

**REPORT ON THE JOINT UNESCO/ICOMOS
ADVISORY MISSION
TO THE HISTORIC INNER CITY OF PARAMARIBO (SURINAME)
TO ASSESS THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED NEW
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HALL**

FROM 12 to 16 JANUARY 2024



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Mr Stephen Fokké, Director, Built Heritage Foundation and Site Manager for Historic Inner City of Paramaribo, and team

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Ms Mandela Jap-A-Joe, Chairperson of the Commission for Monument Conservation

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Mission Experts: Ms Rochelle Roca, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO, and Mr Daniel Young Torquemada, ICOMOS.

List of Abbreviations

HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value

PURP	Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
TOR	Terms of Reference
WH	World Heritage
WHC	World Heritage Centre

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report describes the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission that took place at the invitation of the State Party of Suriname to the 1972 World Heritage Convention, to the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname), a property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2002. It was carried by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) and ICOMOS, according to the Terms of Reference for the Mission provided in Annex I, and the Mission program as provided in Annex II. The Mission responded to the request made by the State Party to assess the location and design of the proposed new National Assembly Hall at the Grote Combeweg and to advise as to how to ensure that the new National Assembly Hall does not have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage (WH) property. The construction of the building project at Grote Combeweg had already commenced, and is suspended pending the outcome of this Mission.

The WHC and ICOMOS received in March 2023 the building design (floor plans and elevations, and street views in immediate surroundings), at the Grote Combeweg location, and ICOMOS provided Technical Reviews thereon in May and September 2023 (Annex VII). Both of these Technical Reviews as well as the Decision 45 COM 7B.119 of the WH Committee (Riyadh, September 2023, Annex V) indicate that the proposed new National Assembly Hall design and location at Grote Combeweg would have a negative impact on the OUV of the site.

The Mission re-evaluated the location and design, considering both the surrounding buildings and streetscapes, while taking into account the statement of the OUV, i.e. the criteria, authenticity and integrity under which the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Mission also provided an important opportunity to discuss with numerous authorities and stakeholders both the National Assembly Hall project, as well as the management and conservation of the WH site, and to have extensive field visits with great attention and assistance from the State Party.

The Master Plan (2018-2019) (Annex IV) that ICOMOS supported in its Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019 was prepared in relation to the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP) for the two recently reconstructed National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, and the complex behind them. This is where the new National Assembly Hall is planned to be built, at Grote Combeweg. In those Technical Reviews, ICOMOS indicated that any new construction should be limited in scale and height, with the garden behind Henck Arronstraat 6 maintained. However, the Master Plan and the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019 were apparently not shared with the Ministry of Public Works at the time.

When the call for tenders for a design for a new National Assembly Hall at this location was issued by the Ministry of Public Works, the recommendation for limitation in scale and height was not conveyed therein. The design that was selected in the bidding process for the proposed new National Assembly Hall is conceived as a single-volume building and due to its considerable footprint and scale, it portrays a rather commanding and somewhat imposing presence which does seem to compete with the historic urban landscape. Further, the fact that the building's facades (without the roof) are higher than the ones pertaining to the Henck Arronstraat reconstructed buildings adds to said commanding character. Furthermore, even though the overall architectural language of the proposed building includes some features that can be seen in the parts of the remaining, historic urban landscape nevertheless, its overall configuration is somewhat inconsistent in terms of the proportions of some of its diverse architectural components.

To avoid a negative impact on the OUV of the WH property, the May and September 2023 ICOMOS Technical Reviews and the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119 recommended that alternative options including refurbishing the National Assembly Hall at its current, temporary location be studied or, if the new building is to be at Grote Combeweg to respect the earlier Master Plan and recommendations of the 2018 and 2019 ICOMOS Technical Reviews for limited scale and height of any new building.

Options for the way forward for the construction of the National Assembly Hall:

Location:

Members of the National Assembly and the Ministries stressed how important and symbolic it is to construct the new National Assembly Hall behind the Henck Arronstraat, at the Grote Combeweg location. This is where the National Assembly once stood, prior to being destroyed by fire in 1996.

The Mission's visit to the temporary, current location of the National Assembly meetings at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein #10 (Independence Square), established that this building is too small for the work of the National Assembly, which currently has 51 Members. More meeting rooms, media and public space in general are needed. Restoration of this building would not solve all the needs of the National Assembly. On the other hand, even though the building is still holding up well, it shows some decay and deterioration. Therefore, its ongoing use would entail renovation as well as retrofit works. Further, the main Assembly Hall lacks sufficient space for holding advisors, assistants, media staff and general guests. Furthermore, even though the plot of land has considerable parking spaces, still due to its size restraints, there is not sufficient space to fit all necessary parking spaces (especially when important multi-institutional and multi-partisan meetings take place). Additionally, several offices related to the work of the National Assembly are located a few blocks away in the two recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat, and in practical terms, the considerable physical distance makes it hard for the two locations to function as one, thus the location proposed for a new building at Grote Combeweg makes sense.

The Mission, having made a field visit through the historic inner city, established that no alternative building or location is easily apparent for the new National Assembly Hall. The Mission concludes that the location at Grote Combeweg appears appropriate for the construction of a new National Assembly Hall.

Design:

Overall the proposed design is intended to meet the specific needs of the Members of the National Assembly as well as the public. Thus, the proposed building has three and a half floors, two bridges that would connect directly to the recently reconstructed buildings, and an opened ground floor destined for car parking (24 spaces). On the other hand, the design program requires approximately 4,400.00 sq. mt. worth of construction area. The main building would be at a distance of 17.30 mts. approximately from the street with an entrance and exit on both sides and a square of 380.00 sq. mt. approximately in front; the 'towers', on both sides of the entrance, are paneled with a material similar to the extension of the rear of the buildings at Henck Arronstraat but in a very light grey tint. Likewise, the proposed building is deliberately set back on Grote Combeweg so that the experience of its size is limited to the narrow width of 18.00 mts. approximately. The balconies on the sides of the building fit in the tradition of the wooden architecture of the inner city.

The Mission met with the architect, reviewed the plans and design, visited the construction site and the entire streetscape, and discussed with many stakeholders as per the Terms of Reference for the Mission and the Mission program (Annex I and II). The Mission found that the scope and scale of the design is too big in this location and not in conformity with the character, size and scale of the surrounding buildings. Parking is a major challenge throughout the historic inner city and a solution for parking for the members of the National Assembly would also have to be determined near the location, but not necessarily within the proposed building site per se.

The Mission noted that the proposed new National Assembly Hall has not undergone a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in line with the "*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*". This was not only recommended in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews, but also, more importantly, urged by the WH Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.119. It is an important step to identify development alternatives and positive and negative impacts on the OUV, and explore mitigation measures against possible negative impacts. It is also required by paragraph 118bis of the "*Operational Guidelines for Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*":

Notwithstanding Paragraphs 179 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, States Parties shall ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments, Heritage Impact Assessments, and/or Strategic Environmental Assessments be carried out as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property. These assessments should serve to identify development alternatives, as well as both potential positive and negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to recommend mitigation measures against degradation or other negative impacts on the cultural or natural heritage within the property or its wider setting. This will ensure the long-term safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value, and the strengthening of heritage resilience to disasters and climate change.

Other management and conservation issues related to the purpose of the Mission:

The consultations and decisions to be taken on the new National Assembly Hall location, design and construction by the national authorities following the submission of this Report will require coordination between the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, among others.

The Mission provided an opportunity to understand certain complexities of process and lines of authority among ministries, gaps in understanding of the obligations of maintaining the OUV of the WH property, and communication challenges that led to the current situation wherein the design for the National Assembly Hall was endorsed by the Ministry of Public Works and construction begun, while in fact it could have a negative impact on the OUV of the WH property. These challenges impact the overall management and conservation of the WH property.

The relationships with UNESCO and the WHC, ICOMOS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP) are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Under this Ministry are the Commission for Monument Conservation, the Director of the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation and the Site Manager.

The Ministry of Public Works issues building and demolition permits and calls for tender for government building projects. It is in charge of the new National Assembly Hall project. It includes a Building Committee of which a representative from the Built Heritage Foundation is included. However, the Building Committee only gives advice, has no validation power, and its recommendations can be ignored. Consultation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is in the case of a Monument project. Restoration or new building projects located in the boundaries of the WH property are not systematically subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

The Mission notes that Paragraph 8 of the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119 requests the State Party to submit to the WHC for review by ICOMOS “*the review and revision of the legal framework of the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission in view of protecting the historic inner city*”. While it was observed by the Mission that the authority and means of these two entities, located in different ministries, needs strengthening, it was not apparent that any review and revision of their legal frameworks is taking place.

Several laws are applicable but not necessarily in all situations of reconstruction or new construction in Paramaribo. In particular there is the 2002 *Monuments Act* (Annex IX) which applies only to recognized monuments, and the 2003 law on “*Special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones*” (Annex X). The connection between these and their full application appears to be problematic.

The Mission observed during the field visit and through discussions with various stakeholders and government authorities that many historic buildings in the inner city seem to be in clear need of rehabilitation or restoration. More recent buildings seem to require an evaluation concerning their conformity as concerns heritage requirements and impact on the WH property's OUV. Representatives from the Ministries of Public Works and of Education,

Science and Culture indicated the need for greater awareness of private building owners, architects, contractors, and civil society generally about the WH site status and obligations, OUV, building requirements, legislation, permit procedure etc. They also discussed the need to revitalize the inner city, including attracting residents and businesses. What was described as the future vision for a dynamic historic inner city would require extensive planning, coordination among government and private sector actors, financial incentives, and multi-use buildings (residential and commercial), among other things to ensure the protection of the WH property in congruence with sustainable development initiatives.

The Mission observed that while there is a very thorough 2020-2024 Management Plan (Annex XII) for the WH property that addresses many of these points, it is not familiar to many of the staff on development projects within the boundaries of the WH property. Furthermore, it is not well implemented in great part due to lack of support (staffing and financial) to the entities responsible for managing the WH site.

1. BACKGROUND OF THE MISSION

1.1.1 Inscription history

In June 1999, during its 23rd Session held in Paris, the WH Committee deferred further consideration of the Paramaribo Historic Inner City's nomination and suggested that the Surinamese State Party take account of the recommendations of the ICOMOS evaluation before a resubmission.¹ On the property's evaluation, ICOMOS had recommended the State Party to undertake the following actions² :

1. Creation of a central governmental body responsible for the protection and presentation of the historic heritage;
2. Extension of the legislation so as to include guidelines for interventions in town centres and on monuments;
3. Provide legislative protection for the entire centre of Paramaribo, as defined in the nomination dossier;
4. Define the area of 18th century expansion, plus the area to the north of Van Roosenvaldkade, as the buffer zone for the proposed World Heritage site;
5. Organize, with the assistance of ICOMOS and the WHC, an International Workshop on the Conservation and Protection of Historic Towns;
6. Encourage architects and engineers to specialize in architectural conservation and restoration.

The Surinamese Government re-submitted the nomination of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo in 2001.

¹ From Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015. P 2. In fact, these recommendations were not fully followed by the State Party after 1999.

² ICOMOS evaluation, April 1999 at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940>

Finally, during its 26th Session held in Budapest, Hungary, 2002, the WH Committee inscribed the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo on the World Heritage List (Decision 26 COM 23.20).

The WH Committee adopted a retroactive Statement of Significance at its session in 2014 (Decision 38 COM 8E) from which the following texts are taken.

1.1.2. Brief Description

Paramaribo is a former Dutch colonial town dating from the 17th and 18th centuries planted on the Northeastern coast of tropical South America. Composed of mainly wooden buildings, the plain and symmetrical architectural style illustrating the gradual fusion of Dutch and other European architectural and later North American influences as well as elements from Creole culture, reflects the multi-cultural society of Suriname. The historic inner city is located along the left bank of the Suriname River and is defined by the Sommelsdijkse Kreek to the north and the Viottekreek to the south. Laid out from 1683 on a grid pattern along an axis running north-west from Fort Zeelandia, the main streets follow shell ridges which provided a naturally drained base for building. At the end of the 18th century, Dutch engineering and town planning skills enabled the town to be extended over marshy land to the north. Important elements in the townscape are Fort Zeelandia built in 1667 and the large public park (Garden of Palms) behind it, wide, tree-lined streets and open spaces; the Presidential Palace (1730) built in stone but with a wooden upper floor, the Ministry of Finance (1841) a monumental brick structure with classical portico and clock tower, the Reformed Church (1837) in Neoclassical style, and the Gothic Revival Roman Catholic Cathedral (1885) built in wood.³

1.1.3. Criteria and World Heritage values (per the retrospective statement of the OUV)

The Historic Inner City of Paramaribo was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of the following criteria⁴:

Criterion (ii) Paramaribo is an exceptional example of the gradual fusion of European architecture and construction techniques with indigenous South America materials and crafts to create a new architectural idiom.

Criterion (iv) Paramaribo is a unique example of the contact between the European culture of the Netherlands and the indigenous cultures and environment of South America in the years of intensive colonization of this region in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Integrity:

At the time of inscription it was recorded that most of the urban fabric of Paramaribo dating from 1680-1800 still survives virtually intact, mainly due to low economic growth in the past three decades. The original urban pattern is still authentic in relation to the historical built environment, because no major infrastructural changes have taken place, no building lines have been altered and no high-rising buildings have been built in the city centre. The timber

³ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/>

⁴ Idem

buildings are vulnerable to fire, and the inner city is vulnerable to lack of enforcement of protective controls as well as neglect due to the socio-economic situation. Since then the integrity of the property has been compromised by insertion of a new flag square, altering the urban pattern around Independence Square and introducing a hard paved surface in place of green landscaping. The property's integrity is vulnerable to Waterfront development, which while having the potential to contribute positively to the town's economy, also has the potential to impact severely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property if not appropriately designed and located.

Authenticity:

There are 291 listed monuments in Paramaribo and in the past three decades only a few have disappeared in favor of new developments. Many of the monuments exhibit high authenticity because of the use of traditional techniques and materials in repair and rehabilitation works, although some timber buildings have been replaced in concrete.

Another relevant aspect that has been mentioned to define Paramaribo is that the urban pattern was subtly adapted to its natural environment. The original urban pattern is still authentic in relation with the historical built environment because no major infrastructural changes have taken place, no building lines have been altered and no high-rising buildings have been built in the city centre.

Protection and management requirements (per the retrospective statement of the OUV):

Protection of the about 250 listed monuments of Paramaribo was initially guaranteed under the 1963 Monuments Act. In 2002 this Act was replaced by a new Monuments Bill (S.B. 5 September 2002 No. 72) which provides for the designation of protected historic quarters with controls over interventions and provision for subsidies to owners for conservation works. In 2007 and 2010 two new monuments were added to the monuments list of Paramaribo and in 2011 the list was further enlarged with another 25 official monuments.

For the protection of the site a State Resolution regarding the implementation of article 4 section 2 of the Building Code of 1956 was approved by the President of the Republic of Suriname (S.B. 31 October 2011 No. 74). This resolution established an Expert Building Committee (Special Advisory Committee) and designated the historic inner city and adjacent buffer zones. The Expert Building Committee reviews new building plans within the World Heritage Site according to aesthetic criteria for modern architecture. These special building criteria were published in the Gazette (Advertentieblad van de Republiek Suriname, A.R.S. 29 April 2003 no. 34).

The Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan (PWH SMP) 2011-2015 was officially endorsed by the Council of Ministers on 28 January 2014. However the Management Authority (Suriname Built Heritage Foundation or Stichting Gebouwd Erfgoed Suriname -SGES) formed to implement it has not been properly empowered with adequate staffing, the definition of precise actions, timelines and budgets. The authority of SGES as the Site Manager needs to be reinforced through adequate regulatory and legislative measures and communicated to all governmental levels as well as to all stakeholders and the community.

On October 25th 2011 the 'Stichting Stadsherstel Paramaribo' was created as a predecessor for the "Suriname Conservation Ltd. (Stadsherstel Suriname N.V. established on 25 May 2013). This foundation purchases dilapidated historical buildings/monuments, restores and re-uses them in order to preserve the historic cityscape. The first property, located at the Julianastraat 56' was acquired in January 2012 and has been restored and let. Others have since been purchased.

1.1.4. Examination of the State of Conservation Reports by the World Heritage Committee

Paramaribo has received UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds to date as follows:

- USD 23,000 for the project "Management Plan for Paramaribo" in 2010;
- USD 125,362 provided for the project "Inner City of Paramaribo. Phase I & II" from 2005 to 2008 (UNESCO/Netherlands Funds in Trust)

The first State of Conservation report (2014) followed as a suggestion from the ICOMOS Advisory Mission to Paramaribo carried out from 28 July to 1 August 2013, which was endorsed by the WH Committee. The purpose of the mission was to evaluate the state of conservation and review potential threats to the OUV. The main conclusion of the ICOMOS report was, that *"the property maintains the attributes for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, if urgent measurements are not taken the Inner City will fall into an irreversible decay or suffer significant transformations, which will lead to the progressive erosion of the attributes that warranted inscription of the property on the World Heritage List"*. Many of the observations and concerns of the ICOMOS 2013 Advisory Mission are still of relevance today.⁵

The WH Committee has examined a total of five State of Conservation reports⁶, and most recently for the Committee's 45th extended session (Riyad, 2023).

State of conservation reports

2023	<u>State of conservation reports</u>
2021	<u>State of conservation reports</u>
2018	<u>State of conservation reports</u>
2016	<u>State of conservation reports</u>
2014	<u>State of conservation reports</u>

In the 2021 State of Conservation report it was noted *inter alia* that: the State Party had not made any progress in the extension of the boundaries of the property in light of the Waterfront development; the PURP would reconstruct the two former National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 and that the State Party and ICOMOS engaged in a constructive consultation process, including ICOMOS Technical Reviews of three successive design stages.

⁵ [2014 State of Conservation report summarizing ICOMOS 2013 Advisory Mission](#)

⁶ [State of Conservation reports](#)

In the 2023 State of Conservation report, it was noted *inter alia* that: the Management Plan 2020-2024 was approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2021; under the PURP a Parking Management Policy for the historic city center was being developed; the legal framework of the Building Committee and the Commission for Monument Conservation was being revised; there was no progress in the extension of the boundaries of the property with a Minor Boundary Modification; the reconstruction of the two former National Assembly buildings was completed in conformity with the ICOMOS consultations; and that the ICOMOS Technical Review of the proposed new National Assembly Hall behind the two reconstructed buildings indicated that it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the OUV of the WH property.

1.1.5. Justification of the Mission

Since the 1996 fire that destroyed the National Assembly Hall of Suriname at Grote Combeweg, the National Assembly has been meeting at a temporary location several blocks away. The State Party has long intended to construct a new National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg, behind the two recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. In addition to the symbolism of the Grote Combeweg location, the National Assembly desires a larger new building to meet the needs of the National Assembly to perform its work and to welcome the public.

In November 2022 a bid for tender of designs for the new National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg was issued, but it provided little guidance on scale or scope of the design. The design that was selected per the bidding process was sent on 10 March 2023 to the WHC with a request for a Technical Review.

ICOMOS completed the Technical Review in May 2023 and found the design of the proposed new National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg to be “*unsuited and inviable, not only in terms of its urban setting, but also, in regards to its overall size, scale, proportions and architectural language. Therefore, should it be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.*” It recommended that alternative options including not having the new National Assembly Hall at this location be studied, or if it were to be at this location, it should take account of the Master Plan endorsed in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019 (related to the reconstruction of two National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 and any future developments behind these buildings). On 24 July 2023 the response of the State Party to the ICOMOS Technical Review of May 2023 (Annex VIII) was sent to the WHC to explain the design in more detail.

On 21 September 2023 the contract for the project construction was signed, which is overseen by the Ministry of Public Works. On 27 September 2023, the WHC sent the second ICOMOS Technical Review to the State Party, which reiterated the findings of the May 2023 Technical Review, i.e. that the design would pose a negative impact on the OUV of the WH property. Shortly thereafter (late September/October 2023) the construction began at Grote Combeweg.

At the request of the State Party, on 6 November 2023, an online meeting took place with Mr Henry Ori, Minister of Education, Science and Culture and Mr Riad Nurmohamed, Minister of

Public Works of Suriname, Ms Regina Durighello and Mr Herman van Hooff of ICOMOS, Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and Mr Mauro Rosi, Chief of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit of the World Heritage Centre. Minister Ori informed that the construction of the National Assembly Hall had been suspended and requested an Advisory Mission of ICOMOS.

On 14 November 2023 the WHC received a formal request from the State Party for the Advisory Mission to Paramaribo, Suriname for December 2023, on the matter of the construction plans and the design of the National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg. This request stipulated, *inter alia*, that the position of Suriname is that neither the location at Grote Combeweg nor the interpretation of the needs/functional requirements of the National Assembly Hall are open to discussion, and the mission is to focus on the design of the meeting room and possible revision of the Master Plan.

As the construction of the new National Assembly Hall is suspended, the Advisory Mission had to take place without delay.

1.1.6. The Mission

On 30 November 2023, the WHC provided the State Party with Draft Terms of Reference for comment, and informed that ICOMOS had identified an expert to represent ICOMOS. The WHC also indicated the pertinence for the Advisory Mission to be conducted jointly by an ICOMOS expert and a UNESCO representative on behalf the World Heritage Centre.

Rochelle Roca, Programme Specialist of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit of the World Heritage Centre, and Daniel Young Torquemada, the ICOMOS expert, undertook this Advisory Mission from 12 through 16 January 2024, including three full days of meetings and field visits, pursuant to the Mission Program (Annex II). The Mission consulted with approximately 30 people (Annex III).

The Mission focused on the objectives of the Terms of Reference (TOR) summarized as follows (see full TOR, Annex I):

1. Ensure full comprehension by the Suriname authorities and the stakeholders of the options for the way forward for the construction of the National Assembly Hall, and provide clarifications to them on paragraph 9 of the Decision 45 COM 7B.119 as well as all the points of the May and September 2023 ICOMOS International Technical Reviews below:
 - a) The construction of a new National Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 and corner Grote Combeweg is a complex urban and architectural design challenge. Given the high urban, architectural and symbolic importance of the location and surrounding buildings, any construction could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

- b) The Master Plan of 2018 (image 4) gives a clear indication of the location and scale of any future extensions. ICOMOS supported this plan in its Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019. This implies that any new construction should be limited in scale and height and should be concentrated on the area behind Henck Arronstraat 2-4 along the Grote Combeweg. The garden behind Henck Arronstraat 6 should be maintained as indicated in the Master Plan.
 - c) The proposed hall is unsuited and inviable, not only in terms of its urban setting, but also, in regards to its overall size, scale, proportions and architectural language. Therefore, should it be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.
 - d) Various design options should be explored for housing the National Assembly, including the refurbishing of the National Assembly Hall at its present location at Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence square). If the State Party wishes to explore the possibilities to build a hall at the location at the Grote Combeweg, it could consider the original plans in the final Dossier May 2017 (image 3). A feasibility study could be undertaken if it were possible to divide the design programme among buildings D, E, F and G, but with the limited height as foreseen in the original design and in the Master Plan endorsed in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019 (image 4).
 - e) Appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments need to be undertaken with the objective to evaluate the potential impact of the various design options on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The State Party is invited to submit these studies for Technical Review by ICOMOS as soon as they become available.
2. Assess, per Decision 45 COM 7B.119, the options for construction of the National Assembly Hall:
 - a) At a different location than Grote Combeweg, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and assess any justification from Suriname against this option;
 - b) At Grote Combeweg location pursuant to a Master Plan.
 3. Assess the Master Plan and design for the National Assembly Hall construction at Grote Combeweg location in relation to the:
 - a) Nomination file, Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted in 2014 and the attributes for Outstanding Universal Value for the site;
 - b) 2020-2024 Management Plan for the site and any other regulations that are relevant for the inner city;
 - c) Surrounding or adjacent buildings (including volume and dimensions);
 - d) Impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.
 4. Analyse the entire streetscape, up to the bridge over the Sommelsdijck Creek, for fuller context when providing advice on the Master Plan and design of the National Assembly Hall;

5. Provide advice on the Master Plan and design and in particular how to ensure that it respects the rules for building within the boundaries of the site and does not negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

The Mission also considered these objectives in the framework of the statement of OUV for the WH property, and the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119 which states in paragraph 9:

Notes that the proposed new Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), recommends to the State Party to study alternative options, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and in case of any further development at the premises of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, to respect the earlier agreed Master Plan and the recommendations of previous technical reviews, and urges the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on the housing of the National Assembly at its present or alternative locations and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available”.

2. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES

2.2.1. Clarification on the Master Plan (2018-2019)

The Master Plan (2018-2019, Annex IV) is referred to in the May and September 2023 ICOMOS Technical Reviews and WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119.

As part of the IADB-funded PURP, and on the basis of ICOMOS Technical Reviews and consultations between 2017 and 2019, the reconstruction of two former National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 was completed in April 2022. As emphasized in the WH Committee Decision 44 COM 7B.70 (Annex V), “*the reconstruction as agreed upon is an exceptional case due to exceptional circumstances and should not be seen as a precedent for other cases.*”

In association with the PURP project for the reconstruction of the two buildings, a Master Plan (see Master Plan 15 February 2019 Reconstruction of the former National Assembly building of Suriname, Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, by KDV architects, Annex IV) for development in the area behind the 2 reconstructed buildings was prepared by the architect per exchanges between ICOMOS and the State Party. ICOMOS supported the Master Plan in its Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019.

ICOMOS provided design guidelines in its November 2018 Technical Review stating “*If any buildings are erected on the grey designed areas for future construction, these would need to be very low in scale and height so as not to alter or impact the rest of the complex.*” The ICOMOS Technical Review of the final “*dossier second revision*” of February 2019 proposed that any future extensions would not only be significantly reduced in size and scale but also,

would be limited to the footprints established in the designated “*dark dray pavement*” areas along Grote Cobeweg, and that the garden behind Henck Arronstraat 6 be maintained. This Master Plan was apparently not shared with the Ministry of Public Works at the time.

During the Mission, the State Party reiterated that the Master Plan was not really an official master plan presented by the State Party, but rather, a conceptual design proposal made by the same architecture firm in charge of the design and plans for the 2022 reconstruction of the two buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. During the Mission, the representatives of the Parliament and of the Ministry of Public works informed that during the call for tenders for design of the currently proposed project for the new Assembly Hall (in which a different architecture firm was finally chosen) they were not fully aware of the Master Plan. Indeed, this statement was made by the State Party in July 2023 in its response letter to ICOMOS’ first Technical Review of May 2023 (See State Party’s July 2023 response to ICOMOS’ 1st Technical Review in May 2023, Annex VIII). Thus, when the call for tenders for a design for the new National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg was issued in November 2022 by the Ministry of Public Works, the ICOMOS recommendations for limitation in scale and height as per the Master Plan were not conveyed, and the design that was selected in the bidding process is very large in scale, scope and height.

On 2 February 2023 the Building Committee provided the Ministry of Public Works with its first assessment of the selected building design and referred to the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of November 2018, mentioning “for the design of the new meeting room of the National Assembly (Expansion with a new building or meeting complex)” and March 2019, which it attached to its assessment (see Annex XIII). This may have been the first time the Ministry of Public Works was made aware of the Master Plan.

Although ICOMOS may have based its May and September 2023 Technical Reviews and recommendations on a conceptual design proposal (and not an official master plan endorsed by the State Party), still its assessment and design recommendations refer to a set of technical criteria and design parameters, related to the values and attributes of the WH property, which are still applicable to the overall project, as a whole, regardless of it being conceived on a conceptual design proposal or a master plan.

2.2.2. Location of the proposed new National Assembly Hall

Current location of the National Assembly Hall (Independence Square):

As noted in previous ICOMOS May 2023 Technical Review, ever since the original Hall at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 burned down (in 1996), the National Assembly moved to its current location at the “Onafhankelijkheidsplein” (Independence Square) in the former Buiten-societeit Het Park (built in 1968). It is located on Kleine Combeweg, by the riverfront, some two blocks South-East from the Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 (see photos 1 to 2, Annex XI). Although it was originally privately owned by a private society named “Het Park”, eventually, the plot of land was granted to the Government. However, as mentioned by the State Party, the intention was for this location to be used temporarily (and not permanently). In this sense, the Mission was able to visit said building, and noted the following (see photos 3 to 10):

- Even though the building is still holding up well, it shows some decay and deterioration. Therefore, its ongoing use would entail renovation as well as retrofit works.
- Even though the National Assembly has managed to operate in the building for quite some time now, the fact of the matter is that there is not sufficient space to fit all of the National Assembly's spatial needs (specially the supporting and technical spaces, as well as additional meeting rooms and offices). In addition, the main Assembly Hall lacks sufficient space for holding advisors, assistants, media staff and general guests.
- Even though the plot of land has considerable parking spaces, still due to its size restraints, there is not sufficient space to fit all necessary parking spaces (especially when important multi-institutional and multi-partisan meetings take place).
- Even though the building is within walking distance from Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, where many of the National Assembly's related offices are located, still the considerable physical distance makes it hard for the two locations to function as one.

On the other hand, during the Mission the State Party reiterated its need for bringing the Assembly Hall back to Henck Arronstraat, not only because of practical reasons, but also, because that it is where it used to be and there is strong symbolic meaning.

In spite of the fact that it was suggested in ICOMOS's May 2023 Technical Review, no technical assessment was presented by the State Party regarding the use of the spaces as well as on the refurbishment potentials and capabilities of the current building (see photos 5 to 10).

In light of the above, it is the view of the Mission that the existing building and site at Independence Square have great potential for renovation, retrofit and improvements allowing for a much better overall set up than the current situation (if it were decided to maintain the Assembly Hall there). Nonetheless it would still be somewhat limited in size (not allowing for necessary physical expansions) and its distance from the rest of the National Assembly's offices (at Henck Arronstraat) would still make it hard for the two locations to function as one.

Proposed new location for the new National Assembly Hall:

As mentioned above, during the Mission the State Party reiterated its need for bringing the National Assembly Hall back to Henck Arronstraat and Grote Combeweg not only because of practical reasons, but also for symbolic meaning and because that is where it used to be. As can be seen in some historical photos provided during the Mission (see photos 11 to 17), this particular site (on the corner of Henck Arronstraat and Grote Combeweg) had a somewhat atypical urban configuration because its yards are wider and longer than the typical yard (approximately 30.00 mts x 250.00mts). In the past, the mansions of wealthy plantation owners were located there. Upon the abolition of slavery, the Government (as well as the Catholic Church) occupied the yards, which partially allowed for the implantation of schools, monasteries, tennis courts, etc., providing for a semi-public, pedestrian character with opened spaces located between the various buildings. Thus, there seemed to be freedom of pedestrian movement, within said urban block, yielding the possibility of walking from one street to another through the site.

After the 1996 fire, the site was left partially vacant (see photo 18). The National Assembly moved to its current temporary location at Independence Square and the site became used as temporary, improvised parking (see photo 19). Finally, after a long due process, in 2022, the

two National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 were reconstructed based on their original designs and configurations (for they were very well documented). However, their back facades were redesigned in a rather contemporary style so as to denote that they are not the original buildings (see photos 20 to 22). Regarding the specific yards pertaining to the area for the proposed new National Assembly Hall project sector, no more new buildings were erected there, except for a small two-story, rotated-in-plan building located on the Eastern-most corner (see photos 23 to 24).

The Mission, having made a field visit through the historic inner city, established that no alternative building or location is easily apparent for the new National Assembly Hall. The Mission concludes that the location at Grote Combeweg appears appropriate for the construction of a new National Assembly Hall.

2.2.3. Design of the proposed new National Assembly Hall and its impact on the Outstanding Universal Value

Overall description:

The proposed building has three and a half floors, of which the opened ground floor is destined for car parking (24 spaces) (Annex VI). The first floor has six complementary meeting rooms whereas the second floor houses the main assembly 51-seat hall, with an upper mezzanine for the public and an opened view to the roof. The main entrance at the Grote Combeweg has four slender columns that carry a triangular tympanum. The façade behind it is in glass (a curtain wall section) with two tower-like elements (left and right) that contain stairs/elevators and toilet facilities and a triple height internal atrium, all of which make for a vertically proportioned front façade. The side facades, on the other hand, have opened galleries at three levels which provide for rather horizontal proportions. The building has a gentle sloped roof, is connected with the reconstructed buildings at the Henck Arronstraat (on the first and second floor level) and is noticeably setback (from Grote Combeweg) providing for a public atrium. The building's facades (below the roof) are considerably higher than the ones pertaining to the two Henck Arronstraat reconstructed buildings.

During the mission the State Party emphasized the important need for parliamentarians and government office staff to having parking spaces. As a consequence, the design includes an open ground floor in which provisions are set for only 24 spaces. However, considering that the project includes a 51-seat main hall, 6 complementary meeting rooms, 1 library and 1 cafeteria, the proposed 24 parking space level simply do not suffice all the parking needs and, what's worse, makes the building taller than necessary.

Assessment:

In general terms, the design program requires approximately 4,400.00 sq. mt. worth of construction area. An open bridge, on the first and second floors, will provide a connection to the stairwell between Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6; the main building would be at a distance of 17.30 mt. approximately from the street with an entrance and exit on both sides and a square of 380.00 sq. mt. approximately in front; the 'towers', on both sides of the entrance, are paneled

with a material similar to the extension of the rear of the buildings at Henck Arronstraat but in a very light grey tint. On the other hand, as informed by the State Party, a relatively sober architecture was chosen in order not to compete with characteristic wooden architecture of the historic urban landscape. Similarly, the mass of the building may not be perceived as such due to the “staggering of the different façade surfaces” of the entrance portal, entrance façade and extension building. Likewise, the proposed building is deliberately set back on Grote Combeweg so that the experience of its size is limited to the narrow width of 18.00 mt. approximately. The balconies on the sides of the building fit in the tradition of the wooden architecture of the inner city.

However, being proposed as a single-volume building and due to its considerable footprint and scale, the project portrays a rather commanding and somewhat imposing presence which does seem to compete with the historic urban landscape. Furthermore, the fact that the building’s facades (without the roof) are higher than the ones pertaining to the Henck Arronstraat reconstructed buildings adds to said commanding character. Even though the overall architectural language of the proposed building includes some features that can be seen in the parts of the remaining historic urban landscape, nevertheless, its overall configuration is somewhat inconsistent in terms of the proportions of some of its diverse architectural components.

The proposed new building is connected to the Henck Arronstraat 6 reconstructed building on Levels 100 and 200 via a left-side annex-like, flat roof, three-story volume. It is on top of this volume where some HVAC machinery will be located. As with many existing buildings within the historic urban landscape, the proposed roof is gabled-type with its ridge line perpendicular to the street (as is the case with other buildings within the WH property). The exterior facades are clad with typical small elements. Finally, the color scheme (white and green) can be seen throughout the WH property.

Even though the proposed building appears to comply with all local building codes, still it seems unsuited and inviable in regards to its overall size and scale, and in regards to the proportions of some of its diverse architectural components (e.g.: the triple height front curtain wall; the 4 slender triple height columns that support the tympanum/portico; the rather tall towers on either side of the front tympanum/portico). Additionally, the building’s facades (without the roof) are higher than the ones pertaining to the Henck Arronstraat reconstructed buildings, adding to the issue related to the scale and size perception of the building. As a result, the overall structure portrays a rather commanding and somewhat imposing presence which does not harmonize with the rest of the historic urban landscape.

On the other hand, as for the parking spaces, instead of the proposed 24-spaces level (which makes the building taller than necessary) one way to avoid such height-related negative impact could be by relocating said parking spaces on the adjacent lots/yards which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, so that the building would end up being one floor lower. In fact, as can be seen in photos 55 to 58, said adjacent lots/yards are already being used for parking spaces as they have a good combined size and drive-way access to Henck Arronstraat, Grote Combeweg and could even be envisaged to have access to Van Roseveltkade.

In relation to this, Suriname's "Monuments Act 2002" (although aimed at regulating restoration and renovation processes on existing monuments – Annex IX) states that:

"Article 15 – city and village views

(it is prohibited) to build new buildings or make changes to existing buildings that could affect or threaten the spatial or structural coherence of the protected area, or the scientific or cultural-historical value of the protected area, without a permit for new construction or renovation".

In other words, according to said Act, new buildings must not affect, nor threaten the spatial or structural coherence of the protected area, especially in light of its cultural-historical value as well as the city's views. Furthermore, the inner city is also regulated by a special requirements law ("*Special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones including annex*", Ao. 2003 Tuesday, April 29 No.34 – Annex X), which states that:

"2.1 Design

- 1. Designs for (replacement) new buildings or modern architecture should be creative and original, and should radiate respect and affinity with the city and its historic buildings.*
- 2. (Replacement) new buildings should be in harmony with the historical buildings.*
- 3. Reconstructing, replicating or imitating a historic building is not recommended.*

2.2. Size and scale

- 1. Buildings should fit into the historically built-up environment in terms of size and scale.*
- 2. The ridge height of a building on the street side may not exceed that of the adjoining buildings, at the discretion of the Building Committee.*
- 3. The ridge height of a building on a courtyard site shall not exceed three meters above the ridge of the street building.*

Article 2.2 Size and scale:

.....

It can also happen, however, that (replacement) new buildings are wedged between two monumental buildings, located in a street where the process of modernization has already begun. In such cases, in order to protect and preserve the cultural-historical quality of the aforementioned buildings, new buildings should match the size and scale of the adjacent historical buildings".

In light of all the above, should the project be constructed as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the OUV of the WH property (as has been already stated on ICOMOS' previous Technical Reviews and WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119).

2.2.4. Analysis of the streetscape in relation to the proposed new National Assembly Hall

The proposed project will be seen along Grote Combeweg and from the corner of Henck Arronstraat and Onafhankelijkheidsplein. As for Grote Combeweg, the current streetscape vistas (as seen from Van Roseveltkade looking towards Henck Arronstraat) are defined by several 2 and 3-story buildings (some of which are built almost along the property line) whose façade heights (without the roofs) seem to be in line with the same height of the façades of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 (see photos 47 to 50). Meaning that, in general terms, said height of façades (which comprises 2-3 stories at the most – without the roofs) defines the average scale and proportions of the urban landscape along that specific street. Therefore, considering that the proposed project's facades are higher than those of Henck Arronstraat 6, its overall presence would be perceived as imposing (due to its proportions) even with the proposed set back (see photos 51 to 53). This would pose an adverse impact on the overall streetscape vistas along that road.

As for the vistas at Van Roseveltkade (looking towards the corner with Grote Combeweg), the current streetscape viewsheds are also defined by the average height of the facades of the buildings along Henck Arronstraat (again, 3 stories at most – without the roofs) which seem to continue around the corner, in continuation with Grote Combeweg (see photo 54). Therefore, it can be said that the proposed project will also be perceived as imposing and out of proportion as seen from Van Roseveltkade, thus posing an adverse impact on the historic urban landscape.

In light of the above, both streetscape vistas suggest that a more suitable project will be one in which the height of its proposed facades are equal (or perhaps lower) to those of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. Furthermore, the proposed set back (along Grote Combeweg) could be maintained so that it is consistent with current local building codes and with the fact that the more recently built buildings (along Grote Combeweg) were, in fact, built with said setback.

2.2.5. Design parameters

In view of the above assessment, it is the view of the Mission that the project could still be carried out, at the same location that it is being proposed at Grote Combeweg, but considering the following recommended design parameters:

1. (*Footprint*) Considering the historical urban evolution of the project site and its spatial relationships with its surrounding neighbors, the proposed new building should be reduced (in terms of its footprint), to the minimum feasible, in a way that it could still have room for its main components (e.g.: 51-seat assembly hall; 2 staircases; 2-elevators; supporting spaces; mechanical shafts).
2. (*Implantation*) Considering the above-mentioned arguments, the proposed new building could still maintain its proposed setback (on Grote Combeweg) so that: it becomes discernible; its front façade's presence does not block the view of building Henck Arronstraat 6 (as seen along Grote Combeweg's current urban vistas and viewsheds); it is consistent with current local

building codes and with the fact that the more recently built buildings (along Grote Combeweg) were, in fact, built with said setback and that it provides for a seemingly necessary public atrium. All remaining setbacks (both lateral and rear) should also be considered as per current local building codes and bearing in mind the site's former spatial relationships with its surrounding neighbors (in so far as possible). This may allow for freedom of movement (at the ground level) adding to the historical semi-public former character of the site.

3. (*Height*) Considering the physical presence of the recently reconstructed buildings and the spatial relationship with the immediate urban context, the proposed new building should be reduced (in terms of its height), in such a way that, its facades (without the roof) are not taller than the ones pertaining to said recently reconstructed buildings. In order to achieve that, perhaps the proposed new parking space (on Level 000) could be relocated on the adjacent lots/yards which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, so that the building would end up being one floor lower. Another possibility could be to relocate the proposed complementary meeting rooms (on Level 100) into the seemingly available spaces within the recently reconstructed buildings.
4. (*Connections with the recently reconstructed buildings*) Again, considering the above-mentioned arguments, the connections could be proposed in such a way that they: are as less intrusive as possible; have the minimum footprint necessary; are solved below the buildings' eaves and are consistent with the overall Architectural idiom of the proposed new building.
5. (*Proportions and geometry*) The overall proportions and geometrical composition of the proposed new facades (mass; openings; architectural elements/resources) should be conceived in such a way that they reflect and are in harmony with the rest of the historic urban landscape. The idea being to be able to establish a clear, discernible and honest dialogue between the new building and said historic urban landscape in terms of proportions, rhythms, mass, openings, etc.).
6. (*Architectural idiom*) This is left for the design architect to propose. There are no one-for-all recipes. Nevertheless, in order to not threaten the WH property's authenticity and integrity, the proposed new building should be able to respond to the values and attributes of the property, in a way that is respectful, discrete, discernible, harmonious, honest and authentic.
7. (*Roof*) The proposed roof could still be solved following current/local building code regulations, as long as its design is in harmony with the rest of the historic urban landscape and as long as it is not higher than the roofs of any of the recently reconstructed buildings.
8. (*Materials and color scheme*) Same considerations as for the roof.

2.2.6. Initial, suspended construction of the proposed new National Assembly Hall

In November 2022, the State Party made the call for tender for the design and construction plans for the new National Assembly Hall. It is understood that, the following year (by September 2023) the State Party signed the contract with the contractor for the construction phase. Not long after, in September/October 2023, the local media reported that the actual

construction works would begin. Immediately after, the works (which had in fact begun) were halted on 1 November 2023. An online consultation meeting between the State Party, WHC Centre and ICOMOS took place on 6 November 2023, which ultimately led to the invitation of the State Party for a joint (WHC and ICOMOS) Advisory Mission to Paramaribo as soon as possible.

Subsequently, and as can be seen in the photos taken during the Mission (see photos 20 to 22; 25 to 26) the preliminary and temporary works, as well as the excavation and building foundation works, were already underway right before being halted. In fact, during the field visit, the State Party informed that by the time of the Mission, the overall construction schedule was already some 2-3 months behind schedule and they were very concerned about the financial implications.

2.2.7. Lack of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

During the Mission, the State Party informed that HIAs are currently not part of local regulations and requirements nor, in practice, are they regularly part of higher standards required for new building projects within the WH property. Likewise, during the meeting with the IDB and the team implementing the PURP, the Mission was informed that the IDB does not necessarily require HIAs as a prerequisite for loaning the funds for the projects financed by them. However, the PURP team informed that for their projects they are conducting impact assessments.

No HIA has been done regarding the proposed new building in spite of it being recommended in the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 118bis) and more specifically by ICOMOS Technical Reviews (May and September 2023) and later by the WH Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.119. Instead, the State Party signed the contract with the contractor in September 2023 and began actual construction works in late September/October 2023.

Consequently, the Mission underscored the importance of carrying out HIAs for each project, within the WH property, not only for reconstructions of historic buildings where important material or structural changes are proposed, but also in cases involving a new building (or often referred as, *infill buildings*) so that its potential negative impacts on the OUV may be identified, assessed and avoided at the conceptual design phase (that is, prior to moving on the construction plans phase). Further, the Mission stressed the importance of following the standards set forth in the “*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*” which explains how impact assessments can be used to protect the OUV of WH properties in order to manage continuity and change by informing good decision making in the context of UNESCO’s 1972 World Heritage Convention.

2.2.8. Clarification of consultation process and ICOMOS Technical Reviews

Pursuant to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, States Parties are to inform the WH Committee, through the Secretariat, “*of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the*

property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved."

The WHC regularly receives from the State Party (the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, which is responsible for relations with UNESCO) proposals for initiatives in Paramaribo that may affect the OUV and routinely forwards them to ICOMOS for their Technical Review. The numerous ICOMOS Technical Reviews that have been prepared for Paramaribo provide important recommendations and clarifications to the State Party, and while they are not binding or obligatory, the State Party has tended to respect them.

Thus, as per the usual process, on 10 March 2023 the State Party sent to the WHC the design for the proposed new National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg, and the WHC immediately sent it to ICOMOS for a Technical Review. Of course, ICOMOS was already very familiar with the Grote Combeweg location in view of the recently completed PURP project for reconstruction the two buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. ICOMOS was also familiar with the Master Plan concerning any future extensions behind these buildings and had issued related Technical Reviews in November 2018 and March 2019 thereon.

As stated above, in May 2023, ICOMOS made a 1st Technical Review regarding the proposed project in which a proper assessment and technical recommendations were provided as possible alternatives for the State Party to explore. In July 2023, the State Party responded by further explaining, expanding and supporting its rationale behind the design criteria proposed on said project. Subsequently, in September 2023, ICOMOS made a 2nd Technical Review in which, in spite of the July 2023 response by the State Party, it maintained its assessment and recommendations as per the 1st review. As previously stated in ICOMOS' 1st Technical Review, the construction of a new Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 and corner with Grote Combeweg is a complex urban and architectural design challenge, because given the high urban, architectural and symbolic importance of said location and its surrounding buildings, any new building could easily have a negative impact on the OUV of the WH property. Therefore, in the view of ICOMOS and for all the reasons explained above the proposed project was still found to be unviable and unsuitable due to its adverse irreversible impact on the property's OUV, in spite of the State Party's response.

Consequently, that same month (September 2023) the WH Committee, in its Decision 45 COM 7B.119, coincided with ICOMOS's assessment and thus stated that:

"...the proposed new Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), recommends to the State Party to study alternative options, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and in case of any further development at the premises of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, to respect the earlier agreed Master Plan and the recommendations of previous technical reviews, and urges the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on the housing of the National Assembly at

its present or alternative locations and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available” (Annex V).

In other words, before the actual construction works began in late September/October 2023, the WH Committee had endorsed ICOMOS’s technical assessment.

The chronological order of events explained above suggests that there is a lack of understanding of ICOMOS Technical Reviews on the part of the State Party. For example, even though ICOMOS’s 1st review provided technical recommendations with possible alternatives for the State Party to explore, the latter’s response did not include any alternatives or any other proposals different from the original proposed design. Therefore, and as was to be expected, ICOMOS’s 2nd review did not differ from the 1st one; yet the State Party moved on to the construction phase of the project, in spite of ICOMOS’s two consecutive Technical Reviews.

2.2.9. Implementation of World Heritage Committee Decisions

The WH Committee has issued regular Decisions following examination of the State of Conservation reports for Paramaribo since 2014⁷.

2023	<u>45COM 7B.119 - Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)</u>
2021	<u>44COM 7B.70 - Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)</u>
2018	<u>42COM 7B.42 - Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)</u>
2016	<u>40COM 7B.9 - Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)</u>
2014	<u>38COM 7B.47 - Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (C 940rev) (Suriname)</u>
2014	<u>38COM 8E - Adoption of Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value</u>
2002	<u>Report of the 26th Session of the Committee</u>
2002	<u>26COM 23.20 - Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname)</u>

As stated above, with respect to the proposed new National Assembly Hall at the Grote Combeweg, the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119 is clear that if it is built per the current design, it *“would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the OUV”, and that the State Party is urged “to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on the housing of the National Assembly at its present or alternative locations and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available”.*

The State Party is encouraged to implement this Decision and the Mission’s recommendations. If it goes forward with the building as currently designed at Grote Combeweg, it runs the risk of the Committee determining that the OUV is negatively impacted and that the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo would meet the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger as per paragraphs 178-182 of the Operational Guidelines.

⁷ [Committee Decisions](#)

Additionally, the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119 also, *inter alia*, encourages the effective implementation of and financial support for the Management Plan 2020-2024; and requests the State Party to submit the revised legal framework of the Building Committee and the Commission for Monument Conservation to the WHC for review by ICOMOS.

2.3.0. Other considerations on Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity

During the Mission, it was noted that additional measures could be required to guarantee an optimal overall conservation and management of the WH property. For example, there are many existing historic buildings that may require rehabilitation or restoration (see photos 27 to 32; 44 to 46). Additionally, there are several recently built buildings (which seem to have been built after the WH inscription) whose conformity with the heritage context and property's values should be assessed. (see photos 33 to 34). Further, there are buildings that have been expanded via annexes which also require an assessment concerning their conformity with the architecture of the historic buildings (see photo 29). Several buildings have air conditioning machines, as well as commercial billboards, visible on their exterior facades (see photos 29; 35 to 43).

Unfortunately, during the Mission there was a fire located just beyond the WH property buffer zone that destroyed two historic buildings, and there was damage to one separate building within the boundaries of the WH property when a car crashed into it.

Measures undertaken by the State Party to protect the OUV include but are not limited to specific legislation, the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo Management Plan 2020-2024, the institutional framework, the PURP, and Government projects for reconstruction of historic buildings.

Complementary observations on legislation:

Legislation that relates specifically to new buildings or reconstruction of historic buildings within the boundaries of the WH site includes:

- *1956 Building Regulation* or “Construction Act”. It states in Article 1 that it is forbidden to build except with prior written authorization from the Director of Public Works and Transportation. Article 4 indicates that
 - o *the permit shall be refused only (a) if the building plan does not meet the requirements set by the state decree and (b) if the building plan relates to a monument per the Monuments Act and does not comply with the permit granted in this regard by the Minister in charge of cultural affairs.* (Deeple translation from Dutch)
- *The Monuments Act* of 2002. It is under the purview of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, details the Historic Preservation Commission, and covers the designation and modification of monuments. Article 7 indicates it is prohibited, without a permit from the Minister, to demolish, disturb or alter in any way the appearance or structure of a monument. Article 15(b) states that:
 - o *In a city or townscape it is prohibited*

- b. To erect new buildings or make alterations to existing building that may affect or threaten the spatial or structural coherence or the scientific or cultural-historical value of the protected area without a permit for new construction or alteration. (Deeple translation from Dutch)*
- The 2003 law on “Special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones”. It states in its Explanatory Note:

Modern architecture in a historic town centre, but even seemingly small changes can already have a major impact on the external appearance of the historically built environment. The historical inner city of Paramaribo, owes its quality to its cultural-historical character and the largely intact urban planning structure. Its great value is reaffirmed by the placement of the historic city centre on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

To maintain cultural-historical quality and promote harmonious buildings in city and village areas with their own aesthetic character (the historic city centre and adjacent buffer zones), it is necessary to impose set special requirements for building plans within those areas. For clarity, it should be mentioned that these special requirements do not apply to the restoration of officially designated monuments. These monuments enjoy the protection under the Monuments Act 2002 (S.B. 2002 no. 72). Enforcement of the special requirements is done through building permit granting and registration as specified in the Building Act 1956. (Deeple translation from Dutch)

It further states:

Article 2.2 Size and scale

Depending on their design, buildings should fit in with the historically built environment in terms of size and scale. If the streetscape is determined by historical buildings with a certain height, then that height is normative. The same applies to the scale or mass (size or volume) of the structure. The historic streetscape is then decisive. In a street with historical buildings of more or less the same size, that scale is normative. (Deeple translation from Dutch)

Application of the relevant legislation and building permit process appears to be challenging in Paramaribo. It was observed by the Mission, during the field visit of the historic inner city and in conversations with stakeholders including the project officers of the PURP and the representative of the Roman Catholic Church, which owns several blocks with historic buildings, that in spite of the legislation and permit processes, construction of new buildings and reconstruction of historic buildings often take place with little or no controls.

It is noted from the 2023 State of Conservation report that there is an effort to educate private owners about their legal obligations; and for example, in the case of a privately-owned monumental building that was illegally destroyed there was no legal prosecution of the proprietor, but a request was made to deny the owner a new building permit.

PURP:

With loans arranged through the Ministry of Finance and the execution through the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, PURP I is underway and has USD 20 million for restoration

projects through 2025 for historic buildings, public spaces, the Palm Garden and the waterfront. A “*Livelihood Restoration Plan*” in association with the waterfront project is also being developed. The PURP implementation team was involved in preparing, with the Site Manager and other experts, the 2020-2024 Management Plan.

PURP does not provide funding to the new National Assembly Hall project, but the PURP implementation team stated their disapproval of the design proposed for the new National Assembly Hall and sent letters to the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and the Ministry of Finance to contest it. They are concerned that if the WH property is inscribed on the WH List in Danger it will impact their decisions for future project work and they might have to reallocate funds to work to move Paramaribo off of the In Danger List. If the WH property were ever to be de-listed they would pull PURP out of Suriname.

During the Mission, representatives of the different Ministries as well as the Site Manager expressed great concern for the “*open air museum*” nature of the historic inner city: people work there and then leave at 4pm. As it is lacking residents, schools, shops, businesses, tourism and investment, it is falling further into disrepair. Negotiations for PURP II (USD 30 million) are currently underway. PURP II would work with the Government and the private sector towards an Inner-City Revival Plan and develop mixed use (residential and commercial) buildings to encourage people and businesses to move back into the inner city while protecting the OUV of the WH property. The PURP team also indicated that there is an important opportunity for sustainable tourism in the WH property that is currently untapped. Visitors should have places to stay, dine, and shop within the historic inner city, and then can move on to visit Suriname’s other two WH sites⁸.

As with the current Management Plan for the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (2020-2024), PURP II will help develop the next Management Plan. To improve the management of the property and strengthen trust, cooperation and information-sharing between the private sector and the Government, a “city management authority” composed of representatives from all ministries as well as the private sector will be proposed.

In spite of the mentioned concerns, the WH property still appears to retain its overall integrity and authenticity. The attributes that sustain the site’s values are still being preserved as the inner city still conveys cohesion in its urban fabric. However, high vigilance is recommended to maintain OUV, integrity and authenticity, in view of the above-mentioned elements.

2.3.1. Institutional frameworks, processes and management of the proposed new National Assembly Hall and World Heritage property

The Mission observed that the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, and the Ministry of Public Works in relation to building and reconstruction within the

⁸ [Central Suriname Nature Reserve](#)

[Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery](#)

Historic Inner City of Paramaribo overlaps, and that coordination between these Ministries is weak. Discussions with the staff of the Ministries, members of the National Assembly, the Building Committee, the Commission for Monument Conservation and the Site Manager reveal important gaps in information sharing and disconnected lines of management and approval that contributed to the current urgent situation for the proposed new National Assembly Hall and that inhibit the efficient management of the WH property overall.

The relationships with UNESCO and the WHC, and with ICOMOS, are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Under this Ministry are the Commission for Monument Conservation and the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation (SGES) which acts as the site management authority for the World Heritage property and employs the Site Manager.

The Ministry of Public Works issues building and demolition permits. It includes the Building Committee of which a representative from the Built Heritage Foundation is included. However, the Building Committee only gives advice, has no validation power, and its recommendations can be ignored. In issuing permits for construction or renovation in the inner city, reference is made to the 2003 law on “*Special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones*”. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is contacted when there is a request concerning a listed monument. The Ministry of Public Works is not aware that major restorations of historic buildings and/or new building projects in the WH property require a HIA.

It is not clear when these two Ministries began exchanging over the current National Assembly Hall project. As stated above, the Ministry of Public Works is in charge of the project. When they issued the call for tender for design for the new National Assembly Hall in November 2022, they were not aware of the earlier Master Plan (2018-2019) and the technical reviews of ICOMOS regarding future possible construction at the location. This information was provided in February 2023 by the Building Committee when it issued its first assessment of the design proposal. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture sent the ICOMOS May 2023 Technical Review on the design proposal to the Minister of Public Works on 21 June 2023, and the Building Committee gave a second assessment of the design on 26 June 2023 proposing revisions to the design (Annex XIII). In spite of this and further exchanges, the contract for construction was signed in September 2023 and construction began in late September/October 2023.

According to the 2020-2024 Management Plan for the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Annex XII):

“Paramaribo has no mayor. The responsibility for historic city center falls under the District Commissioner (DC) of Paramaribo North-East who is appointed by the President. But the DC lacks a clear mandate or staff with skills to administer the historic resources and is more of an administrative office...”

Ministries are also responsible for the city center. The Ministry of Regional Development is concerned with local governance, the Ministry of Public Works is responsible for infrastructure, traffic, construction and maintenance, Ministry of Transport and Communication is responsible for transportation and the Ministry of Science and Education, with their Department of Culture is responsible for the conservation of

monuments. The Ministers are also appointed by the President. This too has its shortcomings as it is subjected to politics.”

“In order to protect the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage City of Paramaribo a specifically designated authority responsible for management and coordination is necessary. Authority must align with responsibility within the current management context with sufficient financing for the management, reporting, and safeguarding of the inner city. The current state organization with two branches of government and multiple ministries leads to numerous overlaps in authority as well as significant gaps in responsibilities.

A proposed solution is the designation of a Paramaribo World Heritage Authority to coordinate between agencies, plan changes, promote visitation, and protect the city’s historic resources.”⁹

Previous Management Plans and ICOMOS recommendations from the time of nomination and inscription, as well as the PURP, have called for the creation of a central Paramaribo governing body to address overlaps, clarify lines of authority, share information and improve management of the property. Such a governing body could develop a shared vision, approach and management for a thriving and contemporary city of Paramaribo.

2.3.2. The 2020-2024 Management Plan for the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo

The Management Plan is very thorough, practical and informative, providing background, context, facts, challenges and solutions. Unfortunately, in discussions with stakeholders and Government authorities, the Mission observed that it has not been widely disseminated, it is not being fully implemented, and there is currently no specific funding for its implementation.

Site Manager:

The Mission benefitted from exchanges with and participation of the very experienced and informed Site Manager in many meetings and in the field visit of the inner city. The Site Manager is also the Director of the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation (SGES), and Site Manager for two of Suriname’s three World Heritage Sites¹⁰. It is noted that the SGES has very limited staff and budget yet is responsible for all of Suriname and undertakes awareness-raising, research, education and inventory activities in addition to WH site management. The Site Manager needs dedicated staff and budget to better implement the Management Plan.

2024-2029 Management Plan for the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo:

As the current Management Plan expires in 2024, the next Management Plan is to be developed now. The Mission noted during discussions with the PURP team that they will be

⁹ The Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage City Management Plan 2020-2024 pp5-58 and 5-59.

¹⁰ [Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery](#) and Historic Inner City of Paramaribo

involved in this work. The timeframe and budget were not discussed during the Mission, however the State Party may consider extending the current Management Plan so as to have time and resources to prepare the next one well. It became clear during the Mission that the next Management Plan requires the endorsement and engagement of all relevant Ministries, and the engagement of the private sector and the general public. It also needs the appropriate funding and the staffing as the means to implement it, particularly in view of the many challenges observed by the Mission regarding the state of conservation of the property and the looming threats to its OUV.

Paramaribo Master Plan:

The Mission observed that there is no comprehensive and effective management system ensuring the protection of the WH property's OUV, integrity and authenticity, particularly in view of sustainable development plans for the inner city. Such a system could include a Master Plan with its subsequent management, conservation, zoning, environment and new development plans, and could include or incorporate PURP and sub-plans in the areas of sustainable tourism, revitalization of the inner city, risk management and fire prevention, tax-incentives package (for the private sector) etc. This could be complementary to the Management Plan for the WH property.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.3.1. Conclusions

- On the current location (at Independence Square): Although the existing facilities of the current location of the National Assembly (at Independence Square) are still holding up well and the National Assembly has managed to operate in said building, still there is not sufficient space to fit all of the National Assembly's spatial needs. Further, the plot of land has considerable parking spaces but still due to its size restraints, there is not sufficient space to accommodate all parking demand. In addition, although the building is within walking distance from Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, still its physical distance makes it hard for the two locations to function as one. The Mission, having made a field visit through the historic inner city, established that no alternative building or location is easily apparent for the new National Assembly Hall. The Mission concludes that remaining at the present location is not practical and that the location at Grote Combeweg appears appropriate for the construction of a new National Assembly Hall.
- On the proposed project of the National Assembly Hall and its impact on the OUV: The design project requires approximately 4,400.00 sq. mt. worth of construction area. An open bridge, on the first and second floors, will provide a connection to the stairwell between Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6; the main building would be at a distance of 17.30 mts. approximately from the street with an entrance and exit on both sides and a square of 380.00 sq. mt. approximately. A relatively sober architecture was chosen in order not to compete with characteristic wooden architecture of the historic urban landscape. Additionally, the proposed building is deliberately set back on Grote Combeweg so that the experience of its size is limited to the narrow width of 18.00 mts. approximately. The balconies on the sides of the building fit in the tradition of the wooden architecture. However, being proposed as a single-volume building and due to its considerable footprint and scale, the project portrays a rather commanding and somewhat imposing presence which does seem to compete with the historic urban landscape. Further,

the fact that the building's facades (without the roof) are higher than the ones pertaining to the Henck Arronstraat reconstructed buildings adds to said commanding character. Even though the overall architectural language of the proposed building includes some features that can be seen in parts of the inner city, nevertheless, its overall configuration is somewhat inconsistent in terms of the proportions of some of its diverse architectural components. Therefore, in light of all the above, the findings in ICOMOS' previous Technical Reviews and the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119 are confirmed; should the project be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the OUV of the WH property.

- On the analysis of the streetscape in relation to the proposed new National Assembly Hall: The proposed project will be seen along Grote Combeweg and from the corner of Henck Arronstraat and Onafhankelijkheidsplein. As for Grote Combeweg, the current streetscape vistas are defined by several 2 and 3-story buildings (some of which are built almost along the property line) whose façade heights (without the roofs) seem to be in line with the same height of the façades of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. Meaning that, said height of façades defines the average scale and proportions of the urban landscape along that specific street. Therefore, considering that the proposed project's facades are higher than those of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, its overall presence would be perceived as imposing (due to its proportions) even with the proposed set back. As for the vistas at Van Roseveltkade, the current streetscape viewsheds are also defined by the average height of the facades of the buildings along Henck Arronstraat which seem to continue around the corner, in continuation with Grote Combeweg. Both streetscape vistas suggest that a more suitable project will be one in which the height of its proposed facades are equal (or perhaps lower) to those of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. Furthermore, the proposed set back (along Grote Combeweg) could be maintained so that it is consistent with current local building codes. Therefore, for both cases, it can be said that while the setback of the proposed project is possible, the project will be perceived as imposing and somewhat out of proportion, thus posing an adverse impact on the historic urban landscape and on the OUV of the WH property.
- On the local building regulations and codes for Infill Buildings: Several local regulations and codes do establish a set of design parameters applicable to the proposed infill building. For example, the "*Monuments Act 2002*" establishes that "*(it is prohibited) to build new buildings or make changes to existing buildings that could affect or threaten the spatial or structural coherence of the protected area, or the scientific or cultural-historical value of the protected area, without a permit for new construction or renovation*".

On the other hand, the inner city is also regulated by a "*Special Requirements Law (Ao. 2003 Tuesday, April 29 No.34)*", which states that: "*Designs for (replacement) new buildings or modern architecture should be creative and original, and should radiate respect and affinity with the city and its historic buildings; new buildings should be in harmony with the historical buildings; Reconstructing, replicating or imitating a historic building is not recommended; Buildings should fit into the historically built-up environment in terms of size and scale; The ridge height of a building on the street side may not exceed that of the adjoining buildings, at the discretion of the Building Committee; The ridge height of a building on a courtyard site shall not exceed three meters above the ridge of the street building; It can also happen, however, that (replacement) new buildings are wedged between two monumental buildings, located in a street where the process of modernization has already begun. In such cases, in order to protect and preserve the cultural-historical quality of the aforementioned buildings, new buildings should match the size and scale of the adjacent historical buildings*".

In other words, according to said regulations, new buildings must not affect, nor threaten the spatial or structural coherence of the protected area, especially in light of its cultural-historical value as well as the city's views and should be in harmony with the historical buildings and fit into the historically built-up environment in terms of size and scale by matching the size and scale of the adjacent historical buildings. Additionally these regulations must be applied in light of the statement of OUV of the WH property, which must always be taken into account not only for this project but for any new buildings and for building restoration projects. Therefore, in light of the above and based on the assessment set forth above, it can be said that, should the project be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and undesirable impact on the cultural-historical value of the WH property.

- On the lack of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA): HIAs are currently not part of local regulations and requirements. As a result, no HIA has been done regarding the proposed new building in spite of it being recommended by ICOMOS Technical Reviews (May and September 2023) and later by the WH Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.119. It can be concluded that HIAs are indispensable for new buildings and for renovation or restoration projects where important material or structural changes are proposed in the WH property, and an HIA must be undertaken for any new design of the National Assembly Hall and submitted to the WH Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
- On the Master Plan (2018-2019): The "Master Plan", which ICOMOS's May and September 2023 Technical Reviews referred to, was not really an official master plan presented by the State Party, but rather a conceptual design proposal made by the same architecture firm in charge of the design and plans for the 2022 reconstruction of the two buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. However, even though ICOMOS may have based its previous Technical Reviews and recommendations on a conceptual design proposal, still its assessment and design recommendations refer to a set of technical criteria and design parameters, related to the values and attributes of the WH property, which are still applicable to the overall project, as a whole, regardless of it being conceived on a conceptual design proposal or on a master plan.
- On clarification of consultation process and ICOMOS Technical Reviews: In May 2023, ICOMOS made a 1st Technical Review in which the proposed project was found unsuitable and on which technical recommendations were provided as possible alternatives for the State Party to explore. In July 2023, the State Party responded by further explaining, expanding and supporting its rationale behind the design criteria proposed on said project, but not exploring the alternatives set forth by ICOMOS. Subsequently, in September 2023, ICOMOS made a 2nd Technical Review in which it maintained its assessment and recommendations as per the 1st review. Further, that same month (September 2023) the WH Committee, in its Decision 45 COM 7B.119, coincided with ICOMOS' assessment. Therefore, the chronological order of events explained above, suggests that there is a lack of understanding of consultation processes as foreseen in the Operational Guidelines paragraphs 172-174 and the ICOMOS Technical Reviews on the part of the State Party.
- On the overall state of conservation of the World Heritage property:

During the Mission it could be observed that the challenges to the integrity and authenticity of the WH property are posed by the construction of new buildings and/or major renovation of existing buildings within the historic inner city that do not conform to the scale, size, architectural language and materials of the well-preserved historic buildings emblematic of the WH property, and lack of conservation of numerous historic buildings. The main weaknesses concern the management of the WH property, the overlap of responsibilities of different Ministries and the lack of communication or cooperation among them, as well as the failure to

fully implement the Management Plan and lack of support and funding to implement it. Therefore, it can be concluded that more coordination is needed, as for example through the establishment of an inner city management and development authority, and the development of a Paramaribo Master Plan that can complement the Management Plan.

