

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 381 Rev.

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Old City of Salamanca

Location : Castile and Leon

State Party : Spain

Date : November 13, 1987

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, II and IV.

C) JUSTIFICATION

In 1987, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, on the basis of the ICOMOS report, decided to defer the inclusion of Salamanca and formulated two recommendations :

1) That, in this rapidly changing city, the broader delimitation of the property take into account all the monuments and old quarters which illustrate the history of Salamanca and bear witness to its primary function as a university town.

2) That ICOMOS carry out a comparative study on old European university towns to demonstrate the interest of a specific architectural heritage and how Salamanca exemplifies this.

These recommendations were heeded. With both the new dossier concerning Salamanca, presented in December 1987 to the World Heritage Committee, and the comparative study, completed in 1988, in hand, ICOMOS today wholeheartedly supports the nomination of Salamanca for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

Beginning with the Roman bridge that spans the Rio Tormes southwest of the city, numerous witnesses of the two thousand year history of antique Salmantica still stand. The exemplary value of the Old Cathedral and San Marcos (12th century), the Salina and the Monterrey Palaces (16th century), and above all the Plaza Mayor (1729-1755), the most sumptuous of the Baroque squares in Spain, would themselves suffice to retain the attention of the World Heritage Committee. But the city owes its most essential features to the University. The remarkable group

of buildings in the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles which, from the 15th to the 18th centuries, rose up around the institution that proclaimed itself "Mother of Virtues, of Sciences and of the Arts" makes Salamanca, like Oxford and Cambridge, an exceptional example of an old university town in the Christian world.

The cathedral school of Salamanca existed as far back as the late 12th century. It was transformed into a studium generale in the early 13th century and was granted its first royal privilege by Ferdinand III in April 1243. Taking Bologna as a model, the University was organized as an association of students (universitas studentium). During this first phase and up to the 15th century, classes were held, as was the case elsewhere, in church buildings or in rooms rented by the University. The graduation ceremonies took place in a chapel of the Old Cathedral, a tradition that was continued until 1843.

The oldest university building in Salamanca, now the Rectorate, is the old Hospital del Estudio, built in 1413. Its 47-meter facade faces the Court of Schools. The buildings housing the University proper, Las Escuelas Mayores, are grouped around a central patio and were built between 1415 and 1433. A final touch was added in the 16th century : a sculpted facade of three registers, made possible through a gift from the Catholic monarchs. The inscription in Greek above the busts of the donors reads : "the Kings for the University, the University for the Kings"; it is characteristic of the new status of centres of learning in early modern times.

In 1533 construction began on the final element of the building program. Situated on the southwest side of the Court of Schools, this was a building centered around a patio which held Las Escuelas Menores, where preparatory courses for the university program itself were taught. The new building was designed with regard to the Hospital del Estudio, whose facade was remodeled.

Salamanca provides one of the oldest examples of university facilities conceived as such rather than as colleges. However, the city also boasted a good many colleges, which were generally charitable institutions with close ties to the University. The first foundation, the Colegio de San Bartolome, in 1413, was inspired by the college San Clemente de Bologna. It served as a model for all the others with its lodging facilities and chapel. Now the seat of the Faculty of Letters, the buildings owe their present appearance to reconstruction during the 18th century. The most beautiful example of the Renaissance colleges in Salamanca is the Colegio de los Irlandeses built in 1527-1578 to

house Irish students. Other buildings that should be mentioned are : the Colegio de Huerfanos (college of Orphans), founded in 1549; the Colegio San Pelayo (1567); the Colegio Santa Catalina (1594); the Colegio San Ildefonso (1606); the superb Baroque colleges of the 18th century - Colegio de la Orden Militar de Calatrava (1717), Colegio de San Ambrosio (1720), and Colegio de l'Universidad Pontificia, with its marvelous patio, Salon des Actos and monumental stairway.

The more austere Colegio de Anaya was one of the last monuments of this institution to be built in a style inherited from the Middle Ages, along with the Colegio de Santa Maria de Los Angeles, founded in 1780; the latter incorporates the late Gothic style facade (early 16th century) of the earlier Colegio de San Millan, whose site it occupies.

ICOMOS recommends that Salamanca be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, II and IV.

- **Criterion I.** The Plaza Mayor of Salamanca, built as a result of a state decision by King Philip V in 1710, is a unique artistic achievement in Baroque art. Begun in 1729 according to plans drawn up by Alberto de Churriguera, and finished in 1755 by Andrés García de Quinones, and with contributions from Nicolas de Churriguera and José de Lara de Churriguera, it is one of the most important urban ensembles of 18th-century Europe.

- **Criterion II.** With the Plaza Mayor, the Clerecia (the Jesuit seminary), the college of Calatrava, the Colegio San Ambrosio and the churches of San Sebastian and Santa Cruz de Canizares, not to mention the New Cathedral and San Esteban, Salamanca is one of the essential centres of the art of a dynasty of architects, decorators and sculptors from Catalonia, the Churriguera. The "churrigueresque" style exerted considerable influence in the 18th century not only in the Iberian peninsula but also in the countries of Latin America.

- **Criterion IV.** Although founded later than those of Bologna, Paris and Oxford, the University of Salamanca had already established itself in 1250 as one of the best in Europe. It conserves an admirable architectural heritage which illustrates the diverse functions of the University institution in the Christian world. With the Hospital del Estudio, the Escuelas Mayores, the Escuelas Menores and the various colleges which multiplied between the 15th and the 18th centuries, it forms a group of exceptional coherence within a historic city otherwise remarkable for its numerous civil and religious monuments.

Observations of ICOMOS

The documentation forwarded in December 1987 by the Spanish government details the measures taken to protect the archaeological and historic heritage of Salamanca, which has been overly neglected during the two decades of major urban projects that followed one upon the other.

ICOMOS takes note of the increased desire to safeguard the property as attested to by the present dispositions, but recommends that the Spanish government remain extremely vigilant concerning the enforcement of all the legislation, which has proven successful for other urban sites such as Toledo (included in 1986 on the World Heritage List).

ICOMOS, July 1988