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МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/EG/1705/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 19 December 2023

H. E. Ms Kerstin Pürschel
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Germany to
UNESCO
9, rue Maspéro
Paris 75116

World Heritage List 2024

Schwerin Residence Ensemble (Germany) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies are requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2024. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation procedure.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the “Schwerin Residence Ensemble” was carried out by Mr. Antoine Bruguerolle (France) in August 2023. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

On 4 October 2023, an additional information letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the history and description of the nominated property, the boundaries, the comparative analysis, integrity and authenticity, and management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 6 November 2023 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2023, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2024. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2024.

We thank you and your Delegation for your availability and your participation in the meeting held on 24 November 2023 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During this last part of the meeting, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

History and development

ICOMOS notes that the elevation of Mecklenburg-Schwerin to the rank of Grand Duchy in 1815, followed by the definitive installation of the Grand Duke in Schwerin in 1837, had major consequences for the development of the Palace of Schwerin and the Residential Ensemble proposed for inscription.

In the first half of the 19th century, the Mecklenburg-Schwerin dynasty seems to have wanted to develop Schwerin as the capital of the Grand Duchy in a historical context where the Kingdom of Prussia was a very dominant power, even after 1871 and the creation of the German Empire. ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide additional information that would enable to understand more precisely the historical political and urban context of the architectural developments of Schwerin, in relation to the constitution of a unified Germany led by the Kingdom of Prussia.

Placing the urban history of Schwerin in the wider context of German history from 1815 and the creation of the German Confederation, through to the North German Confederation (1867-1871) and finally the German Empire (1871-1918) could shed light on the relationship that may exist between the development of a German identity and the stylistic choices that governed the development of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble in the 19th century.

Architectural features

ICOMOS would also appreciate if the State Party could provide a more detailed presentation of the specific architectural features of each of the buildings that make up the nominated ensemble in the context of the historicist Neo-Baroque and Neo-Renaissance style claimed for the 19th century alterations to the buildings which are said to define “the overall character of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble” while some elements are seen to reflect a “specific regional variation of Neo-Renaissance architecture, drawing on the Johann-Albrecht Style, a particular form of the Renaissance originating in Mecklenburg under Duke Johann Albrecht”. This information would make it possible to better characterize the particularities and specificities of each of the buildings that are comprised in the nominated ensemble.

Landscape context

To justify the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, the nomination dossier refers to the “*staging of the Palace and the Residence Ensemble in the landscape*” (p.152). ICOMOS notes that the ensemble formed by the Palace, its gardens and its island location on Lake Schwerin is undeniably remarkable, both architecturally and in terms of its aesthetics and landscaping. The organisation of the buildings around the Old Garden Square also contributes to the urban scenography of the ensemble, as do the *Pfaffenteich* and the *Marshall*.

ICOMOS considers that the natural settings of the nominated property and the consideration given to water, which is a structuring element of the landscape, as well as the urban choices which guided the architects and landscape designers to accommodate the functions associated with the ducal administration, deserve to be more clearly articulated and would appreciate to receive more information on how the landscape context would support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property or that of its buffer zone.

ICOMOS also notes that only a limited part of Lake Schwerin is considered in the boundaries of the nominated property even if, as the nomination dossier states: “[...] *The Palace and especially the buildings surrounding the Old Garden Square, are orchestrated in the topography of Lake Schwerin [...]*” (p.160) ICOMOS would appreciate knowing whether the State Party would consider extending the boundaries of the nominated property to include a more significant part of Lake Schwerin. The same question may also arise for *Fauler See*, a lake which is directly connected to the gardens of the Grand Ducal Palace via the network of canals. In this context, the identification of views from the wider landscape into the town and the nominated property, or from elements of the nominated property into the natural or urban landscape, would help to better define and justify the extent of the nominated ensemble. It would also be in accordance with paragraph 100 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* which states that “[...] *boundaries should be established to include all areas and attributes which are a direct material expression of the outstanding universal value of the property...*”.

As Schwerin is located on the shores of lakes, and as the nomination dossier points out “[...] *the protection of sight lines across these waters is of particular importance [...]*” (p.7), in this emblematic landscape context, ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party would consider extending the limits of the buffer zone, currently very close to the shores of Lake Schwerin, to preserve the nominated property from any potential negative impact from infrastructure or development projects. Finally, ICOMOS suggests modification of the buffer zone at two additional sectors: to the west, it is proposed to increase the buffer zone throughout the block, the limit of which is set by the street; and to the South, to integrate the entrance to the city near *Fauler See*.

Integrity and authenticity

The Schwerin Residence Ensemble is composed of a large number of buildings whose occupancy and use have evolved over time, resulting in several alterations and adaptations. The nomination dossier also refers on several occasions to fires that have affected certain parts of the nominated property. These modifications and adaptations, or the fire damages, have affected both the exterior and interior of the buildings, particularly those whose original function has been changed.

ICOMOS notes that the transformation of the interiors of buildings is not sufficiently documented by the nomination dossier to enable it to assess at this stage, the integrity and authenticity of each of the buildings making up the Schwerin Residential Ensemble. ICOMOS would therefore appreciate receiving detailed information on the evolution of the historicist neo-baroque and neo-renaissance buildings the State Party considers the most emblematic, which, as stated in the nomination dossier “*substantially define the overall character of the Schwerin Residential Ensemble*” (p.23) such as: the Grand Ducal palaces; the Old Manor; the New Town Manor; the Court Theatre and its ancillary buildings; the Museum; the Ministerial Manor House Puschkinstrasse; the Ministerial Manor House Münzstrasse; the Grand Ducal Administration Building; the Grand Ducal Estate Office; the Governmental Administration Building I and II; the Fridericianum; the Royal Stables (Marstall); the Old Artillery Barracks, the Armoury; the New Artillery Barracks and any additional building for which the State Party can provide detailed information.

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could this information, if possible by means of plans and photos in order to complete the additional information submitted in November 2023 on modifications and building material.

Tourism management strategies

ICOMOS would appreciate to receive further information on tourism management at the city level. A carrying capacity analysis would be needed to define how all the resources of the nominated property and that of Schwerin in its natural environment should be managed so that economic, social, and aesthetic needs can be met whilst preserving the cultural and natural integrity of the property.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation procedure.

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **World Heritage Centre** with the above requested information by **28 February 2024 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* concerning additional information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this statutory deadline will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any additional information submitted within the statutory deadline, it will not be possible to properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or a large amount of new information submitted at the last minute. ICOMOS would therefore be grateful if the State Party could keep its response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation procedure.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

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 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
 Landeshauptstadt Schwerin -
 Fachgruppe Denkmalpflege
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre