
Schwerin Residence Ensemble (Germany) No 1705

1 Basic information

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Schwerin Residence Ensemble

Location

City of Schwerin
State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
Germany

Brief description

The Schwerin Residence Ensemble is a group of buildings, parks and gardens constructed or established for the most part in the first half of the 19th century in the heart of the capital of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and on or around the Burg, Fauler, Ostorfer, Schwerin and Ziegel lakes. Along with the Residence Palace, remodelled from 1837 onwards when the Grand Duke's residence was transferred from Ludwigslust to Schwerin, the ensemble fulfils all the functions required of a ducal capital in terms of administration, defence, service infrastructure, transportation, prestige and cultural activities; it also includes an ensemble of parks, canals, ponds and lakes, and public spaces.

The buildings form an architectural ensemble which reflects the historicist spirit of the time, ranging from neo-Renaissance to neo-Baroque and neo-Classical, and draws on the regional "Johann-Albrecht" style inspired by the Italian Renaissance.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

Included in the Tentative List

15 January 2015 under the name "Residence Ensemble Schwerin – Cultural Landscape of Romantic Historicism"

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations and technical evaluation mission

Desk reviews have been provided by ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, members and independent experts.

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the nominated property from 7 to 10 August 2023.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 4 October 2023 requesting further information about the history and description of the nominated property, boundaries, the comparative analysis, integrity and authenticity, and management.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 6 November 2023.

On 19 December 2023, an interim report was provided to the State Party, summarising the issues raised by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel.

Further information was requested in the interim report on the history and development of the nominated property, its architectural characteristics, the landscape context, integrity and authenticity, and tourism management strategies.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 27 February 2024.

All additional information received has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2024

2 Description of the nominated property

Note: The nomination dossier and additional information contain detailed descriptions of this property, its history and its state of conservation. Due to limitations on the length of evaluation reports, this report provides only a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and history

Located in the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the Schwerin Residence Ensemble consists of a group of buildings, parks and gardens constructed or designed for the most part during the first half of the 19th century, in the heart of the capital of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and situated on or around the Burg, Fauler, Ostorfer, Schwerin and Ziegel lakes.

The nominated residence ensemble comprises thirty-eight elements (buildings, parks and gardens), divided into five typologies based on use: the Residence Palace and manor houses; cultural and sacred buildings; administrative buildings; the infrastructure and residences of staff and officials; and military buildings.

The composition of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is essentially based on two dominant elements: the Residence Palace and the Pfaffenteich ornamental lake; in addition, visual axes link the Residence Palace with the sacred buildings, namely the Cathedral and the Church of St Paul.

The Residence Palace, with its irregular pentagonal plan, was rebuilt and modified between 1843 and 1857 by Georg

Adolf Demmler and later by Friedrich August Stüler, in a combination of French Neo-Renaissance and “Johann-Albrecht” styles, on top of the remains of a medieval fortress, also incorporating structures from the 15th and 17th centuries. Set on its island facing the city, it forms the central feature of the composition. It is linked to the Old Garden square, around which stand an ensemble of prestigious buildings: the Museum, the Theatre, the Old Manor, Governmental Administration Buildings I and II, and the State Archives; the princely villas of Werderstrasse and the *Marstall* (Royal Stables) on their peninsula complete the composition on the shores of Lake Schwerin.

Another axis in the composition links the Residence Palace to its park, on whose edge stand the Cavalier’s House, and the former gardener’s house and the Greenhouse; in the background the Old and New Artillery Barracks are visible, together with the Officers’ Mess, and the Grand Ducal Hunters’ Lodge.

The Grand Ducal Administration Building, the Armoury, Demmler’s Residence, the Commander’s House and the Fridericianum are all reflected in the waters of the Pfaffenteich. The other elements are located in the old city centre, near the two main poles of the composition.

The Mecklenburg family associated with the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is one of the oldest-established German dynasties, and claims Slavic Obotrite origins. It was elevated to ducal rank of the Holy Roman Empire in 1347; it acquired the county of Schwerin in 1358 and made Schwerin its capital. As a result of repeated disputes over succession and changes to its borders, it was not until the early 18th century that the Duchy of Schwerin achieved relative stability. The Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin was founded in 1701, following an agreement set out in the Treaty of Hamburg, which settled a conflict of succession within the Mecklenburg family.

A Duchy of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, and then of the Rhine Confederation (1806-1813), before being raised to the rank of Grand Duchy in 1815, Mecklenburg-Schwerin became a member of the German Federation (1815-1866), then of the North German Confederation (1866-1871), and finally of the German Empire (1871-1918), which came to an end in November 1918 with the abdication of Emperor Wilhelm II, leading in turn to that of Grand Duke Friedrich Franz IV of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

At once a justification of the status and a symbol of the origins of the Mecklenburg-Schwerin family, Schwerin Castle was a medieval fortress built in the 14th century on an island in Lake Schwerin. Protected by its castle, the town of Schwerin underwent an initial phase of expansion from the 16th century onwards, under the impetus of Johann Albrecht I, and another in the early 18th century. From 1764 onwards however, the dukes made their residence at Ludwigslust and it was not until 1837 that Grand Duke Paul Friedrich transferred his seat of power to Schwerin. This decision heralded large-scale alteration and development works on the Residence Palace under Grand

Duke Friedrich Franz II from 1843 to 1857. Architect Georg Adolf Demmler led the demolition and reconstruction works of the palace from 1844 to 1857, in a style inspired by the French Renaissance. For the Palace Church, Grand Duke Friedrich Franz II commissioned Ernst Friedrich Zwirner, master builder of Cologne Cathedral, and Friedrich August Stüler to remodel the interior. The palace park and gardens were extensively remodelled by Theodor Klett, from 1850 onwards, to plans drawn up by Prussian landscape designer Peter Josef Lenné. Works were also undertaken on Schwerin’s administrative, cultural and religious institutions; a vast programme of architectural and urban development continued until the early 20th century.

In order to bestow on the city of Schwerin the status and prestige of a dynastic capital, the major buildings of the nominated property were built, extended or remodelled in a style designed to assert dynastic and Germanic characteristics, and thus drew on the historicist neo-Baroque and neo-Renaissance vocabulary then in vogue in the kingdom of Prussia and the German kingdoms and principalities.

The prime examples of Renaissance-inspired buildings are the New Town Manor, the Grand Ducal Estate Office, and the Railway Station and Duke’s Salon; the Armoury, which reflects the influence of the Italian Renaissance, and the facades of the Court Theatre; the interior decoration of the Theatre and the Church of St Nikolai, and particularly its bell tower, are in a neo-Baroque style.

The so-called “Johann-Albrecht” style, a variant of neo-Renaissance architecture, was used to make explicit reference to the historic roots of the duchy and of the family of its sovereign. It is characterised by facades that are brick-faced with light-coloured rendering, richly-decorated triple semi-circular pediments and the placing on the facade of medallions, statues and reliefs or architectural elements in terracotta. The most representative examples are the remodelling of the Residence Palace, the Fridericianum and the New Artillery Barracks.

Neo-Classicism meanwhile is represented by the Governmental Administration Buildings I and II, the *Marstall* (Royal Stables) and the Museum, and the neo-Gothic style by the Cathedral.

To design or remodel these buildings, the Grand Dukes mostly commissioned master builders and landscape designers from Berlin. Thus it was that Ludwig August Bartning, Georg Daniel, Georg Adolf Demmler, Paul Ehmig, Peter Josef Lenné, Theodor Krüger, Johann Heinrich Strack, Friedrich August Stüler, Ludwig Wachenhusen, Hermann Willebrand, and Ernst Friedrich Zwirner made this great scheme a reality through their projects and achievements.

The initial area of the nominated property, before the changes made to its boundaries, was 174.181 ha, with a buffer zone of 3,599.0461 ha.

State of conservation

The nominated ensemble comprises thirty-eight buildings, which were for the most part built or remodelled and extended from the mid-19th century onwards. The buildings were not damaged during the Second World War; as there were no strategic industries in the city of Schwerin, it was relatively unaffected by wartime bombing or destruction by fighting. Several references are however made to fires which damaged certain parts of some of the buildings in the ensemble. Fire damage has affected both the exterior and interior of the buildings. The uses and occupancy of the buildings in the ensemble have changed over time, particularly after 1918, following the abdication of the Grand Duke following the fall of the German Empire and the establishment of the Republic, and from 1949 to 1990, when Schwerin was part of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The changes in use and purpose led to alterations, adaptations and modifications to the interiors and exteriors of a number of publicly and privately owned buildings in the ensemble.

Prior to the reunification of Germany, the public buildings were for some time inadequately maintained, but since then regular maintenance and restoration programmes have been undertaken. On the whole, facades and roofs have been preserved, with a few rare cases of ancillary constructions, modification of bays and elevations, and more often secondary work alterations affecting render, paintwork, woodwork or roofing features (chimney stacks, finials, drainpipes, lambrequins, window frames, etc.). The buildings' interior appointments however have often been altered as appropriate for a change in use. These alterations might have affected the internal layout of the buildings, horizontal and vertical passageways, or arrangements and decoration.

In 1913, a fire seriously damaged roughly one-third of the Residence Palace, and only the facades had been rebuilt by the time of the Grand Duke's abdication in 1918. The palace became state property from 1921 onwards, and was remodelled several times for various uses. It is regularly maintained and in a good state of conservation.

The Old Manor is in a good state of conservation; the remains of historic decorations are the object of an archaeological presentation.

The New Town Manor is in a good state of conservation; its grand staircase with its metal structure and gilded cast-iron railings, has recently been restored, and the architectural decoration of the grand salon was reinstated.

The Court Theatre has undergone a major restoration, completed in 2009, and is in a good state of conservation.

The Museum is currently being restored as part of a museographic and educational programme to preserve its heritage values. It is scheduled to reopen in 2025. A preliminary study is being undertaken for an extension to the rear of the building to improve accessibility. Records will have to be made of this necessary facility. The Curator's Mansion is today used by the museum's

administrative departments. Most of its internal arrangements have been retained, and its facades and roofs are in a satisfactory state of conservation. Special attention will have to be paid to the secondary works, particularly the wooden elements.

Particular care must be taken to prevent rising damp in the Cathedral St Marien and St John the Evangelist. A programme for the restoration of the roofing of the neo-Gothic spire of the west tower, built from 1889 to 1893, should be considered in the short-term.

The facades of the Fridericianum, with the Director's Villa and Gymnasium, are in a good exterior condition, except for the Gymnasium, for which a restoration programme is planned shortly. As for the interior, the main hall was renovated in 1938 after a fire, and the auditorium has lost its interior decorations.

The Armoury facades were repainted, but the coating used was unsuitable from a conservation viewpoint.

The Artillery Barracks are in a good state of conservation; the facades seem to have been very substantially restored in the late 20th century, to judge from the photograph provided by the State Party. The Officers' Mess roofs have been replaced by a modern glazed attic storey.

The State Archives have an early 20th century decor of which certain parts have been restored. The layout of the former archives has been retained. The state of conservation is satisfactory for the ensemble as a whole; a programme of complementary restoration work is planned for the depot.

The Armoury, built between 1840 and 1844, underwent a major renovation in 1991-2004 to prepare it to accommodate the Interior Ministry. In 1999 the facades were painted with a coating which is unsuitable from a conservation viewpoint.

The additional information provided by the State Party concerning privately-owned and leased buildings indicates that the works conducted since 1990 have been supervised by the departments in charge of monument conservation, and that their state of conservation is generally good.

A road with intense traffic levels passes through the Old Garden square, centrally located opposite the Palace. This square is in a seemingly neglected state, with a few vehicles parked randomly. The state of conservation of this area is unsatisfactory.

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation of the nominated property is good, as regards the facades and roofs and interior layouts of the public buildings, particularly those which are most significant, and the religious buildings; and that it is generally good as regards

the privately-owned and leased buildings, and those which have been remodelled for new uses.

Factors affecting the nominated property

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the main factors affecting the nominated property are risks from climate change and resulting natural disasters; fire hazards; risks from road traffic and tourism pressures; and risks from the reuse/conversion of the buildings.

Changes in the usage of buildings has led to alterations to interior layouts, and modernising and refurbishments, that may adversely affect the integrity and authenticity of the buildings. The very nature of work undertaken, the materials employed, and the fact that some contractors may not be qualified, may affect the heritage quality of the buildings. Evaluation prior to any works and control of projects and restoration techniques are necessary to ensure that the of the quality of the buildings is maintained.

Fires have on several occasions in the past partially destroyed the interior fittings of some buildings; ICOMOS considers that fire detection and treatment measures that are appropriate for heritage properties will be essential for their conservation.

Extreme climate events, such as flooding, drought and storms may adversely affect the nominated property, particularly in view of the lakeside character of the surrounding area and the nature of the ground of the city. Such events may affect the stability of buildings and the subsoils. It will be necessary to define preventive and remedial measures.

Lastly, the increase in the number of visitors may have a negative impact on the preservation of the decoration of the buildings, by changing the atmospheric conditions; similarly, an uncontrolled increase in the amount of combustion engine vehicle traffic and parking in the town constitutes an immediate risk for the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that mapping risks to identify those which should be considered a priority would make it possible to deal promptly with major issues in order to preserve the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. ICOMOS also considers that it will be necessary to conduct a more comprehensive study of the touristic, biophysical, physical, economic and social capacity of the buildings open to the public; it will also be necessary to draw up an urban transport and mobility plan to manage tourist flows and limit nuisances in the nominated property and its surrounding area; to undertake a water management programme for the site and its hydraulic system; and to establish a programme for the rehabilitation of the public spaces and putting in urban and cultural signage with tourism in mind.

The implementation of these plans and programmes will enable, with preventive monitoring, the anticipation of risks and will lead to the proposal of practical interventions

for the buildings and the various historic sectors of the city.

ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is generally good and that the factors affecting the nominated property have for the most part been identified. Taking these risks into consideration in detail in the management of the nominated property will limit their effects.

3 Proposed justification for inscription

Proposed justification

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- With the outstanding staging of the Schwerin Residence Palace and the elements of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble in its lakeside landscape, the constant references to historic European national and regional architectural traditions, and the many symbolic and heraldic references to its dynastic history, the nominated property bears witness to the importance of architecture and urban planning as a vehicle of legitimisation of the power of the reigning dynasties in this northern part of Europe from the end of the 18th century until the beginning of the 20th century.
- Through the many symbolic and heraldic references to its dynastic history, the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is an outstanding example of a well-preserved 19th century European residential ensemble bearing witness to monarchic tradition and symbolism, whose development continued up until the end of the German Empire in 1918.