- On other measures to protect OUV, integrity and authenticity: Many existing historic buildings seem to require rehabilitation and restoration, while several recently built buildings (which seem to have been built after the World Heritage inscription) need an assessment concerning their compatibility with the heritage context and the WH property's OUV. Furthermore, there are buildings that have been expanded via annexes which seem to be also in discordance with the architecture of the historic buildings. Several buildings have air conditioning machines, as well as commercial billboards, visible on their exterior facades. Therefore, it can be concluded that high vigilance is needed to maintain OUV, integrity and authenticity, in view of the above-mentioned elements.

Other factors affecting the World Heritage property:

- Insufficient awareness at governmental levels and among civil society on meaning of World Heritage and the related commitments and obligations for managing and conserving a WH property;
- Incomplete and unclear legal framework, with legal provisions and guidelines for effective management showing both omissions and overlaps;
- Different ministries and entities deciding on issues affecting the WH property, but with overlapping responsibility, and without systematic communication – making it difficult to coordinate and agree on a course of action, and to manage and protect the WH property;
- Heritage entities and mainly the Site Manager and the SGES, as management authority, have limited power, staff and funding all of which limits their ability to properly deal with their high responsibility;
- In the inner city, Governmental offices and public services occupy a large portion of the historic buildings, while the number of residences, schools and shops is small, leaving the inner city life-less outside of office hours;
- Parking is in short supply and the public transportation does not offer an alternative to driving a car;
- Insufficient community and private sector engagement and awareness;
- Vulnerability to fire and insufficient maintenance of historic wooden constructions and elements.

3.3.2. Recommendations

Main Recommendations:

- On the proposed project: Should the project be constructed at the currently proposed location of Grote Combeweg, then the following recommended design parameters should be considered so as to minimize its overall impact:

- (Footprint) Considering the historical urban evolution of the project site and its spatial relationships with its surrounding neighbors, the proposed new building should be reduced (in terms of its footprint), to the minimum feasible, in a way that it could still have room for its main components (e.g.: 51-seat assembly hall; 2 staircases; 2-elevators; supporting spaces; mechanical shafts).
- (Implantation) Considering the above-mentioned arguments, the proposed new building could still maintain its proposed setback (on Grote Combeweg) so that: it becomes discernible; its front façade's presence does not block the view of building Henck Arronstraat 6 (as seen along Grote Combeweg's current urban vistas and viewsheds); it is consistent with current local building codes and with the fact that the more recently built buildings (along Grote Combeweg) were, in fact, built with said setback and that it provides for a seemingly necessary public atrium. All remaining setbacks (both lateral and rear) should also be considered as per current local building codes and bearing in mind the site's former spatial relationships with its surrounding neighbors (in so far as possible). This may allow for freedom of movement (at the ground level) adding to the historical semi-public former character of the site.
- (Height) Considering the physical presence of the recently reconstructed buildings and the spatial relationship with the immediate urban context, the proposed new building should be reduced (in terms of its height), in such a way that, its facades (without the roof) are not taller than the ones pertaining to said recently reconstructed buildings. In order to achieve that, perhaps the proposed new parking space (on Level 000) could be relocated on the adjacent lots/yards which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, so that the building would end up being one floor lower. Another possible way could be to relocate the proposed complementary meeting rooms (on Level 100) into the seemingly available spaces within the recently reconstructed buildings.
- (Connections with the recently reconstructed buildings) Again, considering the above-mentioned arguments, the connections could be proposed in such a way that they: are as less intrusive as possible; have the minimum footprint necessary; are solved below the buildings' eaves and are consistent with the overall architectural idiom of the proposed new building.
- (Proportions and geometry) The overall proportions and geometrical composition of the proposed new facades (mass; openings; architectural elements/resources) should be conceived in such a way that they reflect and are in harmony with the rest of the historic urban landscape . The idea being to be able to establish a clear, discernible and honest dialogue between the new building and said historic urban landscape in terms of proportions, rhythms, mass, openings, etc.
- (Architectural idiom) This is left for the design architect to propose. There are no one-for-all recipes. Nevertheless, in order to not threaten the WH property's authenticity and integrity, the proposed new building should be able to respond to the values and attributes of the WH property that convey its OUV, in a way that it is respectful, discrete, discernible, harmonious, honest and authentic.

- (Roof; materials and color scheme) The proposed roof, materials and color scheme could still be amended following current/local building code regulations, as long as its design is in harmony with the rest of the historic urban landscape and as long as it is not higher than the roofs of any of the recently reconstructed buildings.
- On the analysis of the streetscape in relation to the proposed new National Assembly Hall: Based on the assessment previously set forth in this report, invite the State Party to adjust the proposed project in such a way that the height of its proposed facades are equal (or perhaps lower) to those of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. Further, the proposed set back (along Grote Combeweg) could be maintained so that it is consistent with current local building codes and with the fact that the more recently built buildings (along Grote Combeweg) were, in fact, built with said setback.
- In relation to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs): Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in line with the “*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*”, on the amended design of the National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg, and submit it to the WHC for review by ICOMOS, in accordance with the WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119. Furthermore, it is vital that the State Party takes note generally of the importance of carrying out HIAs for each project, within the WH property involving a new building or a major renovation to an existing building so that its potential negative impacts on the OUV of the WH property may be identified, assessed and avoided at the conceptual design phase (that is, prior to moving on the construction plans phase). Likewise, it is important to follow the standards set forth by the current “*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*” for it explains how impact assessments can be used to protect the OUV of WH properties in order to manage continuity and change by informing good decision making in the context of UNESCO’s 1972 World Heritage Convention.

Other General Recommendations

- On understanding the consultation process and ICOMOS Technical Reviews: Invite the State Party to take part in capacity building seminars and/or workshops for all government agencies and departments involved in the protection of the WH property, with the technical assistance of the WHC and the Advisory Bodies, to cover aspects such as management, the WH property state of conservation and WH Committee processes, the Operational Guidelines, requesting and interpretation of Advisory Body Technical Reviews; when and how to conduct HIAs, how to read/interpret HIAs; etc.
- On the measures to protect the OUV and whether the conditions of integrity and authenticity are being maintained: Invite the State Party to formulate a comprehensive and effective management system so as to ensure the protection of the WH property’s integrity and authenticity. Such system would include a Paramaribo Master Plan that can complement the Management Plan and that addresses issues such as management, conservation, zoning, environment, and new development, including PURP and sub-plans in the areas of sustainable tourism, revitalization of the inner city, risk management and fire prevention, tax-incentives package (for the private sector) etc. It should have the endorsement of all relevant Ministries and agencies and private sector stakeholders. Additionally, invite the State Party to restore existing historic buildings where necessary and to assess recently built buildings, their heritage context and property values, for conformity with the OUV, integrity and authenticity of the WH property.

- On legislation and legal frameworks: Invite the State Party to
 - Strengthen legislation and ensure a more coherent legal framework for the protection of the historic inner city generally,
 - Complete the process of strengthening and updating the legal framework and functioning of both the Building Committee and the Commission for Monument Conservation, and submit these to the WHC for review by the Advisory Bodies per WH Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.119,
 - Empower the Building Committee with a validation power on the issuing of permits for buildings within the boundaries of the WH property, and
 - Ensure a stronger enforcement of laws and regulations.
- On institutional framework, responsibilities and administrative procedures: Invite the State Party to better define the institutional framework, responsibilities and administrative procedures for the effective management and governability of the WH property and to establish an inner city management and development authority that includes all ministries dealing with the inner city as well as representatives of the private sector to coordinate between ministries and share information, ensure the efficient management of the WH property, plan for development projects, establish the medium and long-term vision and protect the city's historic resources.
- On the SGES, the Building Committee and the Commission for Monument Conservation: Invite the State Party to provide the Commission for Monument Conservation, the SGES generally, and the Site Manager specifically with more authority, staff and funding to implement their mandates.
- On awareness-raising: Invite the State Party to design and implement an awareness raising initiative targeting private building owners, architects, contractors, and civil society generally to educate them about the WH property status and obligations, OUV, building requirements, legislation, and permit procedure, and include signage throughout the property that it is a WH property.
- On the Management Plan: Invite the State Party to consider extending the 2020-2024 Management Plan, in order to have time to develop the next Management Plan (2024-2028) for the WH property. The next Management Plan should promote the preservation of the values of the historic inner city as well as serve as a guide for all conservation and construction programs and activities, including any Inner-City Revival Plan. It should be discussed with all stakeholders and its stages approved by the Council of Ministers in order to guarantee its implementation. It should be widely circulated among governmental and technical, private and public sector stakeholders and should have assured financing not only for its development but for its implementation once approved.

4. ANNEXES

- Annex I: Terms of Reference
- Annex II: Mission Program
- Annex III: List of people met
- Annex IV: Master Plan 15 February 2019 Reconstruction of the former National Assembly building of Suriname, Henck Arron straat 2-4 and 6, by KDV architects
- Annex V: Decisions of the World Heritage Committee
- Annex VI: Design of the proposed new National Assembly Hall “*New construction Meeting complex The National Assembly of Suriname*” presentation, by *De Architecten Studio* (DAS - January 2024)
- Annex VII: ICOMOS’ two previous technical reviews (May and September, 2023)
- Annex VIII: State Party’s July 2023 response to ICOMOS’ 1st technical review of May 2023
- Annex IX: Suriname’s “Monuments Act 2002”. Note: The Annex contains a Deele translation of the original law
- Annex X: Suriname’s law “Special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones including annex”, (Ao. 2003 Tuesday, April 29 No.34). Note: The Annex contains a Deele translation of the original law
- Annex XI: Photographs
- Annex XII: Paramaribo Management Plan 2020-2024
- Annex XIII: Building Committee Assessments

ANNEX I:

Terms of Reference.

On 18 May 2023, the Director of the World Heritage Centre sent to the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Suriname to UNESCO the Technical Review of ICOMOS International of the proposed new facility for the National Assembly Hall of Suriname at Grote Combeweg (Attached). This Technical Review, among other things, referred to the Master Plan of 2018 (Attached), and found that "The proposed hall is unsuited and inviable, not only in terms of its urban setting, but also, in regard to its overall size, scale, proportions and architectural language. Therefore, should it be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property."

At its 45th extended session (Riyadh, September 2023), the World Heritage Committee, in its Decision 45 COM 7B.119, stated:

"9. Notes that the proposed new Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), recommends to the State Party to study alternative options, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and in case of any further development at the premises of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, to respect the earlier agreed Master Plan and the recommendations of previous technical reviews, and urges the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on the housing of the National Assembly at its present or alternative locations and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;" (Full Decision attached).

On 27 September 2023, the Director of the World Heritage Centre sent to the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Suriname to UNESCO the second Technical Review of ICOMOS International of the proposed new facility for the National Assembly of Suriname at Grote Combeweg (Attached). It indicated that the conclusions of the May 2023 Technical Review were maintained. A feasibility study should be undertaken, and design options should be explored to house the National Assembly Hall at the location of the Henck Arronstraat Grote Combeweg along the lines of the Master Plan 2018, with appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments following the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context

On 3 October 2023, the Director of the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Suriname to UNESCO enclosing information from different sources concerning the reported signing of a contract and commencement of construction of National Assembly Hall and, pursuant to paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention, requested official information and comments thereon.

On 6 November 2023, an online meeting took place with Mr Henry Ori, Minister of Education, Science and Culture and Mr Riad Nurmohamed, Minister of Public Works of Suriname, Ms Regina Durighello and Mr Herman van Hooff of ICOMOS, Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and Mr Mauro Rosi, Chief of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit of the World Heritage Centre. Minister Ori informed that the construction of the National Assembly Hall has been suspended and requested an Advisory Mission of ICOMOS International.

On 14 November 2023 the World Heritage Centre received a formal request from Suriname for the Advisory Mission to Paramaribo, Suriname for the beginning of December 2023, on the matter of the construction plans and the design of the National Assembly Hall at Grote Combeweg. This request stipulated, *inter alia*, that the position of Suriname is that neither the location at Grote Combeweg nor the interpretation of the needs/functional requirements of the National Assembly Hall are open to discussion, and the mission is to focus on the design of the meeting room and possible revision of the Master Plan.

It is considered pertinent for the Advisory Mission to be conducted jointly by ICOMOS International and the World Heritage Centre.

In particular the Advisory Mission should:

6. Ensure full comprehension by the Suriname authorities and the stakeholders of the options for the way forward for the construction of the National Assembly Hall, and provide clarifications to them on paragraph 9 of the Decision 45 COM 7B.119 referred to above, as well as all the points of the May and September 2023 ICOMOS International Technical Reviews below:
 - f) The construction of a new National Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 and corner Grote Combeweg is a complex urban and architectural design challenge. Given the high urban, architectural and symbolic importance of the location and surrounding buildings, any construction could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
 - g) The Master Plan of 2018 (image 4) gives a clear indication of the location and scale of any future extensions. ICOMOS supported this plan in its Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019. This implies that any new construction should be limited in scale and height and should be concentrated on the area behind Henck Arronstraat 2-4 along the Grote Combeweg. The garden behind Henck Arronstraat 6 should be maintained as indicated in the Master Plan.
 - h) The proposed hall is unsuited and inviable, not only in terms of its urban setting, but also, in regards to its overall size, scale, proportions and architectural language. Therefore, should it be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.
 - i) Various design options should be explored for housing the National Assembly, including the refurbishing of the National Assembly Hall at its present location at Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence square). If the State Party wishes to explore the possibilities to build a hall at the location at the Grote Combeweg, it could consider the original plans in the final Dossier May 2017 (image 3). A feasibility study could be undertaken if it were possible to divide the design programme among buildings D, E, F and G, but with the limited height as foreseen in the original design and in the Master Plan endorsed in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019 (image 4).
 - j) Appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments need to be undertaken with the objective to evaluate the potential impact of the various design options on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The State Party is invited to submit these studies for Technical Review by ICOMOS as soon as they become available.
7. Assess, per Decision 45 COM 7B.119, the options for construction of the National Assembly Hall:
 - c) At a different location than Grote Combeweg, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and assess any justification from Suriname against this option;
 - d) At Grote Combeweg location pursuant to a Master Plan.
8. Assess the Master Plan and design for the National Assembly Hall construction at Grote Combeweg location in relation to the:
 - e) Nomination file, Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted in 2014 and the attributes for Outstanding Universal Value for the site;
 - f) 2020-2024 Management Plan for the site and any other regulations that are relevant for the inner city;
 - g) Surrounding or adjacent buildings (including volume and dimensions);
 - h) Impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.
9. Analyse the entire streetscape, up to the bridge over the Sommelsdijck Creek, for fuller context when providing advice on the Master Plan and design of the National Assembly Hall;
10. Provide advice on the Master Plan and design and in particular how to ensure that it respects the rules for building within the boundaries of the site and does not negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

The State Party will facilitate necessary field visits to key locations and meetings with stakeholders.

In order to enable preparation for the mission, the State Party should provide if available the following items, in addition to any further studies, decisions, or assessments available, in an appropriate format, including web links where available, to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International as soon as possible, during the mission and within a period of two weeks after the completion of the mission in Suriname and as a condition to the mission:

- Any new design proposals;
- 2020-2024 Management Plan for the site and any other regulations that are relevant for the inner city;
- Photographs and plans of the recent construction initiated at Grote Combeweg;
- Preliminary feasibility study of the proposed new National Assembly Hall;
- Preliminary Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed new National Assembly Hall;
- Updated information on other related development projects.

In addition, the State Party is requested to provide any additional information or documents requested by the Mission experts, within two weeks of the completion of the Mission, including (but not limited to) schedules of all personnel who participate in the mission, a final itinerary, and copies of any presentations made during the Mission.

The mission will hold consultations with the relevant authorities of Suriname, particularly the Ministry of Public Works, and representatives from local governments. In addition, the mission will hold consultations with a range of relevant stakeholders, including: representatives of communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), relevant researchers and experts.

ANNEX II:

Mission Program

FINAL PROGRAM (Revised II)
ICOMOS ADVISORY MISSION
TO THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY HISTORIC INNER CITY OF PARAMARIBO-SURINAME,
12 – 16 January 2024

Mission Experts Mr. Daniel Young Torquemada (ICOMOS) and Ms. Rochelle Roca (UNESCO)

General Objective of the mission:

Carrying out of an ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage property, jointly with the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM in line with the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

Specific Objective:

To assess and analyse the construction of the new Parliaments Hall, and provide advice on the Master Plan and design to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

Friday January 12, 2024		Venue
03:30 pm	Arrival Flight Copa Airlines CM 318 Transfer from JAP International Airport to hotel in Paramaribo	
Saturday January 13, 2024		
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation The Minister – Mr. Albert R. Ramdin	Office Headquarters MinBIBIS Henck Arronstraat # 8
09:00- 10:00	Welcome, Introduction and meeting with the Management of the Parliament and the Chair of the Building Committee of the Parliament – DNA. The Chair- Mr. Marinus Bee The Vice Chair – Mr. Dew Sharman The Chair Building Committee - Mr. Jogi	DNA Henck Arronstraat 2-6
10:30- 11:00	Introduction and meeting with the Ministry of Public Works The Minister - Mr. Riad Nurmohamed The Permanent Secretary Building Construction and Urban Development Affairs - Mr. Vidjay Doerga Misier BSc.	Office Headquarters MinPW Mr. Jagernath Lachmonstr. 167-169
11:00- 12:00	Meeting with the Building Commission and the Permanent Secretary Building Construction and Urban Development Affairs - Mr. Vidjay Doerga Misier BSc.	Office Headquarters MinPW Mr. Jagernath Lachmonstr. 167-169

12:00-13:00	Presentation Architect “De Architecten Studio” – Mr. Derrick S.M. Emanuels	Office Headquarters MinPW Mr. Jagernath Lachmonstr. 167-169
	Lunch	
14:00 - 16:00	Meeting with the Ministry of Education, Science & Culture. The Minister – Prof. Dr. Mr. Henry Ori The Permanent Secretary of Culture - Ms. Roseline Daan, The Secretary- General of the National UNESCO Commission Suriname (NUCS) – Ms. Vidya Narain The Site Manager Historic Inner City of Paramaribo, Stichting Gebouwd Erfgoed Suriname, SGES - Mr. Stephen Fokké The PIU-PURP Program Coordinator Ms. Natasja Deul The Chair of Monuments Commission - Ms. Mandela Jap-A-Joe The Policy Advisor Archaeological Services of Suriname – Ms. Irene Meulenberg	Headquarters MINOWC Dr. S. Kafiluddistraat 117-123
17:00-18:00	Meeting Stichting Gebouwd Erfgoed Suriname, SGES - Site Manager historic inner city of Paramaribo, Mr. Stephen Fokké and Suriname National Commission for UNESCO, NUCS - SecretaryGeneral, Ms. Vidya Narain, as well with Monuments Commission - Chair, Ms. Mandela Jap-A-Joe.	Office SGES, Zeelandiaweg 7 – Fort Zeelandia
	End of day 1 (Questions/requests/discuss program field day 13 January, 2024)	
Sunday January 14, 2024		
09:00-	On-site Visit area Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 along the Grote Combé Jointly with experts Mr. S. Fokke, Mr. D. Emanuels & Minister of Public Works dr. Riad Nurmohamed	
	End of day 2	
Monday January 15, 2024		
08:00 - 09:00	On-site orientation visit of the Parliament Building – DNA	Onafhankelijkheidsplein # 10
09:00-10:00	Meeting KDV Architects (Mr. Philip Dikland)	Office KDV Naarstr # 9
11:00 - 11:30	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Country Representative Ms. Adriana La Valley and Project Team PURP as well PIU-PURP Program Coordinator Ms. Natasja Deul	IDB-Office Peter Bruneslaan 2-4
12:00-13:00	Meeting with any stakeholder if necessary. Roman Catholic Diocese - Father Esteban Kross - Vicar General	 Henck Arronstraat # 14

13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-	<p>End of Mission: Evaluation, presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations, with:</p> <p>Management of the Parliament and the Chair of the Building</p> <p>Committee of the Parliament – DNA Minister – Mr. Albert R. Ramdin</p> <p>Minister – Prof. Dr. Mr. Henry Ori and his team</p> <p>Minister – Mr. dr. Riad J. Nurmohamed and his team</p> <p>Architect – Mr. Derrick Emanuels</p>	<p>DNA</p> <p>Henck Arronstraat 2-6</p>
Tuesday January 16, 2024		
05:16 AM	<p>Transfer from hotel in Paramaribo to JAP International Airport</p> <p>Departure Flight Copa Airlines CM 319</p>	

ANNEX III:

**ICOMOS ADVISORY MISSION
“HISTORIC INNERCITY OF PARAMARIBO “
12TH -16TH January, 2024**

Contact information

Mission Experts: Mr. Daniel Young Torquemada (ICOMOS) & Ms. Rochelle Roca (UNESCO)

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Site Manager Historic Inner City of Paramaribo						
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n Program (PURP)						
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of Public Works						
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ANNEX IV:

