

POLAND

Medieval Town of Toruń

Brief description

Toruń owes its origins to the Teutonic Order, which built a castle there in the mid-13th century as a base for the conquest and evangelization of Prussia. It soon developed a commercial role as part of the Hanseatic League. In the Old and New Town, the many imposing public and private buildings from the 14th and 15th centuries (among them the house of Copernicus) are striking evidence of Toruń's importance.

1. Introduction

Year of Inscription 1997

Agencies responsible for site management

- Toruń City Hall
Wały gen. Sikorskiego 8
87-100 Toruń
e-mail: prezydent@um.torun.pl
Web-site: www.um.torun.pl

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii) (iv)

ICOMOS evaluation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii and iv*.

Torun is a small historic trading city that preserves to a remarkable extent its original street pattern and outstanding early buildings, and which provides an exceptionally complete picture of the medieval way of life.

Committee Decision

Bureau (June 1997): The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv). Torun is a small historic trading city that preserves to a remarkable extent its original street pattern and outstanding early buildings, and which provides an exceptionally complete picture of the medieval way of life.

Session (1997): The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv), considering that Torun is a small historic trading city

that preserves to a remarkable extent its original street pattern and outstanding early buildings, and which provides an exceptionally complete picture of the medieval way of life.

- No information available on whether the Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the statement of significance
- Proposal for revised text has not been made by State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone has been defined, and is adequate; further work needed; need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the buffer zone

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Act on the Protection and Guardianship of Historical Monuments, 2003; Act on the Protection of Nature as amended, 1991; Act on Museums, 1996; Act on Central Government Administration in a Voivodeship, 1998; Act on Spatial Planning and Development, 2003; Act changing the Act-Construction Law and amending some other Acts, 2003; Ordinance of the Minister of Culture on Granting an Earmarked Subsidy for Conservation, Restoration and Construction Works on Historic Sites Entered into the Inventory of Monuments, 2004; Ordinance of the Minister of Culture on Maintaining the Inventory of Monuments, National, Voivodeship and Gmina Records of Monuments and the National List of historic objects stolen or illegally exported from the country, 2004; Ordinance of the Minister of Culture on conducting conservation, restoration and construction works, conservation and architectural research and other activities performed on a historic monument entered into the Inventory of Monuments as well as conducting archaeological research or search for hidden or abandoned movable monuments, 2004
- In 2000 a study of conditions and orientations of spatial development for the city of Toruń was prepared. It was adopted by the Toruń City

Council by a resolution No. 512/2000 of 27 July 2000. It provides a framework for spatial development activities until the general plan is in place. Local spatial development plans are gradually being adopted but so far they have covered only approx. 20 percent of the Toruń area

- The Gmina Programme for the Protection of Historical Monuments, still under preparation, will provide for activities aimed at the most effective protection and management of the heritage inscribed into the UNESCO List
- City Council Resolutions: No. 705/98 of 16 April 1998 on the accession of Toruń to the Organisation of World Heritage Cities; No. 1077/2002 of 16 May 2002 on the Strategy for the Development of the City of Toruń; No. 588/2004 of 16 September 2004 on granting subsidies for conservation, restoration and construction works performed on sites entered into the Inventory of Monuments
- Protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, urban centre, religious use
- Scientific and academic centre, cultural centre of more than regional significance (museums, theatres, cinemas)

Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group
- No site manager/coordinator, but will be appointed
- Levels of public authority primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional and local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed

- To form a unit responsible for the management of sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, using the formula of a cultural park
- To co-ordinate the activities of a number of institutions working on the protection of the city's cultural heritage

5. Management Plan

- No management plan, but preparation will be completed in 01/2007

- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Toruń City Hall

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Sources which provide funding for conservation and protection of the site: Ministry of Culture; City Gmina of Toruń; Office of the Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship; Kujawsko-Pomorski Voivodeship Office, Voivodeship Inspector of Monuments; Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection; Gmina Fund for Environmental Protection; Church Fund; Private owners
- Funding for management is insufficient, funding for protection and conservation is adequate

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 6

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, interpretation, education
- Good: promotion
- Average: management, visitor management

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Bachelor studies, MA studies, postgraduate and doctoral studies at the departments of the Institute of the Science of Historical Works of Art and Conservation Techniques, Faculty of Fine Arts; MA studies in the history of Art at the Faculty of Humanities of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
- Specialist training, expert opinions, services available according to need

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 1,200,000 in 1999 (number of overnight accommodation granted)
- Visitor facilities: car parks; accommodation and catering; tourist information; guide services; banks, cash-points, currency exchange bureau; post office, telecommunications, internet; green areas; sports infrastructure; museums; theatres; orchestras; film and musical festivals; community centres and cultural institutions; cinemas; planetarium; numerous music clubs and art galleries

- Visitor needs: the issue of removing the vehicle traffic from the Old Town area while at the same time providing a sufficient number of parking spaces, is still waiting to be solved. The network of city and suburban cycling paths is being systematically developed. For most tourists Toruń is still a one-day-trip destination. A probable reason for that is insufficient promotion and lack of accommodation affordable for an average Polish family

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management, transportation studies
- Studies, carried out since the 1960s, have outlined the conservation protection zones for the Old Town complex including the Teutonic Castle. Constantly extended and updated they are regularly used for drawing up conservation guidelines necessary for administration decisions issued by the City Inspector of Historic Monuments and the Department of Architecture and Construction on behalf of the Mayor of Toruń as well as for preparation of opinions on amendments to the local spatial development plan, supporting the decisions of the Voivodeship Inspector of Monuments

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage site among visitors; local communities; businesses; local authorities
- Special events concerning World Heritage status
- Web site available: www.um.torun.pl
- Public participation is ensured by the fact that the city, together with the WH inscribed historic Old Town, is managed by elected local self-government authorities headed by the Mayor of the City and the City Council, which is a decision making and a controlling body

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Defence walls; Old Town Hall; New Town Hall former Evangelical church; Artur's Manor; Burgher's Manor; SS John's Cathedral; Blessed Virgin Mary Church; St James' Church; Holy Spirit Church; streets, squares, architectural details; town houses
- Present state of conservation: needs more resources

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, environmental pressure
- Threats resulting from the fact that the Old Town complex is used as a city commercial, services and administration centre
- Increased investors pressure to allow adaptation changes in town houses within the Old Town complex
- Lack of strategically located car parks which would enable the removal of vehicle traffic from the inscribed area
- Natural environment pollution (low and long-range emissions), in spite of a significant improvement of the air and water quality
- Threats to the foundations and road surfaces due to the high level of ground waters and the level of perched ground water

Measures taken/proposed

- Construction of underground car parks relieving sites located within the inscribed area of vehicle traffic, changes in traffic arrangements in order to reduce (remove) the number of cars in the centre of the Old Town
- Establishing a system for the protection of the cultural landscape - cultural parks
- Implementation of the Old Town revitalization programme
- Acquisition of the EU structural funding for the implementation of the already prepared programme "Heritage Protection and Tourist Development of Toruń Old Town"

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation; economic; investment in tourist facilities (hotels, catering) located in historic buildings which have undergone renovation and conservation
- Strengths of management: Since the inscription in the UNESCO List in 1978 the funds allocated

for renovation and conservation of historic monuments located in the inscribed area have significantly increased as has the funding for improving the arrangement and regeneration of the public space. Scientific research and documentation work is continued. The accommodation and catering facilities have been developed. The city authorities have become aware of their responsibility for its heritage and the inhabitants have come to appreciate the value of the UNESCO inscribed site

- Weaknesses of management: lack of a local spatial development plan; lack of an institution to co-ordinate the management of the site; lack of strategically located car parks which would enable the removal of vehicle traffic from the inscribed area; the technical and aesthetic standard of the Vistula riverside (Boulevard) is inappropriate to the rank of the site; excessive pressure towards modernization, adaptation and re-adaptation of town houses ground floors and basements; investors pressure on the buffer zone area

Future actions:

- Preparation of local spatial development plan
- Preparation of site management plan
- Establishment of a cultural park
- Construction of underground car parks
- Creation of a monitoring system
- Revitalization of the buildings and public space