

Turkey

City of Safranbolu

Brief description

From the 13th century to the advent of the railway in the early 20th century, Safranbolu was an important caravan station on the main East-West trade route. The Old Mosque, Old Bath and Süleyman Pasha Medrese were built in 1322. During its apogee in the 17th century, Safranbolu's architecture influenced urban development throughout much of the Ottoman Empire.

1. Introduction

Year of Inscription 1994

Agency responsible for site management

- Ministry of Culture and Tourism
General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii) (iv) (v)

Justification provided by the State Party

ii) Safranbolu is a city must preserve with all values in it; monuments, sites, groups of buildings, historical shopping area and it has an important homogeneity among these. It is a typical Ottoman city had came today. The city has also interesting landscape, with topography, natural structure and historical area. All of these are together in the city.

iv) Architectural forms and plans of buildings have kindly characters. Also the streets show different structures.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS recommends that this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria ii, iv, and v:

Criterion ii: By virtue of its key role in the caravan trade over many centuries, Safranbolu enjoyed great prosperity and as a result it set a standard in public and domestic architecture that exercised a

great influence on urban development over a large area of the Ottoman Empire.

Criterion iv: The caravan trade was for centuries the main commercial link between the Orient and Europe. As a result, towns of a characteristic type grew up along its route. With the coming of railways in the 19th century, these towns abruptly lost their *raison d'être*, and most of them were adapted to other economic bases. Safranbolu was not affected in this way and as a result has preserved its original form and buildings to a remarkable extent.

Criterion v: The collapse of the caravan trade had a catastrophic effect on Safranbolu. Its proximity to the Karabuk steelworks has given it a new socio-economic role, but it is still vulnerable to external pressures, and so continuous efforts must be made to preserve the traditional townscape.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1992): The Bureau recommended the inscription of this property, but requested the competent Turkish authorities to transmit to ICOMOS a plan clearly showing the boundary of the site proposed for inscription, as well as additional information on the village mosques. Furthermore, the Bureau requested ICOMOS to also take into consideration the possibility of applying criterion (iv) for the inscription of this property.

Session (1992): The Turkish authorities have not yet replied to the Bureau's request for further information concerning the boundaries of the site and on certain monuments. The Committee decided to defer inscription of this cultural property until this information was made available.

Bureau (December 1994): The Committee at its sixteenth session deferred this nomination until information on the boundaries of the site was provided. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that this information had been provided and that it considered the proposed boundaries to be adequate. It also made reference to the adequate protection and management of the nominated site and recommended inscription under criteria (ii), (iv) and (v).

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the property under criteria (ii), (iv) and (v).

- No information available on whether the Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site

- Need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the Statement of Significance
- Short new Statement of Significance is proposed: "A unique illustration of typical Ottoman city survived on East and West Caravan route after the construction of the railways in 17th century"

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined, is not needed

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Being declared as an "urban site to be conserved", it is subject to the Conservation Legislation
- Amendments to the Conservation Legislation provide financial support for preservation investments to the local authorities and private owners of buildings
- Protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions taken/proposed

- "Conservation, implementation and monitoring units" will be established within the local authorities in accordance with the revised conservation legislation
- Small scale environmental design projects are needed
- Financial aid for the owners' needs have to be organized

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Urban centre

Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group
- No site manager/coordinator
- Levels of public authority primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional and local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed

- A management plan will be prepared in accordance with the revised legislation
- Studies related to the establishment of "Geographic Information System" are being carried out for a more efficient management

5. Management Plan

- No management plan, but will be prepared

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- No core funding; every year state funds are allocated for various purposes (infrastructure and conservation projects) to the related bodies within the site
- Funding provided by state budget, municipality and private foundations
- Funding is insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: no information

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

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

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

- There is a faculty of architecture and vocational high school on restoration in Safranbolu

9. Visitor Management

- No visitor statistics available
- All kinds of services and facilities are provided for the visitors throughout the site
- Visitor needs: none

10. Scientific Studies

- Condition surveys, visitor management
- Studies for the establishment of "Geographic Information System"

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among visitors, local communities, businesses and local authorities
- Symposiums are organized on conservation by the university in order to increase public awareness
- An organisation was to be held in Safranbolu in November 2005 concerning World Heritage cities, namely the "Development of Cultural Tourism in the World Heritage Cities in Eurasia"
- Web site available
- Not provided. The State Party, during the datasheet review process added that: the local population is a part of the management system through the local municipality parliament and NGO's.

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Restoration of various monuments such as Cinci Han, Hükümet Konagi, mosques, restoration of various traditional houses for tourist accommodations, restoration of fountains on the streets, infrastructure implementations, etc.
- Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, visitor/tourism pressure, lack of infrastructure
- Trend to renovate houses for tourist accommodation
- Heavy traffic and parking problems

Measures taken/proposed

- Revision of conservation plan needed to fulfil tourist demands; Management plan needed; Juridical modifications to create new financial resources; Completion of the infrastructure implementations carried out by the municipality

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of World Heritage status: conservation, social and economic
- Strengths of management: awareness raising of the local people regarding conservation; economic development as a result of tourism development; worldwide recognition of the site
- Weaknesses of management: lack of infrastructure; lack of financial resources; seasonal migration of the citizens; short stays of tourists

Future actions:

- Studies are carried out by the local government to diversify the tourism activities and thus increase the duration of staying throughout the year
- A management plan will be prepared
- Local conservation, implementation and monitoring units will be established in municipalities