Master Plan 15 February 2019 Reconstruction of the former National Assembly building of Suriname, Henck Arron straat 2-4 and 6, by KDV architects.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eICVoCSckzA_HsigeMEG_38ZnYwABYJV/view?usp=sharing

ANNEX V:

Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision 42 COM 7B.42

Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the approval and implementation of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP) that addresses key issues of the management and conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to provide a copy of the programme documentation and periodic progress reports on its implementation, including information on the community's participation, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Urges the State Party again to withdraw the licence to the private company for the development project at the Waterfront, and to urgently proceed with the expansion of the property's boundaries to include a 50 metre strip of the river, and with the extension of the buffer zones as recommended in earlier Committee decisions by means of a formal Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Recommends that the State Party pay particular attention to the development of the whole Waterfront which is a key attribute of the property and to submit the Strategic Plan for the Waterfront, once it becomes available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Regretting that four historic buildings were either destroyed by fire or illegally demolished by their owners in 2017, also requests the State Party to provide further information on the most recent incidents in regard to their relevance for the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
7. Further requests the State Party to give high priority to fire prevention and awareness raising among private owners of historic buildings in the property and its buffer zone;
8. Commends the initiative of the State Party to re-build the former National Assembly buildings and requests furthermore the State Party to take into account the recommendations made by the ICOMOS technical review, and to engage in further consultations with ICOMOS on the elaboration of updated architectural designs;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

Decision 44 COM 7B.70

Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities that are being undertaken in the framework of the Inter-American Development Bank IADB-funded Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP) and its Strategic Master Plan that expresses an integral approach to the conservation of the World Heritage property, including housing, mobility, water management and community participation;
4. Welcomes the withdrawal of the license for construction at the Waterfront, and that the Strategic Master Plan proposed for the whole of the Waterfront is being developed to address the challenges posed by rising sea-levels of up to one metre by the end of this century;
5. Considering that the Waterfront constitutes one of the main attributes of the World Heritage property, invites the State Party to submit the final designs for the Waterfront, as soon as they become available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Recalls the importance of the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river, as well the extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone, and urges again the State Party to proceed with these extensions and to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Also takes note of the completion of the Updated Management Plan 2020-2024 for the property and also urges the State Party to finalize its approval as soon as possible;
8. Regrets the repeated demolition, destruction by fire and decay of the wooden building stock, both government and privately-owned, and recommends that the State Party increase its efforts to raise awareness and promote participation of the population and owners in the recuperation of the historical centre and its individual structures;
9. Notes with appreciation that the State Party engaged in constructive consultations with ICOMOS regarding the reconstruction of the former National Assembly Building, and emphasizes that the reconstruction as agreed upon is an exceptional case due to exceptional circumstances and should not be seen as a precedent for other cases;
10. Also welcomes that three government-owned buildings will be restored in the framework of PURP, and requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible their architectural designs as well as the guidelines that are included in the Retrofit Manual for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

Decision 45 COM 7B.119

Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.70** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the designs of the Waterfront of the property, revised in conformity with the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical reviews, and the launch of the Environmental and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA), which will inform the final design of the Waterfront, as well as the planning of a new *Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme* (PURP), with the Inter-American Development Bank to start in 2024, and requests that extensive information in its regard be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;
4. Expresses its serious regret that no action has been taken concerning the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-meter strip along the river, nor concerning the draft extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone, and urges the State Party to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Takes note with appreciation of the approval of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage City Management Plan 2020-2024 by the Council of Ministers and the initial budget provided for its implementation and encourages the State Party to ensure its effective implementation and financial support;
6. Also welcomes the rehabilitation of some 15 public and private historic buildings demolished or otherwise destroyed by fire or decay, the reconstruction of the former National Assembly Building, the restoration of three government-owned buildings in line with suggestions of ICOMOS' technical reviews and also requests the State Party to provide full photographic or graphic documentation of the reconstructed National Assembly Building and restoration of Waterkant 30 and 32;
7. Equally welcomes the initiatives to raise awareness of the population and of owners on the importance of the buildings, as well as the initiatives to manage parking in the historic city center, and encourages the State Party to restore government-owned historic buildings still needing urgent rehabilitation, to take adequate legal measures with regard to illegal destruction of historic buildings, and to continue the public awareness-raising campaign;
8. Appreciates the review and revision of the legal framework of the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission in view of protecting the historic inner city and further requests the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible;
9. Notes that the proposed new Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), recommends to the State Party to study alternative options, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and in case of any further development at the premises of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, to respect the earlier agreed Master Plan and the recommendations of previous technical reviews, and urges the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on the housing of the National Assembly at its present or alternative locations and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;
10. Also notes the technical reviews of four additional projects (two restoration projects, a new State Council building, the rehabilitation of the Palm Garden and the construction of a hotel at the Kleine Combeweg) undertaken by ICOMOS and requests furthermore the State Party to take the recommendations of these reviews into consideration, provide additional documentation as requested and enter into consultations with the Advisory Bodies as appropriate, and requests moreover that the

State Party ensure that no permits are delivered or irreversible actions are taken in the meantime;

11. Finally, requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

ANNEX VI: Design new proposed National Assembly Hall

“New construction Meeting complex The National Assembly of Suriname” presentation, by *De Architecten Studio* (DAS - January 2024) for the proposed new National Assembly Hall

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GDNqUmDLmFWkenTPGbESYh04t9yRwg4a/view?usp=sharing>

ANNEX VII:

ICOMOS two previous technical reviews (May and September 2023)

ICOMOS Technical Review

Property	Historic Inner City of Paramaribo
State Party	Suriname
Property ID	940Rev
Date inscription	2002
Criteria	(ii)(iv)
Project/issue	Construction of a National Assembly Hall at the Grote Combeweg

1. Background

On 10 March 2023, ICOMOS received through the World Heritage Centre the following documentation from the State Party:

- Letter from the Minister of Education, Science and Culture dated 8 March 2023, transmitting documentation regarding the construction of a new National Assembly Hall. The Minister requests a Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies in order to determine whether the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will be negatively affected by the proposed building.
- A set of eleven floor plans and elevations of the new building.
- A set of eight street views of the building in its immediate surroundings.

In addition, the following documentation was consulted:

- Dossier Final Design for the reconstruction of the former National Assembly buildings, MKDV Architects, May 8, 2017, for the historical and spatial analysis of the project site.
- Nomination dossier, maps and other documentation available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940>.
- ICOMOS' Technical Reviews concerning the reconstruction and extension of the National Assembly buildings at the Henck Arronstraat corner Grote Combeweg, dated November 2017, July and November 2018 and March 2019.

2. Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Paramaribo is a former Dutch colonial town dating from the 17th and 18th centuries planted on the Northeastern coast of tropical South America. Composed of mainly wooden buildings, the plain and symmetrical architectural style illustrating the gradual fusion of Dutch and other European architectural and later North American influences as well as elements from Creole culture, reflects the multi-cultural society of Suriname. The historic inner city is located along the left bank of the Suriname River and is defined by the Sommelsdijkse Kreek to the north and the Viottekreek to the south. Laid out from 1683 on a

grid pattern along an axis running north-west from Fort Zeelandia, the main streets follow shell ridges which provided a naturally drained base for building. At the end of the 18th century, Dutch engineering and town planning skills enabled the town to be extended over marshy land to the north. Important elements in the townscape are Fort Zeelandia built in 1667 and the large public park (Garden of Palms) behind it, wide, tree-lined streets and open spaces; the Presidential Palace (1730) built in stone but with a wooden upper floor, the Ministry of Finance (1841) a monumental brick structure with classical portico and clock tower, the Reformed Church (1837) in Neoclassical style, and the Gothic Revival Roman Catholic Cathedral (1885) built in wood.

Criterion (ii): Paramaribo is an exceptional example of the gradual fusion of European architecture and construction techniques with indigenous South American materials and crafts to create a new architectural idiom.

Criterion (iv): Paramaribo is a unique example of the contact between the European culture of the Netherlands and the indigenous cultures and environment of South America in the years of intensive colonization of this region in the 16th and 17th centuries

Integrity

At the time of inscription, it was recorded that most of the urban fabric of Paramaribo dating from 1680/1800 still survives virtually intact, mainly due to low economic growth in the past three decades. The original urban pattern is still authentic in relation to the historical built environment, because no major infrastructural changes have taken place, no building lines have been altered and no high-rising buildings have been built in the city centre. The timber buildings are vulnerable to fire, and the inner city is vulnerable to lack of enforcement of protective controls as well as neglect due to the socioeconomic situation. Since then the integrity of the property has been compromised by insertion of a new flag square, altering the urban pattern around Independence Square and introducing a hard paved surface in place of green landscaping. The property's integrity is vulnerable to Waterfront development, which while having the potential to contribute positively to the town's economy, also has the potential to impact severely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property if not appropriately designed and located.

Authenticity

There are 291 listed monuments in Paramaribo and in the past three decades only a few have disappeared in favor of new developments. Many of the monuments exhibit high authenticity because of the use of traditional techniques and materials in repair and rehabilitation works, although some timber buildings have been replaced in concrete.

The full retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as adopted in the World Heritage Committee (Decision 38 COM 8E) is accessible at the following hyperlink: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/>.

3. The project

Location

The location of the project is at the heart of the World Heritage property, at the Grote Combestraat just behind the recently reconstructed buildings of the National Assembly at the Henck Arronstraat 24 and 6 (image 1).

Proposed intervention

It is proposed to construct a new free-standing National Assembly Hall that will have its main access from the Grote Combeweg.

The building has three and a half floors, of which the open ground floor will be used for car parking (image 5). The first floor has six meeting rooms whereas the second floor houses the main assembly hall with balconies for the public and an open view to the roof. The main entrance at the Grote Combeweg has four slender columns that carry a triangular tympanum. The facade behind it is in glass with two tower-like elements left and right that contain stairs/elevators and toilet facilities. The side facades have galleries at three levels. The building has a gentle sloped roof (image 6).

The building is connected with the reconstructed buildings at the Henck Arronstraat on the first and second floor level.

4. Assessment

From 2017 to 2019, ICOMOS advised on the development of the project area that included the reconstruction of the two historic National Assembly buildings at the Henck Arronstraat. At the time it was understood that these buildings would be used as offices of the National Assembly and for public functions. The National Assembly itself would continue to be housed at its present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square) in the former Buiten-societeit Het Park built in 1968 (image 2). After several project revisions and intensive consultations with the State Party, a Master Plan was agreed upon, as illustrated in image 4. A garden was foreseen behind Henck Arronstraat 6, whereas the area behind Henck Arronstraat 2-4 would be designated for possible future construction (indicated as 'grey area').

The ICOMOS Technical Review of November 2018 observed that:

"If any buildings are erected on the grey designated areas for future construction, these would need to be very low in scale and height so as not to alter or impact the rest of the complex."

and concluded that:

"future extensions should be limited in scale and height. "

The wish to house the National Assembly Hall at the same location as its office facilities may be understood from the point of view of efficiency. However, an analysis of the use of the office spaces and the possibilities to refurbish the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein were not provided with the State Party submission.

The proposed hall is placed freely in the gardens/backyards of the two reconstructed buildings. ICOMOS considers that in case a new hall would be constructed at this location, the Master Plan of 2018 and the conclusions of the ICOMOS Technical Review of November 2018 should be respected to the extent possible. Also, the historic division of the land behind the buildings at the Henck Arronstraat should remain visible in the plan. The floor and elevation plans that were received from the State Party do not indicate any measurements. Documentation for a review would have to include measured drawings and indications of the materials and colours that would be used. It may be estimated however that the building will be three and a half stories high and circa 18 meters wide and more than 40 meters long. In addition, and as has been previously recommended by 'COMOS (such as in the November 2017 Technical Review), the overall project planning should also include street vistas and relevant urban view shades, from various distant angles, so as to be able to properly assess the overall presence of the proposed building in its historic urban landscape. Also missing is information about street furniture, fences and auxiliary security installations.

The architectural language of the proposed building does neither respond to the contemporary rear facades of the buildings at the Henck Arronstraat, nor to the traditional

wooden buildings of the inner city of Paramaribo. Further, it is considered that the overall architectural style and presence would compete with the rest of the surrounding historic fabric and buildings. The connection of the proposed edifice with the buildings at the Henck Arronstraat is unclear. The galleries on three levels, that can be seen on one of the street views, obstruct the view on the corner of Henck Arronstraat 6 which is essential in the understanding of the volume of the original building.

Further, the proposed project does not comply with the Master Plan of 2018 and other plans (included in "dossier second revision", February 2019), in which it was proposed that any future extensions would be not only significantly reduced in size and scale but also, would be limited to the footprints established in the designated "dark grey pavement" areas (see image 4).

Also, ICOMOS notes that the project does not conform with the design guidelines recommended in the November 2018 Technical Review, by which the recommendation was that: "If any buildings are erected on the grey designated areas for future construction, these would need to be very low in scale and height so as not to alter or impact the rest of the complex". Therefore, considering that the buildings location exceeds said grey designated areas and include the garden area behind Henck Arronstraat 6, and taking into account its considerable size, scale and proportions, its overall commanding presence will have an adverse impact on the site.

In light of all the above, the building, as proposed, seems unsuited and inviable, not only in terms of its urban setting, but also, in regards to its overall size, scale, proportions and architectural language. Therefore, should it be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

5. Conclusions

On the basis of the available information, ICOMOS considers that:

- The construction of a new National Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 and corner Grote Combeweg is a complex urban and architectural design challenge. Given the high urban, architectural and symbolic importance of the location and surrounding buildings, any construction could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
- The Master Plan of 2018 (image 4) gives a clear indication of the location and scale of any future extensions. ICOMOS supported this plan in its Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019. This implies that any new construction should be limited in scale and height and should be concentrated on the area behind Henck Arronstraat 2-4 along the Grote Combeweg. The garden behind Henck Arronstraat 6 should be maintained as indicated in the Master Plan.
- The proposed hall is unsuited and inviable, not only in terms of its urban setting, but also, in regards to its overall size, scale, proportions and architectural language. Therefore, should it be constructed, as proposed, it would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.
- Various design options should be explored for housing the National Assembly, including the refurbishing of the National Assembly Hall at its present location at

Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence square). If the State Party wishes to explore the possibilities to build a hall at the location at the Grote Combeweg, it could consider the original plans in the final Dossier May 2017 (image 3). A feasibility study could be undertaken if it were possible to divide the design programme among buildings D, E, F and G, but with the limited height as foreseen in

the original design and in the Master Plan endorsed in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of November 2018 and March 2019 (image 4).

- Appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments need to be undertaken with the objective to evaluate the potential impact of the various design options on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The State Party is invited to submit these studies for Technical Review by ICOMOS as soon as they become available.

ICOMOS remains at the disposal of the State Party for further clarification on the above or assistance as required.

ICOMOS, Charenton-le-Pont
May 2023

Annex : Illustrations

Illustrations

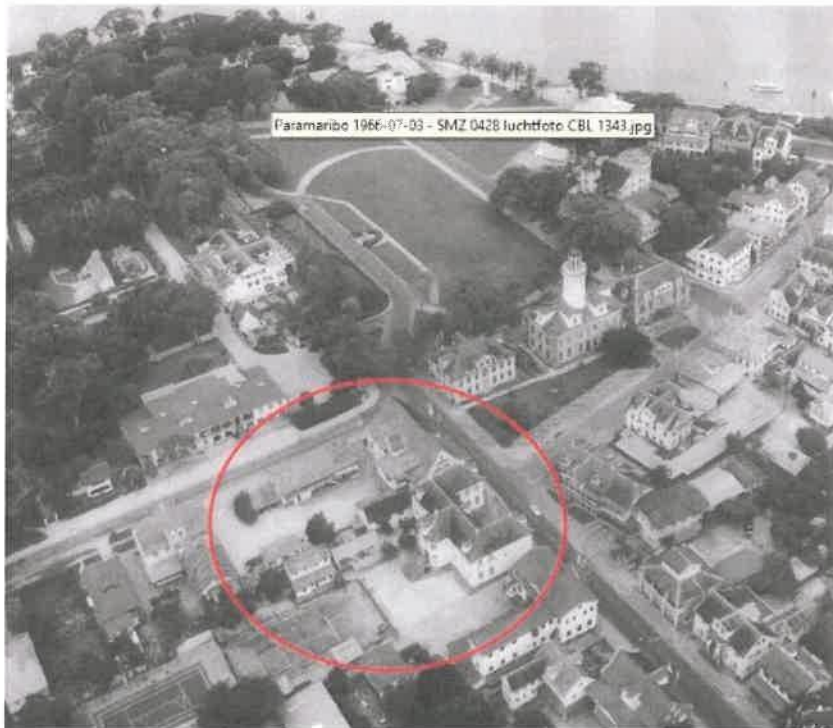


Image 1: Aerial photograph of the area in 1966. The two monumental buildings at the Henck Arronstraat can be seen with auxiliary buildings behind and along the Grote Combeweg.

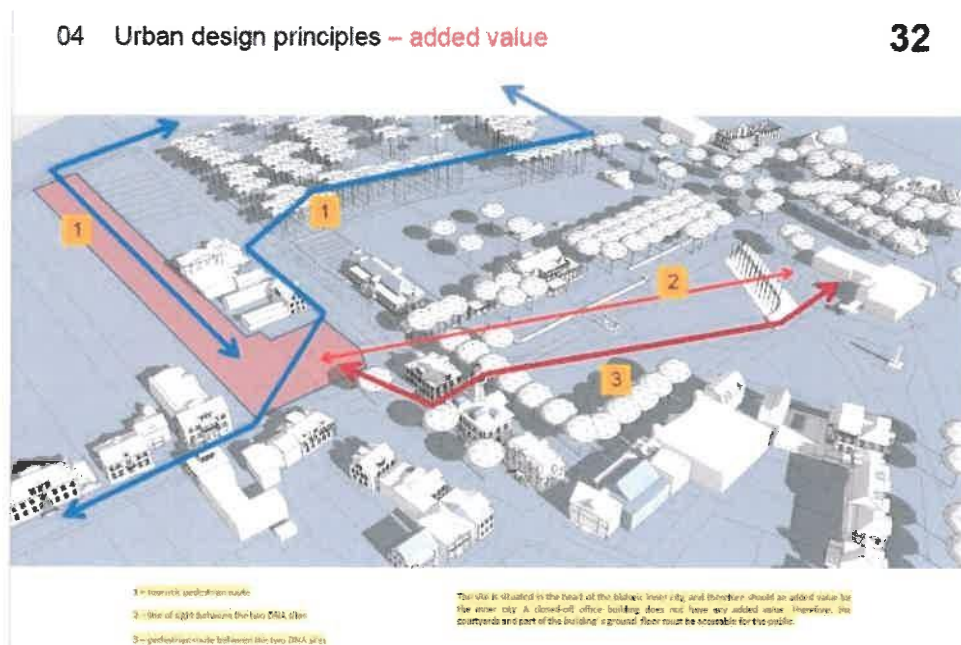


Image 2: Spatial analysis and relations between the National Assembly building at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (right) and the location of the now reconstructed buildings at the Henck Arronstraat (pink, left). (from: Dossier Final Design for the reconstruction of the former National Assembly buildings, MKDV Architects, May 8, 2017).

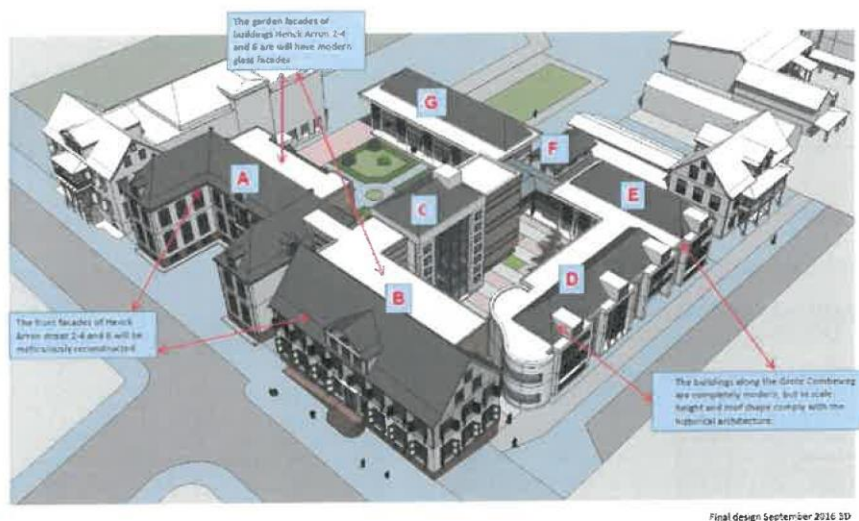


Image 3: Building proposal (from: Dossier Final Design for the reconstruction of the former National Assembly buildings, MKDV Architects, May 8, 2017).

