

# SPAIN

## Old City of Salamanca

### Brief description

This ancient university town north-west of Madrid was first conquered by the Carthaginians in the 3rd century B.C. It then became a Roman settlement before being ruled by the Moors until the 11th century. The university, one of the oldest in Europe, reached its high point during Salamanca's golden age. The city's historic centre has important Romanesque, Gothic, Moorish, Renaissance and Baroque monuments. The Plaza Mayor, with its galleries and arcades, is particularly impressive.

### 1. Introduction

**Year of Inscription**

**1988**

### Agency responsible for site management

Local Zoning Department (City of Salamanca),  
Manuel García-Conde Angoso, Municipal  
Architect, City of Salamanca  
Mailing Address(es)  
E-mail:  
Website:

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria**

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

### Justification provided by the State Party

La Ville historique de Salamanca comme ensemble d'espaces urbains et édifices de valeur, est construite le long de deux mille ans et répond aux critères adoptés par la Commission du Patrimoine Mondial en tant que biens de "valeur universelle exceptionnelle".

L'importance culturelle de Salamanca tourne autour de trois aspects fondamentalement qui répondent aux critères i, iv et vi.

*(i) 1. Importance historique de la ville.*

Salamanca fut une des premières villes du plateau espagnol connues par les historiens de l'Antiquité.

La ville s'élève sur une colline délimitée par le ruisseau de Santo Domingo et le ruisseau de la Palma.

Ces limites naturelles furent la base de la première enceinte fortifiée.

Lors de la domination romaine, Salamanca devient un important centre commercial étant donné ses spéciales caractéristiques d'accès et de défense.

La "Via de la Plata", une des chaussées romaines les plus importantes traverse la ville. A son entrée se construit le Pont Romain.

Après une époque de décadence lors de la domination musulmane au XII<sup>ème</sup> siècle commence le repeuplement de la ville qui atteint son plus grand essor durant le règne des Rois Catholiques. Sous son mandat commence la construction de la Nouvelle Cathédrale et l'édifice de l'université qui prend un nouvel élan.

Dans cette époque-là, les représentants de la noblesse, des lettres et du clergé les plus importants habitent à Salamanca.

Salamanca devient la ville renaissance par antonomase. A l'essor de la ville contribue l'ambiance universitaire favorable à la communication des idées humanistes, la richesse produite par le commerce de la laine et la puissance latifundiaire de la noblesse.

Cristobal Colón arriva à Salamanca à la fin de 1484, après que ses propositions devant le Conseil de Córdoba eurent échoué. Il fut accueilli dans le couvent de San Esteban, quand son protecteur était Fray Diego de Deza.

Aux XVIII<sup>ème</sup> et XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècles se produit un important décroissement de la population à cause de la crise du pouvoir religieux et de l'Université, et à la guerre de l'Indépendance.

A la fin du XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècle commence un accroissement et développement de Salamanca qui est continué jusque nos jours.

*(ii) 2. Valeurs historiques-artistiques de la Cité de Salamanca.*

La ville historique de Salamanca est structurée autour de l'axe de la « Via de la Plata ». Dès le Pont Romain apparaît la silhouette de la ville, dans laquelle se distinguent les monuments de la Cathédrale, la Clerencia et le Couvent de San Esteban. Dans l'eau du fleuve Tormes se reflètent les tours et les ciboriums de l'ensemble monumental.

La plupart du tracé urbain date du Moyen Age. Les zones et édifices monumentales ont configuré une image caractéristique de la ville, avec des espaces de grande qualité visuelle, qui combinent la valeur architectonique avec le tracé intéressant. On remarque comme espaces urbains les suivants:

- La rue de Libreros, la rue Compañía, place de Colón, les environnements des cathédrales, la Rivière du Pont et la Plaza Mayor.

Salamanca présente une variété des styles représentés par le Pont Romain, le roman de la Ancienne Cathédrale et d'autres églises, le gothique de la Nouvelle Cathédrale et de San Esteban, le mudéjar de l'église de Santiago, l'Université et le couvent des Ursulas, la Renaissance avec le Palais de Monterrey, la Casa de la Salina et spécialement le plateresque dont l'ouvre culminante est la façade de l'Université. L'Art Baroque est représenté par le Palais de Anaya.

A côté de sa valeur architectonique et ambientale, la ville de Salamanca abrite d'importantes œuvres de sculpture et peinture.

*(iv) et (vi). Université de Salamanca.*

Sa fondation comme Ecole Générale eut lieu en 1218, étant une des universités le plus anciennes du monde.

Pendant les XV<sup>e</sup> et XVI<sup>e</sup> siècles atteint son plus grand essor ayant vingt neuf écoles parfaitement fournies, en plus des Ecoles Majeures et Mineures, soixante-dix chaires et plus de douze mille élèves.

Dans cette époque-la de nombreux personnages, illustres y étudièrent tels que Antonio de Nebrija, Fray Luis de Leon, Beatriz Galindo, Francisco de Vitoria, Francisco de Salinas, Lope de Vega, Cóngora et Calderón de la Barca.

La bibliothèque de l'Université a 180.000 volumes publiés depuis le XVIII<sup>e</sup> jusqu'à nos jours. Dans l'ancien salon existent 40.000 volumes des XVI<sup>e</sup> au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle et 3.600 manuscrits.