Based on the nomination dossier and the additional information, the key attributes of the nominated property are: the exceptionally well-preserved character of the ensemble in terms of quantity and quality; the collection of outstanding historicist buildings; the remarkable landscaping; and the use of the historicist architectural style and its regional variation as the legitimisation of a cultural identity, with the ornamental heraldry bearing testimony to the monarchy. Based on the nomination dossier and the additional information provided by the State Party, the buildings and gardens constituting the Schwerin Residence Ensemble form part of 19th century architectural history, in which historicism combines various architectural styles, taking inspiration from past styles to develop a new style.

Two main ensembles reflecting the 19th century historicist spirit compose characteristic landscape motifs; one is arranged around the Residence Palace and associates the buildings and parks and gardens remodelled in the 19th century with an extensive lakeside landscape; the other forms an ensemble of buildings reflected in the Pfaffenteich, reorganised and structured by shores landscaped for this purpose. Lastly, a composition of

landscape and urban vistas and perspectives complete the setting.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis has been developed on the grounds of themes considered to be under-represented on the World Heritage List, particularly 19th century architectural and urban properties, primarily as regards residence ensembles and palace residences in an urban and landscape setting. It has examined properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, included in the Tentative Lists of States Parties, and other properties. The comparative analysis focused on examples in Europe from the 18th to the early 20th century with a particular emphasis on the 19th century. The analysis also considered the place of the nominated property in the thematic framework: "Creative responses and continuity" for monuments, groups of buildings and sites, defined in the ICOMOS report "*Filling the gaps – an action plan for the future*".

In its request for additional information of October 2023, ICOMOS asked the State Party to consider broadening, deepening and completing the comparative analysis so as to examine how the nominated property compares with other 18th and 19th century royal and ducal residence ensembles in the geo-cultural area concerned. The comparative analysis, including the additional information provided by the State Party in November 2023, considered a large number of 18th and 19th century European properties, inscribed on the World Heritage List, and included in the Tentative Lists of States Parties, as well as other properties in Europe and Türkiye.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis and the additional information enable a good understanding of the place of the nominated property amongst European monarchic residences in the 19th century. The comparisons are made in order to highlight differences between the nominated property and the properties covered in the comparative analysis. This methodology emphasises the importance of the way the nominated property is set into its cultural and temporal landscape context.

The analysis is pertinent in demonstrating that the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is an architectural ensemble which is extremely representative of the emergence and development of the historicist style in Europe during the second half of the 19th century. With its orchestration of architectural and landscape elements, illustrating the historicist eclecticism of the period, enriched by the regional "Johann-Albrecht" style, it provides a broad panorama of publicly and privately owned administrative and cultural, religious and commercial buildings, which are well-preserved, in a landscape setting of high quality.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is in an exceptionally good state of preservation; that it bears witness to the monarchic tradition and illustrates the power of an illustrious family from the early 18th century to the 20th century, by embodying architectural and artistic styles and a heraldic vocabulary which justify the legitimacy of the reigning family by linking it to previous dynasties.

ICOMOS considers that the nomination does not provide sufficient specific arguments to demonstrate how the property contributes to an understanding of the monarchy as a political system or socio-cultural ecosystem. Furthermore, a cultural tradition must be clearly linked to processes that define, in an outstanding way, a way of life or civilisation in a geo-cultural region.

The State Party does not show in detail how the Mecklenburg-Schwerin dynasty embodies the concept of monarchy in an outstanding and universal way, or makes an outstanding contribution to the understanding of the monarchic phenomenon or the concept of monarchy.

Moreover, it appears that as regards the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List relating to the 19th and 20th century architectural heritage, this criterion is associated with outstanding phenomena which are clearly defined.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iii) is not justified.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Schwerin Residence Ensemble comprises a vast ensemble of buildings in an exceptionally well-preserved urban and landscape setting. The architectural features are staged in the heart of the city and in a lakeside landscape to bear witness to the power and brilliance of monarchic power and to the continuous development of the ensemble, from the 18th to the 20th century and the beginnings of modernism.

ICOMOS considers that none of the thirty-eight elements of the nominated ensemble has retained its 18th-century condition: all have been built, restored, altered or extended after 1837, when the permanent residence of the Grand Duke was transferred from the Palace of Ludwigslust to Schwerin under the new Grand Duke Paul Friedrich. All the other elements of the nominated property were built after 1837 and before 1914.

For this reason, ICOMOS considers that it would be appropriate to refocus the justification for inscription chronologically to the 19th century, from 1837 onwards.

The Schwerin Residence Ensemble represents an architectural and landscape ensemble which fits very precisely within the context of the emergence and development of the historicist style in Europe in the second half of the 19th century, most notably in the German kingdoms and principalities striving for unification through a style dominated by the influence of the neo-Renaissance and the neo-Baroque or neo-Classicism. Through the diversity of the building programmes, the palace, museum, theatre, administrative buildings, ducal residences, barracks and military buildings, the educational establishment, religious buildings, commercial facilities, buildings and outbuildings used for technical or leisure purposes, and residential buildings, the nominated ensemble offers a vast spectrum of buildings, all of which reflect this school, and some of which refer to the more regional “Johann-Albrecht” style, which even more strongly anchors the programmes in the history of the Grand Duchy.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iv) is justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets cultural criterion (iv), provided that the justification for inscription is refocused on the 19th century; but that criterion (iii) has not been demonstrated.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The integrity of the nominated property is based on a set of elements which contribute in varying degrees to the representation of the functions and activities associated with the functioning and representation of a monarchic residence dramatically staged in a characteristic lakeside landscape. The nominated buildings, parks and gardens form part of the 19th century historicist period of reference, which is the fundamental basis of the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The elements of the nominated ensemble are generally well preserved in their volumes and locations. According to the additional information provided by the State Party in February 2024, all the public and religious buildings open to the public are in a satisfactory condition in terms of exterior preservation, and in a generally good condition in terms of horizontal and vertical interior layouts.

Although there have been changes to the gardens and buildings, compromising to a certain extent the integrity of the nominated property, ICOMOS considers that the main attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value have essentially been maintained.

Those buildings that are of lesser symbolic significance, or which are now in private hands, have been altered to accommodate new functions, which has led to alterations,

extensions and sometimes layout changes, both exterior and interior, which have affected their integrity. However, despite these modifications, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity of the exterior arrangements of these buildings have been met.

With a few rare exceptions, indicated in the state of conservation, the elements forming the nominated ensemble have not been adversely impacted by a lack of maintenance or by disturbances linked to their current use.

In the additional information provided by the State Party in February 2024, and in order to underpin the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property and its associated attributes, the State Party has modified the boundaries of the nominated property to include the Fauler Lake and a significant part of the Schwerin Lake. In addition, the proposed buffer zone has been expanded to the south, east and north-west, to take into consideration control over the landscape qualities of the site.

ICOMOS considers that the changes to the boundaries of the property enable the representation of the characteristics and processes that convey the value of the nominated property. The boundaries of the nominated property encompass all the attributes that convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble. ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the nominated property has been demonstrated.

Authenticity

The attributes forming the basis of the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property are represented by the thirty-eight elements forming the Schwerin Residence Ensemble. The situation, setting or form of these elements have been preserved.

The occupancy and use of certain buildings have changed over time, resulting in alterations and adaptations, sometimes including ancillary constructions and modifications that have adversely affected their authenticity to varying degrees depending on the building concerned. The nomination dossier also mentions on several occasions fires that have affected certain elements of the nominated property. The alterations and adaptations have mainly concerned the interior layouts of buildings, particularly those publicly or privately owned buildings whose original use has been substantially changed, or administrative buildings, with the installation of offices resulting in the division of spaces and the installation of modern-day technical facilities.

ICOMOS considers that, while for a number of the major elements of the nominated property, uses and functions have been modified, the buildings have in general kept their forms, materials, situation and setting. The relationship between the most significant buildings and their landscape setting, whether it be parks and gardens or lakes and ponds, has also been preserved.

However, some recent developments on the shore of Lake Schwerin, and the neglected appearance of the Old Garden square, are likely to adversely impact the authentic character of the nominated property. ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the nominated property has been demonstrated.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the nominated property have been met.

Boundaries

The boundaries of the nominated property are based on a division of the city into parcels, so as to set a boundary which encompasses all the buildings, parks and gardens forming the Schwerin Residence Ensemble. The boundaries of the nominated property have been drawn around buildings or groups of buildings. Zones which are functional, in particular the squares, parks and gardens, have been included in the nominated property, as have those offering significant and picturesque vistas of the nominated property.

The boundary, as modified in the additional information provided by the State Party in February 2024, includes a significant proportion of both Schwerin Lake and Fauler Lake; it also includes the Pfaffenteich.

The total population residing inside the boundaries of the nominated property is 2,137, with a total of 19,628 residing in the buffer zone.

The purpose of the buffer zone is to ensure control of the urban landscape which provides the appropriate setting for the buildings planned by the successive Grand Dukes for the exercise and demonstration of their power. In the densely built-up urban part, the buffer zone boundary defines a protection area whose width varies between 100 and 1,000 metres around the nominated property. The Ziegel Lake (southern part and interior lake), and the Ostorfer Lake (northern part) are included in the buffer zone, as are their shores and those of the Schwerin and Fauler lakes. The proposed buffer zone has been expanded to the south, east and north-west, as requested by ICOMOS in its interim report, to take into consideration control over the landscape qualities of the site.

ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable to enlarge the nominated property boundaries, particularly around the Churches of St Paul and St Nikolai, and thus take into consideration the peripheral plots around the public spaces, in the centre of which the religious buildings are located. This could be done by means of a minor boundary modification request.

The buffer zone boundary has been drawn in such a way as to include all the sectors that play a part in the environment of the nominated property. It includes the important vistas, and takes into consideration the lakeside setting of Schwerin. The boundary also takes into account the built-up parts in the approaches to the nominated property, the topography and the plot division plan.

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

To sum up, ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies giving consideration to the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and that the nominated property meets criterion (iv). ICOMOS also considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the elements forming the Schwerin Residence Ensemble have been met. The boundaries of the nominated property encompass all the attributes that convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and the buffer zone provides further protection for the nominated property.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Documentation

The documentation provided by the State Party includes a set of historic maps of the city, showing its evolution up to the 20th century. Historic and modern plans, sectional views and elevations illustrating the state of the buildings during the reference period and some plans of more recent developments have also been supplied.

These documents are complemented by recent photographic documentation and some old pictures. Except in the case of the Residence Palace, plans and photographs showing the current state of the interior arrangements of the buildings, enabling an assessment of the scale of the alterations made, are few in number.

The works carried out in the 20th century and more recently are described in the case of the major buildings. On the other hand, no proofing plan for the works has been supplied, which may raise difficulties in the monitoring and future management of the conservation of the property and its attributes.

Conservation measures

The public buildings are regularly the subject of studies and conservation or restoration work. For the most part, these works have been recorded and documented since the early 1990s.

Programmes of works on all the buildings and parks of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble have not up to now been included in a general conservation plan, but are the result of regular monitoring of the state of conservation of the public and religious buildings and their decorations.

More wide-ranging restoration programmes have been implemented for some buildings, such as the Court Theatre, the Museum and Governmental Administration Buildings I and II. The restoration programmes were preceded by studies and documentary research work.

Studies of the effects of climate change and variations in the level of the Schwerin Lake are conducted, in particular to study the stability of the Residence Palace. The studies have been followed by the implementation of works to reinforce the foundations of the Palace.

During the development of the nomination dossier for the property, a general conservation plan was devised by the State Party. In view of the diversity of the status of ownership of the elements comprising the nominated property, and the various levels of responsibility of the authorities in charge of control, the plan is organised into sets of elements, based on their public or private ownership status, and their function or accessibility to the general public. The plan is designed to ensure the preservation of the attributes of the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property is documented and is covered by *ad hoc* conservation measures that are adequate to ensure an acceptable level of preservation. The role of the World Heritage Coordination Office will be essential to guarantee the implementation and effectiveness of the conservation measures set out in the conservation plan outlined by the State Party.

Monitoring

The monitoring of the state of conservation of the property is based on the preservation of its attributes; key indicators have been defined for each of the elements forming the nominated ensemble, and regular monitoring of its state of conservation will be carried out *ad hoc* by the World Heritage Coordination Unit.

The main objectives in monitoring the state of conservation of the nominated property will take into consideration the following factors: future technical developments and changes in modern standards; changes due to change of use; events concerning the nominated property; the effects of drought on the parks and gardens; and the effects of drought on the buildings.

A method for conflict management and Heritage Impact Assessment of any project that could affect the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property has been set out by the State Party. It follows the recommendations made by UNESCO concerning conflict management and the implementation of Heritage Impact Assessments, and will be coordinated by the World Heritage Coordination Office whenever necessary.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring measures for the nominated property have been identified, but they will need to be further described in the implementation of the management plan.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures are satisfactory, but it will be necessary to determine priorities and to establish a time schedule. The proposed monitoring measures are sufficient to ensure the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property; the preventive monitoring measures will facilitate the achievement of this objective, by guiding the choice of interventions and establishing priorities.

5 Protection and management

Legal protection

The system of protection of the nominated property is established in accordance with the laws in force in the Federal Republic of Germany; the protection of monuments is the responsibility of the States. The Monument Protection Act (*Denkmalschutzgesetz – DSchG M-V*) was promulgated in 1993 by the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and revised in 1998. The laws require that any intervention on a monument or in its vicinity must be approved by the authority in charge of monument conservation.

The DSchG M-V incorporates two levels of protection: individual and general. Each of the elements forming the nominated ensemble is registered individually; this form of protection covers all buildings, urban developments and gardens. The exterior aspect of buildings inside the nominated property boundaries which are not identified as forming part of the ensemble, and those located in the buffer zone, forms part of the designated monument areas under the same law.

The lakes of Schwerin and Ziegel are protected as nature and landscape areas by an ordinance of 2018 of the Lower Nature Conservation Authority of the City of Schwerin (Landscape Protection Area Ordinance); the lakes are also located in Natura 2000 zones.

In 2016, the City of Schwerin, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Federal Building Code (*Baugesetzbuch–BauGB*, 1960, amended in 2017), introduced measures to preserve the character of the heritage sectors. To back up these legal texts, the City adopted in 2014 the “Schwerin Charter for Building Culture” to preserve the cityscapes and promote knowledge of building culture by means of formal and informal instruments.

The City of Schwerin has adopted an urban development strategic plan which is set to expire in 2025 but will continue thereafter. In addition to tackling climate change and social development issues, the plan is aimed at preventing the desertification of the city centre and renovating urban structures.

Management system

Ownership of the nominated property is shared between the following: the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany; the City of Schwerin; and private owners.

As a result, the management system is not uniform; it takes into consideration the various forms of ownership within the nominated property.

For buildings owned by the State, the final decision concerning monument conservation and works is taken, after consultation with the stakeholders, by the State Office for Monument Preservation; for buildings owned by the City (including the seat and offices of the Parliament) and for

private properties, by the Department for Monument Preservation of the City; and for the properties of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany by the Building Department of the Church of Northern Germany. In all cases, the State Office for Monument Preservation is consulted for advice.