Adapted masterplan of July 2018

5

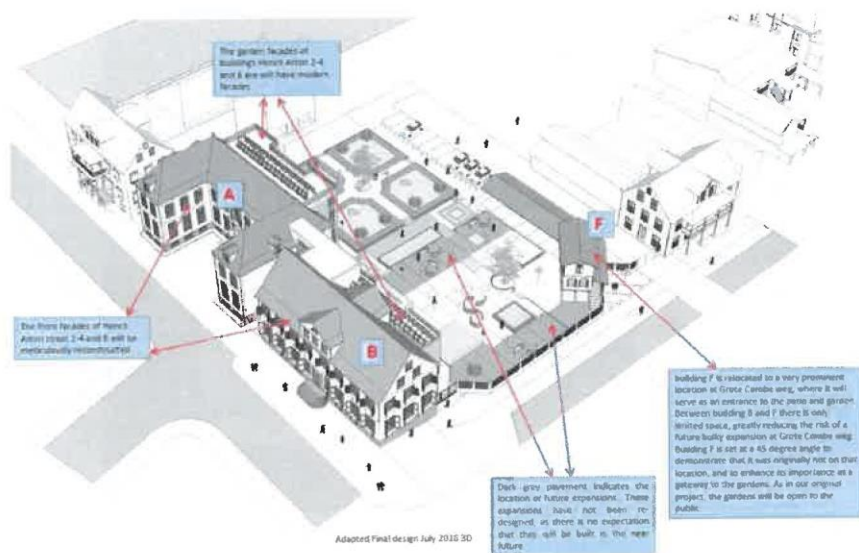


Image 4: Master Plan 2018 (from: Dossier second revision, KDV Architects, February 2019)

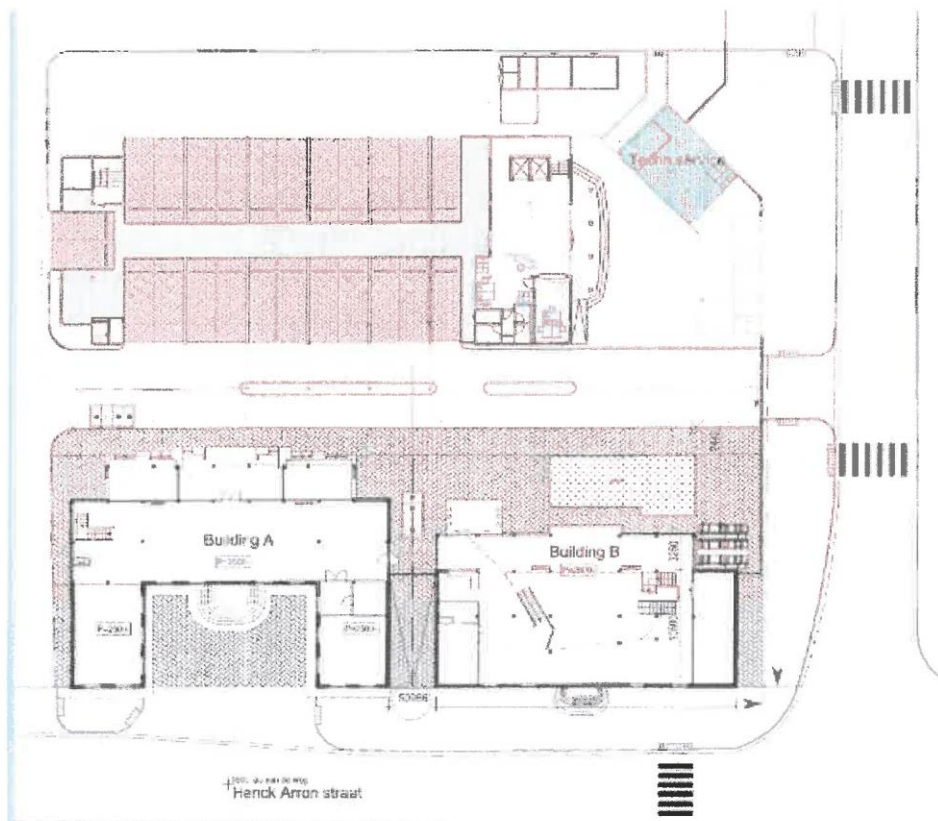


Image 5: The floor plan of the new National Assembly Hall in relation to the two reconstructed buildings A and B at the Henck Arronstraat (DAS Architects, January 2023)



Image 6: Street view at the Grote Combeweg (DAS architects, January, 2023). Left the side façade of the buildings at the Henck Arronstraat. On the right-side Grote Combeweg 3 that will be restored in the near future.

ICOMOS Technical Review

Property	Historic Inner City of Paramaribo
State Party	Suriname
Property ID	940Rev
Date inscription	2002
Criteria	(ii)(iv)
Project/issue	Construction of a National Assembly Hall at the Grote Combeweg

1. Background

In May 2023, ICOMOS issued a Technical Review of a proposed new facility for the National Assembly of Suriname at the Grote Combeweg in Paramaribo, behind the recently reconstructed buildings at the Henk Arronstraat 2-4 and 6.

On 25 June 2023, ICOMOS received through the World Heritage Centre the following response from the State Party:

- Letter from the Minister of Public Affairs dated 14 July 2023. The Minister transmits a response prepared by the architect DAS (De Architecten Studio) that consists of:
 - o a three page “Reaction/comments to the UNESCO/ICOMOS document”;
 - o a three-page description of the conceptual design;
 - o measured drawings of the first and third floors of the proposed building.

2. Clarifications about the project

The documentation provides the following clarifications as compared to the original submission of March 2023 and the ICOMOS Technical Review of May 2023:

Location

The documentation states that due to ongoing developments, the DNA [the National Assembly] is now of the opinion that the meeting rooms should be located at this location [at the Grote Combeweg], so that the use of the reconstructed buildings at the Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 can be maximised/optimised, that “*historically, the meeting room of the Parliament of Suriname has always stood behind buildings 2&4*”, and that “*it meets an urgent need to have a meeting room adapted to the times, since the “temporarily housing” prevents the optimal functioning of the DNA.*”

Proposed intervention

The written response from the architect and the measured drawings confirms that:

- The design programme requires approximately 4,400.00 sq. mt. and that the complex would consist of two blocks: a main building of 18 x 47 mts. over 3.50 layers with a

gabled roof, with the ridge at 16.80 mts. above the terrain level and an extension block of 8.50 x 16.50 mts. with a flat roof at 10.30 mts. above the terrain level;

- An open bridge on the first and second floors will provide a connection to the stairwell between Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6;
- The main building would be at a distance of 17.30 mts. from the street with an entrance and exit on both sides and a square of 380.00 sq. mt. in front;
- The 'towers' on both sides of the entrance are panelled with material similar to the extension of the rear of the buildings at Henck Arronstraat but in a very light grey tint.

Furthermore, the architect states the following:

- The Master Plan of 2018 was unknown to the client (Ministry of Public Works), user and architect;
- A relatively sober architecture was chosen in order not to compete with characteristic wooden architecture;
- The proposed building is deliberately not positioned along the Grote Combeweg so that the experience of the size of the building is limited to the narrow width of 18 mts.;
- The mass of the building is not perceived as such due to the *"staggering of the different façade surfaces"* of entrance portal, entrance façade and extension building;
- The balconies on the sides of the building fit in the tradition of the wooden architecture of the inner city.

3. Assessment

Location

The possibility to house the National Assembly at the Henck Arronstraat / Grote Combeweg was unfortunately not considered in the planning and design process that led to the agreement on the Master Plan 2018 and the reconstruction of the buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6. The desire to house the National Assembly at its original location and connected to its offices at the Henck Arronstraat can be understood. However, this would only be acceptable if a suitable urban and architectural solution can be found within the framework of the 2018 Master Plan. If this were impossible, then alternative locations of the National Assembly Hall should be seriously explored.

The building

ICOMOS appreciates the response from the State Party that clarifies the concept of the building design. However, no fundamentally new elements are presented and, therefore, ICOMOS maintains its position as expressed in the Technical Review of May 2023.

4. Conclusions

ICOMOS maintains the conclusions on pages 4 and 5 of its Technical Review of May 2023.

In addition, given the high urban, architectural and symbolic importance of the location and surrounding buildings, ICOMOS strongly advise the State Party to undertake a feasibility study and explore design options to house the National Assembly Hall and auxiliary

buildings at the location of the Henck Arronstraat / Grote Combeweg along the lines of the Master Plan 2018. The design options should be accompanied by street vistas and relevant urban view shades, from various distant angles (viewsheds), and information should be provided about street furniture, fences and auxiliary security installations. Heritage Impact Assessments following the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (2022), are equally required to evaluate the potential impact of the design options on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property before any decision about location and design can be taken.

If no suitable urban and architectural solution can be found within the parameters set out above and in the Technical Review of May 2023, then alternative locations of the National Assembly Hall should be seriously explored.

ICOMOS remains at the disposal of the State Party for further clarification on the above or assistance as required.

ICOMOS, Charenton-le-Pont
September 2023

ANNEX VIII:

State Party's July 2023 response to ICOMOS' 1st technical review of May 2023

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1awgekRLRzpQeWrMjgk0N242xv4quGZ3/view?usp=sharing>

ANNEX IX:

Suriname's "Monuments Act 2002"

Deeple translation from Dutch

Act of September 5, 2002, containing provisions for the preservation of monuments and town and village views (MONUMENTS Act 2002) (S.B. 2002 no.72).

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

In this Act and the provisions based thereon, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Minister: the Minister in charge of cultural affairs in particular the care of monuments;
- b. Monuments:
 1. all immovable property or parts thereof, which are at least fifty years old and are considered of general interest because of their beauty, artistic value, significance for science, antiquity, history of the country, ethnographic value or architecture;
 2. areas which are of general interest because of objects present therein as referred to under 1;
 3. sites, other than those mentioned in paragraph 2, constructions and statues, erected in commemoration of a particular event or a person and therefore having historical or artistic value, which are entered in the registers established pursuant to this law;
- c. Archaeological monuments: the monuments referred to in b subsection 2;
- d. Beneficial owners: owners, leaseholders or others who have a beneficial interest in the monument;
- e. Town and village views: groups of immovable properties that are of general interest because of their beauty, their mutual spatial or structural cohesion, or their scientific or cultural-historical value, and in which groups there are one or more monuments, which are entered in the registers established

- pursuant to this law;
- f. Commission means the Historic Preservation Commission, as referred to in Article 2 of this Law;
 - g. Building Commission: the Commission, as referred to in Articles 2 and 3 of the State Decree (Decree establishing Building Commission and designating historic downtown) dated October 31, 2001 (S.B. 2001 no.74).

CHAPTER II **THE COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS**

Article 2

1. There shall be a Historic Preservation Commission consisting of at least five members.
2. The President, Vice-President and other members of the Commission shall be appointed and removed by the Minister for a term of five years.
3. Only persons who can be considered to be experts in the field of architecture, urban planning, archaeological soil research, the history, architectural history of Suriname, or the legal aspects of the preservation of monuments are eligible for appointment.
4. The Commission's task is to:
 - a. to advise the Minister, upon request or on its own initiative, in the field of the application of this law;
 - b. keep itself regularly informed of the condition of the monuments and report to the Minister on this subject at least once a year.
5. The Commission also performs work in the field of historic preservation, which is assigned to it by or under the law or by the Minister.
6. The Minister shall regulate, as necessary, the organization and operation of the Commission and shall add to it a secretary.
7. The members and the secretary of the Commission shall receive an allowance for travel and accommodation expenses in addition to holiday pay in accordance with rules to be laid down by the Minister.

CHAPTER III **MONUMENTS**

§ 1. DESIGNATION AND MODIFICATION

Article 3

1. Monuments may or may not be designated as monuments by the Minister

at the request of property owners.

2. A decision to designate monuments as such shall be reasoned, including the general characteristic of that monument, such as the material of which it is made, the period of construction, stylistic features, facade construction, ornamentation, siting.
3. Before the Minister makes a decision regarding the designations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, he shall seek the advice of the Commission. With regard to archaeological monuments, the Minister shall seek the advice of the Archaeological Service.
4. The Commission and the Archaeological Service, as referred to in the third paragraph of this article, shall issue their opinions to the Minister within sixty days.
5. The Minister must have communicated his decision in this regard to the interested party within ninety days.
6. The decision to designate shall be brought to general notice by posting it in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Suriname.

Article 4

1. The Minister is authorized to make ex officio changes to the status of monument, where Article 3 may apply mutatis mutandis.
2. Regulations regarding the provisions of paragraph 1 shall be established by or pursuant to state statute.
3. The decision to designate shall be brought to general notice by posting it in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Suriname.

Article 5

1. Monuments, designated as such in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, shall be entered in the Public Register of Monuments.
2. The necessary regulations concerning the establishment and management of the register referred to in paragraph 1 shall be established by or pursuant to a state decree.
3. The Mortgage Registrar shall make a note of the copy of the decision referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, in the Public Registers held at the Mortgage Office, that the encroachments on the relevant plots or the relevant plots themselves are designated as monuments.

§ 2. OBJECTION AND APPEAL

Article 6

1. Any property owner may object to a decision to designate or modify as a monument to the Minister within thirty days of designation or modification.
2. The Minister shall decide within sixty days after seeking the advice of the commission and, as far as archaeological monuments are concerned, of the Archaeological Service.
3. In case the Minister decides against the objection, the petitioner has the possibility to appeal to the President of the Republic of Suriname within fourteen days.

§ 3. PROHIBITION

Article 7

1. It is prohibited to demolish or make changes to a monument.
2. It is prohibited, without a permit from the Minister or in violation of the conditions imposed by such permit:
 - a. demolish, disturb or alter in any way the appearance or structure of a monument;
 - b. to restore, use or allow a monument to be used in a manner, which marred or endangered it;
 - c. moving a monument, taking it out of its historical context;
 - d. to obscure in any way all or part of a monument, which is visible from the public road;
 - e. To affix on or to a monument an image-disturbing billboard or other ostentatious object.
3. Before taking the decision referred to in paragraph 2 of this article, the Minister shall seek the advice of the Commission and/or the Archaeological Service.

§ 3a. PERMISSION

Article 8

1. By or pursuant to state statute, regulations regarding the granting of authorization referred to in Article 7 may be established.
2. Permits issued are maintained in a permit register.

§ 4. RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

Article 9

1. The property owners of a monument are obliged to perform or cause to be performed in a timely manner the work of maintenance or repair themselves.
2. The property owners of a monument are obliged, if they grossly neglect their maintenance obligation, to tolerate, that to it or therein of

State maintenance or repair work deemed necessary by the Minister.

3. Costs incurred by the State, which result from gross neglect of the monument in question, may be recovered from the property owners.

Article 10

1. A payment for the purpose of restoration and preservation of the monument in question may be made by the Minister from the State Treasury at the request of the property owner.
2. By or pursuant to state statute, the necessary regulations regarding the application, determination, award and accounting of benefits shall be regulated.
3. A benefit, as referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be granted if it concerns:
 - a. cost of maintenance or repair resulting from neglect of the monument;
 - b. a permit related to a building permit, as referred to in section 1 of the Building Act 1956 (G.B. 1956 no.30, as last amended by S.B. 1980 no. 116) has not been granted.

Article 11

1. To the beneficial owners of immovable property and parts thereof, which do not qualify for designation as a monument, but are nevertheless of such significance from the point of view of history, antiquity, art or Surinamese architecture, that their preservation can be considered justified, the Minister, upon the advice of the Commission for the Preservation of Monuments, may grant from the state treasury a payment for maintenance and repair.
2. Further regulations regarding the award of the benefit shall be established by or pursuant to State regulations.

Article 12

1. To preserve and protect one or more monuments or town and village views designated for that purpose, a management institute may be established by or pursuant to a state decree.
2. With regard to the mission, organization, legal form and composition of the management institute referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, further rules shall be adopted by or pursuant to a state decree.

CHAPTER IV

CITY AND VILLAGESCAPES

Article 13

1. The Minister and the Minister in charge of Public Works, having heard the Commission and the Planning Department, may designate town and villagescapes which, in their opinion, are eligible for protection and may revoke such designation.
2. The Ministers, as referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, shall jointly announce the designation in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Suriname.
3. In addition, the designation referred to in paragraph 1 of this article may be announced in one or more newspapers.

Article 14

1. Town and village views, which are designated for protection in accordance with Article 12, shall be entered in a public register.
2. The necessary regulations regarding the establishment and management of the register referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall be established by or pursuant to a state decree.

Article 15

1. In a city or townscape, it is prohibited:
 - a. To demolish all or part of a structure without a demolition permit;
 - b. to erect new buildings or make alterations to existing buildings that may affect or threaten the spatial or structural coherence or the scientific or cultural- historical value of the protected area without a permit for new construction or alteration.
2. The demolition permit referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this article may be granted by the Minister in the case of monuments.
3. A permit, as referred to in paragraph 1(b) of this article, shall be granted by the Minister in charge of Public Works, after review of the plans for new construction and modification to existing structures by the Building Committee.
4. The permit referred to in paragraph 1(b) of this article shall be subject to the explicit condition that urban renewal or alteration to existing structures in a town or village view may not conflict with the mutual spatial or structural cohesion, or the scientific or cultural-historical value of the area.

Article 16

1. To protect a town and village landmark, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3 to 7 of the Urban Planning Law, a zoning plan shall be adopted.
2. The zoning plan referred to in paragraph of this article shall be designed, in consultation with the Minister, by the Minister in charge of Public Works.
3. The state decree designating a town and village landmark may set a deadline for this purpose.

CHAPTER V
EXCAVATIONS AND FINDS

Article 17

1. It shall be prohibited to carry out or cause to be carried out excavation work on sites for archaeological research of monuments without a permit from the Minister or in violation of conditions established by such permit.
2. a. A permit as referred to in paragraph 1 of this article must be applied for in writing, also submitting the information required by the Minister.
b. The Minister shall promptly acknowledge, stating the date, the receipt of the petition.
3. The Minister, having heard the Commission, shall decide on the request within three months of its receipt. Conditions may be attached to the permit.
4. The permit shall be denied if the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to be competent or capable of conducting excavations.
5. The Minister, having heard the Commission, may revoke the permit if the permit holder performs excavations inexpertly, fails to comply with the conditions attached to the permit or otherwise misuses the permit.

Article 18

1. The Minister, having heard the Commission, may designate land for excavation as referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 17.
2. The Minister may, having heard the Commission, designate services, institutions or persons authorized to carry out or cause to be carried out excavation work, as referred to in Article 17 paragraph 1, in accordance with rules to be determined by him.
3. The designations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article may be revoked by the Minister, having heard the Commission.

Article 19

1. The Minister may determine that a party entitled to a site, as referred to in article 18, paragraph 2, must tolerate that the State, in this case the services, institutions or persons referred to in paragraph 2 of article 18, in the interests of archaeological research, enters that site, carries out measurements on it, or performs excavations.
2. To the extent that a right holder suffers damage as a result of the investigation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article or the investigation

referred to in Article 22, he may be paid compensation by the State, the amount of which shall be determined by an independent third party.

Article 20

1. Monuments found when doing excavations and on which no one can prove their right of ownership are the property of the State.
2. The owner of the land in which the monuments were excavated is obliged to transfer the found monuments to the State and is entitled to compensation in the amount of half of their value.
3. Monuments found during an investigation, as referred to in Article 19, may be transferred to a place suitable for their preservation upon the Minister's instructions.

Article 21

1. The person who finds a property other than in the course of excavation, of which he knows thirty working days after the discovery to make a declaration, stating the exact location, time, monument and personal details of the discoverer of the find.
2. The report should be made to the District Commissioner of the district within which the find was made.
3. The District Commissioner shall promptly notify the Minister of such declaration.
4. The finder of the object is obliged to transfer the found object to the State and is entitled to compensation in the amount of half the value of the monument.

Article 22

1. The Minister, having heard the Commission, may, for the purpose of a scientific investigation to be instituted, issue regulations with respect to the execution of works, in which a good as referred to in Article 21 is found, or order that such works be stopped in whole or in part for a definite or indefinite period.
2. Damage caused by a measure referred to in paragraph 1 of this article may be partially compensated by the State, the amount being determined by an independent third party.

CHAPTER VI INJUNCTIVE AND PENAL PROVISIONS

Article 23

1. The Minister may give written notice to the person acting in violation of the prohibitions referred to in Article 8 to immediately begin restoring the monument to its former state.
2. If it appears that the person, as referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, after the written notice of default, nevertheless continues to act in violation of the prohibitions, as referred to in articles 7 and 15 or of a condition, as referred to in article 8, the Minister may, if necessary, with the help of the strong arm, prevent the progress of the prohibited work.

Article 24

1. The Minister may, at the expense of the person referred to in Article 23 paragraph 1, have the monument restored to its original state to the extent possible.
2. The property owner or the user of the monument is obliged to tolerate, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, that to or in the monument the performance of works for restoration as deemed necessary by the Minister.
3. The execution of the works is made possible with the help of the strong arm if necessary.
4. Before proceeding with the execution of the works referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, the person concerned shall be notified in writing one working day prior to their execution.

Article 25

1. The Minister may recover by subpoena, or may cause to be recovered from the person, as referred to in section 23(1), the cost of recovery due under section 24.
2. The writ of execution shall be served at the expense of the person referred to in Article 23 paragraph 1 by bailiff's writ and enforced in the manner prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure with respect to judgments.
3. Within thirty days of service, an opposition to the injunction is open by subpoena from the State.

Article 26

1. Whoever intentionally acts in violation of Articles 7, 8, 15, 17, 20 and 21 shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years

- or a fine not exceeding Sf.10,000,000 (ten million guilders).
2. Whoever acts in violation of Articles 7, 8, 9, 15, 17, 20 and 21 shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding Sf.5,000,000., - (five million guilders).
 3. The offenses punishable under paragraph 1 of this article are crimes and the offenses punishable under paragraph 2 of this article are misdemeanors.

Article 27

In addition to the officials designated under or pursuant to Article 134 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, persons to be designated by the Minister, in agreement with the Minister of Justice and Police, shall also be charged with the investigation of the offenses punishable under or pursuant to this Act.

Article 28

1.
 - a. The officials and persons referred to in Article 27 shall t5each time have access to all monuments to the extent reasonably necessary for the performance of their duties;
 - b. If necessary, they gain access with the help of the strong arm;
 - c. They are authorized to be accompanied by persons commissioned by the Minister to carry out the works ordered by him pursuant to the provisions of Article 24.
2. In the performance of their duties, the persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this article are obliged to present the identification document issued to them.
3. In dwellings are not enter against the will of the occupant except accompanied by an assistant public prosecutor or provided with a general or special order of a prosecuting officer.
4.
 - a. The person who has entered a monument without the consent of the occupant4 or user of a monument shall draw up an official report concerning the entry.
 - b. The record shall be sent to the Attorney General no later than the dayfollowing the day, on which the monument was entered.
 - c. A copy of the record shall also be issued or sent to the occupant or user.

CHAPTER VII TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 29

Notwithstanding the provisions of this law in which a state decree is prescribed, additional regulations on the subjects regulated by this law may be adopted by or pursuant to a state decree.

Article 30

Amendment of the Construction Law and the Urban Planning Law.

1. Section 4 (1) of the Building Act 1956 shall read as follows: The permit referred to in section 1 shall be refused only:
 - a. If the site plan or petition or records or the drawings do not meet the requirements established by state decree under Article 1 or that referred to in Article 3 of this law;
 - b. if the building plan relates to a monument within the meaning of Article 3 of the Monuments Act and does not comply with the permit granted in this regard by the Minister in charge of cultural affairs.
2. In Article 3 paragraph 1 of the Urban Planning Law, on the fourth line between "of" and "one", with the omission of the comma, insert the phrase: "and for city and village views".

