

SWEDEN

Royal Domain of Drottningholm

Brief description

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm stands on an island in Lake Mälaren in a suburb of Stockholm. With its castle, perfectly preserved theatre (built in 1766), Chinese pavilion and gardens, it is the finest example of an 18th-century north European royal residence inspired by the Palace of Versailles.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1991

Agency responsible for site management

- The Royal court of Sweden, The Office of the Royal Palaces, The Drottningholm Palace Administration
Drottningholms slott
178 02 Drottningholm
e-mail: Jacob.lagercrantz@royalcourt.se
website: www.royalcourt.se
- The National Property Board
Box 118
178 02 Drottningholm
e-mail: rolf.karlsson@sfv.se
website: www.sfv.se
- The Court Theater
Box 15417
104 65 Stockholm
e-mail: dst@dtm.se
website: www.drottningholmsslottsteater.dtm.se
- Ekerö Municipality
Box 205
178 23 Ekerö
e-mail: kommunstyrelsen@ekero.se
website: www.ekero.se

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

Drottningholm Palace with its different buildings, parks and grounds is a unique ensemble in Sweden. In the totality there are two buildings of worldwide interest:

A) The Court Theatre and B) The Chinese Pavilion.

A) The Court Theatre

The exterior of the building is an exquisite example of Scandinavian design with pure simplicity in its form. The interior with the auditorium, stage area and dressing rooms in three storeys are almost unaltered since the 1760s, not even a restoration in the true sense has taken place.

The stage machinery, capable of producing all stage effects required by the eighteenth century repertoire, is still in function (cat. p. 20). Upwards of thirty more or less complete stage sets have also survived. Beside its esthetical values the theatre is unique in the true sense of the word because of its authentic condition and together with the theatre of Gripsholm Castle it ranks as the best preserved eighteenth century theatre today and is therefore an invaluable source of knowledge concerning the theatrical culture of the eighteenth century.

B) The Chinese Pavilion

The pavilion reflects the European taste for chinoiserie of the eighteenth century. The combination of a French inspired architecture, interiors showing the European dream of China and more authentic Chinese interiors gives altogether visitors today a unique chance to study this trend à la mode of the eighteenth century.

The Chinese Pavilion ranks as one of, or maybe the most, interesting survivals of its kind from the eighteenth century Europe. Despite four restorations no major changes have ever been made in the pavilion except for the curved galleries. The aim of the restorations have always been the maintenance of the building. When the Swedish state purchased the pavilion in 1777, only a decade after the completion of the building, a detailed inventory was made. The major part of the rich collections mentioned in this inventory can still be found in the pavilion today. In other words, the Chinese pavilion and its collections have remained virtually intact during the past 300 years.

As provided in ICOMOS/IUCN evaluation

ICOMOS observations: the World Heritage Bureau in June 1991 recommended inscription of the entire Royal Estate of Drottningholm, provided the Swedish authorities could confirm that the proposal for inscription included the entire royal domain, not just the palace. Confirmation was received in a letter dated October 8, 1991. Accordingly, ICOMOS is pleased to confirm its support for the nomination.

ICOMOS Recommendation: that this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criterion IV.

- Criterion IV. The ensemble of Drottningholm - castle, theatre, Chinese pavilion and gardens - is the best example of a royal residence built in the 18th century in Sweden and is representative of all European architecture of that period, heir to the influences exerted by the Chateau of Versailles on the construction of royal residences in western, central and northern Europe.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1991): the Bureau recommended the inscription of the entire Royal Estate of Drottningholm, subject to receipt of confirmation from the Swedish authorities before the special session in December 1991.

- Statement of Significance does not adequately define and reflect the outstanding universal value of the site
- Text proposed by State Party
- UNESCO official description of site should be improved; State Party has provided suggestion

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: not adequate
- Buffer zone: no buffer zone has been defined
- A buffer zone is being defined

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- No foreseen changes

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- The Cultural Heritage Edict (SFS 1988: 1229) "Förordningen om statliga byggnadsminnen"
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction (entrance fee); main residence for the Swedish royal family, protected historical building and recreational area, theatre performances.

