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DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

12th Session

The Committee has expressed its regrets regarding the building of the Tower Hotel, which would have best been avoided, and took note of the assurances of the United Kingdom authorities as to protection henceforth to be granted to the environment of the Tower of London. The Committee further suggested that inscription on the World Heritage List be extended to the Tower Bridge which constitutes a coherent whole with the Tower of London.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The massive White Tower, typical of Norman military architecture whose influence was felt throughout the Kingdom, was built by William the Conqueror along the Thames to protect London and to assert his power there. The Tower of London, an imposing fortress rich with history that has become one of the symbols of royalty, was built around the White Tower.

1.b. State, province or region: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

1.d Exact location: O.S. Map Ref. TQ 335805
Lat. 51°32' N ; Long. 0°05' W

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

THE TOWER OF LONDON

Cultural Properties: U.K.Nomination

488

28-12-1987

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
CULTURAL PROPERTIES: U.K. NOMINATION.
H.M. ROYAL PALACE AND FORTRESS OF THE TOWER OF LONDON

Prepared by the Historic Buildings
and Monuments Commission for England on behalf
of the Department of the Environment

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SUMMARY

The Tower of London was first built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century to protect and control the city. As first planned it lay within the Roman city walls, but its subsequent enlargement, particularly in the thirteenth century, carried its boundaries eastwards beyond the walls. Nowadays, including the moat, it covers an area of 18 acres (7.3ha).

The Tower has in the past been a fortress, a palace and a prison, and has housed the Royal Mint, the Public Records and (for a short time) the Royal Observatory. It was for centuries the arsenal for small arms and, being one of the strongest fortresses in the land, the Tower has from early times guarded the Crown Jewels. From the thirteenth century until 1834 it also housed the Royal Menagerie, the predecessor of the London Zoo.

The oldest and most important building is the Norman Great Tower or Keep, known as the White Tower. The Inner Ward is enclosed within a wall (twelfth century) containing thirteen towers, the only surviving original entrance to it being that on the south side under the Bloody Tower. The Outer Ward is defended by a second wall (thirteenth century) flanked by six towers on the river face, and by two semi-circular bastions at the north-west and north-east corners. A ditch or moat, now dry, encircles the whole, crossed at the south-western angle by a stone bridge, formerly a drawbridge, leading to the Byward Tower from the Middle Tower, where there was another drawbridge. In front of this there was formerly an outwork called the Lion Tower, also surrounded by a moat, which was crossed by a stone causeway, with a third drawbridge.

The Tower was occupied as a palace by every King and Queen down to James I. It was the custom for each monarch to lodge in the Tower before his coronation, and to ride in procession to Westminster through the city. The Palace buildings stood between the White Tower and the Inner Wall, eastward of the Bloody Tower. Throughout its history the Tower has also been used as the principal place of confinement for State prisoners, from Ralf Flambard in the early twelfth century to Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess (May 1941) in the twentieth. The garrison was latterly housed within the Waterloo Block, built while the Duke of Wellington was Constable of the Tower, with accommodation for some 1000 men.

The Tower today is still nominally a palace and a fortress housing the Royal Armouries and the Crown Jewels, guarded by a detachment from the same regiment which provides the guard at Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace (usually one of the five regiments of Foot Guards) and cared for by the Yeomen Warders appointed by the Crown and popularly known as 'Beefeaters'. The former garrison Officers' Mess is now the Headquarters of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, formed in the Tower in 1685, initially to guard the guns.

Although royalty no longer lives in the Tower, it is still a place of pageantry and ceremonial, including the nightly Ceremony of the Keys when the outer gates of the fortress are locked and the keys taken to the monarch's representative in the Tower, the Resident Governor. The river wharf alongside also once had a ceremonial role as the landing-place of royalty and of foreign dignitaries before they entered

the city, and the 62 gun salutes are still fired there by the Honourable Artillery Company on royal occasions such as the anniversaries of the Queen's birthday and accession.

The Tower is regularly open to the public at stated hours and the combination of architecture, history, pageantry and display have made it perhaps the most popular of all Britain's heritage monuments.

Unesco criteria: 5 a) ii, iv and vi.

1. Specific location

a. Country

England

b. State, Province or Region

London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

c. Name of property

H.M. Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London.

d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates

O.S. Map. Ref. TQ 335805
Lat. 51° 32' N Long. 0° 05'W.

2. Juridical data

a. Owner

H.M. the Queen.

b. Legal Status

Unoccupied royal palace open to the public at stated times and containing the Crown Jewels, the Royal Armouries, the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal Fusiliers and other offices as well as accommodation for resident staff.

c. Responsible administration

The Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House
Queen's House, H.M. Tower of London, EC3N 4AB

3. Identification

a. Description and inventory

TOWER HILL

Most of Tower Hill was once part of the Liberties of the Tower, the area outside the walls which was nonetheless under the jurisdiction of the Tower and independent of the City of London. The Liberties are now marked by 31 boundary-stones, each bearing the broad arrow denoting royal ownership, from Tower Pier around the Hill and down by St Katharine's Way to the Iron Gate Stairs by Tower Bridge. Every third year, on Ascension Day, the Tower's authority is re-asserted in the ceremony of Beating the Bounds.

The Tower Hill postern, the foundations of which are at the end of the subway leading to the underground station, was built soon after the completion of the new moat, around 1300, in effect as part of the Tower's defences. The postern gave entrance through the city wall, a section of which survives beyond the underpass.

THE WESTERN ENTRANCE AND MOAT

The Lion Tower. Only the foundations of this tower remain, marked out by a semicircle of stones set in the cobbles. A drawbridge linked the Lion Tower to the inner side of the moat; below the modern walkway is the pit into which the weighted end of the bridge fell. The Lion Tower took its name from the royal menagerie, famous for its lions, which once was housed nearby on the wharf but was later moved into the Lion Tower itself. There it remained, until the menagerie was closed in 1834.

As an additional defence of this entrance, a large brick outwork on the inner side of the moat, called the Bulwark, was built by Edward IV in about 1480, after the Wars of the Roses.

The excavation of the moat, the work of Edward I's reign, took some six years. It was filled from the river at high tide; sluice gates held in the water as the river ebbed, and controlled the flow in order to work tide-mills. Eventually, the moat was cut off from the river, and its stagnant waters filled up with refuse from the Tower and the houses on Tower Hill. In 1843, after several outbreaks of cholera in the tower, the moat was drained and filled in to about the previous water level.

The Middle Tower is of similar design to the Byward Tower. Although partly re-faced with Portland stone in 1717 it contains many original features. The royal arms above the outer arch are those of George I, then the reigning monarch.

The Byward Tower was the innermost of the three gate-towers which defended the entrance across the moat. The sequence of defences encountered by an enemy advancing towards it from the Middle Tower comprised a drawbridge in the causeway, arrow loops in the twin towers on each side of the gatehall, a portcullis with 'murder holes' in the outer arch, then the gates, and finally a second portcullis. All these defences are still in place, except for the drawbridge and the inner portcullis. The room above the gatehall contains the portcullis winding-gear and also the only painted decoration which survives in the Tower from the Middle Ages, a Crucifixion scene, dating from about 1400, which has lacked the figure of Christ at its centre since a fireplace was inserted when the room was remodelled in the Tudor period. The timber framing at the back of the tower was rebuilt at the same time. Between the gatehall of the Byward Tower and the Water Lane shop is the entrance to the postern tower which gave access from the wharf by a drawbridge. After the Cradle Tower was cut off from the river by the extension of the wharf, the postern at

the Byward Tower became the entrance for royalty and other distinguished visitors coming to the Tower by water. The stairs at which they landed beside the wharf are now known as Queen's Stairs.

THE OUTER WARD

The Outer Ward was created by Edward I's expansion of the Tower in 1275-85. On the landward side it was originally bounded by a low retaining wall on the edge of the new moat. Soon after, this outer curtain was built up not far short of its present height. It was still low enough, however, for defenders on the inner walls and towers to aim and shoot across the moat and command the outer wall should it fall to an enemy.

At the north-west and north-east corners of the outer ward were rounded bastions, from which archers might cover the moat as well as the high ground of Tower Hill. In 1683 the bastions were converted into gun emplacements, from which time date their present names of Legge's Mount and Brass Mount.

Midway between Legge's Mount and Brass Mount, the smaller North Bastion was built in 1848, at the time of the Chartist agitation, against the threat of mob attack. This last significant addition to the Tower's defences was destroyed by a bomb in the Second World War.

Much of the area between the inner and outer curtain walls, from the Bell Tower round to the Salt Tower, was eventually occupied by the workshops, offices, and houses of the Royal Mint, and the section north of the Bell Tower is still known as Mint Street. The Victorian cottages ranged against the outer wall, called the Casemates, are now the homes of most of the Yeoman Warders of the Tower and their families.

On the river front the outer ward still bears the name of Water Lane, recalling that it was constructed upon the foreshore of the river. The main watergate giving access to the outer ward was below St Thomas's Tower, built between 1275 and 1279. While commanding the river approach from its battlements and arrow loops, St Thomas's Tower also contained palatial accommodation. Facing the river, above the arrow loops, were opening windows of coloured glass - a great rarity - and above them was a line of painted stone statues. Within were a richly decorated hall and chamber with an oratory dedicated to St Thomas (Thomas Becket), these being the private apartments of Edward I himself which replaced the privy chamber of his father, Henry III, in the Wakefield Tower. To reach the rest of the palace, the king passed across a bridge between St Thomas's Tower and the Wakefield Tower.

Even in Henry VIII's time, when the timber framing at the back of St Thomas's Tower was renewed, the apartments were still part of the royal lodgings and occupied by leading courtiers. Meanwhile, through

the watergate below, known as Traitors' Gate, passed the increasing flow of prisoners of state that began after Henry's break with Rome.

To the east of St Thomas's Tower, in line with the old postern at the Wakefield Tower, Edward I had built a new private entrance for royalty arriving by river. When, in Edward III's reign, the royal apartments came to be in or near the Lanthorn Tower, a private watergate was built for the king at the Cradle Tower between 1348 and 1355.

The Well Tower is perhaps the only tower other than the White Tower to have kept its original name, for though it did not have a well its outer wall contained chutes down which buckets were lowered into the river.

The Develin Tower, at the south-east corner of the outer ward, at one period led to a causeway across the moat. The main landward entrance into the outer ward was at the western end, by way of the Byward Tower.

THE INNER WARD

The Inner Ward lies within the curtain wall that encircles the White Tower. Most of it, including eight wall-towers, was built in the later years of Henry III from 1238 onwards, following the completion of the palace, though his son Edward I reconstructed the western section, which includes the Beauchamp Tower, beginning in 1275.

The building of this towered curtain wall transformed the defences of the Tower. Archers and missile-throwing machines along the walls, and the towers which projected beyond them, commanded every inch of ground around the castle and could concentrate their projectiles against an attack at any point. If enemies managed to get on to or over the wall, they were still exposed to missiles from the adjoining towers as well as from the White Tower.

Like any other castle, the Tower was rarely under attack and in normal times the wall-towers were for domestic rather than military use. Each tower occupies two or three storeys, with a sizeable chamber on each floor. These rooms together might form a suite for a resident or guest of the highest rank, accompanied by his own household, or the rooms might be arranged as self-contained accommodation.

Later on this accommodation was easily adapted to hold prisoners. Some were kept in one room, either in solitary confinement or together with their accomplices. Others, more favourably treated because of their high rank and allowed servants, were allotted an entire tower.

The Bell Tower and the adjoining curtain wall up to the Bloody Tower date from the first enlargement of the Tower in the 1190s; at that

time they stood on the edge of the river. The Bell Tower was supported by a rubble platform, and its solid base, 16 feet (5m) high, was protected at ground level by a stepped plinth. The tower was probably built in two phases, the original polygonal shape being changed at the second storey to a circular plan. The curfew bell has been rung from this tower for at least 500 years: the present bell dates from 1651.

Probably from the beginning the Constable's House adjoined the Bell Tower, so that the officer in command of the castle should reside at this key point in its defences, facing the river and the city. Under the Tudors, when a major responsibility of the Constable's resident deputy, the Lieutenant, was the safekeeping of prisoners, the Bell Tower became the lodging of captives of the highest importance, such as Sir Thomas More, Princess Elizabeth (the future Elizabeth I), Arabella Stuart, cousin of James I, and perhaps also the Duke of Monmouth, natural son of Charles II.

Before the building of St Thomas's Tower, the gatetower which was to become the Bloody Tower controlled the watergate. After that it gave access from the Outer Ward to the Inner Ward. The upper stage of the present tower was largely reconstructed in the reign of Edward III, about 1360. The first floor contains the windlass that still operates the portcullis at the front of the gatehall below. Originally, there was a second portcullis, worked from the other side of the room. The room was intended to be superior accommodation, perhaps a guest chamber or office for the use of the Constable who lived nearby. It contains a good fireplace, a large side window which once had window seats, and a floor covered with richly decorated tiles. Eventually this tower was to accommodate such eminent prisoners as two Archbishops of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer (in 1553-54) and William Laud (in 1640-45), and a Lord Chancellor, Jeffreys of the 'Bloody Assizes' (in 1688-89).

Once known as the Garden Tower, since it adjoined the Lieutenant's garden, this tower at some time in the Tudor period came to be called the Bloody Tower because (so James I was told when he visited the Tower in 1604) it was there that the 'Princes in the Tower' had been murdered.

The Bloody Tower is now furnished as it might have appeared during the thirteen-year imprisonment (1603-16) of Sir Walter Raleigh by James I. Indeed, to allow Raleigh and his family more living space, the tower was heightened and a new floor inserted, making the present upper chamber.

The Wakefield Tower was built between 1220 and 1240, early in the reign of Henry III, and occupied by the king himself. It is by far the largest tower in the castle except for the White Tower, and in a sense was its successor, being at the heart of the new palace and a strongpoint in the Tower's enlarged defences, and commanding on one side the main watergate, later incorporated into the Bloody Tower, and

on the other side the smaller postern, the king's private entrance from the river.

The lower chamber, the guard room, overlooked the river through a line of arrow loops, until about 1280 when the foreshore was built up to form the new Outer Ward. The arrow loops were then blocked and the floor level in the room was raised to correspond with ground level outside. This infilling has been removed to reveal the original stonework with masons' marks in perfect condition and, to complete the restoration, the original timber ceiling has been reconstructed.

The upper chamber of the Wakefield Tower, with its vaulted ceiling, large windows and fireplace, was built to be the inner or privy chamber of Henry III, a grand but comfortable apartment where the king might relax with family and friends, give audience to privileged visitors, and worship in the adjoining oratory. From the precise directions Henry gave for the decoration of chambers and chapels in his palaces, including the Wakefield Tower, one can visualise its original appearance, and some key features have been re-created, such as the great fireplace hood bearing the royal arms and the king's chair below its cloth of state. In addition, some of the original architectural detail remains. In the recess which contained the oratory, the sedilia and the piscina are seen on one side and the aumbry on the other.

By tradition, the oratory is especially associated with a later king, the Lancastrian Henry VI. Taken prisoner by the new Yorkist king, Edward IV, in 1471 during the Wars of the Roses, Henry was lodged in the Wakefield Tower and shortly after was murdered, probably on Edward's order, while at prayer.

Even before Henry VI's imprisonment the Wakefield Tower had become a storehouse for official documents. After these were moved to the new Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, opened in 1856, the upper room housed the Crown Jewels until the present Jewel House was opened in 1967.

Once the privy chamber in the Wakefield Tower gave access to the great chamber, where the king would meet his council or dine publicly, which in turn led to the Great Hall of the palace. The royal kitchen abutted the Wakefield Tower, and was served by a well near its present ground floor exit. Beyond the kitchen, a range of storerooms and offices backed on to the wall of the inmost ward. The Great Hall extended up to the Lanthorn Tower. From about 1340, in the reign of Edward III, the king's private chamber was in or adjoining the Lanthorn Tower. Later the palace was enlarged: a jewel house was built against the south face of the White Tower, and an annexe on its eastern side, and eventually a second palace precinct was formed, between the Lanthorn Tower and the Wardrobe Tower on the west, and the Salt Tower and Broad Arrow Tower on the east. The medieval buildings survived long after royalty had ceased to use the palace, some being demolished in 1674-75 and others, including the Great Hall,

incorporated into new storehouses and offices, which in turn were pulled down in 1775-77.

The original Lanthorn Tower, built at the same time as the Wakefield Tower, was gutted by fire in 1774 and soon after demolished. The present building is a Victorian reconstruction and therefore an appropriate setting for a small exhibition on the Tower in Victorian times, and a display of the history of the Yeoman Warders of the Tower, illustrated from that period.

The first floor chamber of the Salt Tower contains a fine original hooded fireplace, and beyond the staircase, a garderobe, the two essential features of a chamber fit for an occupant of high status. Indeed, one of the earliest residents in the Salt Tower, between 1297 and 1299, was John Baliol, previously King of Scotland, who had yielded his crown to Edward I following defeat in battle. In the Tudor period, this room was in constant use as a prison cell, particularly for Catholic priests during the reign of Elizabeth I. Some of their inscriptions may be seen on the walls.

The first floor chamber of the Broad Arrow Tower has been set out as though occupied by Sir Simon Burley, tutor to the young Richard II who had to take refuge in the Tower during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381. Again, there is a fireplace and an adjoining garderobe.

The Constable Tower was largely rebuilt in the nineteenth century.

When the coronation regalia were put on show in the Martin Tower in 1669, they were to be seen on the ground floor, while the upper rooms became the residence of the Keeper of the Regalia. It was at this time that the mezzanine floor was built, sash windows inserted and the walls panelled. The Martin Tower was the scene of a most extraordinary episode, 'Colonel' Thomas Blood's attempt to steal the Crown Jewels, in 1671. Previously, from the Tudor period onwards, this tower had often accommodated prisoners, a number of whose inscriptions remain.

The Brick Tower and Flint Tower were rebuilt in the nineteenth century, as was the upper storey of the Bowyer Tower, which retains the original vaulted chamber at ground level. The room now contains an exhibition of instruments of torture and punishment, including the executioner's block and axe.

The Devereux Tower, confronting the troublesome city of London at the north-west corner of the inner ward, is of exceptional strength. It takes its name from Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, a prisoner there at the end of Elizabeth's reign, before his execution on Tower Green nearby.

The Beauchamp Tower, built by Edward I in about 1281, replaced the twin-towered gatehouse of Henry III's time which had controlled the landward entrance to his castle across the moat, and actually

incorporated the foundations of the earlier building. The interior of the Beauchamp Tower reveals the extensive use of brick, a notable feature of Edward I's work at the Tower and, on this scale, an innovation in English castle-building.

Along the entire length of the adjoining curtain wall, from the Devereux Tower to the Bell Tower, ran a gallery with embrasures and arrow loops through which archers could command the outer defences towards the city. When only a few years later the outer curtain wall was heightened above the level of the loops, this elaborate arrangement was made useless.

The Inner Ward is dominated by the White Tower which rises 90 feet (27.4m) to the battle-ments and measures 118 feet (35.9m), from east to west, by 107 feet (32.6m), north to south. The walls are 15 feet (4.6m) thick at the base and 11 feet (3.3m) at the top. They are built of Kentish rag, a rough limestone quarried near Maidstone. Caen stone, a finer limestone from Normandy, was used sparingly as ashlar, that is, cut stone, at the corners of the building and around door and window openings. For visual effect as well as protection from the weather, the walls were regularly whitewashed, and so the White Tower came by its name.

At the corners of the building are four turrets; three are rectangular but one, at the north-east angle, is rounded, for it contains the main spiral staircase. Even in Norman times the turrets probably had caps, though they were conical. The present cupolas date from Henry VIII's reign.

The most significant change in the outward appearance of the White Tower came with the enlargement of the windows in 1715. Two pairs of the original Norman two-light windows remain on the top storey above the entrance. The entrance doorway now in use is the original one, set high above the ground out of reach of fire and battering ram, though the timber staircase leading up to it is a reconstruction.

The first room the visitor enters was most probably intended as the Constable's hall and the room next to it as the chamber. Originally the cross wall between was unbroken except for doorways at either end. In both rooms there are wall fireplaces, with sloping chimneys that carried the smoke out of holes higher up in the walls. The second room leads to the crypt, once the Constable's chapel.

Once, the only way up to the next floor was the turret staircase in the north-east corner. It was at the furthest possible distance from the entrance, at the opposite corner of the building, and was separated from it by the cross wall, so that even if the enemy managed to force their way through the entrance, they might still be prevented from gaining complete control of the building. The staircase now leading to the second floor was inserted later, to give direct access from the palace to St John's Chapel.

The Chapel Royal of St John the Evangelist is a supreme example of early Norman church building. The pale Caen stone is undecorated save for the capitals of the columns, but is finely finished, and the overall proportions are perfect, with a careful emphasis on the rounded apse at the east end behind the altar. This severe simplicity is misleading. As a royal chapel St John's was richly decorated and furnished, with painting on the stonework, stained glass in the windows, holy images, and a painted rood screen before the altar. In 1550, as the English Reformation became truly Protestant, all these treasures were removed. Later, the Chapel housed some of the public records. When they were removed in 1857, it was even suggested that it should become an army clothing store. Instead, it was carefully restored to its original use as a place of worship.

The Chapel rises through two storeys, with a triforium on the upper level. Originally, the two adjoining rooms on this floor, once the king's Great Hall and his chamber, rose to the same height, each being overlooked by a gallery within the walls at the higher level. The chamber adjoining the Chapel contains a wall fireplace and, within the wall at the end of the room, two garderobes. The next room, formerly the king's great hall, contains two more garderobes within the wall but no fireplace; presumably there was instead a central hearth.

On this floor and on the one below no kitchen adjoins the hall as in later castle keeps. Perhaps the cooking was done at one of the wall fireplaces or, more likely, the kitchens were outside the building, in the bailey, and the food was brought in and kept warm on braziers.

The staircase in the corner of the room passes another garderobe and leads up to the gallery which overlooked hall and chamber below and now gives on to the top floor. When this floor was inserted is not certain, but it may have been in 1603-05 when a new floor was built for a gunpowder store to serve the cannon on the roof of the White Tower.

The visitor now descends the spiral staircase within the rounded turret to the basement which contained the storerooms.

The two main rooms originally had timber ceilings, but were vaulted in brick about 1730 when the basement was used as a gunpowder store. The second main room has a well, 40 feet (12m) deep, which still contains fresh water.

Adjoining the Bell Tower, in the south-west corner of the inner ward, stands an L-shaped, timber-framed Tudor building, originally known as the Lieutenant's Lodgings. Its present name, Queen's House, dates from Queen Victoria's reign, and changes according to whether the sovereign is king or queen. Queen's House is now occupied by the Resident Governor, the Lieutenant's successor as officer with local command of the Tower. It is not open to the public.

The Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, close by the scaffold site, was the last resting place of all those who died there and also of many who died on Tower Hill. The dedication to St Peter 'in chains' suggests a special association with prisoners but long predates the time when the Tower came into regular use as a prison. St Peter's had been a city parish church standing outside the Tower which was incorporated into the castle when it was enlarged by Henry III. He had the Chapel richly furnished and decorated as the place of worship for the general population of the Tower, the Chapel of St John in the White Tower being restricted to the sovereign and his court. St Peter's was rebuilt in the reign of Henry's son, Edward I, and again rebuilt, in its present form, in 1519-20, in the early years of Henry VIII's reign. It is therefore a rare example of early Tudor church architecture, consisting of a nave and chancel and an equally wide north aisle, both with tie-beam roofs of Spanish chestnut.

The Chapel contains some splendid monuments commemorating officers of the Tower and their wives and families, as well as memorials to many humble residents of the Tower who worshipped in this their parish church. But it is known above all as the burial place of some of the most celebrated Tower prisoners, including three queens, Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Jane Grey - the uncrowned 'Nine Days' Queen - and many others of noble blood or high position, including two saints of the Roman Catholic Church, Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher.

The Waterloo Block (formally Barracks), with accommodation for almost 1000 men, was built while the Duke of Wellington was Constable of the Tower, in a castellated neo-Gothic style complete with elaborate battlements and gargoyles. Since 1967, the Crown Jewels have been housed at the western end of the Waterloo Barracks, near the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

Next to the Waterloo Barracks, and in similar style, was the Officers' Mess, now the Headquarters of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. It also contains the Royal Fusiliers Museum, for which there is a separate admission charge. The Fusiliers' connection with the Tower goes back to the formation of the Regiment here in 1685, initially to guard the Tower's guns.

The houses next to the Fusiliers' headquarters were built in 1699-1700. Originally they were occupied by officials of the Board of Ordnance. Later they became the Hospital Block for the Tower garrison.

The New Armouries, also built for the Ordnance, in 1663-64, are now occupied by the Royal Armouries.

THE INMOST WARD

Parts of the defences of the original castle of 1066-67 have been uncovered near the White Tower: a section of the Romans' landward city wall, built around AD 200, together with the foundation of a

bastion built around AD 400, on to which the Wardrobe Tower was later built; a section of the riverside city wall built around AD 390, which adjoins the History Gallery; and part of the ditch excavated by the Normans to complete the bailey of their fort, which runs towards the Wakefield Tower.

As the castle expanded, the bailey became the Inmost Ward, a precinct occupied by the palace, which was bounded by the Coldharbour Gate, the Wakefield Tower, the Lanthorn Tower, and the Wardrobe Tower. The Coldharbour Gate alone gave access to the Inmost Ward; only the foundations of this twin-towered gatehouse remain, adjoining the White Tower. The wall of the Inmost Ward between the Coldharbour Gate and the Wakefield Tower remains, with its gallery of arrow loops.

THE ROYAL ARMOURIES

The Royal Armouries trace their origins to the great arsenal at the Tower which supplied armour and weapons to the medieval English kings and their armies. The present collections took shape in the reign of Henry VIII who re-stocked the Tower arsenal and also set up a workshop at Greenwich to make fine armour for himself and his court. Henry's armours, and those of the early Stuarts, were eventually brought together at the Tower, and early in Charles II's reign the historic collection was opened to the public, along with artillery and weapon-stores of the working arsenal.

Subsequently the Tower Armouries were enriched by the return of obsolete weapons to store, and by the quickening inflow of the spoils of British conquests in every part of the world. As the scholarly study of arms and armour developed in the nineteenth century, a systematic attempt began to fill in the gaps in the inherited collections.

At the present time, European armour and weapons, ranging from the age of the Saxons and Vikings up to modern times, are displayed in the White Tower and New Armouries. Arms and armour from Asia and the Islamic world are on show in the Oriental Armoury, which is housed in the Waterloo Barracks. In addition, the instruments of torture and punishment, which are part of the Royal Armouries collection, are on view in the Bowyer Tower.

The displays include many notable examples of the highest artistic and technical achievement. The making of arms and armour for the fighting man has always been at the forefront of technology, while pieces produced for wealthy patrons might also truly be works of art. There are also some remarkable exhibits with immediate appeal: the largest armour in the world, for example, for an Indian elephant, and the armours of a giant and a dwarf. Even so, the Tudor and Stuart royal armours remain the centrepieces of the collection, and especially the relics of Henry VIII's personal armoury.

THE CROWN JEWELS

The Tower of London was one of the chief treasuries of the medieval kings, and some of the Crown Jewels were always kept there. The coronation regalia, however, which were regarded as the relics of St Edward (King Edward the Confessor, who ruled before the Norman Conquest) were kept at Westminster Abbey, where the royal saint was buried and coronations took place.

Following the execution of Charles I in 1649, Parliament ordered the coronation ornaments to be brought to the Tower, the precious metals to be melted down for coinage, and the gems sold off. Nevertheless, several of the old regalia, or parts of them, reappeared and were refashioned for use at Charles II's coronation in 1661. The lower half at least of the coronation crown itself was made up of a medieval crown, perhaps the crown of Edward the Confessor.

Later monarchs added to the regalia, most notably the Jewelled State Sword made for the coronation of George IV in 1821, and the Imperial State Crown with which Queen Victoria was crowned in 1837. The major gemstones set in the crown, however, have a much longer history; this include a sapphire taken from the ring said to have been buried with Edward the Confessor in 1066, and the balas ruby presented to the Black Prince in 1367.

As well as the coronation ornaments and robes, a number of historic crowns are displayed, including the Crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, which holds the legendary Koh-i-noor diamond.

The Jewel House also contains banqueting and church plate, state swords, processional maces and trumpets, the robes and insignia of the orders of chivalry, and decorations and medals.

THE COMMUNITY OF THE TOWER

Once the Tower must have contained as many as 1000 inhabitants. Nowadays, some 150 people live within its walls, chiefly the Yeoman Warders and resident Tower officers and their families.

From some time early in the Tower's history, the custody of the gates and the safekeeping of prisoners were entrusted to a body of warders headed by a porter appointed directly by the king. From the reign of Henry VIII these duties were carried out by a body of the king's yeomen at the Tower, who were accounted members of the royal guard and were entitled to wear the royal livery, like the Yeomen of the Guard who attended the person of the monarch.

Both the Yeoman Warders of the Tower and the Yeomen of the Guard are popularly known as 'Beefeaters', but the nickname was first given to the latter as early as the seventeenth century, when indeed any well fed domestic retainer might be called a 'beefeater'.

Nowadays, there are about 40 Yeoman Warders, who are former warrant officers in the Army, Royal Marines or Royal Air Force, with an honourable service record of at least 22 years.

The Tower guard is detached for duty at the Tower from the same regiment which provides the guard at Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace, usually one of the five regiments of Foot Guards. When one detachment replaces another, the ceremonial Changing of the Guard takes place on Tower Green.

By tradition, there have been ravens at the Tower from its very beginnings, when these scavengers flew in to feed off the abundant refuse of the castle. There are usually six ravens in residence, cared for by one of the Yeoman Warders, with title of Ravenmaster. The ravens' cage is near the Wakefield Tower, and their cemetery is in the moat between the Middle Drawbridge and St Thomas's Tower.

Of all the traditions and ceremonies of the Tower one above all evokes its essential character as a royal palace and fortress. This is the nightly Ceremony of the Keys (open to the public by application in advance). The outer gates of the fortress are locked and the keys taken to the monarch's representative in the Tower, the Resident Governor. Then, for a few hours, the Tower reverts to its original condition, a community separate and secure, until next morning the gates are unlocked and this great national showplace is once more open to the world.

TOWER WHARF

When the Tower was the chief storehouse of armaments in the country, much of the wharf was taken up with the movement and storage of munitions, and it accommodated at different times cannon-foundries, a small arms factory, and proof yard. The wharf also had a ceremonial role as the landing-place of royalty and of foreign dignitaries before they entered the city, while ever since the time of Henry VIII who first had the Tower well defended with ordnance, the guns along the wharf have been fired on occasions of national rejoicing. Royal salutes are nowadays fired from the gunpark, at the western end of the wharf.

As the Artillery at the Tower is part of the Royal Armouries collections, the guns for salutes are brought in by a detachment of the Honourable Artillery Company, towing four 25-pounders behind Landrovers. Sixty-two gun salutes are fired for royal occasions, on the birthdays, actual and official, of the Queen, on the anniversary of the Queen's accession, and of the birthdays of Prince Philip and the Queen Mother. Forty-one guns are fired at the State Opening of Parliament and when a foreign Head of State arrives on an official visit to the Queen.

b. Maps and/or plans

1. Location map (1:4 000 000)
2. Central London (1:21 500)
3. The Nominated Area (1:2 500)
4. Plan showing building periods (1:2 000)
5. Isometric view
6. The White Tower c.1100(1:750)
7. The Landward Entrance c 1550 (1:750)
8. The Tower Liberties, 1597

c. Photographic and/or cinematographic documentation

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1.a The Tower in the 16th century
 - b The Tower in 1804
2. The Tower from the air
- 3.a The Tower from Hays Wharf across the river
 - b The Tower from the north-west
- 4.a Middle and Byward Towers
 - b Wakefield Tower and the bridge to St Thomas' Tower
- 5.a Wakefield Tower: upper floor
 - b Wakefield Tower with Bloody Tower on left
- 6.a Traitors' Gate
 - b Byward Tower: the portcullis
7. The White Tower
- 8.a The Chapel Royal of St John the Evangelist
 - b The White Tower: seventeenth Century Gallery

- 9.a Wakefield and Bloody Towers from the north
 - b Tower Green with scaffold site and Queen's House in background.
- 10.a Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula: exterior
 - b Interior
- 11.a The Chief Yeoman Warder and the Yeoman Gaoler
 - b Church Parade with the Resident Governor
- 12.a The display of cannon on the river front
 - b Gun salute at the Tower

COLOUR SLIDES

- 1. Air view
- 2. The Tower from Hay's Wharf across the river
- 3. The Tower from the north-west
- 4. Middle and Byward Towers
- 5. Byward Tower: The portcullis
- 6. Wakefield Tower with Bloody Tower on left
- 7. Bloody Tower: Lower chamber
- 8. Wakefield Tower: upper chamber
- 9. Wakefield Tower and the bridge to St Thomas' Tower
- 10. Traitors' Gate
- 11. The White Tower
- 12. The Chapel Royal of St John the Evangelist
- 13. The White Tower: seventeenth Century Gallery
- 14. Wakefield and Bloody Towers from the north
- 15. Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula: exterior
- 16. Interior
- 17. Yeoman Warders on Church Parade

18. Chief Yeoman Warder

19. Ceremony of the Keys

d. History

THE FIRST CASTLE

On Christmas Day 1066 William Duke of Normandy was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey, some two months after his victory over the Saxon King Harold at Hastings. At once William ordered the building of fortifications to help secure London, the chief city of his new kingdom. One of these earth-and-timber castles was erected in the south-east corner of the Roman city walls, to command the River Thames as well as the city. To close off the angle between the walls and complete the bailey, or yard, of the new castle, the Normans made a ditch and bank surmounted by a palisade.

Ten years later, by then in full control of England, William determined to transform this simple fort into a massive palace-fortress. A great stone tower was built and at once entitled the Tower of London. Later, as the castle was enlarged around it, that name was to be given to the entire fortress, and the great central tower became known as the White Tower.

THE CASTLE ENLARGED

In 1189, while Richard I, the Lionheart, was away on crusade, his chancellor William Longchamp, bishop of Ely, began the first expansion of the Tower's defences. It was completed by Richard's brother John, who succeeded him in 1199. The bailey around the White Tower was almost doubled in area, and fortified with a new curtain wall and towers, and with a ditch beyond. Even so the Londoners were not to be deterred from joining John's enemies among the barons, and the King, having lost the city, had to agree to Magna Carta in 1215.

THE CASTLE TRANSFORMED

John's son, Henry III (1216-72), at first gave his attention to improving the Tower as a royal residence. Within the space between the White Tower and the river a splendid new palace took shape, supplanting the royal accommodation within the White Tower itself. As one of the palace amusements, Henry established a royal menagerie.

When Henry's lofty view of kingship brought him into dispute with his barons, he ordered a massive expansion of the Tower's defences. The area of the castle was again doubled, this time being extended on all three landward sides so that the White Tower now stood at its centre.

The new curtain wall around the enlarged bailey was guarded by towers at regular intervals, and by a wide moat. Even then, Henry,

like his father, had to submit for a time to an alliance of the Londoners and hostile barons and to surrender the Tower.

THE CASTLE COMPLETED

Henry's son Edward I (1272-1307) came to the throne determined to master the turbulent city. In ten years, between 1275 and 1285, he spent twice as much on the Tower as his father had done during his entire reign. A new moat was excavated, a new curtain wall was built along its edge, and Henry III's moat was filled in. A new towered curtain wall was constructed along the river foreshore, and the ground behind built up. Edward paid particular attention to the elaborate fortification of the new landward entrance, across the moat.

The Tower, with its moat, now extended over 18 acres (7.3 ha), and nothing was lacking to make it an impregnable fortress except that, as in earlier times, the readiness of the defenders to fight still mattered more than the strength of the defences. This was to be strikingly shown during the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 when, after the young Richard II had left the Tower to negotiate with some of the rebels, others appeared demanding entry. The garrison dared not put the king at risk by refusing, and an exuberant crowd swept in, seeking loot and revenge. Again, in 1460 during the Wars of the Roses, after the Tower had been besieged and bombarded, the garrison preferred to surrender on conditions, rather than fight on in a lost cause.

ARSENAL, TREASURY AND MINT

A medieval castle, as well as being the stronghold and residence of its lord, was also the place that held his treasure, armoury and prisoners. The Tower, as a great royal castle adjoining London, the commercial capital, and near Westminster, which had become the seat of government, was a major centre of the power and wealth of English monarchs.

Following Edward I's expansion of the Tower, it soon came to contain one of the main royal treasuries, a storehouse for official documents, the largest of the royal mints and the only one coining in gold as well as silver, and the chief arsenal in the kingdom, storing and assembling armaments for the royal armies and fleets. To speed the movement of supplies and afford storage and working space, the wharf was extended along the entire river front.

STATE PRISON

In medieval times the Tower also found room for prisoners who in one way or another were accounted the king's enemies, ranging from rioting London apprentices to foreign monarchs and nobles captured in war.

From the later years of Henry VIII's reign (1509-47) the Tower gradually went out of use as a royal palace as Whitehall became the

monarch's usual London residence, and the Tower's defences were allowed to decay. The expanding operations of the arsenal and the mint came to dominate Tower life, along with the ever-growing number of prisoners of state, the victims of court rivalries, dynastic disputes and religious animosities.

Of the many hundreds of prisoners brought to the Tower, a small number were kept in deliberately harsh conditions and put to the torture. They, and a larger number who were spared such horrors, left the Tower only to suffer a traitor's death. The great majority of men and women held there were sooner or later released, and stories of innumerable prisoners suffering in deep dungeons and torture chambers are mostly the inventions of propagandists at the time or romantic novelists of a later age.

GARRISON AND SHOWPLACE

Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, with the return from exile of Charles II, the Tower underwent major renovation, with substantial changes to its buildings and character. To ensure that the new king should never lose control of London, as his father Charles I had done on the eve of the Civil War, a large permanent garrison was housed in the Tower and batteries of guns set in place along the walls, while the arsenal, by then under the control of the Board of Ordnance, was expanded. Soon the coronation regalia were put on public show at the Tower, and the historic arms and armour, as well as parts of the new arsenal, were arranged in spectacular exhibitions calculated to impress sightseers with the strength and splendour of English monarchy. Meanwhile, the Tower remained the prison of state, though not much used except in national emergencies, such as the Jacobite Rebellions of 1715 and 1745 and the French Revolution; and it still accommodated the Royal Mint and state records.

These diverse institutions and uses co-existed uneasily until the primacy of the Tower's military role was re-asserted following the appointment of the Duke of Wellington as Constable in 1826. Wellington, like many others at the time, believed England to be on the brink of revolution, and he saw the security and strength of the Tower as his first responsibility. Already the Royal Mint had moved out. Wellington had the menagerie closed and obtained agreement that the public records should be removed. When the main Ordnance building, the Grand Storehouse, was destroyed by fire in 1841, it was replaced by a vast new barracks block. The defences were strengthened, and Wellington even urged, though in vain, that the sightseeing public should be excluded, as a threat to the Tower's security.

TOURISM AND TRADITION

By the time of Wellington's death in 1852, the fear of revolution had passed. For the first time in its history the Tower was no longer seen as a significant military presence that might help to subdue riot or

rebellion in London. Instead, with the encouragement of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, the Tower began to take on the character of a national monument. Ordnance buildings which had replaced or obscured the historic fabric were gradually demolished, and the medieval walls and towers were restored or even totally re-created. At the end of Victoria's reign in 1901, half a million people visited the Tower each year, largely drawn by the romantic appeal of the darker side of its history as popularised in novels, paintings and engravings of the time. Nowadays, the number of visitors is about two million annually, three-quarters of them from overseas. The Tower has become one of the world's great tourist attractions. Nevertheless, it remains a community, as it has always been, and it is this continuing village life within the walls, no less than its buildings, ceremonies and traditions which links the present-day Tower to its long and eventful past.

e. Bibliography

Charlton, J. (ed), The Tower of London: its Buildings and Institutions, London, H.M.S.O., 1978

Colvin, H.M. (ed)., The History of the King's Works, vols I and II, London, H.M.S.O., 1963

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in England, London, vol. V, H.M.S.O., 1930

Official guides include The Tower of London, The Royal Armouries, and the The Crown Jewels. There is also a Young Visitor's Guide and a History of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

For a detailed bibliography see Charlton, J. (ed) above.

4. State of preservation/conservation

a. Diagnosis

The Tower buildings are fully maintained with a continuous and on-going programme of repair, conservation and maintenance.

b. Agent responsible for preservation/conservation

The Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

c. History of preservation/conservation

Continuous maintenance, with major repairs as required.

d. Means for preservation/conservation

Central Government funding and admission charges.

e. Management plan

No such plan.

5. Justification for inclusion in the World Heritage List

a. Cultural property

The Tower of London was first built by William the Conqueror for the purpose of protecting and controlling the city. Of the present buildings the White Tower survives largely intact from the Norman period, and architecture of almost all the styles which have flourished in England since may now be found within the walls.

The Tower has in the past been a fortress, a palace and a prison, and has housed the Royal Mint, the Public Records and (for a short time) the Royal Observatory. It was for centuries the arsenal for small arms, the predecessor of the existing Royal Armouries, and, as one of the strongest fortresses in the land, has from early times guarded the Crown Jewels.

The Tower today is the key to British history for many of the thousands of visitors who come every year from all over the world to see the buildings, the Royal Armouries and Crown Jewels and the museum collections, to relive the past and to enjoy the pageantry of the present. But at the same time it is still a fortress, a royal palace, and the home of a community of some 150 hardworking people. As such it epitomises all that is best in World Heritage.

UNESCO criteria: 5 a) ii, iv and vi.

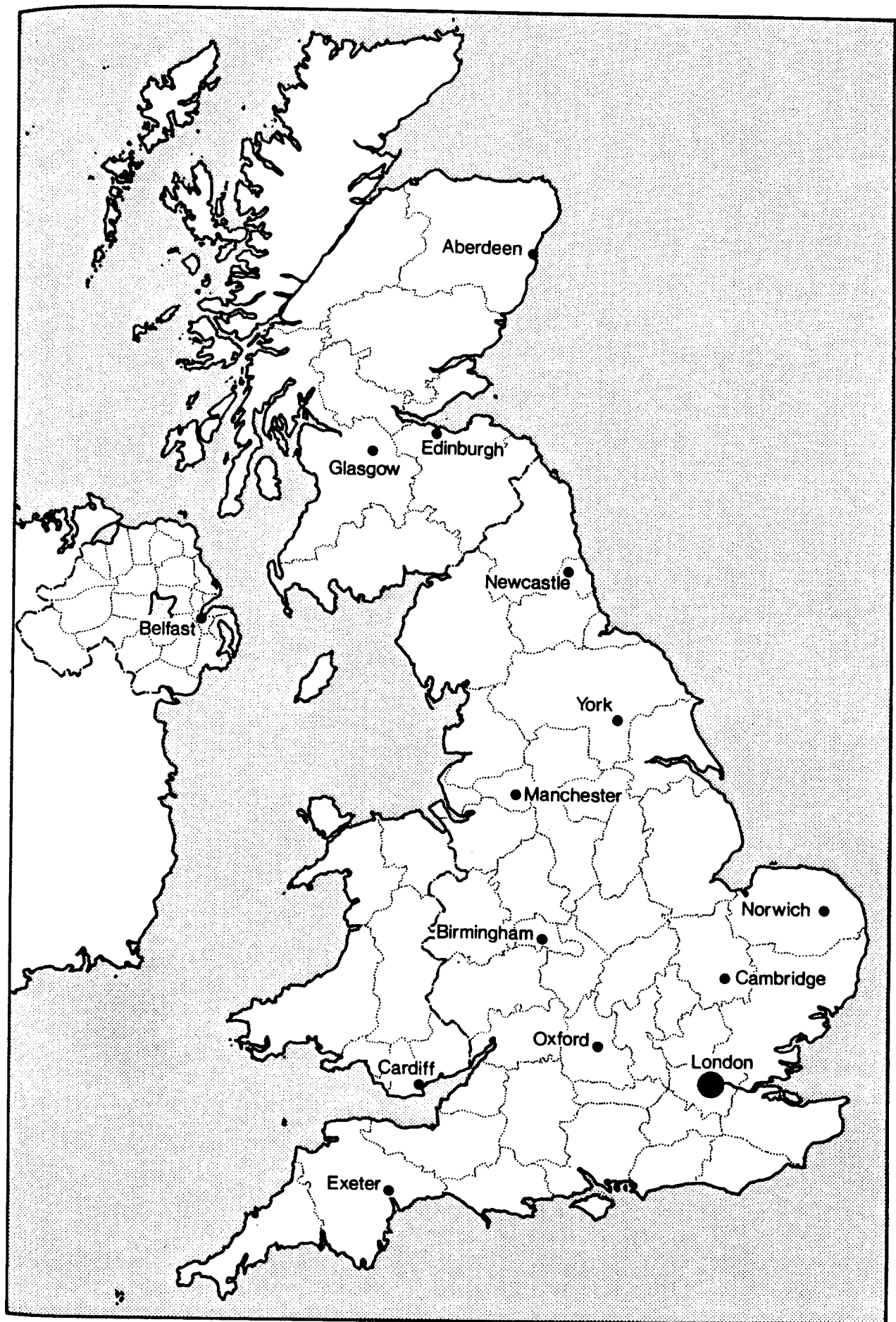
Signed (on behalf of State party) _____

Belstead

Full name The Rt Hon Lord Belstead

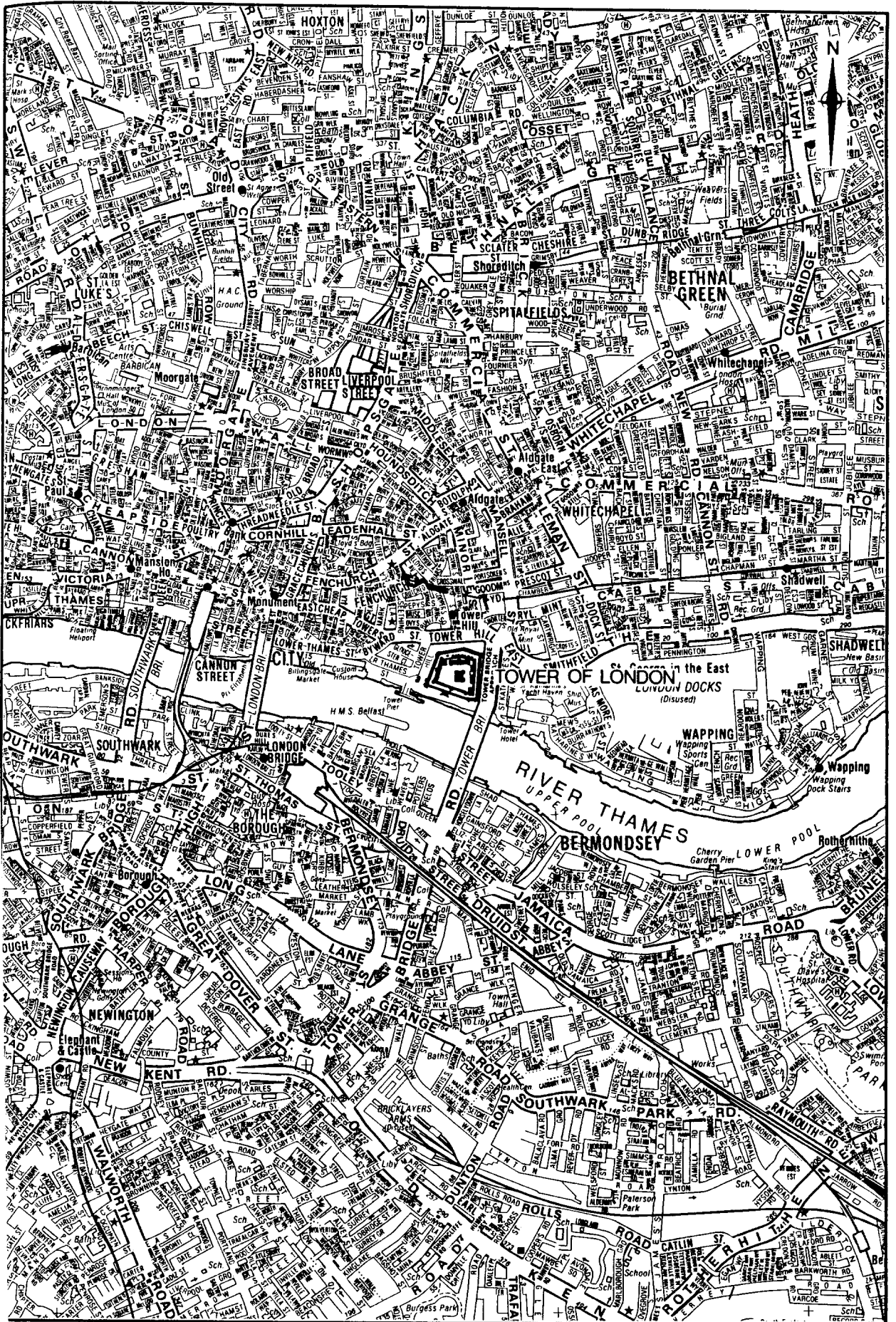
Title Minister for Environment, Countryside and Water

Date 15th December 1987



1:4 000 000

Miles 0 50 150
Kilometres 0 50 250



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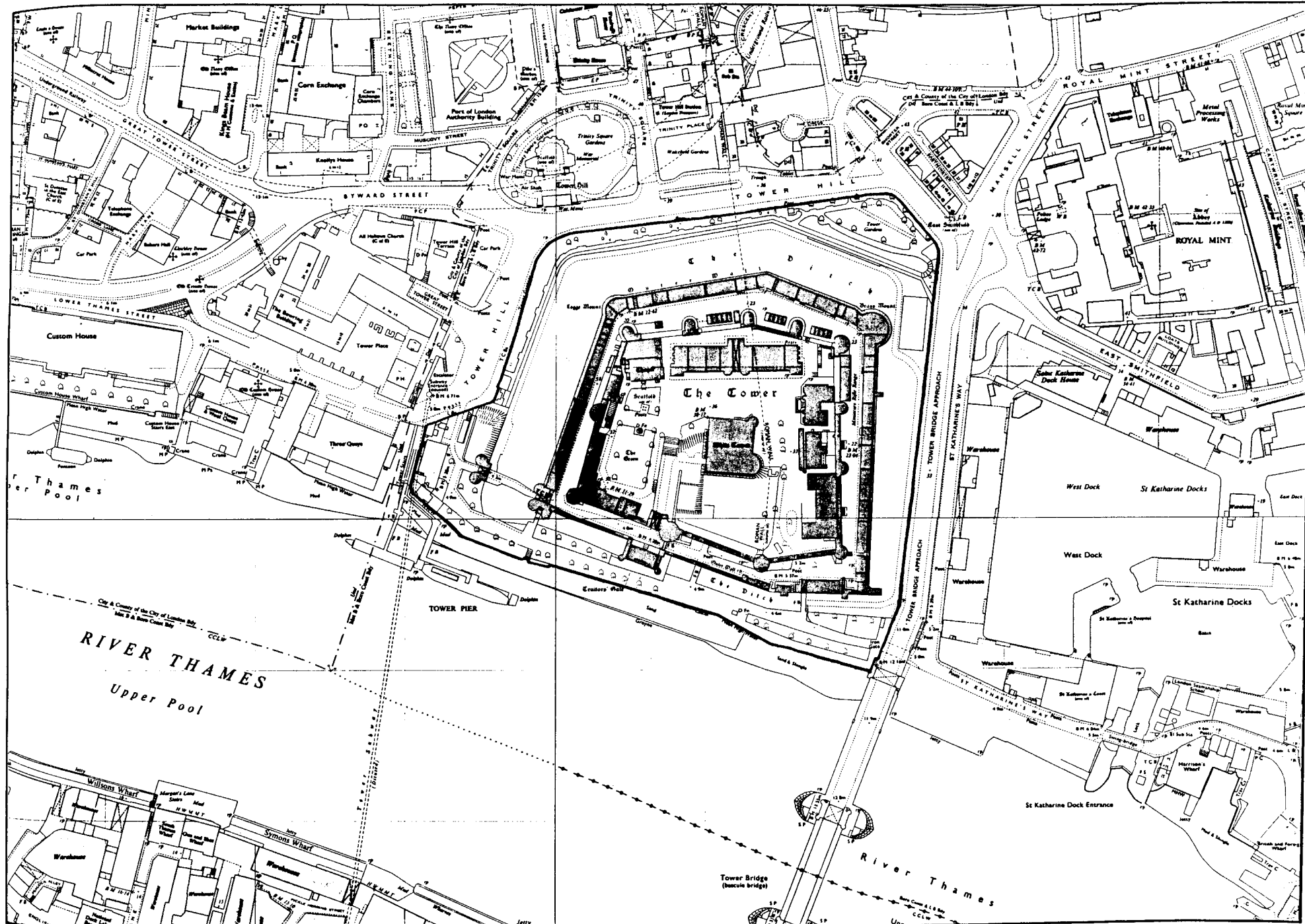
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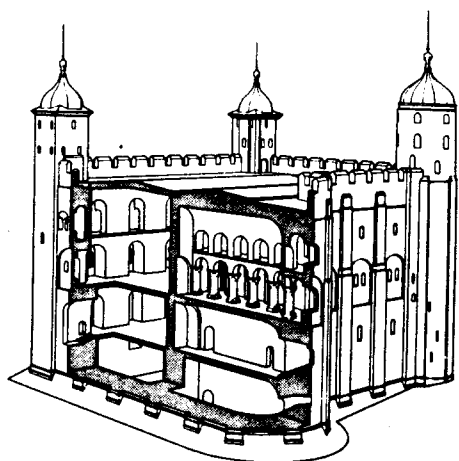
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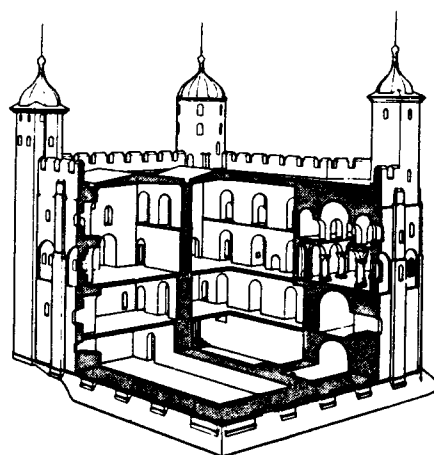
Kilometres





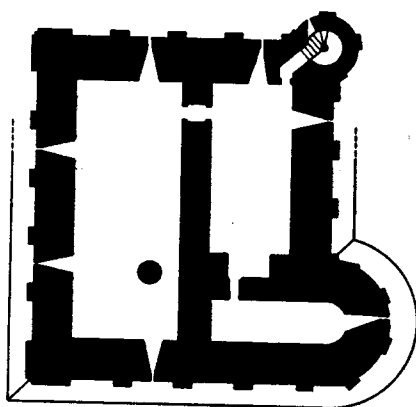


From the South East

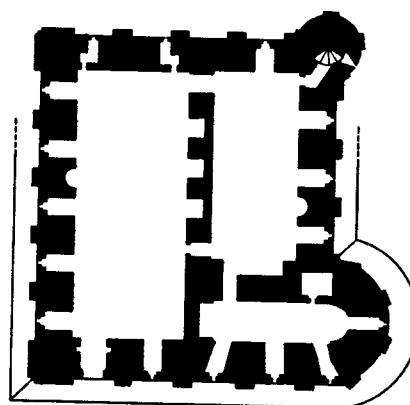


From the South West

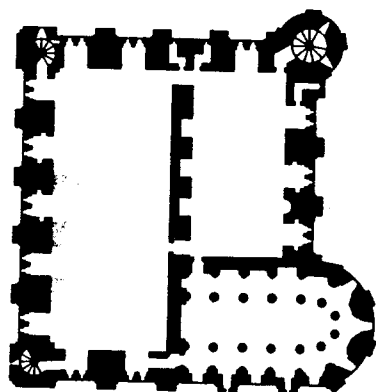
Gallery level
Upper floor
Entrance floor
Basement



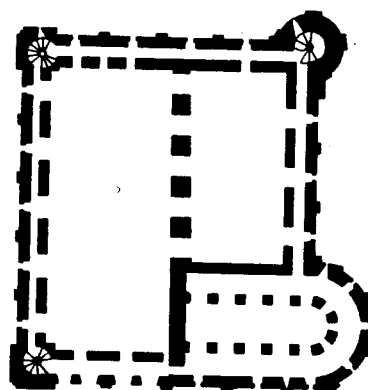
Basement



Entrance floor



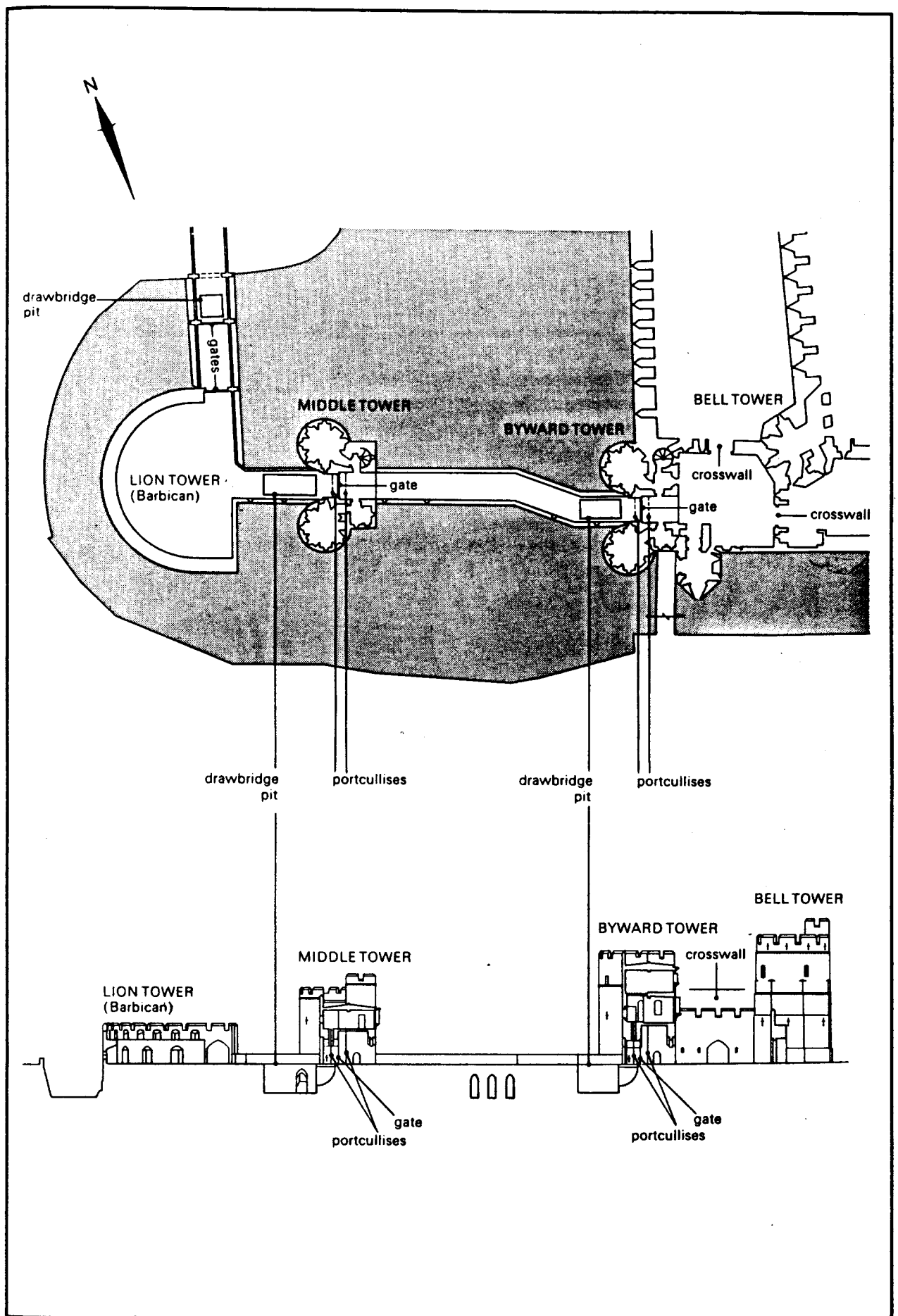
Upper floor

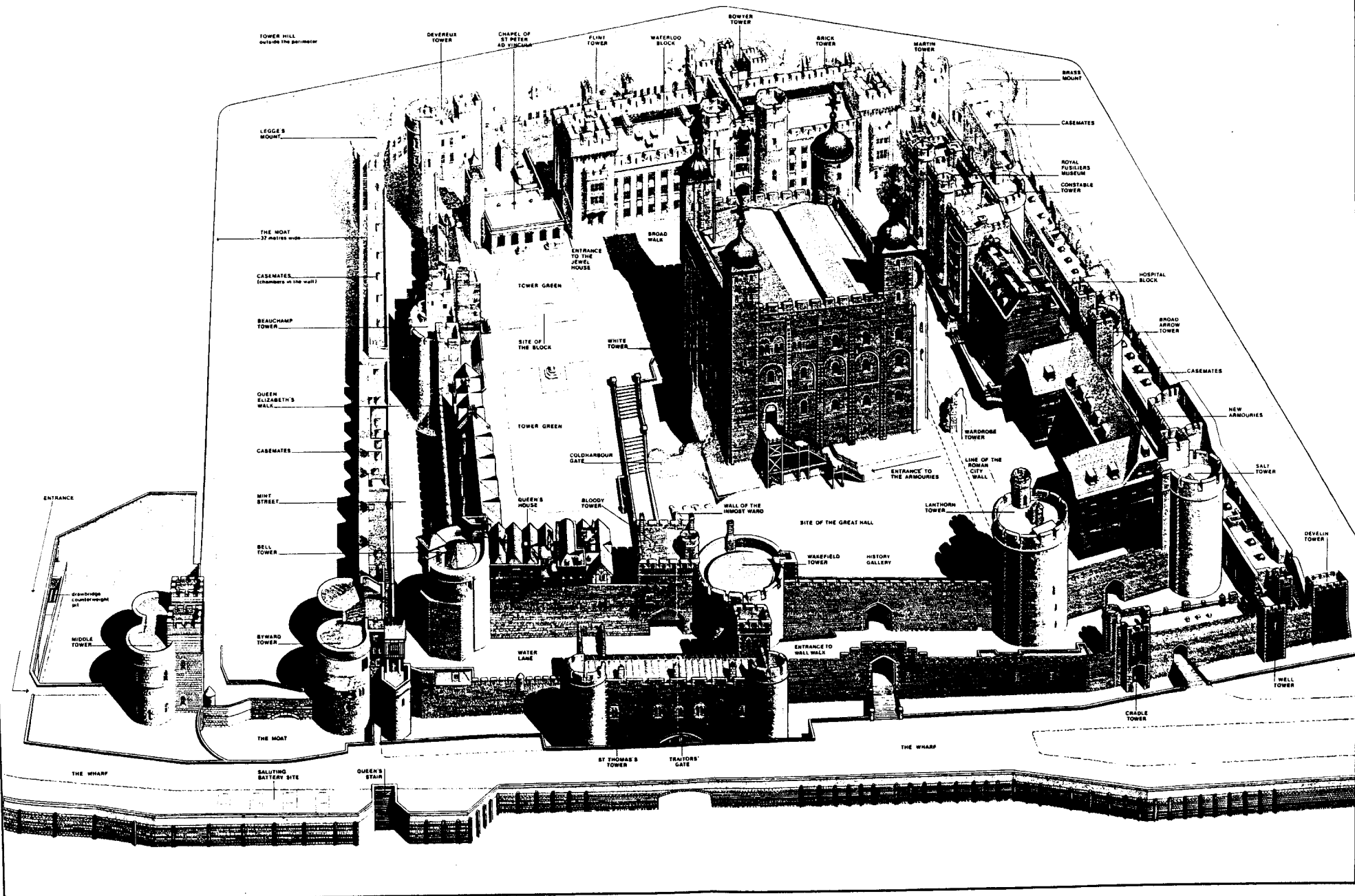


Gallery level



Metres 0 10 40
Feet 0 10 100







7. The White Tower.



Mr Y R Isar *YR*
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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

*CC. H. Pussayre, Corps
Ms Van Vliet*

11 October 1988

Dear Mr Isar

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Thank you for your letter of 10 August to Peter Denton, explaining the recommendations of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in respect of the cultural nominations to the World Heritage list.

We have carefully considered the contents of your letter and the UK's response is as follows:

(i) *→* Tower of London

We are happy to give the assurance requested by the Bureau that the areas surrounding the Tower of London will be protected. The Committee will no doubt be interested to know that we have three main means of fulfilling this assurance. Firstly we have specific powers in the immediate area of the Tower - these are known as the Tower Liberties - to apply restrictive covenants on proposed developments. For example this power was used to ensure that the paving and pedestrianisation of an area near the Tower's public entrance - Tower Hill West - was carried out in sympathy with the environment. Secondly under Article 15 of the General Development Order, the local planning authority must consult the Department of the Environment about any proposed development within 800 metres of the Tower of London which might affect the Tower's amenities. Thirdly the Secretary of State for the Environment may call in any planning application and determine it himself.

*(receipt acknowledged by
phone)* 2/x11.88
YR*

The Committee may also wish to note that the local planning authorities may also put into their own development plans, policies for protecting the environment of the Tower. We trust therefore that the assurance given in this letter will be sufficient for the Committee to be able to accept the Bureau's basic recommendation that the Tower of London be inscribed onto the World Heritage list.

- (ii) Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church

We are pleased to see the Bureau's recommendation that this site be inscribed onto the World Heritage list. We accept the suggestion that the Cathedral, Abbey and Church be included in one and the same protection area.

- (iii) SS Great Britain
Navan Fort
Menai and Conwy Suspension Bridges

We have read with disappointment of the Bureau's recommendations in respect of these sites that they be rejected. In the light of this and in particular the need for further consideration of the Bureau's specific reference to Conwy Bridge being included with the Conwy Castle World Heritage Site we wish to formally withdraw the nominations before further consideration by the Committee in December.

- (iv) New Lanark

We find the Bureau's continued reluctance to recommend acceptance of New Lanark hard to understand given what we believe is the convincing case contained in the nomination and our belief that the site meets existing criteria. The Committee may find the attached restatement of the nomination helpful when they come to consider it in December and I would stress that if they concur with the Bureau in asking ICOMOS to undertake the comparative study of the nineteenth century industrial sites, then they ask for the study to be conducted as soon as possible.

I look forward to meeting you next week.

Yours sincerely, Thomas Radice

T E RADICE
Head, Heritage Sponsorship Division

ICOMOS

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

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 488

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : The Tower of London

Location : London

State Party : United Kingdom

Date : December 28, 1987

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

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

C) JUSTIFICATION

On Christmas Day 1066 following his victory at Hastings, William the Conqueror was crowned king at Westminster Abbey. He immediately set about fortifying London, his new chief city. To command the city on its seaward and most vulnerable side he quickly had an earth-and-timber keep built on top of an artificial mound in the southeast angle of the ancient Roman walls. A ditch and a palisade protected the yard on the northwest side.

Ten years later, in full control of England, William replaced these traditional defenses with a grand edifice in stone, a sort of palace-fortress which was immediately named the Tower of London. Built during the 1080s and modified over the centuries (the cupolas of the corner towers are from the reign of Henry VIII, the windows were nearly all enlarged in 1715), the White Tower, as it is now called, became the centrepiece of the complex of fortifications, courtyards, and buildings which extends over 7.3 hectares. The whole ensemble came to be known as the Tower of London, the name which originally applied only to the keep of 1076.

At the heart of this defensive stronghold, which affords a comprehensive review of medieval and post-medieval construction techniques, the White Tower (so named because of its whitewashed walls) both exemplifies Norman architecture of the time and is unique for the ambitiousness of its design. It is undeniably the most significant element of the ensemble for World Heritage, even if other parts of the Tower of London are associated with tragic moments in the history of the English monarchy, for example the "Bloody Tower", where the sons of Edward IV were assassinated in 1483.

The White Tower, an impressive parallelepipedal block measuring 35.9m x 32.6m on the ground, rises to more than 27 meters above the mound. No expense was spared in constructing this monument which symbolized the power of the new ruler. The massive walls (4.6m thick at the base) were made of Kentish limestone, with ashlar of Caen stone, imported at great expense from the conquerors' Norman domain, laid at the corners and around the doors, windows and arrow-slits.

Inside, the three principal levels of the keep incorporates the requirements of both a defensive work and a royal residence. It includes a chapel situated over two storeys of lower chambers which jut out from the southeastern wall. At the corners of the building are four turrets: three are rectangular, while the fourth, located at the northeast angle, is circular and has a spiral staircase. This massive Norman castle dominates the whole of the fortified works of the Tower of London, which include the remains of the inner curtain wall from the time of Richard the Lionhearted and John Lackland, the outer curtain built by Edward I and the numerous later constructions.

Recalling that the Castle of Durham (whose chapel built in 1072 was part of the original Norman keep) along with the nearby Cathedral were included on the World Heritage List in 1986, ICOMOS fully recommends that the Tower of London be included on the basis of criteria II and IV.

- **Criterion II.** A monument symbolic of royal power since the time of William the Conqueror, the Tower of London served as an outstanding model throughout the kingdom from the end of the 11th century. Like it, many keeps were built in stone, e.g. Colchester, Rochester, Hedingham, Norwich or Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight.

- **Criterion IV.** The White Tower is the example par excellence of the royal Norman castle in the late 11th century. The ensemble of the Tower of London is a major reference for the history of medieval military architecture.

ICOMOS Observations

ICOMOS draws the Committee's attention to the inconsistent value of the surroundings of the Tower of London. Alongside certain remarkable and historically valuable elements, such as Tower Bridge, outsized buildings have increasingly been built in the Docks area. The most regrettable one is the Tower Hotel, which seriously modifies the urban landscape in the St. Katherine's dock area and diminishes the monumental value of the Tower of London. ICOMOS expresses the wish that the Committee recommend that the United Kingdom authorities make strenuous efforts to protect the surroundings of the Tower of London in order to prevent any further abuse of this nature.

ICOMOS, July 1988

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

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

N° 488

A) IDENTIFICATION

Bien proposé : La Tour de Londres

Lieu : Londres

Etat partie : Royaume Uni

Date : 28 décembre 1987

B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS

Que le bien culturel proposé soit inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial au titre des critères II et IV.

C) JUSTIFICATION

Au lendemain de la victoire de Hastings, Guillaume le Conquérant, couronné à Westminster à la Noël de 1066, décida de fortifier Londres, sa nouvelle capitale. Pour contrôler la ville du côté le plus menacé, celui de la mer, il fit élever à la hâte une motte dans l'angle sud-est des anciennes murailles romaines. Un fossé et une palissade protégèrent la basse cour au nord-ouest; un donjon de bois et de terre s'éleva au sommet du tertre artificiel.

Dix ans plus tard, Guillaume, devenu maître absolu de l'Angleterre, fit remplacer cet ouvrage défensif traditionnel par une ambitieuse construction en pierre, sorte de palais-forteresse qui fut dès lors connu sous le nom de Tour de Londres. Cette construction des années 1080, modifiée au cours des siècles (les toits en coupole des tours d'angle datent du règne d'Henri VIII, les fenêtres ont été presque toutes agrandies en 1715), est aujourd'hui connue sous le nom de Tour Blanche et représente le noyau ancien de l'ensemble des fortifications, des cours et des bâtiments qui, s'étendant sur 7,3 hectares, a pris globalement la dénomination de Tour de Londres, initialement réservée au donjon de 1076.

Au coeur d'un dispositif défensif qui illustre toute l'histoire des techniques de construction médiévales et post-médiévales, la Tour Blanche (ainsi nommée parce qu'un enduit masquait l'appareil hétérogène de ses murs) est à la fois exemplaire de l'architecture des conquérants normands et unique par l'ambition manifeste de son programme. C'est incontestablement l'élément le plus significatif de l'ensemble pour le patrimoine mondial, même si de grands souvenirs tragiques liés à l'histoire de la

monarchie anglaise s'attachent à d'autres parties de la Tour de Londres, comme par exemple la "Bloody Tower", où furent assassinés en 1483 les fils d'Edouard IV.

La Tour Blanche, impressionnant bloc parallélépipédique mesurant 35,9m x 32,6m au sol, s'élève à plus de 27 mètres au-dessus de la motte. Pour la construction de ce monument symbolique du nouveau pouvoir royal, on n'a pas lésiné sur les matériaux : les murs massifs (4,6m d'épaisseur à la base) sont maçonnés en moellons calcaires extraits des carrières du Kent et renforcés de chaînages d'angle en pierre de Caen. La pierre de Caen, importée à grands frais du domaine normand des conquérants, apparaît également dans l'appareil des percements, portes, fenêtres et archères.

Intérieurement, ce donjon combine sur trois niveaux principaux les exigences d'un ouvrage défensif et d'une résidence royale comprenant une chapelle elle-même superposée à deux étages de salles basses faisant saillie au sud-est. Quatre tours -trois de plan rectangulaire, l'une, au nord-est, de plan circulaire contenant un escalier à vis- flanquent aux angles ce château normand dont la masse domine l'ensemble des ouvrages fortifiés de la Tour de Londres : les restes de la courtine intérieure de Richard-Coeur-de-Lion et Jean-Sans-Terre, la courtine extérieure d'Edouard Ier et les multiples constructions ultérieures.

L'ICOMOS, après avoir rappelé que le Château de Durham, dont la chapelle de 1072 remonte au donjon normand primitif, a été inscrit ainsi que la Cathédrale toute proche sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial en 1986, n'hésite pas à formuler un avis favorable à l'inscription de la Tour de Londres au titre des critères II et IV.

- Critère II. Monument symbolique du pouvoir royal depuis Guillaume le Conquérant, la Tour de Londres a été un modèle éminent dans tout le royaume depuis la fin du XI^e siècle. A son exemple, de nombreux donjons ont été construits en pierre, comme ceux de Colchester, Rochester, Hedingham, Norwich ou encore Carisbrooke Castle dans l'île de Wight.

- Critère IV. La Tour Blanche est le type par excellence du château royal normand à la fin du XI^e siècle. L'ensemble de la Tour de Londres est une référence majeure pour l'histoire de l'architecture militaire médiévale.

Observations de l'ICOMOS

L'ICOMOS attire l'attention du Comité sur la valeur très inégale de l'environnement de la Tour de Londres. A côté d'éléments remarquables du patrimoine historique de Londres, comme Tower

Bridge, des monuments hors d'échelle se sont multipliés récemment dans la zone des docks. Le plus regrettable est le Tower Hotel qui modifie gravement le paysage urbain dans la région du dock Sainte-Catherine et amoindrit les valeurs monumentales de la Tour de Londres. L'ICOMOS souhaite que le Comité recommande aux autorités du Royaume Uni de veiller rigoureusement à la protection des abords de la Tour de Londres, afin que de pareils abus ne se reproduisent plus.

ICOMOS, Juillet 1988