



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### State Party

Federal Republic of Germany

### State, Province or Region

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

### Name of nominated property

Schwerin Residence Ensemble

### Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

The Schwerin Palace was chosen as the geographical data reference point, accurate to the nearest second.

Coordinates 53° 37' 27" N, 11° 25' 8" O

### Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property

The nominated property comprises the integral buildings, parks and public spaces of the SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE. The SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE, which was formed, initiated or approved by the Dukes and Grand Dukes of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, is an exceptionally sophisticated and well-preserved ensemble of monarchic architecture. The administrative, ceremonial and symbolic buildings of the Grand Duchy are concentrated around the Palace, the Palace Garden and the Old Garden square, as well as around the *Pfaffenteich* and in parts of the *Schelfstadt* and *Paulsstadt* districts. The area is located at the centre of the city of Schwerin and is thus an integral part of the city centre.

The nominated property extends over almost three kilometres with a slight northwest/southeast axis, from the end of the Palace Garden (Johannes-Stelling-Strasse/Lennéstrasse) up to the Bürgermeister-Bade-Platz in the north. The width varies between around 300 meters in the *Pfaffenteich* area and around 1.5 km between the Grand Ducal Hunters' Lodge and *Adebors Näs*. A small section in the city centre between the two larger sections is approximately 150 meters wide.

The central element of the Residence Ensemble is the Palace with its island location in Lake Schwerin. The core of the Ensemble also includes manor houses for the relatives of the Dukes and Grand Dukes. Other cultural and sacred buildings lie within sight of the Palace. Among these is the Museum with Curator's Mansion and the adjacent Grand Ducal Court Theatre with Scenery Store and Machine House opposite the Palace. St Paul's Church and the Schwerin Cathedral are both in direct

line of sight of the Palace. The cathedral and St Nikolai Church served as the place of burial for the Dukes and Grand Dukes. Administrative functions, originally located in the Palace, moved into the city to be housed in Administration Buildings I and II, the Grand Ducal Estate Office, Grand Ducal Administration Building and State Archives. Service infrastructure for the Grand Ducal household such as the Linen and Bedding Chamber and the Royal Stables (Marstall) also moved to independent buildings in the city and can still be experienced as part of the Residence Ensemble.

The military buildings, created at the behest of the Duke and managed by the German Empire, are located prominently on a hill above the Palace Garden.

### Boundaries of the buffer zone

The nominated property is located on the south-west shore of the *Schweriner Innensee* (Inner Lake). A buffer zone has been defined which aims to protect the integrity and authenticity of the nominated property. As Schwerin is situated by one large and several smaller lakes, the protection of sight lines across these waters is of particular importance. In the compact city centre, the buffer zone defines a protection area of approximately 100 to 1000 meters surrounding the nominated property. To the east, the entire lake *Schweriner Innensee* is part of the buffer zone, ensuring uninterrupted views across the lake. The buffer zone here extends to around 5.2 km from the eastern shore of the lake to *Raben Steinfeld* and 7 km to the northern tip of the *Schweriner Innensee* near *Rampe*. Almost the entire area of the buffer zone and all of the *Schweriner Innensee* (26.4 km<sup>2</sup>) are part of and administered by the State Capital Schwerin. Additionally, the buffer zone also includes small adjacent areas in the municipalities of *Raben Steinfeld* and *Görslow* (both of the district *Ludwigslust-Parchim*).

The boundaries in the built-up city centre were selected so as to ensure the nominated property is protected from negative impacts of future building construction or changes in traffic management infrastructure. For the safeguarding of the nominated property the boundaries (of the nominated property and the buffer zone) are recognised and respected by all actors involved in both the planning process and day-to-day use. The nominated property and its buffer zone are to be adopted in the existing land-use planning instruments, in particular the land development plan in accordance with Section 5 (4) of the Building Code.

◀ Map of nominated property and buffer zone

## Criteria under which property is nominated

(iii), (iv)

## Cultural Landscape

No

## Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### a) Brief synthesis

The SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE in the north-west of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania reveals itself as an **exceptionally well-preserved and multifaceted Residence Ensemble** in terms of both function and buildings. It displays a complex Residence infrastructure including independent buildings for government and administration, culture and education, sacred buildings, military and court suppliers. Through fundamental alterations and extensions during the 19th century, the **Schwerin Residence Palace** emerged not only as an example of historicism as a whole, but also as an **outstanding historicist Residence Palace building**, whose modification and development in the 19th century created a uniquely picturesque scenario of an island palace lost in reverie. One of the most outstanding aspects of the SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE is the **staging of the Palace and the Residence Ensemble in the landscape**. With the Palace at the centre, this orchestration in the landscape applies to countless other features of the Ensemble. The SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE exhibits **continuous stylistic development up to modernity**. Furthermore, it exhibits significant **features and heraldic motifs that evidence the monarchy**. The Throne Apartment, the only one of its kind still in its original condition, with the THRONE ROOM, the GALLERY OF ANCESTORS and the PALACE GALLERY, forms the centrepiece of monarchic symbolism, conveying continuity through representations of genealogy. Additionally, the SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE exhibits a partial **recourse to regional historical stylistic forms and symbols as legitimization of power**. Many components of the Ensemble, especially the Palace, display references to