#### **As provided in ICOMOS evaluation**

(May 1987): The sector that as been retained comprises solely the central area of the ancient city intra muros and the Roman bridge, and excluded such important monuments as the Collegio de los Irlandeses and the Chapel of Vera Cruz to the west; San Marcos, San Juan de Barbalos, the convent of Corpus Cristi... [...] A newly defined nomination, together with precise and credible commitments, should be submitted to the Committee.

(July 1988): ICOMOS recommends that Salamanca be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i), (ii) and (iv).

- Criterion (i). The Plaza Mayor of Salamanca, built as a result of a state decision by King Philip V in 1710, is a unique artistic achievement in Baroque

art. Begun in 1729 according to plans drawn up by Alberto de Churriguera, and finished in 1755 by Andrés Garcia de Quinones, and with contributions from Nicolas de Churriguera and José de Lara de Churriguera, it is one of the most important urban ensembles of 18th-century Europe.

- Criterion (ii). With the Plaza Mayor, the Clerecia (the Jesuit seminary), the college of Calatrava, the Colegio San Ambrosio and the churches of San Sebastian and Santa Cruz de Canizares, not to mention the New Cathedral and San Esteban, Salamanca is one of the essential centres of the art of a dynasty of architects, decorators and sculptors from Catalonia, the Churriguera. The "churrigueresque" style exerted considerable influence in the 18th century not only in the Iberian Peninsula but also in the countries of Latin America.

- Criterion (iv). Although founded later than those of Bologna, Paris and Oxford, the University of Salamanca had already established itself in 1250 as one of the best in Europe. It conserves an admirable architectural heritage which illustrates the diverse functions of the University institution in the Christian world. With the Hospital del Estudio, the Escuelas Mayores, the Escuelas Menores and the various colleges which multiplied between the 15th and the 18th centuries, it forms a group of exceptional coherence within a historic city otherwise remarkable for its numerous civil and religious monuments.

#### **Committee Decision**

Bureau (1987): The Bureau recommended that the examination of this property be deferred until the nomination has been reformulated, and that there is evidence of a commitment to an overall policy to safeguard the architectural heritage of Salamanca. The Bureau requested that a comparative study be carried out on the university towns of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance (see also paragraph 16).

Session (1987): The Committee noted that the complementary file on Salamanca presented by the Spanish authorities responded satisfactorily to the requests formulated by the Bureau. The Committee decided to reconsider this site at its next session, when it had examined the results of the comparative studies on the university towns of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance requested by the Bureau.

Bureau (1988): The Bureau recommended inscription of Salamanca, the perimeter of which has been extended, in accordance with the wishes

of the Committee in 1987, and the exemplary nature of which clearly emerged from the comparative study carried out by ICOMOS on the old European university cities. The Bureau recommended that the Committee request the Spanish authorities to take all possible steps to ensure that the laws concerning the protection of the town be strictly applied.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

#### **Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

#### **Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### **3. Protection**

#### **Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- National and regional heritage legislation
- Special Plan for the Protection and Interior Renovation of the Old University Campus and Historic-Artistic District of Salamanca of 1984
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

### **4. Management**

#### **Use of site/property**

- Urban centre, museum

#### **Management /Administrative Body**

- Territorial and Municipal Heritage Commission
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

#### **Actions proposed:**

- Improve the coordination the actions carried out by the different administrations

### **5. Management Plan**

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 1984
- Adequately effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and

monitoring its effectiveness: Local Zoning Department, City of Salamanca

### **6. Financial Resources**

#### **Financial situation**

- National Administration; Regional, Provincial and municipal administration
- Private entities
- European Investment Bank
- Sufficient

### **7. Staffing Levels**

- Number of staff: 1
- Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:  
Good: conservation; management  
Average: promotion; interpretation; education; visitor management

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

- Not provided

### **9. Visitor Management**

- Visitor statistics: 204130 ( Municipal Tourism Office visitor data), 2004
- Visitor facilities: Information Point with handicapped access, rest areas, announcement panels, and merchandising zones
- Visitor needs: Visitors reception area

### **10. Scientific Studies**

- Risk assessment, studies related to the value of the sites, monitoring exercises, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management
- Other: Mobility plan

### **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

- Heritage days: Salamanca European Cultural Capital 2002, Celebration of 250 years of Plaza Mayor
- Website: [www.aytosalamanca.es](http://www.aytosalamanca.es)

### ***12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)***

#### **Reactive monitoring reports**

- World Heritage Committee sessions: 26th (2002); 27th (2003); 28th (2004); 29th (2005); 30th (2006)

#### **Conservation interventions**

- Recent archaeological excavations
- Present state of conservation: adequate

#### **Threats and Risks to site**

- Development pressures
- Specific issues: Pressure from shopkeepers in the city centre for the creation of new public parking areas
- Emergency measures taken: mobility plan

### ***13. Monitoring***

- No formal monitoring programme

### ***14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions***

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic
- Strengths of management: Increased perceived value of the city's heritage and history, higher consciousness on the part of management bodies; rise in the number of visitors; city's international prestige enhanced
- Weaknesses of management: As in all urban historic centres, the greatest difficulty lies in striking the right balance between heritage conservation and adaptation to the needs and lifestyles of today's inhabitants, which requires constant study and investment

#### **Future actions:**

- Raising public awareness, improved funding, management