of infrastructure in the Historic Quarter.
- Present state of conservation: Needs more resources

Threats and Risks to site

- Environmental, development pressures, natural resources, number of inhabitants, visitor/tourism pressure
- Specific issues mentioned include landscape quality, pathologies affecting the urban image, the state of conservation of vernacular architecture; the quality of life of traditional

population; public spaces and traffic control;
control of tourism activity impacts;
archaeological precautionary measures

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Future indicators to consider:
 - Landscape quality
 - State of conservation of vernacular architecture
 - Living standard of the traditional population
 - Conditions regarding the use of public areas
 - Traffic control in the city (through-traffic and parking)
 - Control of tourist activity impact on the urban scene and its day-to-day functioning.
 - Archaeological control and research

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic, management
- Strengths of management: Positive initiatives in terms of protection and restoration have been implemented over the years (Aqueduct, Cathedral, some Romanesque churches, improvements in the Eresma and Clamores valleys, Declarations of Cultural Interest Sites) and improvement in living standards such as the ARI
- Weaknesses of management: Pressure from urban speculative buying; Lack of budgetary resources for conservation and rehabilitation

Future actions:

- The city of Segovia's new Urban Planning Scheme; declaration of new ARI; management plans