the JOHANN-ALBRECHT-STYLE, a regional variation of the Renaissance, thereby validating continuity of local cultural identity. The highlight of this symbolic demonstration of dynastic continuity is the monumental equestrian statue of NIKLOT († 1160), the founder of the dynasty, located below the main dome of the Palace.

### b) Criteria

#### Criterion (iii)

With its exceptionally cohesive state of preservation, the SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE is a testament to monarchial tradition and symbolism that illustrates continuous development from the early 18th century, through main building activities in the 19th century until the end of the monarchy in 1918. The Mecklenburg-Schwerin dynasty derived its claim to rule from the medieval Slavic Obotrite princes and throughout history maintained its local seat of power. The Residence Ensemble was intended to represent the power of the monarchy, to justify it theologically, but also to contain and maintain its functions. Numerous components provide impressive references to the dynastic history of the House of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. This claim to legitimacy and cultural continuity can be experienced in numerous and varied examples of architectural and symbolic references to regional history. Significant features such as the Throne Apartment and countless heraldic symbols refer to the dynasty, as do the 19th century Neo-Renaissance reference to the local JOHANN-ALBRECHT-STYLE and examples of symbolic representation such as the monumental Niklot statue. Until the end of monarchial rule in 1918, the dynasty remained the centre of power in a society that became increasingly diverse, especially during the 19th century. As a result, the Ensemble preserves an architectural image of a society caught between tradition and progress.

#### Criterion (iv)

The SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE is exceptional in its quality of preservation and in the cohesiveness of its multifaceted and interconnected architectural components. It is a prime example of a 19th century European

Royal Residence with planned development continuing into the early 20th century. It illustrates an intricate group of buildings that express and function as monarchial symbolism, religious legitimation, state administration, service infrastructure and military power. Schwerin Palace itself is an outstanding highlight of European historicist Residence Palace architecture in the 19th century. The Palace and especially those buildings surrounding the Old Garden square, are orchestrated within the topography of Lake Schwerin. The Ensemble illustrates continuous stylistic development from the 18th century to early modernism. By adopting the respective current trends but also by reverting to older regional forms, the monarchy sought to present itself as both tradition-conscious and open to innovation. The interaction of functional, ceremonial and symbolic use characterises this architectural Ensemble as an outstanding example of a Residence Ensemble of the 18th and 19th centuries, which is both sophisticated in terms of its architecture, design, and function, but also exceptionally comprehensive in terms of its range, cohesiveness and preservation.

### c) Statement of Integrity

All conditions for the nominated property SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE are fulfilled. The architectural Ensemble is of sufficient scale and can fully represent the characteristics and processes that bestow the property its special significance. The Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Monument Protection Act (DSchG M-V) protects all objects and lines of sight within the nominated property. This ensures visual, structural, and functional integrity.

### d) Statement of Authenticity

The SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE has survived largely intact and in rare cohesion. It illustrates in exemplary manner not only the architectural movements and styles of a significant period of human history, but also the infrastructure and functions of a Residence. It suffered no wartime damage and is fully preserved along with all its components, clearly demonstrating its former use and function.

## e) Protection and management requirement

All buildings, places and parks of the nominated property are registered in the monument list of the State Capital Schwerin and protected in accordance with the regulations of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Monument Protection Act (DSchG M-V). A buffer zone, designed to preserve the values of the nominated property from possible negative impacts, has been declared. The nominated property and its buffer zone are protected by local planning regulations and the values of the site are respected in local planning processes. The protection acts and planning mechanisms are sufficient to guarantee the protection and preservation of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property.

The majority of buildings of the Ensemble are publicly owned. Privately owned buildings are managed in accordance with protection acts and planning regulations.

An office for coordinating management of the site was established in 2020. This brings together all stakeholders with a commitment to protect, preserve and promote the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and a Management Plan has been produced to further these purposes.

Threats to the nominated property include drought, floods, developmental pressure and occasional vandalism. These threats are comprehensively addressed in the Management Plan.

*Old Garden square rounded off by the development of Governmental Administration Building I, Old Manor, Theatre, Museum and Palace (1)*

**Name and contact information of official local institution/agency/organization**

**Institution:**

State Capital Schwerin  
Stabsstelle Welterbe Bewerbung  
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