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: the function is to coordinate work between the main responsible bodies at the site
- Formally constituted
- Management by the State Party, management under protective legislation

- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national
- The current management system is not sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- No management plan
- New management plan will be completed and adopted: December 2006
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: the Royal court of Sweden, the Office of the Royal Palaces, the Drottningholm Palace Administration

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- The property is funded by annual state allowances, through the Palace Administration, the Court Theatre and the National Heritage Board. In addition, a certain amount of work is performed by the Royal Collection and the National Heritage Board annually without being specified in economic terms
- Extra funding has not been drawn from World Heritage status
- Funding available for the adequate management of the site: insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 6

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

- Good: conservation, management, promotion; interpretation; education; visitor management.

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

- There are off-site museum conservation facilities. The theater has no specialized expertise, training and services on or off-site

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 700,000 in 2004 – trend: stable. Visitors to the court theatre performances are declining as a result of lack

of funding, therefore fewer performances are held

- Visitor facilities: cafes, restaurants, parking spaces, toilets, 2 gift shops. There are also parking spaces and toilets for disabled, permanent information boards and folders that inform the visitors about the property and its history. When occasional projects such as the regeneration of the linden alleys are performed there are temporary information boards set up. In addition, in the Watch-Tent is a Park and Building Museum for which there is no entrance fee. In 2002 electric buses were introduced for visitors transport between the Palace and the Chinese Pavillion which successfully increased the number of visitors at the Chinese Pavillion
- No tourism/visitor management plan

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, studies related to the value of the site, condition surveys, visitor management, basic research and highly specialized research
- The results of the scientific studies and surveys are disseminated in different ways such as books and reports etc.

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- No signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Not adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses; local authorities
- Need for awareness raising
- No special events/exhibitions concerning the site's World Heritage status
- No web site available
- No local participation

Education, information and awareness building activities

- There has been collaboration with the Drottningholm School in developing an educational programme

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- An overall attitude to conservation, maintenance and restoration works is that traditional

techniques and materials should be used. In addition to that, great respect for the original materials is of vital importance and that an exchange of material should be avoided as long as possible. Likewise is the respect for style ideals of different epochs including earlier made restoration works important. Since 1991, when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, a number of restoration projects have been carried out on: the Palace of Drottningholm, the court theatre, the Chinese Pavilion, Museum de Vries, the Park and Gardens

- Present state of conservation: patchy

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure; visitor/tourism pressure
- Specific issues if mentioned: The property is to a certain degree threatened by development pressure caused by the present road situation. The existing main road from Stockholm to the Mälaren Islands that runs right through the property poses a major threat. This road has existed at least since the 17th century and has, due to the increasing traffic, been widened at several occasions. During the peak hours, traffic jam frequently occurs. Solving this problem by widening the road once again does not seem to be consistent with the World Heritage convention since it would easily entail further encroachment on the property. Due to the limited access there is also a problem to reach Drottningholm in an emergency situation. If the nearby bridge on the main road from Stockholm - Nockebybron - is out of order, this would mean that the only existing connection would be cut off. In case of a major fire this could lead to disastrous consequences since the local fire brigade of Ekerö municipality has no capacity for such a scenario. The other infrastructure threat is the construction of "Förbifart Stockholm" that might affect the westernmost parts of the property. This is a motorway - or outer ring - connecting the northern and southern parts of the Stockholm Region. Although no fixed plans still exists and the planning perspective is more than ten years, it can be foreseen that all possible alternatives, tunnels included, will entail construction activities which may cause large landscape changes that will affect the property itself and its buffer zone

13. Monitoring

- No monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: There are plans to develop key indicators for monitoring how the

outstanding universal value of the site is being sustained, as part of the management plan

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic, cultural awareness
- Strengths of management: major conservation measures
- Weaknesses of management: there is no management committee that focuses on World Heritage issues

Future actions:

- Management plan: as a part of constructing a management plan these issues are being addressed
- Timeframe: December 2006
- Activity does not require funding from World Heritage Fund