The management of the nominated property is complex in view of the large number and diverse responsibilities of the institutional and private stakeholders. To support the introduction of transversal management, the Coordination Committee, set up in 2020 to prepare the nomination dossier, is to become the World Heritage Coordination Office; the coordination office will report directly to the Lord Mayor's office of Schwerin.

The World Heritage Coordination Office will take charge of steering the management plan and coordinating the efforts of the institutions and public and private stakeholders responsible for implementing the management plan actions. The positioning of the office is intended to ensure its early involvement in the conception of projects; to achieve this aim, coordination of the actions of the relevant competent departments in relation to the economy, urban development, monument conservation and public construction must be set in motion. The use of Heritage Impact Assessments prior to the start of any projects must be stipulated in the urban planning documents of the City.

The World Heritage Coordination Office also chairs the Municipal Steering Committee comprising, amongst others, of the World Heritage Coordination Office/Site Management; the Building and Monument Protection Department; the Department of Urban Development, Economy; the Environment Department; the Traffic Department; and the Cultural Office.

The World Heritage Working Group, a forum for exchanges of views between the institutional bodies connected to the nominated property, created when the nomination dossier was drawn up, will be reconvened, and placed under the authority of the World Heritage Coordination Office. The working group will meet on a quarterly basis.

An independent Council of Experts will be set up to advise the municipal authorities of Schwerin, at their request, on any question relating to town planning, architecture, landscape and heritage, and their compatibility with the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property.

The Lord Mayor, the Head of the Building Department, the World Heritage Coordinator, and one or two members of the City Council's Cultural Committee and Building Committee, participate as local authority representatives without voting rights. The Council of Experts may request *ad hoc* advice from any expert whenever necessary.

As for the private owners, the monument protection law places them under an obligation to ensure the conservation

of their property, with financial support from local authorities in certain cases. With regard to the church properties, the Church and the State are jointly responsible, financially and otherwise, for the conservation of religious monuments.

No figure is indicated in the management plan for the operating funds necessary for the World Heritage Coordination Office, and the boards and committees stipulated in the management plan. It is stated that the number of personnel in the Staff Unit for the World Heritage Application will be increased to ensure that the World Heritage Coordination Office is set up with adequate means. The number of staff and their qualifications are not indicated in the nomination dossier.

A management plan has been drawn up by the State Party to be operational up to 2030. The plan was approved by deliberation of the Schwerin City Council on 28 March 2022.

The objectives of the management plan are conservation, sustainable development and education. For each element in the nominated ensemble, the State Party has drawn up a list of issues, and their associated preventive measures, and then proposes a series of actions for each building, setting out the operations envisaged and their target time frame. The conservation and valorisation of the interior appointments of the buildings open to the public must be seen as a priority challenge for the conservation actions of the plan.

No costings are provided for the actions presented in the management plan; the State Party indicates only that each administration or department maintains and restores the buildings under its remit, and that this situation is likely to continue with the World Heritage Coordination Office having a steering function.

ICOMOS considers that the management plan structure is pertinent, but notes that no measures or priority or emergency actions are identified for the elements of the nominated property; and that no budget and precise deadlines are associated with the plan, beyond short, medium and long term actions.

Visitor management

Fourteen of the thirty-eight elements of the nominated property are today open to the public; the City of Schwerin is considering the creation of a visitor centre and the installation of new urban signage, and the creation of a bilingual English/German website, with support from the World Heritage Coordination Office to coordinate the projects and lead the *ad hoc* working groups. Local cultural institutions have joined in with these projects and are working to devise programmes that take into account the nominated property. In its deliberations, the City of Schwerin has voted in favour of building a city history museum, which will help to promote interest in the nominated property.

In a context which should be favourable for an increase in visitor numbers over the coming years, ICOMOS notes

that no figures or forecasts of visitor numbers are presented in the nomination dossier. The management plan proposes actions for monument monitoring, visitor information and promotion of the nominated property, but it should be borne in mind that visitor numbers at a site have an impact on the whole of the city. The way tourism is considered in the context of the size of the city, particularly as regards traffic management and visitor flow management strategies more generally, is not developed at any length in the nomination dossier. The arrangements envisaged in the nomination dossier seem to only partially respond to this issue.

Community involvement

The City of Schwerin has regularly involved local people in the candidacy process for the nominated property; it has debated the project at council meetings, which are open to the public, and has organised consultation meetings with local residents, landowners, and educational associations and institutions. The City, in conjunction with universities, has held conferences on these issues. A website has been created, and the tourist office is actively contributing to raising awareness of the candidacy.

Effectiveness of the protection and management of the nominated property

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the protection of the nominated property is appropriate, and ensures that its attributes are preserved. The management system rests on the laws and regulations in force at federal, state and local level, and on the institutions involved in the development of the nomination. The creation of a World Heritage Coordination Office is essential to ensure the best possible level of coordination, collaboration and communication between the main parties actively involved in the management of the nominated property.

It is recommended, for the implementation of the management plan, that specific provisions be made to take into consideration the issue of conserving the interior layouts of all the public buildings that are accessible to visitors. Visitor management and practical initiatives to encourage sustainable tourism must also be defined, and given priority, both in the elements of the nominated property and in the city as a whole. Regular monitoring of the implementation of the management plan, by means of appropriate indicators, will enable checks on the effectiveness of the plan and any necessary updates to be made.

6 Conclusion

The Schwerin Residence Ensemble is a homogeneous architectural and landscape ensemble which presents a wide diversity of architectural programmes, embodied in a group of buildings and gardens associated with the emergence and development of the historicist style in Europe in the second half of the 19th century. This ensemble testifies accurately to the development of Schwerin when, in 1837, the reigning Grand Duke left his palace at Ludwigslust to settle in the capital city. There, like his successors, the Grand Duke commissioned or encouraged the creation or development of all the representational, cultural, religious, functional, defensive and commercial functions that his arrival demanded, up until 1918. The relationship of the buildings to their landscape setting, whether with the gardens or the lakes and ponds, or with the perspectives and vistas, has been preserved up to the present day, and fits in perfectly with the romantic taste of 19th-century Europe.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed Outstanding Universal Value has been justified, on the basis of criterion (iv), and that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble have been met. The protection and management of the nominated property are adequate.

7 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the Schwerin Residence Ensemble, Germany, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Established on the shores of Lake Schwerin, the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is an architectural and landscape ensemble which fits very precisely within the context of the emergence and development of the historicist style in Europe, in the second half of the 19th century, and particularly in the German kingdoms and principalities. The establishment of the seat of Grand Ducal power in the 19th century led to the implementation in the city of Schwerin of an architectural and landscape programme that illustrates all the civil and religious functions of a capital city that was the seat of a monarch.

As result of the diversity of the architectural programmes, the ensemble provides a wide spectrum of buildings, which reflect the 19th-century historicist style, and in certain cases refer to the more regional "Johann-Albrecht" style, connecting the programmes even more closely to the history of the Grand Duchy. The choice made to establish the seat next to lakes and ponds, creating a landscape in which the architecture and gardens are

reflected in the water, is a perfect illustration of the romantic taste in 19th-century Europe.

Criterion (iv): The Schwerin Residence Ensemble fits within the context of the emergence and development of the historicist style during the 19th century in Europe. Remarkably well-preserved, it constitutes an outstanding European royal residence ensemble of the 19th century by way of the richness and diversity of its architecture and landscape features, which express the whole spectrum of historicism, from neo-Renaissance to neo-Baroque and neo-Classicism, neo-Gothic and the regional “Johann-Albrecht” historicist style.

Integrity

The boundaries of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble encompass all the landscape, architectural and stylistic attributes, as well as the perspectives and visual axes, necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value. The property in its landscape context presents the necessary characteristics to express the importance of this well-preserved historicist ensemble; it is not threatened by any unfavourable development or abandonment.

Authenticity

The location and setting, or form of the thirty-eight elements comprising the Schwerin Residence Ensemble have been preserved. These elements have evolved over time, and in many cases their use has changed, resulting essentially in adaptations and alterations to interior arrangements. The general design, structures and materials of the ensemble have been preserved. The relationship of the buildings to their landscape setting, whether with the gardens or the lakes and ponds, or with the perspectives and vistas, has also been preserved.

Protection and management requirements

The thirty-eight elements comprising the Schwerin Residence Ensemble are protected at Federal level and by the Monument Protection Act (DSchG M-V) of the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The elements are identified as properties whose preservation is a matter of public interest. The Federal Building Code (*Baugesetzbuch* – BauGB, 1960, amended in 2017) provides the basis for land use and urban planning; it includes provisions for the preservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, the laws and regulations relating to the protection of nature and landscapes, and of water resources, also apply within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone.

A management plan has been prepared to be used as a control and planning instrument. It will have to be periodically assessed and updated. The World Heritage Coordination Office, supported by expert and advisory groups, is a crucial element to ensure the coordination and effectiveness of the management of the property. A rigorous strategy for the conservation of the buildings in the ensemble, and particularly of the interior layouts of

those open to the public, and for the management of tourist flows inside the property and in the city, is essential to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained in the long-term.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Including in the management plan a budgeted and prioritised schedule for preventive and remedial conservation interventions on the property, and in particular of the interior layouts of the buildings open to the public,
- b) Drawing up a graphical documentary record (with plans, sectional views and elevations) of the various restoration and modification campaigns of the historic state of reference,
- c) Developing sustainable tourism management measures associated with actions, both for the elements of the property that are open to the public, and for the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone; these actions should focus in particular on the management of visitor flows associated with indicators that measure their relevance and effectiveness,
- d) Ensuring the regular monitoring of the implementation of the management plan, its assessment and its periodic updates,
- e) Submitting a minor boundary modification request so as to enlarge the perimeter of the property around the Churches of St Paul and St Nikolai,
- f) Providing updated figures for the revised areas of the property and its buffer zone.