Article 31

1. Upon the enactment of this Act, the Historic Monuments Act (G.B. 1963 No. 23, amended by S.B. 1977 No. 45) is repealed.
2. Regulations adopted in implementation of the law mentioned in paragraph 1 shall remain in force as long as and to the extent that they have not been replaced by others pursuant to the new law and are not in conflict with it.

Article 32

1. This law may be cited as Monuments Act 2002.
2. It shall be promulgated in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Suriname.
3. This law shall take effect from the day following its promulgation.
4. The Minister is responsible for implementing this law.

ANNEX X:

Suriname's law "*Special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones including annex.*"

Deeple translation from Dutch

ADVERTISEMENT SHEET

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

Ao. 2003 Tuesday, April 29 No.34

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Paramaribo, April 2003

Subject: Institution of special requirements

- to building plans for the Historic Inner City and adjacent buffer zones.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS,

Read:

- The State Decree of 31 October 2001 (S.B. 2001 no.74) on the "Decree establishing Building Committee and designating historic inner city".

Heard:

- The Deputy Director of Construction Works and Services;
- The adviser to the Minister of Public Works, Mr H.L. Blinker;
- The Building Committee as constituted pursuant to section 4(2) of the Building Act 1956 (G.B. 1956 no. 30, as last amended by S.B. 1980 no. 116)

Having regard to :

- Section 4 paragraph 2 of the Building Act 1956 (G.B. 1956 no. 30, as last amended by S.B. 1980 no. 116);
- The Monuments Act 2002 (S.B. 2002 no. 72).

Whereas:

- That due to the further advancing development of the city centre, the historically built environment is highly subject to changes;

- That due to these changes, the cultural-historical character of the inner city is in danger of being lost;
- that in order to maintain the cultural-historical quality, it is considered desirable to take regulatory action;
- That pursuant to section 4(2) of the Building Act 1956, the possibility exists to impose special requirements on building plans within town and village areas;
- That as a result, for the historic city centre and the adjacent buffer zones, special requirements should be adopted;
- That within the historic city centre and adjacent buffer zones officially designated monumental buildings occur;
- That these monumental buildings enjoy protection on the basis can the Monuments Act 2002 (S.B. 2002 no.72);
- That therefore the special requirements do not apply in cases of restoration of officially designated monuments;
- That building plans should be tested against these special requirements; □ That this power of review is assigned to the building committee.

Has approved:

- I. To adopt the "special requirements for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones including annex".
- II. To provide that this decision together with the "special requirements" annexed thereto requirements" for building plans for the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjoining buffer zones incl. adjacent buffer zones incl. annex" in the Advertising Bulletin of the Republic of Suriname is published.

The Director of Public Works,
 Directorate of Construction Works and
 Services,
 - Drs. E.J.I. Gerad –

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING PLANS IN THE HISTORICAL INNER CITY OF PARAMARIBO
AND ADJACENT BUFFER ZONES, AS DESIGNATED BY STATE DECREE OF 31 OCTOBER 2001 (S.B.
2001 NO. 74).**

Special requirements as referred to in section 4(2) of the Building Act 1956 (G.B. 1956 no. 30, as last amended by S.B. 1980 no. 116).

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 Definitions.

1. In these special requirements and the provisions based thereon, the following definitions shall apply by:
 - a. street-side or street-side building: street-side building to a depth of 10 metres from the street line;
 - b. courtyard side or building on the courtyard side: the built-up area exceeding 10 metres depth from the street building line;
 - c. main rhythm: the main articulation of the building;
 - d. subdivision rhythm: the layout of the main rhythm (the number of bays);
 - e. vertical division rhythm: this is determined by the traditional window format in the historic city centre.
 - f. added elements: elements attached to the outer wall or roof of a building such as advertising signs, satellite dishes, awnings, canopies, shutters, air conditioning systems, fire escapes and the like.

Article 1.2 Scope of application

- 1) The special requirements for building plans are qualitative criteria, which apply to building plans for:
 - a) (replacement) new buildings and/or modern architecture;
 - b) all alterations and extensions of existing buildings excluding restorations of officially designated monuments;
- 2) The special requirements for building plans apply to building plans in the historical inner city and the adjacent buffer zones as circumscribed in article 4 of the state decree of 31 October 2001(S.B. 2001 no. 74)

Article 1.3 Character of buildings

In the application of these special requirements, regard shall be had to the predominant characteristic of the historic built-up area as set out in the Annex annexed to this order, the predominant characteristic of the historical buildings in the inner city as described in the appendix attached hereto.

CHAPTER 2. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Design

1. Designs for (replacement) new buildings or modern architecture should be creative and original and should radiate respect and affinity with the city and its historic buildings.
2. (Replacement) new buildings should be in harmony with the historical buildings.
3. Reconstructing, replicating or imitating a historic building is not recommended.

2.2 Size and scale

1. Buildings should fit into the historically built-up environment in terms of size and scale.
2. The ridge height of a building on the street side may not exceed that of the adjoining buildings, at the discretion of the Building Committee.
3. The ridge height of a building on a courtyard site shall not exceed three metres above the ridge of the street building.
4. The main rhythm, dividing rhythm and vertical dividing rhythm of the façade of a building on the street side, shall not deviate from the original main rhythm and distribution rhythm of the street wall, in which the new building is placed.
5. Closed facades without window openings (blind walls) are not permitted.
6. Courtyard rhythms may be handled more freely, but not such that this leads to a lack of scale.

2.3 Use of colour

The traditional colour scheme (white for the façades, dark green for the windows and doors and terra for the brick substructure) is preferable to the application of a broad use of colour.

2.4 Use of materials

In principle, any material is allowed, provided it is applied fairly and responsibly and applied and contributing to the character of Paramaribo as a white, airy wooden city.

2.5 Roof structure

The design for new buildings should take into account the characteristic roof structure as referred to in the appendix to this decision under point d in the annex to these special requirements.

1.6 Sidewalks

The construction of brick pavements and basements should be encouraged.

CHAPTER 3. ADDED ELEMENTS

3.1 Dormers

1. The location of one or more dormers should be in accordance with the original rhythm of the street wall.

2. The size, design and detailing of the dormers should be based on historical examples, but modern, high-quality detailing is permitted.

3.2 Balconies

1. Balconies should be added in the same historically determined design to the building.
2. Size of balconies should be in keeping with the building and the streetscape.
3. Balconies should never be sealed with any material except installing a balustrade with a maximum height of 900 mm.
4. Balconies should be constructed, using the material wood, taking into account traditional dimensions, size, design and detailing.

3.3 Other added elements

1. Advertising signs, awnings, canopies, satellite dishes, air conditioning installations fire escapes and the like shall not dominate the façade of a building not dominate and shall not disturb the historic townscape.
2. Roller shutters must meet the requirement, that the shutter must be at least 75% transparent shutter must meet the requirement that at least 75% of the shutter must be transparent and that the shutter box must be integrated or concealed in the façade.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A. GENERAL

Modern architecture in a historic town centre, but even seemingly small changes can already have a major impact on the external appearance of the historically built environment. The historical inner city of Paramaribo, owes its quality to its cultural-historical character and the largely intact urban planning structure. Its great value is reaffirmed by the placement of the historic city centre on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

To maintain cultural-historical quality and promote harmonious buildings in city and village areas with their own aesthetic character (the historic city centre and adjacent buffer zones), it is necessary to impose set special requirements for building plans within those areas. For clarity, it should be mentioned that these special requirements do not apply to the restoration of officially designated monuments. These monuments enjoy the protection under the Monuments Act 2002 (S.B. 2002 no. 72). Enforcement of the special requirements is done through building permit granting and registration as specified in the Building Act 1956.

B. ARTICLE BY ARTICLE

Article 2.1 Design

The purpose of the special requirements is to provide designers with sufficient scope for creative and original design, so that contemporary architecture can be given a chance can be given an opportunity amid the larger goal of preserving the cultural-historical quality of the historic city centre. This requires some creativity and inventiveness regarding building in the city centre, the so-called new building assignment or innovative building.

Designs for (replacement) new buildings or modern architecture should add new qualities to the historic city centre. Clients and/or designers should no longer resort to historicising new buildings in which they unjustifiably use forms from historical forms from historic architecture instead of a contemporary form and expression that is in harmony with the historically built environment. The design may be abstract, whereby form elements from historical architecture may be selectively may be used when building in the historic city centre.

Reconstructions, replicas or imitations of a historic building are not recommended. For reconstruction, only construction with remains present can be allowed. Additional materials, which are necessary to ensure proper preservation of the monument and to restore the coherence of the form, must always be recognisable and kept to a minimum. The imitation of historical buildings in modern materials, where in the design of the use of materials creates the impression that they are traditional materials is out of the question. A well-known phenomenon in the inner city, is building in traditional style, but with modern materials such as concrete, whereby in the concrete facades, a profiling is applied that resembles rebate (batter boards) to resemble rabat. This is typified internationally as fake, imitation and should not be allowed.

The art in design is to find the right balance (reconciliation) between new (modern) and old (historic).

Article 2.2 Size and scale

Depending on their design, buildings should fit in with the historically built environment in terms of size and scale. If the streetscape is determined by historical buildings with a certain height, then that height is normative. The same applies to the scale or mass (size or volume) of the structure. The historic streetscape is then decisive. In a street with historical buildings of more or less the same size, that scale is normative.

It can also happen, however, that (replacement) new buildings are wedged between two monumental buildings, located in a street where the process of modernisation has already begun. In such cases, in order to protect and preserve the cultural-historical quality of the aforementioned buildings, new buildings should match the size and scale of the adjacent historical buildings.

Blind walls are not allowed. Both at pedestrian level and on the upper the facades must make an inviting, friendly impression through the responsible arrangement of window openings

Article 2.3 Use of colour

Because of the traditional colour scheme of monumental buildings in the historic inner city (white for the façades, dark green for the windows and doors and terra for the brick substructure), a generous use of colour, particularly pastel shades (such as pink, red, yellow, and blue) is not allowed, as otherwise an excessive contrast with the white historical wooden buildings.

However, a strict application of the traditional colour scheme should not have a 'museum effect'.

2.2. Use of materials

A strict application of traditional materials is neither desirable nor realistic. In order to give a contemporary architecture, which is in harmony with the historic environment a chance, the use of modern materials, whether or not in combination with traditional materials is permitted.

Designers have a greater degree of freedom and choice in this requirement.

2.5 Roof structure

In view of the characteristic roof structure in the historic town centre, choice of various types of steeproofed roofs (gable roof hipped roof, mansard roof). A contemporary roof structure is permitted, provided it does not disrupt the historic roof pattern in a particular street.

Added elements.

Generally speaking, elements attached to the facade or roof of a building are attached w.o. advertising signs, awnings, satellite dishes, awnings, shutters air-conditioning installations, and fire escapes should not dominate and should not disturb the historic townscape.

Balconies

Balconies shall be constructed in accordance with the following requirements:

- ☐ *Hardwood columns size 6" x 6"/ 8" x 8"*
- ☐ *Hardwood main beams size 6" x 6" or 6" x 8"*
- ☐ *Hardwood floor joists dimension 5" x 5" or 6" x 6"*
- ☐ *Hardwood floorboards dimension 1.25" x 12"*
- ☐ *Hardwood roof structure with roof boarding.*

Shutters

To preserve the historic townscape, closed shutters may not be applied. In order to meet the security needs of owners/users owners/users, it is stipulated that roller shutters must be at least 75% transparent. Roll-down shutters that cannot be seen through are unattractive to the streetscape, because of their closed character.

In order not to disrupt the façade image, it is necessary that the roller shutter box be integrated in the facade construction or placed out of sight by placing it behind the facade or ceiling.

Advertising signs

Improper placement of advertising billboards can lead to horizon pollution. Façade advertising should never dominate the façade of a building and should not destroy the cultural-historical character of a building.

Appendix to special requirements for building plans in the historical inner city of Paramaribo and adjacent buffer zones.

General characteristics of historic buildings

In the assessment of building plans by the Building Commission, as referred to in Article 4 paragraph 2 of the Building Act, the characteristic aesthetic character of the historical buildings in the historical inner city and the two buffer zones, as broadly delineated in Article 4 of the State Decree of October 31 2001 (SB 2001 No. 74):

- a) the historic buildings have a high degree of uniformity, largely due to the use of wood and brick;
- b) almost all wooden buildings, large and small, are by their construction, materials and form, are strongly related to each other;
- c) the built objects in the historic city center can be classified according to the construction manner into two main groups:

Group1: built in brick

According to functions, these can be divided into:

- Fort (Zeelandia)
- Military warehouse (building 1790)
- City Hall (now Ministry of Finance)
- Court of Justice
- Church (Reformed Church)
- Koffie waag
- Former mansions (now offices and business premises)
- Detached kitchens
- Bakehouses
- Lock
- Garden walls
- Water wells
- Water cisterns
- Gravestones
- Quay wall and quay sidewalk

Group 2: built in wood and brick substructure

- Palace
- Monastery
- Formerly mansions and middle-class houses (now mainly offices and business premises)
- Schools
- Synagogue

d. the architectural style as far as the buildings are concerned is, for both types, sober in nature. The buildings are equipped with some basic elements and built according to standard conception:

- **Floor plan:** usually a rectangular floor plan;
- **Roof:** Steep roof (saddle roof, hipped roof, mansard roof), usually concave curved at the eaves and covered with slates, slate tiles, corrugated galvanized sheet iron and in some cases with old Dutch tiles. The roofs usually feature dormers in the form of saddle roof whether or not concave arched; and pent roof. In some types are wide dormers in the longitudinal direction, where longitudinal surfaces of the main facade and dormers merge into each other;

- **Facades:** Symmetrical facades involving unity in the sizes for windows and a other unity in the sizes of the piers. The size of the windows 120 – 130 cm is thereby larger than the size of the piers and is dominant. The main entrance is punctuated with moldings and the door is usually two-piece and composed with profiled panels. In some cases, in addition to the paneled door, there is also in the front facade is a latticed door. In a few cases, a decorative element above the front door. The frame of the main entrance extends usually to the bottom of the second floor joists, at least higher than the first floor windows. The facades are equipped either with wooden shutters, or of wooden jalousies or of rod sash windows, or of " Demerara windows ". Usually the top of the windows and doors have overhead lights.
- **Skeleton:** In wooden buildings, the skeleton in the longitudinal facade follows the varying width dimensions of windows and piers. The floor joists in the older buildings also follow this principle and are perpendicular to the facade, thus logically transferring the loads from the floor joists to the studs in the walls and facades. This principle was later abandoned by placing the floor beams at equal distances and superimposing them on a support beam, which in turn was imposed on the studs (siding).

The frame is clad on the exterior walls with wide boards of sizes greater than 10" wide, or edged straight pot decked, sometimes fitted with a bead, or as profiled hardware planks, sometimes fitted with a bead. Where original boards still occur in the gables, they vary of width ("what the tree gave"), but concisely are size differences in all four facades at the same heights.

At the partition walls, the frame is clad with wide plowed parts. The skeleton is composed of stile and batten work and provided with corbels for stability. The timber dimensions are square. The joints consist of mortise and tenon joints, hook joints etc. and arched hardwood pegs. The wood dimensions of the highest floor is 4" x 4" then takes at the next lower floor the dimensions increase by 2". The floor boards are at binding 1 1/4 " thick and wider than 10" ("what the tree gave"). In the case of siding there is the possibility of reducing the distance between the floor bays of 1" sufficient.
- **Substructure:** The wooden buildings are founded on hand-formed brick piers varying in height above ground level from about 60 to about 220 cm (low and high footings). In those cases where the building stands on the building line, a foundation wall is built on the street side between the piers. Sometimes the foundation wall is masonry on all four sides between the pillars. In some cases the lower house is set up as a basement.
- **Sidewalk:** On the street side is usually a finely worked also in handform brick masonry sidewalk. The upper surface is finished with pavement tiles. In some cases provided with wrought iron or cast iron railing.
- **Porch:** In some types in both the wood and stone buildings, one enters one through a porch into the house. The veranda is usually open, sometimes equipped with a wooden balustrade or balusters of wrought iron or planking to parapet height. In some cases above the planking alternately closed with rod windows and blind windows. In the latter case, the front door is at the porch entrance. The roof of the porch occurs mainly as a pent roof and half hipped roof. In few cases a gable roof with tympanum occurs. The ceiling consists usually

from the roof board consisting of batter boards with or without bead, sometimes plowed sections. The roof rails are visible and bead provided.

Front balcony: Front balconies are added elements, which the building forms were intended to embellish. Front balconies of buildings on the building line are supported by the front facade and a yokework consisting of finely worked lower beam, usually 6" x 6" and finely worked posts usually tapering from 8" x 8" to 6" x 6". Sometimes the stiles consist of a solid core of 6" x 6" and lined with cancell door-like fittings and fitted with top and bottom overlays. Another appearance of stiles is full-length stiles that are the same turned, tapered or turned into "pressed together" diameter. Stiles are founded on fine masonry sidewalks or fine masonry buttresses. The joists and struts are connected by wood brackets. In some cases of wrought iron. The balcony floor joists rest on the underbeam and are also beautifully carved, dimension 4" x 4". Load-bearing structure of the balcony roof is of similar in character to that of the balcony floor. The railings are composed of turned wooden balusters with profiled lower and upper rules or wrought iron bars with lead ornaments with wooden lower and upper rules.

The roof is usually composed of exposed shingles, fitted with a bead and a boarding sometimes fitted with a bead. The roof form is either a pent roof or a half hipped roof. In some cases a gable roof with tympanum.

□ **Height Dimensions:** The heights of foundation wall and height of floors are related to the distinction of the building. The following height measures occur in some distinguished buildings:

- Floor basement to floor beletage about 2.40 m;
- Floor beletage to floor 1° floor approx. 4.00m;
- Floor 1st floor to floor 2nd floor approx. 3.20 m.

Other floors idem.

Use of color: The historic inner city of Paramaribo was known as a "white wooden city". Traditionally the following color schemes are used for historic buildings: white for the facades, dark green for the windows and doors, and red for the brick substructure. **Window size:** The traditional window size in historic downtown is approximately 130cm wide x 220 cm high.

Annex XI

Photographs

Photo 1: National Assembly's current location at Independence Square (red arrow). Location of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 shown in blue arrow. Location of the proposed project in yellow arrow.



Photo 2: Plot of land of National Assembly's current location at Independence Square (red arrow). Suriname river is at the bottom of photo.



Photo 3: Front entrance of the current National Assembly (at Independence Square).



Photo 4: Exterior view of the National Assembly (at Independence Square), as seen from the Suriname river.



Photo 5: Main meeting hall at the National Assembly (at Independence Square).



Photo 6: Main meeting hall at the National Assembly (at Independence Square).

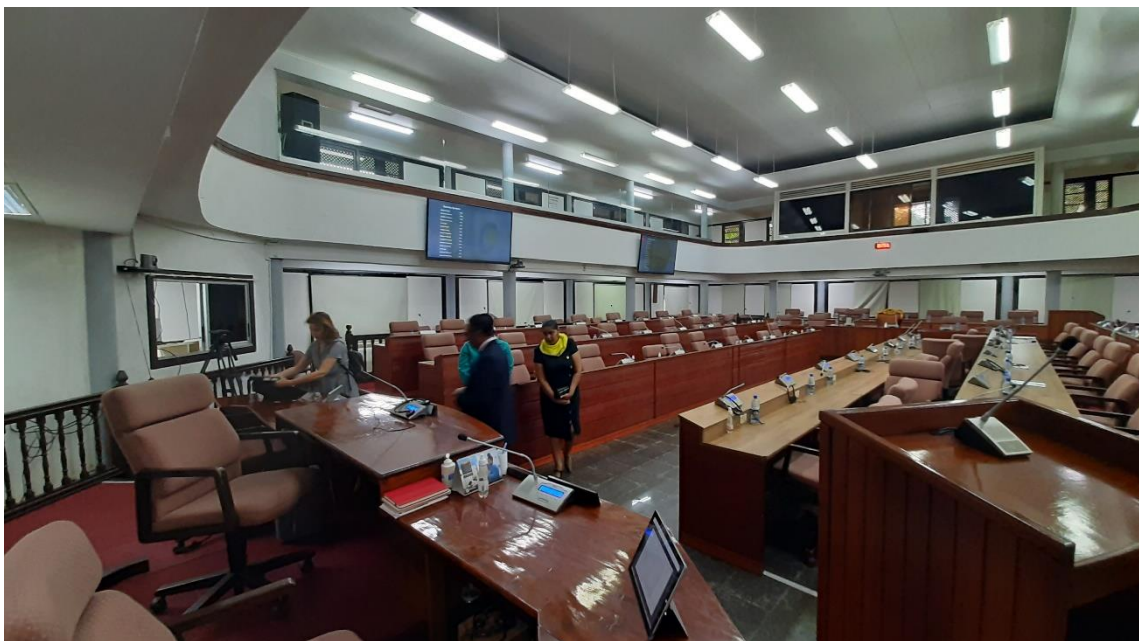


Photo 7: Library at the National Assembly (at Independence Square).



Photo 8: Conference room at the National Assembly (at Independence Square).



Photo 9: Audio-visual control room at the National Assembly (at Independence Square).

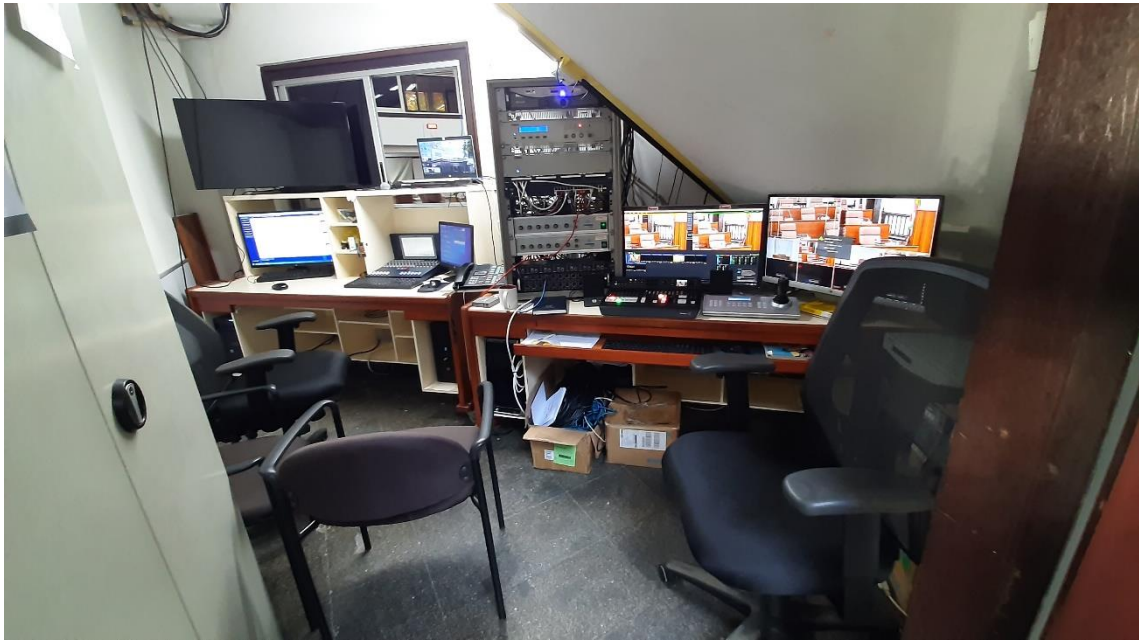


Photo 10: Bar & common areas at the National Assembly (at Independence Square).



Photo 11: 1947 photo by W. van de Poll, National Archive Netherlands 252 6295 showing the wooden building that used to be located right by Henck Arronstraat 6 (on Grote Combeweg – see blue arrow).



Photo 12: 1962 photo by Archive W. Vasconcelles showing the wooden building that used to be located right by Henck Arronstraat 2-4 (on Grote Combeweg – see blue arrow).



Photo 13: 1966 photo by Centraal Bureau Luchtkartering (location of proposed project in red circle). Original Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 were still in place (blue arrows).

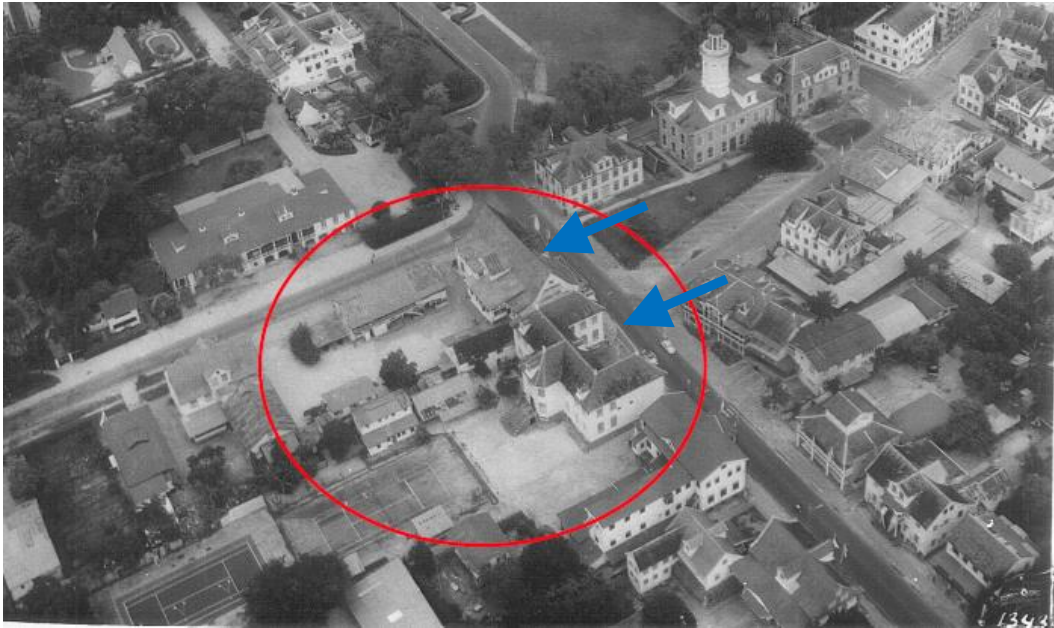


Photo 14: 1966 photo by Centraal Bureau Luchtkartering (location of proposed project in red circle). Original Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 were still in place (blue arrows).

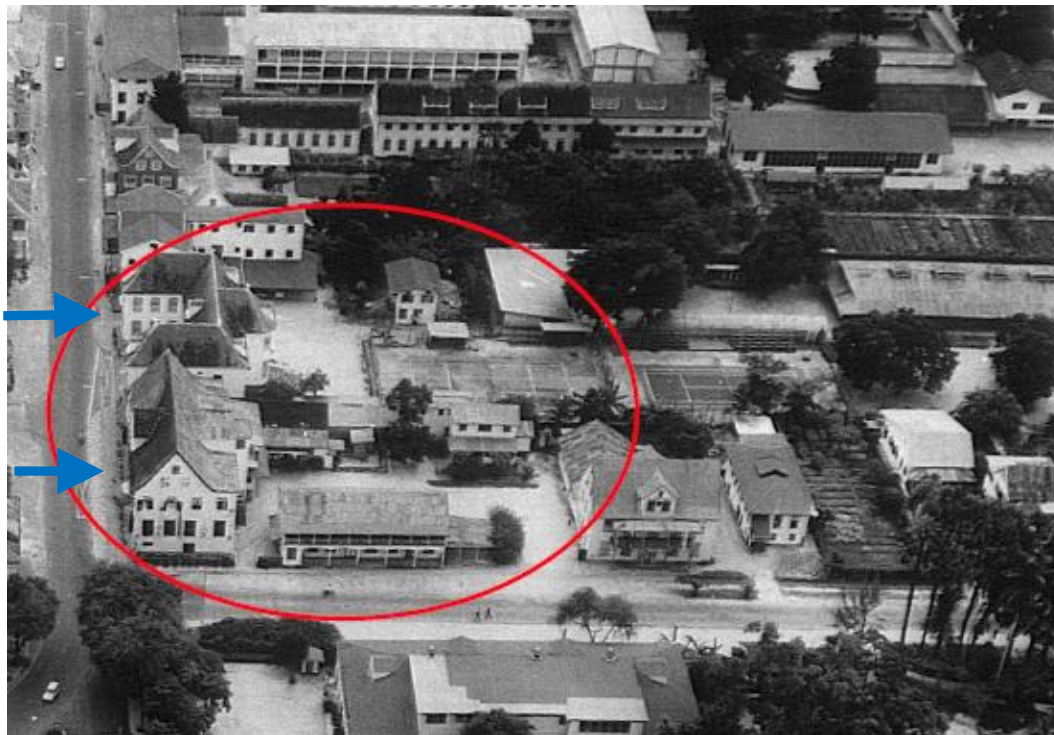


Photo 15: 1966 photo by Centraal Bureau Luchtkartering (location of proposed project in red circle). Original Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 were still in place (blue arrows).

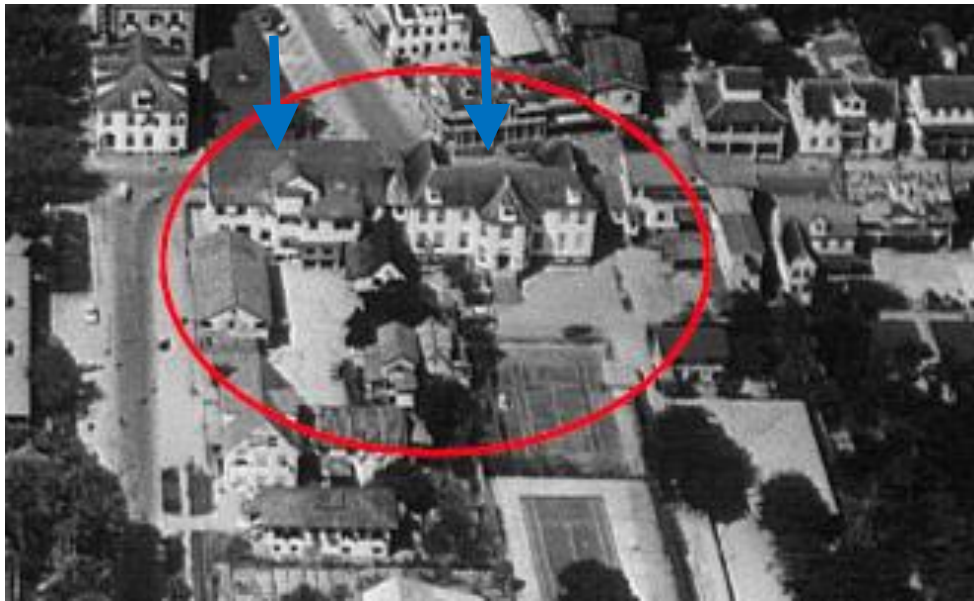


Photo 16: 1988 aerial view. Notice that the original Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 were still present at the time.



Photo 17: 1991 photo by C.L. Temminck-Groll Rijksdienst Cultural Heritage 20636994 showing the wooden building that used to be located right by Henck Arronstraat 2-4 6 (on Grote Combeweg – see blue arrow).



Photo 18: 2001 aerial view (by KDV Architects) of the project site after the 1997 fire. Henck Arronstraat 2-4 a 6 were completely destroyed.

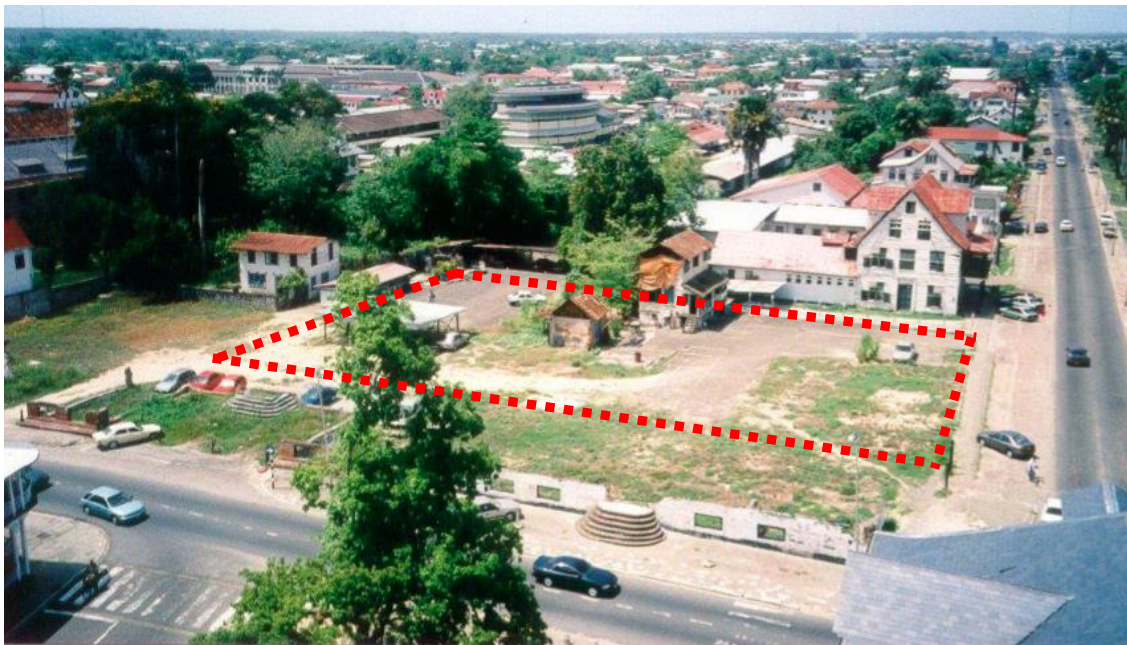


Photo 19: 2014 aerial view (by KDV Architects) of the project site way after the 1997 fire. The then vacant lots were used temporarily for parking spaces and public open areas.



Photo 20: Current state of the back façades of the recently-reconstructed Henck Arronstraat 2-4 a 6. The project site is seen on the foreground showing the foundation works already underway.



Photo 21: Current state of the back façades of the recently-reconstructed Henck Arronstraat 2-4 a 6. The project site is seen on the foreground showing the foundation works already underway.



Photo 22: Current state of the back façades of the recently-reconstructed Henck Arronstraat 2-4 a 6. The project site is seen on the foreground showing the foundation works already underway.



Photo 23: The project site. Reconstructed Henck Arronstraat 2-4 a 6 in green arrows. Small two-story, rotated-in-plan building in red arrow.



Photo 24: The project site. Reconstructed Henck Arronstraat 2-4 a 6 in blue arrows. Small two-story, rotated-in-plan building in red arrow.



Photo 25: The project site currently showing the foundation works already underway.



Photo 26: The project site currently showing the foundation works already underway.



Photo 27: Government owned building (at *Henck Arronstraat*) showing advanced state of decay. This one is scheduled to undergo restoration as part of the BID's PURP program Phase 1.



Photo 28: Government owned building (at *Tamarindelaan*, former "Tower Building of Finance"), not in use, due to its advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrow).



Photo 29: Typical wooden building (at *Mr. J.C. de Miranda Straat*) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (green arrow). Also, in the background, another building portraying a rather discordant recent expansion (red arrow). A/C machines exposed on exterior facades (blue arrows).



Photo 30: Typical wooden buildings (along *Waterkant*) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrow). One of them is scheduled to undergo restoration process.



Photo 31: Typical wooden buildings (along *Heeren Straat*) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrow). The building on the corner shows considerable physical alterations (blue arrow).



Photo 32: Typical wooden buildings (along *Monseigneur Wulfingstraat*) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrow).



Photo 33: Recently built building (at *Grote Kerk Straat*) in clear discordance with the historic urban landscape (red arrow).



Photo 34: Recently remodeled building (at *Mr. F.H.R. Lim A Po St*) in clear discordance with the historic urban landscape (red arrow).



Photo 35: Relatively recent buildings (at *Watermolen Straat*) in clear discordance with the historic urban landscape (red arrows). The construction of the rather tall one (on the background) was stopped when it was noted that it was going to be taller than what is allowed (green arrow). A/C machines exposed on exterior facades (blue arrows).



Photo 36: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (red arrows).



Photo 37: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (red arrows).



Photo 38: Commercial billboard exposed on exterior facade of building (red arrow).

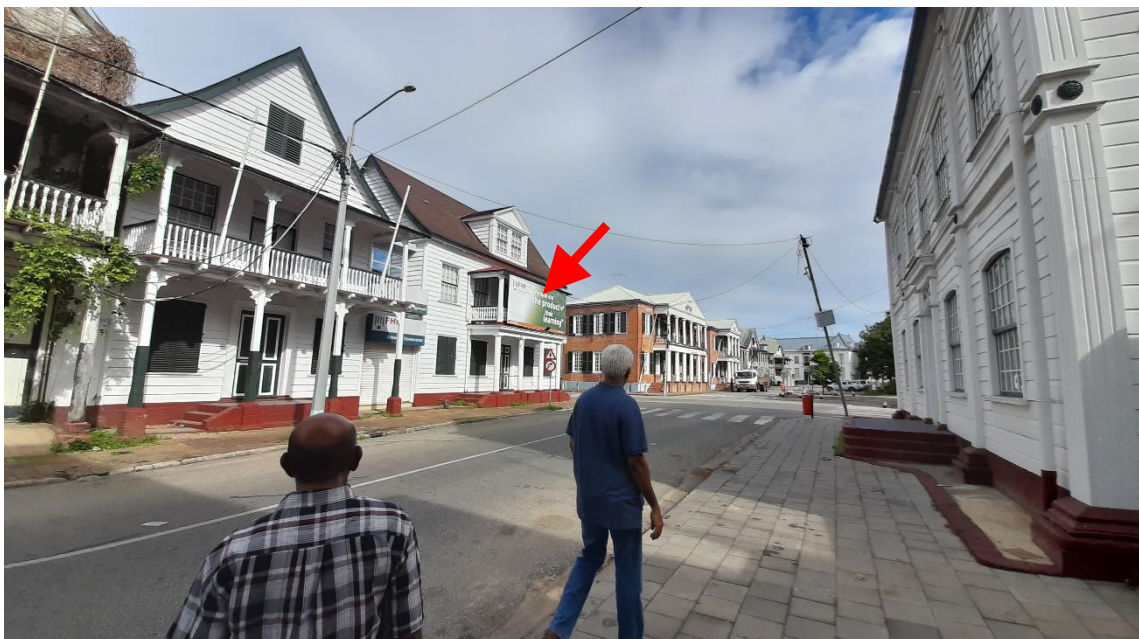


Photo 39: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (red arrow).



Photo 40: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (red arrows).



Photo 41: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (blue arrows).



Photo 42: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (blue arrows).



Photo 43: A/C machines exposed on exterior facades of buildings (red arrow).



Photo 44: Typical wooden building (along Grote Combeweg) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrow). This building is to be restored under the PURP programme.



Photo 45: Typical wooden building (at *Noorderkerk Straat*) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrow).



Photo 46: Typical wooden buildings (at *Mr. J.C. de Miranda Straat*) showing advanced state of decay and deterioration (red arrows).



Photo 47: The average scale and size of most buildings, along *Grote Combeweg*, seem to be defined by the height of the mass-façade of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 (red arrow).



Photo 48: The average scale and size of most buildings, along *Grote Combeweg*, seem to be defined by the height of the mass-façade of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 (red arrow).



Photo 49: The average scale and size of most buildings, along Grote Combeweg, seem to be defined by the height of the mass-façade of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 (red arrow).



Photo 50: The average scale and size of most buildings, along *Grote Combeweg*, seem to be defined by the height of the mass-façade of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 (red arrow).



Photo 51: Analysis of the height of the proposed new building (yellow) as projected without its setback and within the context of the average height/proportion of most buildings (red) along *Grote Combeweg*. Rendering by de Architecten studio.



Photo 52: Analysis of the height of the proposed new building (yellow) as projected without its setback and within the context of the average height/proportion of most buildings (red) along *Grote Combeweg*. Rendering by de Architecten studio.



Photo 53: Analysis of the height of the proposed new building (yellow) as projected without its setback and within the context of the average height/proportion of most buildings (red) along *Grote Combeweg*. Rendering by de Architecten studio.



Photo 54: Height/proportions visual analysis of the proposed new building (yellow) in the context of the average height/proportion of most buildings (red) along *Grote Combeweg*. Rendering by de Architecten studio.



Photo 55: Lots/yards (adjacent to the project site) which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and which serve as parking spaces.



Photo 56: Lots/yards (adjacent to the project site) which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and which serve as parking spaces.



Photo 57: Lots/yards (adjacent to the project site) which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and which serve as parking spaces.



Photo 58: Lots/yards (adjacent to the project site) which belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and which serve as parking spaces.



ANNEX XII:

Paramaribo Management Plan 2020-2024

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uOTCM9r1x0AcV9V5EIIIS6wyNE5Y7YAac/view?usp=sharing>

ANNEX XIII:

Building Committee Assessments (translated from Dutch)

ASSESSMENT FORM BUILDING COMMITTEE

Assessment of building plans based on the Special Requirements: design, size and scale, use of colour, use of materials and the added elements dormers, balconies, shutters, etc....

The use of the explanation/manual of the Special Requirements indispensable.

The scope is as per Article 4 of State Decree dated 31 October 2001 (S.B. No. 74).

Building permit application details

Number Department of Building and Housing Control.....*memo 27 Jan 2023 from the management*

Number Building committee

.....

Date

.....

.....

Gegevens aanvrager bouwvergunning

1. Name of person/ architectural firm/ agency

.....

2. Name of client...*Director BSW*

3. Applicant's address..... *Jaggernath Lachman Street*

Type of building permit

Historic city centre

☐

Buffer zones

☐

Street location

Building facing the street

☐

Gebouw op een binnenterrein

☐

District Combé



18th-century urban expansion

O

Other residential area Paramaribo

O

Street name and B.R. or plot no.....*Hoek Henck Arronstraat/ Great Combeweg.*

Intended use of the structure:

The assessment takes place with regard to the following aspects:

1. Design
2. Size and scale
3. Use of colour
4. Use of materials
5. Roof structure
6. Pavements
7. Added elements
8. Dormers
9. Balconies
10. Other added elements

Building plan review/advice result:

2 Feb 2023

For brevity's sake, we refer to ICOMOS' technical direction on and during the approval of the design of the new DNA building, which has now already been delivered. In the final phase of the

technical direction by ICOMOS, conditions have already been set out in a letter dated 23 November 2018

indicated especially for the design of the new meeting hall of the National Assembly (Expansion with a new building or meeting complex). Attached are these directions.

Letter Culture Sector World Heritage Centre CLT/HER/WHC/LAC/CMT/AS/2858 dated 23 November 2018.

Also read Letter from Ministry of Education Science and Culture dated 22 March 2019, Ref M-766

Concerning: Submission of revised design Building A Parliament Building.

The Building Committee:

1. Mr. I. Gangabisoensingh (Président).....
2. Mevr. S. Singh
(Member).....
3. Mevr. D. Baptist
(Secretary).....

Paramaribo, 2 February 2023

Further to Memo dated 26 June 2023. Ref # 13das22.10

Building plan review/advice result:

26 June 2023

We note that the ICOMOS piece did not follow the ministerial procedure. The Building Committee will look at the technical side of the matter.

Mindful of the SGES/ICOMOS piece (see annex ICOMOS TECHNICAL REVIEW NEW DNA HALL), the committee will now technically review the submitted drawings.

- The new building section should not have any connection with the historical section. A recommendation could be to elaborate that architecturally by, for example, applying a material that connects better than what is currently designed.
- The end façade (frontage) of the new building viewed from Grote Combeweg does not support the historic streetscape.
- The building at the rear should not be higher than the building on the street side (Nepveu house).
- Parking at the location of the first storey is not recommended. An underground parking would provide a solution in this regard. This would reduce the building level on the 4th floor of the new building to be reduced from 4 to 3 storeys.

The Building Committee:

1. Mr. I. Gangabisoensingh (Président).....
2. Mevr. S. Singh
(Member).....
3. Mevr. D. Baptist
(Secretary).....

Paramaribo, 27 June 2023