

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

Our Ref. GB/MA 1349

Paris, 18 December 2009

H. E. Mr Barend ter Haar
Ambassador
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands to UNESCO
7, rue Eblé
75007 PARIS

World Heritage List 2010: Request for information - Seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht (The Netherlands)

Dear Sir,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of "Seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht" as World Heritage property and we thank you for your assistance with the recent Mission to the property.

As part of our evaluation process, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel has now reviewed this nomination and identified a few areas where it considers that further information is needed.

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

1) Revise the boundaries of the nominated property, bearing in mind the following recommendations and remarks:

- The north edge of the nominated area could run from Stromarkt/Prins Hendrikade along Haarlemmerstraat up to Binnen Oranjestraat, thus excluding Droogbak and Haarlemmerhouttuinen, a portion of the property which contains blocks of buildings which lack historical and architectural interest.

- From Crookback the visual integrity of the surrounding townscape is no longer satisfactory.

- On the south part of the nominated area, the boundary starting from the crossing with Amstelstraat bridge could keep running along the Amstel left bank to join, to the south, the core boundary aligned with Utrechtsedwardsstrat, thus excluding from the core zone the area on the right bank of the Amstel river.

- A second hypothesis for this area, more respectful of visual authenticity, could consist in running the boundary from the Singelcanal at Muntplein, into Vijzelstraat, Reguliersdwardsstraat, along the west front of Rembrandtplein into Utrechtsestraat and then, including the urban plots of the buildings facing Herengracht, up to the Amstel left bank and then joining, to the south, the core boundary aligned with Utrechtsedwardsstrat, thus also excluding the commercial constructions and huge buildings on Amstelstraat and Rembrandtplein.

2) Provide updated information about the following projects and situations, inside the nominated area or in the buffer zone, and about the possibilities of immediate intervention by the national, regional and municipal authorities to stop, modify or control them, bearing in mind the following recommendations and remarks:

- The visual impact of the design of the entrance/exit structures of the huge underground parking facility at Vijzelgracht Metro station should be thoroughly considered, taking into account the nomination of the property and that a very simple design must be adopted for the structure bearing the lift house.

- The design of the Kop Singel Building Plan must be clearly contemporary, so as not to create pseudo-historic architecture which would permanently affect the authenticity of the buffer zone and the authenticity of the view from the Singelgracht, inside the property.

- The design of the new Binnengasthuis library should not involve the demolition of the two existing national monuments, as this would permanently diminish the architectural authenticity of the area, located in a medieval core.

- Restrictive measures on advertising, sheeting, scaffolding and video screens must be adopted in order not to affect the visual integrity of the historic cityscape of the nominated area and buffer zone.

3) Clarify the current situation of building permits, with regard to works permits and transformation permits for listed monuments, some of which are threatened by outright destruction;

4) Provide information about other property construction projects and their possible visual, architectural and urban impact on the property and the expression of its value, with regard to:

- buildings situated in the buffer zone,
- high-rise buildings outside the buffer zone but in the vicinity.

5) Provide recent information about the putting in place and functioning of the property management system.

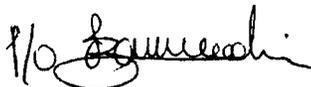
We look forward to your responses to these points which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

ICOMOS has no obligation to contact States Parties during the evaluation process. However, with a view to being as transparent as possible, ICOMOS has agreed to approach States Parties in specific cases. This does not prejudice the ICOMOS recommendation on the nomination and should be considered as preliminary information. It also does not prejudice the World Heritage Committee's decision.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2010**.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully



Regina Durighello
Director
World Heritage Unit
ICOMOS

Copy to

Mr Dré van Marrewijk, Cultural Heritage Agency
Ms Marleen Sloof, Municipal Department Monuments and Archaeology Agency
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris