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UNESCO Region: EUROPE AND THE NORTH AMERICA

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**SITE NAME:** The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns

**DATE OF INSCRIPTION:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 1999

**STATE PARTY:** GREECE

**CRITERIA:** C (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

**DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:**

Excerpt from the Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i),( ii), (iii),( iv) and (vi):

Criterion (i): The architecture and design Mycenae and Tiryns, such as the Lion Gate and the Treasury of Atreus and the walls of Tiryns, are outstanding examples of human creative genius.

Criterion (ii): The Mycenaean civilisation, as exemplified by Mycenae and Tiryns, had a profound effect on the development of classical Greek architecture and urban design, and consequently also on contemporary cultural forms.

Criterion (iii) and (iv): Mycenae and Tiryns represent the apogee of the Mycenaean civilization, which laid the foundations for the evolution of later European cultures.

Criterion (vi): Mycenae and Tiryns are indissolubly linked with the Homeric epics, the Iliad and the Odyssey, the influence of which upon European literature and the arts has been profound for more than three millennia.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS**

The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns are imposing ruins of the two greatest cities of the Mycenaean civilisation which dominated the eastern Mediterranean world in the 15th to 12th centuries BC and which played a vital role in the development of the culture of classical Greece. These two cities are indissolubly linked to the Homeric epics, the Iliad and the Odyssey, which have influenced European art and literature for more than three millennia.

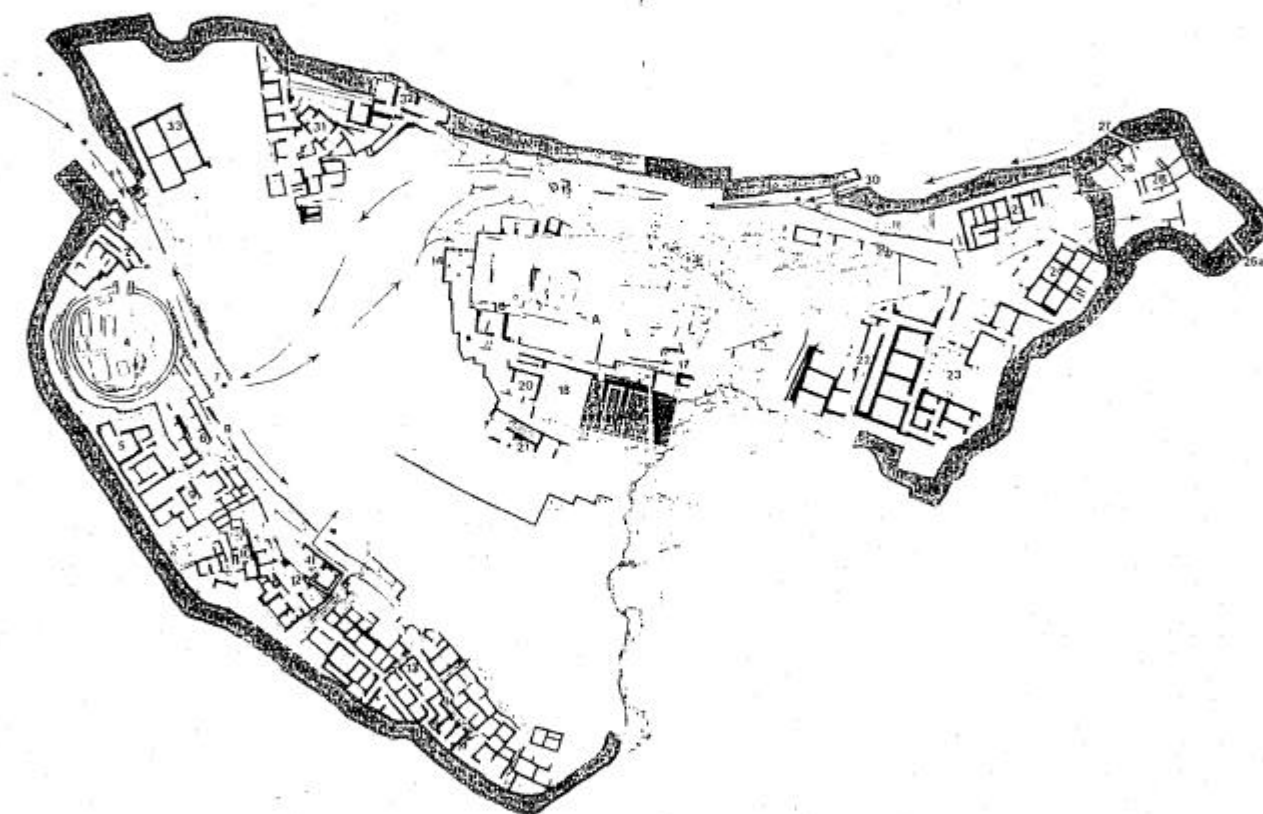
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**1.b State, Province or Region:** Region of the Peloponnese, Province of Argolid

**1.d Exact location:** Mycenae: 22°45'E, 37°44' N  
Tiryns: 22°48' E, 37°36' N

**GREEK MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**DIRECTION OF PREHISTORICAL AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES  
4<sup>TH</sup> EPHORATE OF PREHISTORICAL AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES**



**NOMINATION OF ANCIENT MYCENAE FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD  
HERITAGE LIST**

**Athens/Nauplion June 1998**

## NOMINATION OF MYCENAE FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

<b><u>1. Identification of Property</u></b>	
a) Country	Greece
b) State, Province or Region	Region of the Peloponnese Province of Argolid
c) Name of Property	Archaeological Site of Mycenae In the recent past named 'Charvati', nowadays also called 'Kastro' - Mycenae
d) Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second	<p>The extension of the Archaeological site has been fixed within the following boundaries: a line stretching from the slopes of the 'Zara' towards the north, crossing to the north the Perseia spring and reaching the slopes of the Prophitis Ilias Hill; and from then onwards towards the west; and following the torrent 'Kokoretsa to the eastern slopes of the Kalkani Hill; and from then onwards towards 'Kato Pighadi', also crossing in a curve to the SW of Agios Giorgios and to the SW of the Mycenaean bridge, crossing the torrent 'Chavos' to the torrent 'Tserani'' and reaching through it the slopes of the 'Zara'.</p> <p>(see maps 1 &amp; 2, a)</p> <p>A zone of special protection against inconsistent use and intrusive development (to be considered as a buffer zone) has been fixed within the following boundaries: a line starting in the east from the summit of the Zara Hill to the summit of the Prophitis Ilias Hill through the summits of the Kapsala, Asprochoma and Batsourorrachi to the communal road to about 400 m to the south of the crossroad after the road of Charvati-Mycenae to the torrent 'Tserani' and the summit of the Zara Hill</p> <p>(see maps 1 &amp; 2, b)</p>
e) maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone	<p>1) Map in 1:50 000 showing the archaeological site of Mycenae in its natural environment, near the modern town-village.</p> <p>2) Map in 1:5000 showing a) the boundaries of the</p>

	archaeological site as well as b) the boundaries of the zone under special protection (or 'buffer zone')
f) Area of property proposed for inscription:	The archaeological site covers an area of 120 ha
<b>2) <u>Justification for inscription</u></b> á) Statement of significance	<p>Within the archaeological site of Mycenae lies the well preserved remains of one of the most famous cultures of humankind, distinguished not only by its technical and artistic achievements but also by the fact that it contributed to its spiritual and intellectual richness, being the home of the Atreides so present in Homeric epics and the classical tragedies, but also, through the centuries, in our present culture</p>
b) Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fortification wall around the citadel of Mycenae is the most imposing of its type.</li> <li>- The Palace of Mycenae is the mightiest Mycenaean palace on the Mainland excavated so far, a 'fitting symbol and residence of the mightiest <i>wanax</i> of the Mycenaean world'.</li> <li>- The site is surrounded by a strikingly imposing landscape, between the two conical hills of Mount Elias and Zara, the southern ravine with its precipitous cliffs and the panoramic view of the plain and the bay of the Argolid from its top.</li> <li>- Constructed on an uneven ground and on different levels with artificial terraces, the Palace has thus a different aspect than the other known best preserved Mycenaean palaces</li> <li>- The archaeological site includes the best example of a tholos tomb corbelled in the beehive style, the 'Treasure of Atreus' and also three older tombs of the same type through which one can follow the steps of its evolution.</li> <li>- The fortified underground cistern is a unique case of such a structure.</li> <li>- Amongst the finds at the site are included some of the most famous ancient artifacts which witness the artistic achievements of the Myceneans, especially in the work of gems and metals.</li> </ul>
c) Authenticity / integrity 1.meets the test of authenticity in design, material, workmanship or setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Acropolis of Mycenae as well as the monuments in its vicinity have maintained their authentic features to the present days.</li> <li>- There have been only a few restricted interventions on</li> </ul>

<p>2.has adequate legal or contractual protection and management to ensure the conservation of the nominated cultural properties</p>	<p>the monuments for their restoration without changing the character of the architectural remains, according to the Chart of Venice.</p> <p>- Since November 1997 a Program of restoration and conservation has been initiated on the site. The first part of the Program was submitted in April 1995 and confirmed in April 1996 by decision of the Ministry of Culture. It concerns the five (5) following sectors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the wall by the entrance to the north Reservoir</li> <li>2) the wall in the vicinity of the Underground Reservoir</li> <li>3) the north wall of the Main Court</li> <li>4) the retaining at the Lion Gate:</li> <li>5) the Tomb of Aegisthos</li> <li>6) the area of the South House (South House and House of the Acropolis)</li> </ol> <p>To these should be added a Project for the restoration and the promotion of the area of the 'House of the Oil Merchant'</p>
<p>d) Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)</p>	<p>The site of Mycenae is nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List for its outstanding universal value as it meets the following criteria:</p> <p>-The site of Mycenae represents a masterpiece of human creative genius as it shelters outstanding works of monumental architecture and sculpture which are unique in the world: the massive citadel walls with the Lion Gate and the relief of the Lions, the 'Treasury of Atreus', the 'Grave Circle A' and the underground Reservoir. (criterion I)</p> <p>- Mycenae, the most famous center of the Mycenaean world has been described by Homer in his legendary epic poem of the 'Iliad', bequeathing the spirit of the Mycenaean civilization from Antiquity to our world. Since Homer's time, a continuous interchange of human values within an increasingly worldwide range cultural area, has exerted a significant influence on the evolution of civilizations.</p> <p>-The religion, the writing and the architecture of the Greeks in Classical times have fundamental roots in the Mycenaean culture. Furthermore, the megaron announces the plan adopted for the Greek temples and the relief of the Lions is the first example of monumental sculpture promised to a great future..</p>

	<p>(criterion II)</p> <p>- Mycenae is not only the main archaeological site of the Mycenaean civilization which flourished in the Aegean and spread around the Mediterranean Sea between 1600 and 1100 BC, but it also represents an exceptional testimony to the achievements of this civilization in art and technology as well as in the advanced level of economy and social organization achieved at the time.</p> <p>Significant stages in monumental architecture have been achieved with the construction of the massive defensive walls of Mycenae and the Tholos tombs of the 'beehive' type. Characteristic elements have already been mentioned in 2a. In the work of artifacts (metal objects and gems) outstanding examples are those found in the tombs of the Graves Circle A and B</p> <p>. The site of Mycenae also displays some characteristic elements of the unique Mycenaean economical and social organization with its elaborate exchange network, based on centers ruled by a 'wanax' around whom everything evolves (the Palace, the workshops, the store-rooms, and the cult center). Finally, it includes the unique occurrence of Access Ramp, built to enhance the power of the Palace and of the Grave Circle A, built for the worship of the ancestors.</p> <p>(criteria III and IV)</p> <p>- With the discovery of Mycenae by H. Schliemann in 1876, the legendary center of Homer and home of Agamemnon, one of the most popular heroes of the homeric epics, became History. Its legendary rulers, the Atreides, were considered by the Greeks of Antiquity as their ancestors. They also inspired many artistic and literary works of outstanding significance through the centuries in different parts of the world.</p> <p>(criterion VI).</p>
<p><b>3. Description:</b></p> <p>a) Description of the Properties at the date of the nomination</p>	<p>-The archaeological site of Mycenae is situated upon a small hill-top on the lower slopes of Mount Euboea between two of its peaks, the Profitis Ilias at the north and the Zara at the south, on a crossroad leading from the gulf of the Argolid to the North (Corinth, Athens). The hill has been occupied since Neolithic times (about 4000 BC) but the remains from this period are scanty. During the Middle Helladic a cemetery extended on its south slopes which included, at the end of the period, the Grave Circle B (17<sup>th</sup> century) and the Grave Circle A</p>

	<p>(16<sup>th</sup> century). At the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (Mycenaean period) a palace occupied the top of the hill, later extended and surrounded with massive cyclopean walls, built in three stages (at about 1350, 1250 and 1225 BC). During the last stage, an underground reservoir was fortified.</p> <p>During the Mycenaean period, a series of tholos tombs were built on the south and southwest slopes of the hill of which the ‘Tomb of Aegisthos’ is the earlier of them (about 1500 BC). A second tomb, the ‘Lion Tholos Tomb’, was built about 1350 BC and a third, the ‘Tomb of Clytemnestra’ about 1220 BC. The type culminated in the so-called ‘Treasury of Atreus’ which was built at some distance from the others, about 1250 BC. In the area of the ‘Circle B’ were also built during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, four buildings, most probably royal workshops, called ‘the House of Shields’, the ‘House of the Oil Merchant, the ‘House of the Sphinxes’ and the ‘West House’.</p> <p>At the end of the 12th century, the Palace was abandoned and suffered some destruction by fire as well as did the buildings in its vicinity. But the site itself was occupied without interruption until 498 BC when it was conquered by Argos and its population deported. During that time, the top of the hill had been partly levelled for the construction of an archaic temple. From a short reoccupation during the Hellenistic period we have the remains of another temple on the top of the hill as well as of a theater built over the ‘Tomb of Clytemnestra’. The site had been abandoned for some time when the famous traveler Pausanias visited it during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. When the first excavations began in 1840, part of the lintel of the Lion Gate of the Acropolis was still visible. The rest of the site was covered with earth.</p> <p>(herewith joined description in annexe 1)</p>
c) Form and date of most recent records of Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The British School of Archaeology of Athens has undertaken a topographical record of the buildings</li> <li>- Aerial photography of the area of the archaeological site in May 1994 by the Myers.</li> <li>- In 1996, a second aerial photography was undertaken by the Archaeological Service.</li> <li>- This year, (1998), the whole of the Acropolis as well as the house complexes outside the walls have been</li> </ul>

	recorded.
d) Present state of Conservation	Of the Program of Restoration and Conservation mentioned above (in 2c), have already been completed. the restoration (1997-98) of the 'Tomb of Aegisthos' (no 5), while the restoration of the walls in the vicinity of the Reservoir no 1 & 2) and the retaining wall at the Lion Gate (no 4) are under process.
e) Policies and Program related to the presentation and promotion of the Property	<p>The policy of the Ministry of Culture concerning the site of Mycenae is 1) to ensure its maintenance by successive restoration and consolidation projects and 2) to ameliorate its promotion in Greece and in the world.</p> <p>To ameliorate the promotion of the site, there is a project for the configuration of the areas inside and outside the Citadel. A unification of the monuments and the Museum is envisaged through the creation of circuit paths linking them together. A program has been initiated with the submission of a first study for the unification of the monuments included in the area of the site (from the Citadel to the Treasury of Atreus), with a circuit path between them and the Museum.</p> <p>The project aims also to provide suitable information about the site and each monument on the circuit. This information could be supplemented by the use of the facilities available in the modern Museum (space for periodical exhibitions, for multimedia information, ect...)</p> <p>A project has also been submitted for the promotion of the area of the 'House of the Oil Merchant'.</p> <p>Another Project has been submitted for the promotion of the area of the entrance to the Acropolis.</p>
<b>4. Management:</b>	
a) Ownership	<p>1) The Ministry of Culture address: Bouboulinas 20-22 106 82 - Athens Minister: Evangelos Venizelos</p> <p>2) The Direction of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities address: Bouboulinas 20-22 106 82 - Athens Director: Jiannis Tzedakis</p> <p>3) 4<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities address: Museum of Nauplion Plateia Syntagmatos 21 100 - Nauplion</p>



	Director: Elisabeth Spathari
b) Legal Status	The archaeological site of Mycenae is protected by the directives of the law 5351/32 'Regarding Antiquities'. This protection is backed by the Declarations fixing legally the boundaries a) of the Archaeological Site and b) of the Zone under special protection Min. Dec. 2160/12 - 2 - 1964 Official Gov. Pap. 67/B/15 - 5 -1964
c) Protective measures and means to implement them	The legal measures for the protection of the archaeological site and of the 'buffer zone', as defined in 1d-e, are provided by the implementation of the laws and directives mentioned above. Responsible for this implementation is the local Department of the Archaeological Service of the Ministry of Culture, the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, which is based in Nauplion. The implementation of the Laws is ensured by daily supervision by the employees of the Ephorate (archaeologists and guardians) in charge of the site in the previously mentioned legally protected area. Any transgression is denounced accordingly to the police station and court.
d) Agency/agencies with management authority	4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities address: Museum of Nauplion Plateia Syntagmatos 21 100 - Nauplion Director: Elisabeth Spathari
e) Level at which management is exercised (e.g. on property, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes.	- The management is exercised on a regional and on a property level by the Director of the Ephorate, Elizabeth Spathari. - On a property level the curator of the site is the archaeologist Helen Palaiologou, address: 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of P. & C. Antiquities Museum of Nauplion Plateia Syntagmatos 21 100 - Nauplion
f) Agreed plans related to property (e.g. regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)	Since March 1998, the archaeological site of Mycenae has been included in the existing Work Team for the Conservation of the Monuments of the Asclepeion of Epidaurus. The Program for the Restoration and Conservation of the monuments of the site has been merged in a new Program which includes the

	configuration and promotion of the site.
g) Sources and levels of finance	-The archaeological site is financed: 1) by the Ministry of Culture (governmental Budget) 2) Since 1997, it benefits from the packet Delors II 3) It also receives funds from the Office of Credit Administration for the Archaeological Works
h) Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques	The works for the restoration and the conservation of the monuments are undertaken by specialists (archaeologists, architects, engineers and topographers) The remaining tasks are charged to the specialized employees of the Ephorate (archaeologists, conservators, workmen and guards)
i) Visitor facilities and statistics	Statistics: For the last ten years the attendance of the visitors at the site has been quite regular, ranging between 500.000 visitors and 700 000.  1) Information is available through many guide books and publications. 2) A very modern and large Museum built on the site is to be opened soon 3) Parking (3,700 ha) 4) W.C. available on the site - Possibilities for search and rescue by the guardians at the site and the nearby police station.
j) Property management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)	The site is managed by the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate whose objectives are its maintenance, its restoration and its promotion. (see programs already mentioned above)
k) Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)	There are 12 permanent guardians on the site responsible for its protection. Also available are the archaeologists, the conservators and the technicians of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate
<b><u>5 Factors Affecting the Property</u></b>	
a) Development Pressures (e.g. encroachment, adaptation, agriculture,	The archaeological site of Mycenae is surrounded by an extensive agricultural landscape. The construction is strongly prohibited in a considerable area around the

mining)	citadel. In that area only cultivation is allowed as it does not cause damages to the antiquities and it makes a nice and pleasant surrounding for the archaeological site
b) Environmental Pressures (e.g. pollution, climate change)	Of the environmental conditions, the site could suffer from the north wind, the high temperatures and the torrential rains which could accentuate the erosion of the walls..
c) Natural	- Earthquakes are extremely rare in the region of the Argolid. - The site is set in a relative altitude which excludes the occurrence of floods.
d) Visitor/tourism pressures	The general project which is under process includes the formation of an organized guided visiting route in the archaeological site . So further damages could be avoided.
e) Number of inhabitants within property, buffer zone	There are no inhabitants in the area of the Archaeological Site and about 450 in the 'buffer zone'.
Other	
<b>6. <u>Monitoring</u></b>	
a) Key indicators for measuring state of conservation	The site is under annual conservation.
b) Administrative arrangements for monitoring property	Since the beginning of the Program of Restoration and Conservation of the monuments of the site, the architectural remains are regularly checked for their stability by the specialists in charge of the works.
c) Results of previous reporting exercises	An analytical description of the wear of the architectural remains has been undertaken since 1994 (study of K. Palyvou), linked with the Program for the restoration and the conservation. It showed erosion due to the rain falls which induced instability. The walls which suffered from this erosion have already been consolidated. (see 2c)
<b>7. <u>Documentation:</u></b>	

a) Photographs, slides and, where available, film	Photographs in photocopy (Dossiers 1-2)
b) Copies of property management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the property	Joined separately (Dossiers 1-2)
c) Bibliography	Joined separately (annexe 2)
d) Address where inventory, records and archives are held	1) 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate 2) British School of Archaeology at Athens Soudias str. 52 106 76 - Athens 3) Archaeological Society at Athens Panepistimiou 22 - Athens

Signature on behalf of the State Party

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## Annexe 1

### DESCRIPTION OF MYCENAE

The archaeological site of Mycenae includes the Citadel or Acropolis fortifications walls and the area within them and the area outside the fortification walls extending from them to the 'Treasury of Atreus'.

#### A. The Citadel or Acropolis:

It includes 1) the fortification walls with the two gates (Lion Gate and North Gate), 2) the Granary House, a: building set against them, 3) the Great Ramp, 4) the Palace with its annexes - workshops and store-rooms -, 5) the underground reservoir, 6) the Cult Center and 7) the Grave Circle A.

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##### -1) The fortification walls:

- The walls surrounding the citadel have an average thickness of 6m and at some parts up to 8m. Their height is unknown but has been estimated to about eighteen meters above the rock from the height of the hellenistic polygonal tower.

- The walls have been built in three stages. The original fortification was erected at about 1350 BC, following the contour of the rocks at the top of the hill. A century later the fortified area was enlarged to the south and southwest, incorporating inside the citadel part of the Middle Helladic cemetery with the Grave Circle A and the Cult Center. Finally, towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, an additional fortified area was added at the east end of the Acropolis to ensure a secured supply of water. During Historical times, the walls suffered destruction at some points which were mended later. In the construction of the walls three styles have been used, the first two belong to the Mycenaean period while the third is Hellenistic (3d to 2d century BC). They are the following:

- first style: walls constructed with huge blocks of limestone, shaped only roughly, if at all, and packed together with small stones and yellow clay in the interstices.

- Second style: ashlar work in conglomerate of large blocks well dressed with the hammer and more or less regularly coursed ('Lion's Gate with the adjoining sections of wall and at the Postern Gate, the tower at the angle toward the eastern end of the southern wall by the terrace on which stands the 'House of Columns')

- Third style: hellenistic, with blocks of limestone of moderate size, well dressed, with no open joints.

- Ôhe 'Lion' Gate: It was built about 1250 BC. It is about 3m wide and 3,10 m high, and is made of four large blocks of conglomerate, a threshold, a lintel and two side posts. Masking the relieving triangle over the lintel there is a block of hard limestone - (3,60 m wide, 3 m high and about 0,70 m thick). The block carries the famous 'Relief of the Lions'.

- The North Gate: It is a slightly smaller copy of the Lion Gate, built in the north side of the fortifications, with a plain relieving triangle.

##### 2) The Granary:

This construction was built towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century against the inner side of the fortification wall by the Lion Gate. Only its stone basements have survived. A couple of steps demonstrate the existence of a staircase to at least two stories, built with

bricks. It consists of two corridors, two basement rooms and the staircase. It was named from the grain found in storage pots in the east basement.

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### **3) The Great Ramp:**

Following the axis of the Lion Gate and at a short distance from it, starts a ramp leading to the top of the hill and the Palace. It is a massive construction built with large limestone block built in the Cyclopean style, flanked by low side walls, which form a kind of parapet. It has a 20% inclination which indicate that it was only for pedestrians. Originally it was narrower and less steep, allowing a passage to the Cult Center. Later, towards 1200 BC, it was broadened and the passage obstructed. The communication with the area south of the Grave Circle A was assured by a second, smaller ramp. The passage between the two ramps was occupied during the Hellenistic period by houses whose foundations are still visible today.

### **4. The Palace:**

It measures some 170 m from east to west and 50 to 80 m from north to south. It was constructed on different levels and founded on an extensive area of artificially leveled ground, supported by massive Cyclopean terraces (different from Tiryns, Pylos, Athens, Thebes and Gla).

Most of the stone foundations now preserved on the summit belong to the last period of the life of the Palace before its destruction by fire, probably only partially at first, about 1200-1190 BC, but completely later, at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century after a few restoration and rebuilding activities.

The most important sections of the Palace were built on two levels on artificial terraces against the west and the southwest slopes. Between them ran two long corridors, from west to east: the South and the North Corridor.

The main entrance to the Palace through a 'propylon' was situated on the north-west corner, at the point where the present path ends.

- **The Propylon:** It is a rectangular structure (7 by 6,70 m), composed of two monostyle porticoes, the inner, facing south and the outer facing north, with some steps in front and two rounded blocks of conglomerate to form a solid base to cover the difference of levels. After crossing the propylon, one could follow, turning left, the northern corridor which would lead him directly to the upper quarters, or he would proceed a little further and reach the point where a large conglomerate threshold survives, still *in situ* (3,17 m by 1,10 m) with pivot holes for heavy wooden doors. To the north of the threshold there is a room (Room 41) and to the south, the South Corridor which divides the Palace into a lower and an upper section. Below it and parallel to it, the West Corridor leads into the Main Court.

- **The Main Court:** It measures 11,50 m from east to west and about 15 m from north to south and is limited on its east side by the west facade of the Megaron, and on its west side, by a wall in ashlar masonry faced with stucco (preserved 6 m). Its northern wall was preserved to 2,50 m (six courses). Of the south wall, very few remnants of the foundation have survived (parapet ?).

- **The Megaron:** It is the center of the palace. It consists in a rectangular roofed unit, (inner dimensions: 23 by 11,50 m) oriented approximately from east to west, with the entrance to the west into the Main Court. It is divided by cross walls into three sections.

1) Open to the west, the 'Aithousa' or portico ( 3,80 by 11,50 m) with two wooden columns *in antis* (between the ends of the side walls), on two circular stone bases (0,57 m). Connecting it to the second section of the *Megaron*, the 'prodromos' or vestibule (4,40 m in depth) is a doorway (1,90 m in width) with a conglomerate threshold *in situ* (2,50 by 1,14 m), and a pivot hole on its south side. Along the base of the walls of the *prodromos*, there was a border of gypsum slabs (1 to 1,15 m in width) and the floor was stuccoed (square panels decorated with zigzag patterns in blue, red and yellow). A large door (1,80 m wide) lead from the *prodromos* to the *domos*, the main section of the *Megaron*. At the entrance a threshold in conglomerate is still *in situ* (2,05 m long), without pivot holes (closed with a curtain).

- The **domos**: As restored it measures 12,92 m in length and 11,50 m in width. The floor was paved as the *prodromos* with slabs around it. Its walls built in rubble masonry originally covered with plaster with final coat in pure lime, painted with frescoes. About one third of the great circular hearth survive today (estimated diameter 3,70 m). It had a height of 0,15 m built with a ring of poros stone enclosing a center of clay, both covered with plaster. Two of the four stone bases for wooden columns and the slab under a third are still in position. The throne which should have been in the middle of the southern side is not preserved.

- The **Guest Unit** or 'xenon': -

It is situated on the east side of the Main Court of the palace. Its doorway, connecting it with the Main Court was at the southeast corner of an open-air Forecourt, a small irregular quadrilateral, facing south. This room - the Square Room (N0 52) - had a double door (5, 50 m from S to N - half of the width of the 'domos' - and 6,20 m from E to W). Its floor was covered with painted stucco. Against its north wall, there was a sunken rectangular area (0,80 by 1,07 m), some 0,015 m high, surrounded by a rim of plaster rising some 0,055 m from the floor. Its internal surface was covered with plaster. A terracotta drain run beneath the floor from W to E, probably from the main drain to a very small area to the northwest of the Square Room, completely denuded from any structural remains which might have existed there, which has been thought to be a personal bathroom.

- **The Southwestern Stairway**: It allowed direct access to the Guest Unit, during the last period of the Palace. It starts at the southern branch of the road from the Lion Gate. At its base a small vestibule (No 63) - the West Lobby - with a bench against the north and west walls (0,35 to 0,45 m high and 0,45 m wide). From its northern half rises the Grand Stairway, of which the first section is preserved. It is 2,40 m wide and is composed of 22 steps (0,15 m high), made of sandstone, covered with stucco. There was a first landing after 18 steps and a second which led to the Forecourt.

- **The South Corridor**: It runs parallel with the north wall of the Main Court (average 1,70 m wide, 10 m long) with a gradual upwards inclined floor covered with hard lime cement. In an earlier stage, it led to the Domestic Quarters of the Palace. Later it was blocked by a wall in its east sector. The new access was situated at the north end of the aithousa through from a landing to the east of the blocked sector.

The **domestic quarters**:

There are constituted by a long and narrow compartment (N0 33) (6 m by 3,50 m), the 'Gallery of the Curtains' - with stucco covered stone benches along its west and east

sides and a rectangular earth on its north wall. At its east end, a staircase lead to the domestic section of the Palace of which only scanty remains of the foundations are preserved (identified by Mylonas and T. Leslie Shear in 1963) mainly: 1) a passage (7,50 by 3 m) with a pressed earth floor, and 2) the room on its west side, 'the Pithos Room', identified as a store-room from pithoi found sunk into its cement floor. An earlier stage of construction with a floor covered with gypsum slabs and traces of conflagration, has been identified. 3) the remains of walls and floor of a room with two columns (7 m by 6 m).

- **The North Corridor:**

Almost parallel with the South Corridor and about 2 m higher than the level of its blocked end, there are scanty remains of another corridor (23,50 m by 7 m). It might have been a balcony-court overlooking the southern section of the Palace and the Plain beyond. Access to it could have been through the staircase at the blocked section of the South Corridor (area completely dug out by Schliemann in 1874) or by wooden steps from Room 39.

- **The east wing of the Palace:**

The upper part of the east slope of the hill has been terraced. There are remnants of walls from at least three such terraces on which buildings have been erected. It comprises two buildings. Two of these, the 'Artists Quarters' and the 'House of Columns', which were originally connected by a doorway ( about 1,30 m wide) that led from the front corridor of the first to a corridor leading to the court of the second.

- **The Artist' s Quarters:**

It is an almost square structure (28 by 27 m) with the entrance at the northwest corner. It consists of two rows of rooms (between 6,60 and 4,90 m wide) in two different levels and separated by a long narrow room (19 by 2,50 m) with 2 m wide corridors on each side. A narrow passage (about 1,90 m wide) separates it from the 'House of Columns'. To the west of it are remnants of a staircase to a second floor over the lower east section of the building. To the east the narrow passage led, skirting around one of the rooms to the columned portico of the 'House of Columns'. This building, probably served as the workshops as well as the quarters of artists. It was destroyed by fire around 1200-1190 BC.

- **The House of Columns:**

It has again two parts built in two levels. The lower one, the southwest section, consisted of storage magazines and communicating corridors. Over these magazines and on the level of the second section stood a compartment of which only the threshold of the entrance was found, fallen into the basement below where it can be still seen today. Part of the second section which stood at a level of 4,50 m higher than the first, was built on a large artificial terrace constructed along the southeastern slope of the hill. The entrance at the northwest corner of this level is still indicated by the presence of a threshold block of conglomerate. Two large blocks of conglomerate in front of it act as antae for a '*prothyron*'. From the threshold begins a corridor - about 2,70 m wide at its beginning, paved with lime cement. A later transverse wall interrupts its course to the southwest. The corridor leads to an open court (19 m maximum width by 10 m maximum length. Only its west half has remained intact, with its row of column bases. Most of the other has



collapsed down the slope or has been removed from their places during earlier investigations. Most of it was based on an artificial terrace over 4,25 m high (27 m from N to S by 20,50 m, covering an area of 550 m<sup>2</sup>). The stone fill was covered by a 0,10 m thick layer of 'plesia' -water-resistant clay, brought there from a spot at a distance of about 2 km- . Over it a 0,70 m thick layer of 'belitsa' - earth through which plants cannot grow, from a spot at a distance of about 500 m.

The north side of the court is flanked by two contiguous megara. The foundations of the first are well preserved despite the later intrusions. Its 'aithousa' (5,73 m by 1,77 m) with the preserved bases of two columns ( and the base instead of an antae to the northeast which actually is the first column of the court) and the 'domos' (5,73 m by 3,90 m). 2. Its eastern side has collapsed in the slope despite the building of a retention wall.

#### **- Store-rooms:**

Storage-rooms and basements clustered around the east wing of the Palace of which 4 were found with their content at the time of the destruction of the Palace and investigated (in 1968)

- After the destruction of the Palace there are some indications of restoration and rebuilding activities during the late Mycenaean times. Later, the upper sector of the Palace was leveled for the construction of an archaic temple to Athena, rebuilt during Hellenistic times.

#### **5)The underground Reservoir:**

At the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, together with the last extension of the walls at the north-east end of the citadel, was built an underground fountain on a crevice in the rock, with an opening placed inside the fortified area at a level deep enough to keep it safe from attack (about 18 m). A corbel vault cut through the wall, leads down through a staircase carved in the rock, to a cyclopean portal with a lintel supported at one side by a monolith pillar in front of a landing. The rest of the descent is divided in two sections. The walls of the lowest are covered with hydraulic mortar.

(total length )

#### **6)- The Cult Center:**

The area occupying the south east of the Acropolis, between the wall of the first stage and the one of the first extension has been named the 'Cult Center' as in the buildings unearthed there - 'Tsounta's House', the 'House of the Priest' - were found alters, shrines, frescoes with representations of divinities and priestesses and cult clay idols. The buildings seem to have been destroyed at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Partially rebuilt, they continued to be in use to the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This area is protected by a shade and is still currently investigated, thus not open to the visitors.

#### **7) The Grave Circle A :**

The original Grave Circle A was made during the 16<sup>th</sup> century B.C. when a low circular wall was built to enclose a group of six large royal shaft graves, numbered from I to VI and a number of ordinary graves which were destroyed during Schliemann's excavations, except one. The pits of the shaft graves measure between 3 by 3,50 m (II) to

4.50 by 6,40 m (IV). The tombs had low rubble walls upon which lay horizontal beams supporting a roof made of slate slabs or wattle (reeds and weeds) and marked with an upright stone stelae. The graves were particularly rich in gold and jewels ...

During the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C., in order to bring the burial ground to the level of the citadel entrance, a stout wall was built on the slope, over the old enclosure, to retain the fill which covered the tombs. Over it and surrounding the circle was built a double circular wall (diam. 26 m) made of vertical slabs ca 1,50m high and roofed with slabs of similar stone. Its entrance to the northwest (2,50 m wide and 3,60 m deep) was paved with three slabs of shelly poros.

## **B. The Area outside the Walls**

In the area surrounding the Citadel-Acropolis were found scanty remains of a prehistoric settlement and of the Hellenistic period as well as a complex of buildings of the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C., considered to be workshops (1). But the area west of the citadel was mostly occupied by a cemetery with tombs from which the older (17<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century B.C) are shaft graves ['Grave Circle B' (2)] and the younger (from 1500 onwards) chamber- tombs or tholos (beehive type) tombs [the 'Tomb of Aigisthos' (3), the 'Tomb of the Lions' (4), the 'Tomb of Clytemnetra' (5) and finally, the so-called 'Treasury of Atreus' (6).

### **1) The complex of Houses**

It is constituted by four building whose function and status has not yet been determined. They may have been the houses of palace officials connected with the trade of perfumed oil. The houses, built during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, were partially destroyed by fire around 1200 BC and later, covered by geometric tombs (9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) and Hellenistic structures. Three of these buildings have been excavated by Wace. Only their basement has survived. They were built on artificially levelled ground. The northernmost, the 'House of Shields' is separated from the next structure by a stone staircase that led down to the road. The building in the middle, 'the 'House of the Oil Merchant', consists of a long passage with store-rooms on either side that contained jugs and jars filled with oil. The third building, at the southern end of the group and standing right against it, the 'House of the Sphinxes', had a similar design. Behind and above the 'House of the Oil Merchant', a fourth building, the 'West House' was discovered by N. Verdelis in 1958. Its ground floor was intact. It consists of a paved courtyard leading to a row of rooms and a megaron-type chamber. At the corner of one of the rooms, there was a kind of fire-place, much larger than the hearths common at the time, which cut across the width of the wall right into the next room.

### **2) The Grave Circle B:**

This grave circle at the west end of the cemetery contained 14 royal shaft graves and 12 shallow and small graves. It was enclosed by a thick, low, circular wall of rubble masonry, 28 m diameter. All the graves have been marked with letters from the Greek alphabet. Exceptional is the Grave Rho (now protected by a cement roof) which was excavated, emptied and enlarged during the 15<sup>th</sup> century BC in order to accommodate a vaulted

chamber of poros stone slabs, with a roofed dromos, as it is of a type known only in Mycenaean settlements in Syria and Cyprus.

### **3) The 'Tomb of Aegisthos':**

It is one of the oldest tombs of the type, built about 1500 BC. It has a long and narrow *dromos* (22x 4,50 m), with a wall-facing made of untrimmed stones. Its original facade and the inner walls of the chamber were built in a similar way. A second, purely decorative facade, built of ashlar conglomerate and poros blocks, was added later, masking the early one entirely. The side walls of the entrance (5 by 2 m) has been very recently restored and the side walls consolidated. The chamber has a diameter of 13 m. Its original height would have been approximately the same, but the upper part of the tholos has now collapsed.

### **4)The 'Tomb of the Lions':**

It was built about 1350 BC. Its dromos is 22m long and 5,40 m wide. Its walls were faced with regularly cut ashlar blocks of poros stone. The entrance (5,40 x 2,40 m) was decorated with a shallow double fascia and topped by a quadrangular lintel. The chamber (14 m diameter) had its inner walls built with regular courses of field stones, except for the sides of the entrance and parts of the foundations where ashlar conglomerate was used. The floor was dug out of the natural rock. The tholos has only partly survived, up to the height of the lintel. It is estimated that it must have been about 15 m high.

### **5) The 'Tomb of Clytemnestra':**

It lies west of the 'Tomb of Aegisthos' and was built about 1220 BC. During the Hellenistic period, it was buried under a theater. Its *dromos* is 37 m long and 6 m wide with walls faced with carefully cut and trimmed ashlar conglomerate blocks. The construction of the facade is similar. The entrance (5,40 x 2 m) had triple lintel with a relieving triangle and a sculptured decoration of which only traces have survived (bases for fluted gypsum half columns and fragments of slabs). The tholos (13,50 m diameter) was destroyed at the top during plundering and has been restored to a height of 13 m.

### **6) The 'Treasure of Atreus':**

This tholos tomb, also named 'Tomb of Agamemnon', is the most splendid monumental structure of Mycenaean architecture of its peak period. It was built about 1250 BC and was in use over a long period of time. A large section of the hill was hewn for its construction. Carefully trimmed and fitted conglomerate blocks, placed in horizontal, pseudo-ashlar courses, were used for the dromos and the tholos. At the beginning of the dromos there was a low, transversal wall that held back the fill thrown in after each burial. The monumental facade (10,50 m high), with a doorway in the middle (5,40 m high x 2,70 m wide at the bottom and 2,40 m wide at the top) was framed with a double, sculptured fascia. Some scanty remains show us the richness of its decoration, with multi-coloured marble. The lintel was topped by a relief triangle. Its inner part was of a piece (9,50 x 1,20 m), cut in such a way as to fit the curve of the tholos. The tholos (14,60 m diameter and 13,50 m high) was built of regular square blocks in 33 horizontal rings, each one with a diameter slightly inferior to the one immediately below it, that still bear the marks of bronze nails here and there, used to secure some additional metal

ornaments(rosettes ?). A second doorway, smaller but of a similar type, on the north side, leads to a square side-chamber (6 x 6 x 6 m).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MYCENAE**

### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

Responsible for the management of the site is the Ministry of Culture represented on a regional and property level by the local Department of the Direction of Antiquities which is the 4<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, based in Nauplion. Important decisions concerning the Archaeological site have to be approved by resolutions of the Central Archaeological Council.

The Ephorate is in charge of:

- 1) the maintenance of the site  
(protection, daily reception of the public, clearing and consolidation)
- 2) the administration of the site  
· The Ephorate grants permissions before any intervention may take place and undertakes eventual expropriation procedures approved by the Central Archaeological Council.
- 3) the investigation of the site

Further recording of the monuments and excavations within the protected area are controlled by the Ephorate. Some sectors within the Archaeological site have been allotted from the past to the Archaeological Society of Greece as well as to the British School of Archaeology in Athens. These institutions are allowed to resume their excavations in these sectors but always under the control of the Ephorate.

- 4) The promotion of the site.

- Restoration and Conservation:

For the conservation of the monuments within the Archaeological site, the competence belong to the Direction of Restoration of Monuments of the Ministry of Culture. But the undertaken works have to be approved by the Central Archaeological Council and they are supervised by the Ephorate.

## - PROGRAMS:

1) After a long period of preparation, a comprehensive over-all **Master Plan** for Mycenae is now beginning. An important part of this project is «site Managements». It includes:

- 1) a well organized **entrance system** - with an information kiosk, bookshops, WC facilities, etc....,
- 2) and an extensive **network of paths** (most of them following ancient routes) leading the visitors to the various monuments of the Acropolis. At specific viewpoints, there will be well designed platforms for guiding tours. The visitors routes will be arranged so as to offer many possibilities and alternatives of circulation, according to their needs, and information signs - in Greek and in English - will be provided in all the major spots. The site will be connected with the nearly built near-by Museum

This is a 1 ½ year Project, financed and coordinated by the Ministry of Culture which started in July 1998.

This Program is complemented by other on-going projects aiming the Restoration and the Conservation of the monuments at Mycenae, which are the following:

2) A Program of Restoration, Conservation and Promotion of the site has been initiated on the site **since 1997**. In March 1998, it has been incorporated within the Program of the existing Work Team for the Conservation of the Monuments of the Asclepeion of Epidaurus which provides the specialized staff. An independent architect, Mrs Palyvou, has been designated by the Ministry of Culture to carry out the entire Program. She has prepared a very detailed study on the state of the monuments and the required works for their restoration in accordance with the Chart of Granada.

a) The Program started in November 1997 with the restoration and conservation of **six (6) sectors**.

Restoration works have already been completed on the following monuments:

- 1) the wall by the entrance to the Underground Reservoir
- 2) the wall in the vicinity of the Underground Reservoir
- 3) the retaining wall of the Lion Gate
- 4) the Tomb of Aigisthos.

The restoration works are still carried out on the remaining two monuments:

- 5) the north wall of the Main Court of the Palace, and
- 6) the area to the South House

b) Recently, a Project for the restoration, conservation and promotion of the area of the 'House of the Oil Merchant' has been submitted by Mrs Palyvou to the approval of the central Archaeological Council.

3) An extension of this latter Program of Restoration, Conservation and Promotion of the Site of Mycenae over **five years** is programmed.

Apart from the continuation of the required restoration and conservation works, it will include also:

- a study of the environment with research projects (soil analysis, materials used in Antiquity and ways of construction, reaction of the tholoi tombs to earthquakes)
- architectural documentation
- promotion (further circuit paths, car parking, facilities...)
- general equipment

The financing of this Program will be assured by the Ministry of Culture, the Credits for the Execution of Archaeological Works Distribution Fund and the Delors II credits.

4) In collaboration with the Archaeological Receipts Fund, a Program for the promotion of the site has also been proposed by the Ephorate for the unification of the Archaeological Site with the Museum of Mycenae where preparations are undergoing to organize the exhibition which should be completed within next year for the inauguration of the Museum.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MYCENAE**

### **PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THEM**

The entire area proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List is protected by the basic Greek Law n. 5351 of 1932, so called «Regarding Antiquities...» as amended in 1981 (Laws n.1126 and 1127) in order to implement the International Conventions of London (1969) and of Paris (1972) by which were fixed the notions of monument, archaeological site and object as well as the basic principles of their protection, and in 1992 in order to ratify the Convention of Granada (1984).

Furthermore, the boundaries of that area including a) the Archaeological Site and b) the wider surrounding area under special protection ('buffer zone') which includes the natural environment of the Archaeological site, have been fixed by the Min. Decree 2160/12 - 2 - 1964 (Official Gov. Gaz. 67/B/15 - 5 - 1964).

Thus, the protection of the State covers the following sectors:

- 1) The Citadel (Acropolis) of Mycenae itself  
(including the Walls, the Lion Gate, the Access Ramp, the Palace, the Granary, the Burial Circle A, the Cult Centre, the underground reservoir, the workshops, the store-rooms and the temple of Athena)
- 2) The area outside the walls  
(including the Tomb of Aigisthus, the Tomb of Clytemnestra, the Burial Circle B, the House-complexes with the House of the Sphynxes, the House of the Oil Merchant, the House of Shields and the Western House)
- 3) The area surrounding the hill  
(including the 'Treasure of Atreus', the Lions Tomb and the Museum)
- 4) The wider surrounding area:  
(including the natural environment of the site and archaeological remains comprised in an area within the following boundaries: a line starting in the east from the summit of the Zara Hill to the summit of the Prophitis Ilias Hill through the summits of the Kapsala, Asprochoma and Batsourorachi to the communal road at about 400 m to the south of the crossroad after the road of Charvati-Mycenae to the torrent 'Tserani' and from there to the summit of the Zara Hill. (See maps 1 & 2b)

The legal owner of the archaeological site of Mycenae is the Greek State as it has been acknowledged since the beginning of the Constitution of modern Greece as the owner of all the Antiquities «... whenever they may be within the national territory, rivers or lakes, at the bottom of the sea, in public, monastic or even private land.», which «being the creation of their ancestors» have been considered as «the national wealth of all the Greeks».

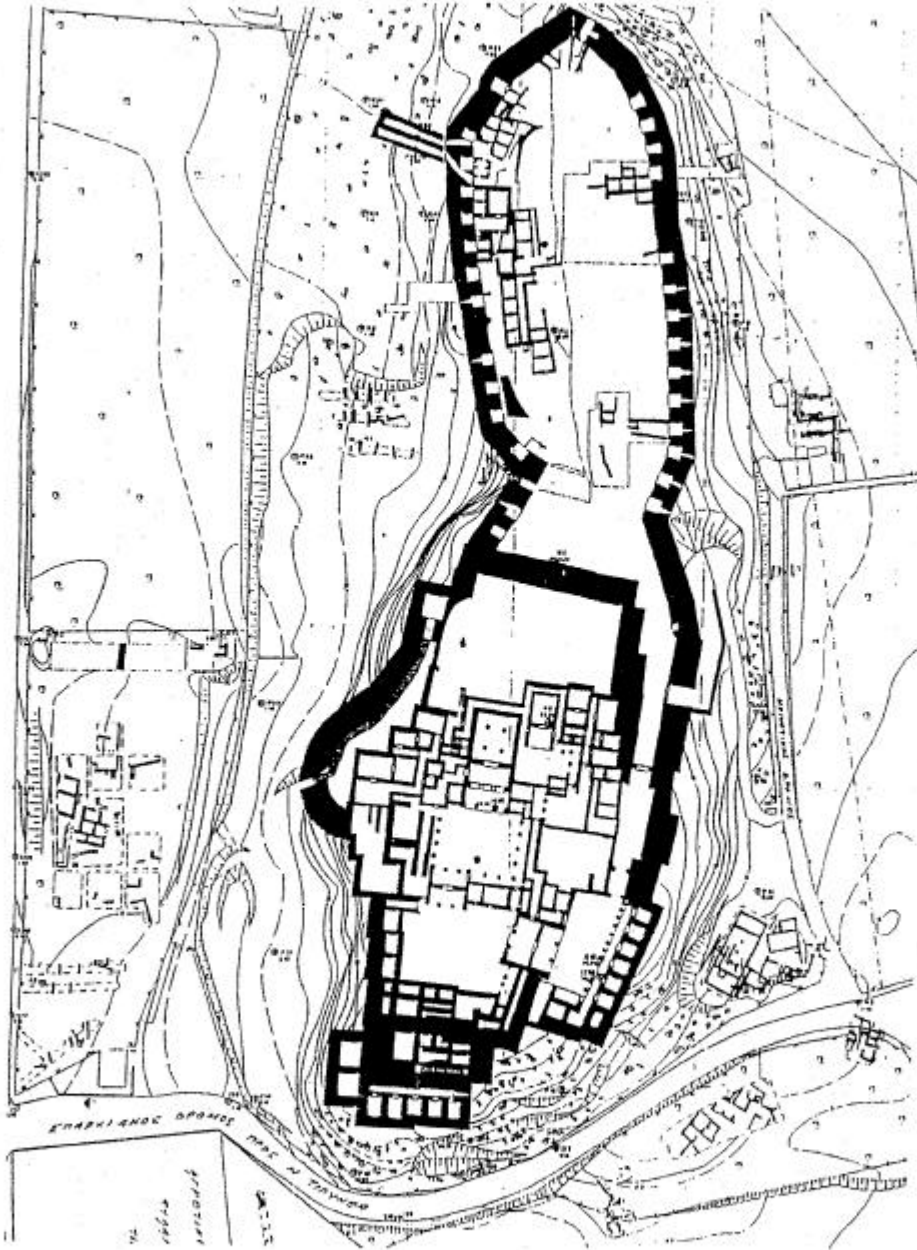


In the protected surrounded area, a portion of the land (45.000 m<sup>2</sup>) has been expropriated by the State. The rest belongs either to the Community of Mycenae, either to private individuals but in accordance to the existing legislation, the State retains the right of ownership on the antiquities already existing or to be discovered. For the protection of the remains which might come to light, further use of the land could be forbidden and financial compensation granted to the owners or the property could eventually be expropriated.

The only competent authority for the protection of the site is the local Department of the Archaeological Service of the Ministry of Culture, the 4<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, based in Nauplion, Argolid. Its permission has to be granted before any intervention may take place within the above mentioned protected area. Some activities are forbidden (quarrying industrial or hotel complexes). A daily supervising of the site is ensured by the employees of the Ephorate (archaeologists and guardians) in charge of the site. Any transgression of the legislation is denounced accordingly to the police station and dealt with in court.

**GREEK MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**DIRECTION OF PREHISTORICAL AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES  
4<sup>TH</sup> EPHORATE OF PREHISTORICAL AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES**



**NOMINATION OF ANCIENT TIRYNS FOR INCLUSION ON THE  
WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

**Athens/Nauplion June 1998**

## NOMINATION OF TIRYNS FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

<b>1. Identification of Property</b>																					
a) Country	Greece																				
b) State, Province or Region	Region of Peloponnese Province of Argolid																				
c) Name of Property	Archaeological Site of Tiryns																				
d) Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second	<p>See attached maps (1-3). The closer coordinates in the map of Geographical Military Service of Greece (Scale 1:2500):</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">X</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Ø</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1. 14910</td><td>17385</td></tr> <tr><td>2. 14445</td><td>17060</td></tr> <tr><td>3. 14395</td><td>17085</td></tr> <tr><td>4. 14240</td><td>16945</td></tr> <tr><td>5. 14630</td><td>16425</td></tr> <tr><td>6. 14990</td><td>16540</td></tr> <tr><td>7. 14975</td><td>16435</td></tr> <tr><td>8. 15165</td><td>16445</td></tr> <tr><td>9. 16485</td><td>15260</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	X	Ø	1. 14910	17385	2. 14445	17060	3. 14395	17085	4. 14240	16945	5. 14630	16425	6. 14990	16540	7. 14975	16435	8. 15165	16445	9. 16485	15260
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6. 14990	16540																				
7. 14975	16435																				
8. 15165	16445																				
9. 16485	15260																				
e) maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone	<p>1. Map 1:50.000 2. Map 1: 2.500 3. Map 1: 5.000 (see attached maps: 1-3).</p> <p>In the maps 1:5000 and 1:2500 zones of protection named after A and B are indicated.</p>																				
f) area for property proposed for inscription	Area of 70 ha.																				

<b>2. Justification for inscription</b>	
á) Statement of significance	The citadel of Tiryns is a unique well-preserved example of mycenaean architecture. The complex of the citadel and the surrounding city is a highlight in the evolution of the European spirit, as it represents the ideology of preliminary type of centralized financial urban system in Europe.
b) Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)	The mycenaean citadel of Tiryns represents an excellent example of fortification. It belongs to the earlier fortification efforts at the European civilization and it represents the first palatial administrative system. In comparison with the famous sites of the citadel of Mycenae and the Palace of Nestor at Pylos, Tiryns turns out to be the most instructive one. This is so because of its confined space and of the well preserved of the most representative buildings within the citadel.
c) Authenticity/Integrity	The citadel of ancient Tiryns preserves its authenticity although some parts of the wall have been restored in late 50's. The works at that period were under the supervision of the Direction of restoration of the Greek ministry of Culture. Those works were not extensive and in accordance with the ancient construction.
d) Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)	<p>Tiryns is an outstanding example representing a major stage in earth's history, as it dates from the mycenaean civilization, the first palatial civilization with urban character and centralized administrative system in Europe.</p> <p>Its architecture represents a masterpiece of human creative genius. The «cyclopean» walls can be described as a creation that overlaps the limits of the human mind. This is indicated by the adjective «cyclopean» from the Homeric poems. Cyclopes, legendary giants from Lycia, were thought to be their builders. The architectural ensemble of the cyclopean walls and the palace complex is an outstanding example for the most important prehistoric period of the Greek civilization. [criterion i]</p> <p>The mycenaean palatial administrative system centralized in its structure used to work for about five centuries. At the time of prosperity (1300-1200 BC) the mycenaean areas were under a cultural homogeneity</p>

	<p>known as «Mycenaean Coine». This large homogeneity is obvious in the religion, the language and the art. In addition the idea of a common ethnic conscience reached its apogee. [criterion ii]</p> <p>The city outside the citadel of Tiryns was very extensive and fully organized. The palatial administrative system had the control of the agricultural production, the stock-raising and the trade. This complicated political, social and economic system of organization which came out at mycenaen times illustrates an exceptional testimony to an early stage of the Greek civilization. [criterion iii]</p> <p>The mycenaean citadels are unique fortification examples. The cyclopean walls are enclosing the public buildings, the workshops, the storage rooms and the cult places of the site. The realization of this massive construction work demanded exact architectural planning and supervising from highly qualified architects. The architectural side of the fortified citadels, well-preserved up to nowadays, represents an outstanding example of a unique type of architectural expression. [criterion iv]</p> <p>The mycenaean civilization is a highlight in Man's history. The strongly centralised system of administration, the monumental architecture, the art objects and finally the first indications of greek language preserved on the linear B tablets inspired Homer who described in his poems and especially in Odyssey the impressive mycenaean world. The spirit of the mycenaean civilization has survived up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the Homeric Poems orally transferred and taught in the schools up to the end of the ancient world. The tradition of the Homeric Poems made Schliemann to look for and to reveal the most important centres of this civilization. Until today thousands of visitors influenced by the written tradition visit Mycenae and Tiryns looking for the traces of the legendary famous kingdoms of Agamemnon and Proitos. Overall the mycenaen civilisation and especially these two important centres of Mycenae and Tiryns have an outstanding universal significance as the highlights in human civilization. [criterion vi]</p>
<b>3. Description</b>	
a) Description of Property	see Annex I

b) History and Development:	see Annex I
c) Form and date of most recent records of Property	<p>The most recent architectural and topographical plotting has been undertaken in 1980 and it has been published in Tiryns Band XI. Besides the citadel and the palatial system of fortification it includes all the architectural remains that have been revealed inside and outside the citadel (see attached map).</p> <p>This is the most up to date recording. In 1992 Jan Martin Klessing, a German architect coordinator of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens has undertaken a project estimating the wear and tear of time in the area of the Upper Citadel (See attached copy of plan 1)</p>
d) Present state of Conservation	<p>In the last years the citadel of Tiryns has problems in the stability of the walls, mainly in the area of the Upper Citadel. In the attached topographical project coming from the estimation of damages, the most problematic areas and the kind of damage have been marked. The damages can be repaired in a time band of more than 5 years.</p>
e) Policies and Programs related to the presentation and promotion of the Property	<p>The main aim in the Policy of the Greek Ministry of Culture is to work in Tiryns against the wear and tear of time on the monument and for the fashioning and presentation of the site to the visitors. The works which have already begun will give a new publicity to the site and they will place it in the social life. The project considering the formation of the surrounding area proposes the function of a modern archaeological park with spaces for the convenience of the visitors (parking, WC, and an informative center for temporary exhibitions and multimedia presentations (see attached copies). In addition further works of fixing the walls are under process and they follow the indications of the specialists according to the chart of Venice. When the whole program will be completed the site will have the best possible presentation.</p>

<b>4. Management</b>	
a) Ownership	<p>Ministry of Culture Bouboulinas Str. 20-22 Athens-Greece Minister: Evangelos Venizelos</p> <p>Direction of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities Bouboulinas Str. 20-22 Athens-Greece Director: Dr. Jiannis Tzedakis</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities Syntagma Square Nauplion-Greece Director: Elisabeth Spathari</p>
b) Legal Status	<p>Ancient Tiryns is under protection according to the law 5351/32 «Regarding Antiquities» and according to further laws [241/19-11-1956 and 379/10-6-1991 on the Coverment Gazette] related to the archaeological site and the zones of protection named A and B after their importance presentations (see attached copies).</p>
c) Protective measures and means of implementing them	<p>The implementation of the already mentioned legal rules is the main way of protection for the property. The 4<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities , the local-peripheral service of the Ministry of Culture, has the duty of maintaining those laws by the daily inspection of the responsible employees (archaeologists and guardians) in the zones of protection of the archaeological area. Every illegitimate action is denounced to the police and to the justice. In the area of zone A no form of building, excavation or disturbance of the subsoil is permitted without special permission from the Ministry of Culture. In the wider area surrounding the archaeological site (zone B) any excavation will require the permission of the competent ephorate, which will also be responsible for the control of the excavation. In the event of antiquities being found, the archaeological service will carry out the rescue excavation and, if the finds are deemed to be significant, a resolution declaring their preservation «in situ» shall be passed, and the relevant plot expropriated.</p>

d) Agency/agencies with management authority	4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities Syntagma Square Nauplion-Greece Director: Elisabeth Spathari
e) Level at which management is exercised (e.g. on property, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes.	The archaeologist from the local Ephorate who is responsible for the archaeological site of Tiryns is Dr. Alkestis Papadimitriou 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities Syntagma Square Nauplion-Greece
f) Agreed plans related to property (e.g. regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)	The archaeological site of Tiryns has been included under the Packet Delors II of the European Community with a funding of 300.000.000 Drachmas. The restoration works are under process and they aim at the conservation, the formation and the publicity of the monument. So it could be more convenient and enjoyable to the visitors.
g) Sources and levels of finance	The funding of the sites comes mainly from the Ministry of Culture (national budget) and from the European Community (Packet Delors II). The financial sponsoring comes to 300.000.000 Drachmas up until the year 2000.
h) Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques	Specialized scientists and technicians with expertise and training in conservation and management techniques have undertaken the already planned works. Architects, civil engineers, agronomists, computer scientists are in cooperation with the archaeologists and the expertised workers of the local Ephorate. Skilled workman are responsible for the works of restoring and reforming in the site.
i) Visitor facilities and statistics	The annual rate of visitors in the last years is ca. 20000-50000. Facilities: 1. interpretation/explanation by several guides and publications. 2. property museum, visitor or interpretation center are not available 3. There is not exist car parking or lavatories
j) Property management plan and statement of	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities has the management and the responsibility



objectives (copy to be annexed)	for the better promotion of the monument. The project of development of Tiryns, which is under process, is aiming at repairing and restoring the parts of the walls which have static problems and developing the surrounding area of the citadel. For the same reason conservation works have been already undertaken by the German Archaeological Institute at Athens in the area of the palace (see attached study of J. M. Klessing). For the development of the site following works have been planned (see attached study of D. Koutsogiannis): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sightseeing pathway for the visitors</li> <li>2. Construction of car parking</li> <li>3. Restaurant or refreshment facilities, lavatories</li> <li>4. New entry and guardhouse</li> <li>5. Construction of a bridge</li> <li>6. Repair works in an old building in order to have an informative center.</li> <li>7. New planning for the vegetation of the surrounding area.</li> </ol>
k) Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)	Ten guards work in Tiryns and have the responsibility of the watching over the site and the zones of protection. The scientific staff of the ephorate stand for the archaeological site.
<b>5. Factors Affecting the Property</b>	
a) Development Pressures (e.g. encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)	The archaeological site of Tiryns is surrounded by an extensive agricultural landscape. The construction is strongly prohibited in a considerable area around the citadel (named as zone A). In that area only cultivation is allowed as it does not cause damages to the antiquities and it makes a nice and pleasant surrounding for the archaeological site
b) Environmental Pressures (e.g. pollution, climate change)	No significant environmental pressures can be recorded besides the expected damages caused by the climatic changes and the weather conditions.
c) Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)	Physical catastrophes do not threat the site.
d) Visitor/tourism pressures	The general project which is under process includes the

	formation of an organized guided visiting route in the archaeological site . So further damages could be avoided.
e) Number of inhabitants within property, buffer zone	There are no inhabitants within the archaeological site itself. In the area of zone A of protection live about 20 people, while in the area of zone B the population reached according to the recent statistics the 500 inhabitants.
f) Other	
<b>6. Monitoring</b>	
a) Key indicators for measuring state of conservation	The site is under annual conservation.
b) Administrative arrangements for monitoring property	The 4 <sup>th</sup> ephorate of prehistorical and classical antiquities, which is responsible for the archaeological site, has organized a regular system of monitoring the property every year, leading to the recording of the condition of the property
c) Results of previous reporting exercises	A thorough record of the damages has been undertaken in 1992 by the German architect Jan Martin Klessing (see attached topographical plan). The state of conservation of the property is satisfactory. In order to face up destructions caused by water erosion and problems in the stability of the walls an intensive conservation program is under process.
<b>7. Documentation</b>	
a) Photographs, slides and, where available, film	Dossiers 1-3
b) Copies of property management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the property	Copies of all management plans have been attached.
c) Bibliography	Publication of the results of the excavations at: <b>Tiryns Bd. I - XI</b> <b>Archaeologischer Anzeiger</b> 1976-1986 <b>Führer durch Tiryns</b> , editor Ulf Jantzen, 1975 <b>H. Kyrieleis</b> , Nachruf Klaus Kilian, Beiträge zur allgemeinen und vergleichenden Archäologie, 11,

	(1991), 1-8. With further bibliography <b>S. E. Jakovidis</b> , Das Werk Klaus Kilians, AM 108 (1993), 9-27.
d) Address where inventory, records and archives are held	4 <sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistorical and Classical Antiquities Syntagma Square 21100 Nauplion-Greece  German Archaeological Institute at Athens Feidiou 1 Athens-Greece

Signature on behalf of the State Party

**3a. Description of property**  
**3b. History and Development**

**TIRYNS**

**ANNEX I**

The archaeological site of Tiryns is located about 20 km. NE of Mycenae on an isolated rocky hill that rises just over 26 m. above sea-

level. This strategic position with its commanding view of the plain below allows those situated here to oversee all that takes place on the roads not only to Argos and Mycenae, but also to that of Nauplion and Epidaurus. The ancient Greeks believed that the construction of the walls with its huge limestone blocks had been built by the Cyclopes, hence the name 'Cyclopean Masonry'. This race of giants from Lycia were invited by the argive prince Proitos, the founder of Tiryns.

The archaeological remains of Tiryns suggest that the site had been continuously occupied from the Neolithic period (5000-4000 BC.) onward.

The oldest architectural remains are located on the so-called Upper Citadel and date to the Early Bronze Age (3000 B.C). It is here on the southern highest point of the acropolis that simple structures organized around a large circular building had been constructed.

During the Middle Bronze Age (1900-1600 BC.), the level of the Upper-Citadel was built up to accommodate the expansion of new buildings

However, the peak of Tiryns began with the Mycenaean Period (1600-1050 BC.). By the 14<sup>th</sup> century BC. (LH III A1), a new palace complex had been completed on the Upper Citadel. This addition consisted of two central buildings with houses nearby. After this initial construction fortification walls were built with an entrance in the form of an east-gate. In the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century BC. the fortification was gradually expanded (LH III B1). Also during this time the northern side of the hill, the Lower-Citadel, attained for the first time fortification. By the end of this period the Lower-Citadel was destroyed by an earthquake, and the Royal Palace by fire.

In the Late 13<sup>th</sup> century BC. the defensive walls of the citadel took their final form. This total area consists of 20.000 sq. m. The width of the walls measure in some cases up to 8 m. and the height to 13 m. On the west side of the Upper Citadel an extension of the wall was constructed to protect the west staircase. To the south and east of the Upper Citadel were built the galleries. The methods used in the construction of these galleries rank them amongst the greatest architectural triumphs of the mycenaean epoch. Their walls are corbelled inwards, narrowing to a sharp angle at the top. They were probably used as storehouses in time of peace, and in war, as protection for the garrison.

The palace itself is sited at the highest point of the acropolis. Before arriving at its central court one had to pass through a succession of guarded entrances. Once emerging into the light to be dazzled by the splendour and richness of the palace, in whose central section, the megaron proper, stood the royal throne. Surviving fragments suggest magnificent decoration, both of the floors and of the walls, the latter were covered in frescoes. Such wall paintings were probably not limited to the

megaron, but existed elsewhere in the palace. The frescoes, which today are on display in the National Museum of Athens depict a boar hunt, women riding in chariots, and a procession of women. Over and above their artistic merit, they afford details of daily life in the Mycenaean Kingdom. All the apartments of the palace lying between the megaron and the west wall are built with special care; amongst them is the bathroom, whose floor consists of a single immense limestone slab, weighing more than twenty tons. On its north-east side a tunnel led the water to a T-shaped channel nearby which drained into a sewer designed to collect rain water from the overhanging roofs. Four separate drains made up the drainage system which served the entire complex. Behind the megaron towards the east was a small courtyard with a colonnade on its eastern side and on its southern corner the small megaron. To the right of this were found the remains of a flight of steps and a megaron-like building. The palace, and indeed the entire megaron-like complex, opened towards the side of the hill which faces the sea, communicating with the shore by means of an impressive flight of steps which terminates at a small postern gate. The upper part of these stairs was protected by a watch-tower, and by a curved extension of the wall, the western bastion. This embodied the older fortifications. Against its internal face was the flight of steps, still preserved, from the top of which the modern visitor can see and appreciate the defensive strength of the entire fortified enclosure.

The Middle Citadel was also inhabited, but it awaits proper exploration, while the excavated part of the lower acropolis cannot be visited. At the north-west corner of the defenses, however, a significant discovery was made; two tunnels, parallel to each other, start from within the acropolis and proceed under the walls. Each served as a subterranean cistern. These tunnels, roofed in the same way as those on the eastern and southern sides, ensured a continuous water supply to the acropolis, even in time of siege.

About 1200 BC an earthquake seriously damaged the walls and the palace complex. During the late mycenaean period (12<sup>th</sup> Century BC) the citadel was reorganised while the settlement outside the walls was extended to an area of about 25 ha.

In the beginning of the Early Iron Age (1000 BC) a slow development from the oikos-house to the city state began as the mycenaean population dispersed. At this time Tiryns was not abandoned, but it lost its old mycenaean glory. A building of controversial use and date (geometric temple or late mycenaean megaron) was built over the east-half of the mycenaean great megaron. In the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC Tiryns was conquered by Argos and its population deported.

## **NOMINATION OF MYCENAE AND TIRYNS FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.**

It is proposed that the archaeological sites of Mycenae and Tiryns can be include on the World Heritage List as a unity which represents the most characteristic examples of mycenaean citadels. Both Mycenae and Tiryns represent masterpieces of human creative genius. These citadels have similarities and differences and they came out as an uninterrupted entirety as they function in a supplementary way.

Mycenae, the well-known centre of the kingdom of Agamemnon is the symbol of the mycenaean civilization for the following reasons:

1. The fortified citadel covers an extensive area very impressive for the visitors especially by the way in which it has «adopted» in the landscape. Such an extensive area reflects the power of the wanax (king) and of the kingdom he dominated. The most characteristic presentation of the king's power is the famous relief of the Lions that has given name to the main gate of the citadel of Mycenae. It is the earliest monumental sculpture in the European Art.
2. The complicated centralized system of administration can be shown mainly by the choice of the site. The citadel of Mycenae is placed in a very impressive landscape from which has the control of the Argive Plain and of the several roads to the neighbourings sites.
3. The Grave Circles A and B as well as the monumental Tholos Tombs to the south of the citadel are unique examples of burial architecture. The amount and the wealth of the burial gifts that they contained is amazing.

Tiryns, smaller but better preserved than Mycenae, comes out to complement this site-symbol.

1. It is the better preserved mycenaean citadel up today. Its fortification walls are preserved to 7 m in width and to 10 m in height.
2. It gives the unique and instructive chance to the visitor to study all the components of the palatial architecture (palace, galleries, entrances to the underground cisterns).

For all that reasons it is evident that both sites represent the same civilization and they complement one the other in their peculiarities. So there is a need of studying them together in an entirety.

**TIRYNS**  
**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR REPRODUCTION BY UNESCO**  
(attached to the authorization)

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 1998**

1. The Argive plain and the Acropolis of Tiryns
2. The Argive plain and the Acropolis of Tiryns
3. The Western Staircase
4. The Western Staircase
5. The Western Gate
6. The Western Gate
7. The SW Wall of the Citadel
8. The SW Wall and the Western Staircase
9. The Small Gate of the Western Staircase
10. Part of the East Wall of the Citadel
11. The East Gallery
12. The East Gallery
13. The East Tower of the Citadel
14. The East Tower of the Citadel
15. The East Gallery
16. The East Gallery
17. The East Gallery
18. The East Gallery
19. The Lower Citadel
20. The Lower Citadel
21. The Western Staircase
22. The Western Staircase
23. The Western Gate
24. The Small Gate of the Western Staircase
25. Part of the West Wall of the Citadel
26. The SW Wall of the Citadel
27. The SW Wall of the Citadel
28. The West Wall and the Staircase
29. Part of the West Wall of the Citadel
30. Part of the West Wall of the Citadel
31. Part of the West Wall of the Citadel
32. Part of the West Wall of the Citadel
33. The Western Staircase
34. The Small Gate of the Western Staircase
35. The East Tower of the Citadel
36. The East Tower of the Citadel
37. The East Gallery
38. The East Gallery



# **TIRYNS**

## **LIST OF SLIDES FOR REPRODUCTION BY UNESCO**

(attached to the authorization)

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 1998**

1. The Argive plain and the Acropolis of Tiryns
2. The Argive plain and the Acropolis of Tiryns
3. The Western Staircase
4. The Western Gate
5. The Western Gate
6. The Western Staircase
7. The West Wall and the Staircase
8. The Small Gate of the Western Staircase
9. Part of the West Wall of the Citadel
10. The East Gallery
11. The East Gallery
12. The East Gallery
13. The East Gallery
14. The East Tower of the Citadel
15. The East Tower of the Citadel
16. The Lower Citadel
17. The Lower Citadel

# MYCENAE

## LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR REPRODUCTION BY UNESCO

(attached to the authorization)

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 1998**

1. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae
2. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae
3. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae
4. The Lion Gate and the west wall of the citadel
5. The Lion Gate and the west wall of the citadel
6. The Lion Gate and the west wall of the citadel
7. The Lion Gate
8. The Lion Gate
9. The Lion Gate and the Granary
10. The Lion Gate and the Great Ramp
11. The Grave Circle A
12. The Grave Circle A
13. The Grave Circle A
14. The Tholos Tomb of Aigisthus. Conservation works on process
15. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
16. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
17. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
18. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
19. The Tholos Tomb of Atreus
20. The Tholos Tomb of Atreus
21. The Archaeological Museum of Mycenae
22. The Archaeological Museum of Mycenae
23. The Lion Gate
24. The Lion Gate
25. The Lion Gate
26. The Lion Gate
27. The Tholos Tomb of Aigisthus. Conservation works on process
28. The Tholos Tomb of Aigisthus. Conservation works on process
29. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
30. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
31. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae
32. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae

# **MYCENAE**

## **LIST OF SLIDES FOR REPRODUCTION BY UNESCO**

(attached to the authorization)

**YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 1998**

1. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae
2. View of the Acropolis of Mycenae
3. The Lion Gate and the west wall of the citadel
4. The Lion Gate and the west wall of the citadel
5. The Lion Gate and the west wall of the citadel
6. Part of the Cyclopean Fortification
7. Part of the Cyclopean Fortification
8. The Lion Gate
9. The Lion Gate
10. The Lion Gate
11. The Lion Gate
12. The Lion Gate and the Granary
13. The Grave Circle A
14. The Grave Circle A
15. The Grave Circle A
16. The Great Ramp
17. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
18. The Tholos Tomb of Clytemestra
19. The Tholos Tomb of Aigisthus
20. The Tholos Tomb of Atreus









## Mycenae and Tiryns (Greece)

No 941

### Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns
<i>Location</i>	Region of the Peloponnese, Province of Argolid
<i>State Party</i>	Greece
<i>Date</i>	1 July 1998

### Justification by State Party

[*Note by ICOMOS* Although the two sites form a single nomination, separate dossiers have been supplied by the State Party. The justifications for each are given below, preceded by a section relating to the joint nomination, in which no proposals are given for criteria.]

It is proposed that the archaeological sites of Mycenae and Tiryns be included on the World Heritage List as a unity which represents the most characteristic examples of Mycenaean citadels. Both Mycenae and Tiryns represent masterpieces of human creative genius. They have similarities and differences, and constitute a continuous entity since they complement one another.

#### *Mycenae*

The site of Mycenae represents a masterpiece of human creative genius as it shelters outstanding works of monumental architecture and sculpture that are unique in the world: the massive citadel walls with the Lion Gate and the relief of the Lions, the Treasury of Atreus, Grave Circle A, and the underground reservoir.

#### **Criterion i**

Mycenae, the most famous centre of the Mycenaean world, has been described by Homer in his legendary epic poem, the *Iliad*, bequeathing the spirit of the Mycenaean civilization from antiquity to the world of today. Since Homer's time, a continuous interchange of human values within an increasingly worldwide cultural area has exerted a significant influence on the evolution of civilizations.

The religion, the writing, and the architecture of the Greeks in classical times have fundamental roots in the Mycenaean culture. Furthermore, the *megaron* anticipates the plan adopted for the Greek temples, whilst the relief of the Lions is the first example of a

monumental sculpture that was to have a great future.

#### **Criterion ii**

Mycenae is not only the main archaeological site of the Mycenaean civilization which flourished in the Aegean and spread around the Mediterranean between 1600 and 1100 BC, but it also represents an exceptional testimony to the achievements of this civilization in art and technology as well as in the advanced level of economy and social organization achieved at the time.

Significant stages in monumental architecture were achieved with the construction of the massive defensive walls of Mycenae and the beehive-shaped *tholos* tombs. Outstanding artefacts (metal objects, gems) were found in the tombs of Grave Circles A and B.

The site of Mycenae also displays some characteristic elements of the unique Mycenaean economic and social organization, with its elaborate exchange network, based on centres ruled by a *wanax* around whom everything revolves - palace, workshops, store-rooms, and cult centre. It also includes the unique Access Ramp, built to enhance the power of the Palace and Grave Circle A, built for ancestor worship.

#### **Criteria iii and iv**

With the discovery of Mycenae by Heinrich Schliemann in 1876, the legendary centre of Homer and the home of Agamemnon, one of the most popular heroes of the Homeric epics, became history. Its legendary rulers, the Atreides, were considered by the Greeks of antiquity as their ancestors. They also inspired many artistic and literary works of outstanding significance through the centuries in different parts of the world.

#### **Criterion vi**

#### *Tiryns*

Tiryns represents a major stage in the earth's history, since it dates from the Mycenaean civilization, the first palace civilization with urban characteristics and a centralized administrative system in Europe.

Its architecture represents a masterpiece of human creative genius. The walls can be described as a creation that goes beyond the limits of the human mind, as shown by the use of the word "cyclopean" attributed to them in the Homeric poems, derived from the Cyclopes, legendary giants from Lycia, who were thought to have been their builders. The architectural ensemble of the cyclopean walls and the palace complex is an outstanding testimony to the most important prehistoric period of the Greek civilization.

#### **Criterion i**

The Mycenaean palace administrative system with its centralized structure operated for five centuries. At the peak period of prosperity (1300-1200 BC) the Mycenaean areas had a homogenous society known as the Mycenaean *Koine*. This wide homogeneity is evident in religion, language, and art. In addition, the idea of a common ethnic consciousness reached its apogee.

#### **Criterion ii**

The city outside the citadel of Tiryns was very extensive and fully organized. The palace administrative system controlled agricultural production, stock-raising, and trade. This complicated political, social, and economic



system, which evolved in Mycenaean times, bears exceptional testimony to an early stage of Greek civilization.

#### **Criterion iii**

The Mycenaean citadels are unique examples of fortification. The cyclopean walls enclose public buildings, workshops, store-rooms, and cult centres. The realization of this massive construction work demanded precise architectural planning and supervision by highly qualified architects. The architecture of the fortified citadels, which have been well preserved up to the present day, represents an outstanding example of a unique form of architectural expression.

#### **Criterion iv**

The Mycenaean civilization is a highlight of human history. The strongly centralized administrative system, the monumental architecture, the art objects, and the earliest indications of the Greek language preserved on the Linear B tablets inspired Homer, who described the impressive Mycenaean world in his poems, especially the *Odyssey*. The spirit of the Mycenaean civilization has survived to the present day through the Homeric epics, which were orally transferred and taught in schools up to the end of the classical world. The Homeric tradition led Schliemann to search for and to reveal the most important centres of this civilization. Thousands of visitors influenced by this written tradition continue to visit Mycenae and Tiryns in search of the traces of the legendary kingdoms of Agamemnon and Proitos. Overall, the Mycenaean civilization, and especially the two important centres of Mycenae and Tiryns, have outstanding universal significance as highlights of human civilization.

#### **Criterion vi**

### **Category of property**

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, Mycenae and Tiryns are *sites*.

### **History and Description**

#### *History*

The Mycenaean civilization developed on the Greek mainland in the Late Bronze Age (16th century BC). It was essentially a continuation of the Middle Helladic culture, transformed by Minoan influences from Crete.

Knowledge of its two earlier periods I (c 1580-1500 BC) and II (c 1500-1400 BC) comes mainly from burials, notably the shaft graves at Mycenae. Towards the end of Period II more elaborate tomb types developed - large chamber tombs for families and beehive-shaped (*tholos*) tombs for royalty.

The apogee of the Mycenaean civilization came in Period III (c 1400-1120 BC), when strong citadels and elaborate palaces were built. Towards the end of this period a script, known as Linear B, came into use; the language used has been shown to be an early form of Greek, confirming that the Mycenaean were Greek speakers of Indo-European origin.

The political structure was that of an autocratic monarchy, the ruler of which was known as the *wanax*, who administered his territory by means of an hierarchical structure of officials. There was a special class of priests and priestesses. The people were organized in an elaborate class system, and slavery was widely practised.

The site of *Mycenae* is known from excavations to have been occupied from the Neolithic period (c 4000 BC). During the Middle Helladic Period a cemetery was established on the southern slopes of the natural hill which included Grave Circle B (dated to the 17th century BC) and Grave Circle A (16th century BC). The Palace was constructed on the summit of the hill and surrounded by massive cyclopean walls in three stages (c 1350, 1250, and 1225 BC respectively). In the final stage the underground reservoir was also fortified.

A series of *tholos* tombs were built on the southern and south-western slopes of the hill during the Mycenaean Period - the so-called Tomb of Aegisthos (c 1500 BC), the Lion Tholos Tomb (c 1350 BC), the Tomb of Clytemnestra (c 1220 BC), culminating in the Treasury of Atreus, at some distance from the others. Four large buildings, believed to have been royal workshops, were built in the 13th century BC in the vicinity of Grave Circle B.

The Palace was abandoned at the end of the 12th century BC and a number of buildings were damaged by fire. However, the site continued to be occupied until 498 BC, when it was conquered by Argos and its inhabitants were expelled. The top of the hill was levelled at this time for the construction of an Archaic temple. The site was re-occupied briefly in the Hellenistic period, when another temple was built and a theatre constructed over the Tomb of Clytemnestra. By the time the Greek traveller Pausanias visited Mycenae in the 2nd century AD it had been completely abandoned for many years.

As at Mycenae, the earliest human occupation known at *Tiryns* is from the Neolithic period. The oldest architectural remains, on the Upper Citadel, are from the early Bronze Age (c 3000 BC). The level of this area was built up in the Middle Bronze Age (1900-1600 BC) to accommodate new buildings.

Tiryns flourished during the Mycenaean period. A new fortified palace complex was constructed in the 14th century BC. The defences were extended in the early 13th century BC, and the Lower Citadel was also fortified. Following earthquake and fire damage, the site was reconstructed, the new defences enclosing an area of 20ha; the extra-mural settlement covered more than 25ha.

The fate of Tiryns with the decline of the Mycenaean civilization paralleled that of Mycenae. It was not finally abandoned until the deportation of the 5th century BC, by which time it had lost its power and influence.

### *Description - Mycenae*

The site is located on a small hill on the lower slopes of Mount Euboea, at the crossing of the road from the Argolid Gulf to Corinth and Athens.

The area of the *Citadel* or *Acropolis* is surrounded by massive walls 6-8m thick, which probably originally stood to a height of 18m. Three stages of construction can be identified, the first two from the Mycenaean period using massive blocks of limestone, first undressed, latter hammer-dressed) and the third Hellenistic (dressed small blocks).

The walls are pierced by two gates. The *Lion Gate* is made from four large blocks, a lintel, and two side posts; the relieving triangle over the lintel is a block of limestone with the famous Relief of the Lions. The *North Gate* is a slightly smaller version of the Lion Gate, with a plain relieving triangle.

The *Granary*, built up against the inner side of the wall, was a brick two-storeyed structure.

Following the line of the Lion Gate is the *Great Ramp*, a steep massive construction in cyclopean stone blocks flanked by low walls which leads to the top of the hill and the Palace.

The *Palace*, covering *c* 170m by 50-80m, is built at several levels on an area of levelled ground revetted by cyclopean walls. Its present form is that of the late Mycenaean period. Features include the rectangular *Propylon*, consisting of two monostyle porticoes, the *Main Court*, and the *Megaron*, the main palace building, which was a complex of rooms, porticoes, stairways, and corridors built on several levels created by terracing.

The *Underground Reservoir* was constructed in the 12th century BC in a deep cutting in the rock. A staircase leads down to a cyclopean portal and thence to the cistern proper, the walls of which are clad in hydraulic cement.

The area on the south-east of the Acropolis is known as the *Cult Centre*, since the buildings excavated there produced numerous altars, shrines, and frescoes depicting religious rituals.

*Grave Circle A* was created in the 16th century BC, when a low circular wall was built round a group of large royal shaft tombs (as well as a number of lesser tombs, destroyed by Schliemann's excavations). The tombs originally had low rubble walls supporting the horizontal beams of the slate or reed roofs. In the 13th century BC larger walls were built to bring the cemetery up to the level of the entrance to the citadel.

A group of 13th century BC *buildings*, the purpose of which is not known, lie outside the walls. Also outside the defences is *Grave Circle B*, which contained fourteen royal shaft graves and some smaller ones. Like *Grave Circle A*, it was enclosed by a low wall.

The *Tomb of Aegisthos* (all such attributions to historical characters are fanciful and not supported by evidence) has a long narrow *dromos* (entrance) leading to a *tholos* (beehive-shaped chamber), the upper part of

which has collapsed. It is the oldest of this group (*c* 1500 BC). The slightly later *Tomb of the Lions* is comparable in form and size, as is the 13th century *Tomb of Clytemnestra*.

The most splendid monumental structure at Mycenae is the *Treasury of Atreus* (also known as the *Tomb of Agamemnon*). Built around 1250 BC, it was cut into the hillside. The *dromos* and *tholos* are lined with carefully cut blocks. It has a monumental facade 10.50m high, originally elaborately decorated, with a doorway in the middle. The *tholos* is 14.60m in diameter and 13.50m high.

### *Description - Tiryns*

Tiryns is situated 20km north-east of Mycenae on an isolated rocky hill that rises 26m above the fertile Argolid plain. Its strategic position commands the roads to Argos, Mycenae, Nauplion, and Epidauros.

The cyclopean *walls*, built of stones even larger than those of Mycenae, are in places up to 8m thick and 13m high. They enclose an area of *c* 20ha. The entrance, on the eastern side, is approached by a large ramp. The *outer gate*, which is similar in size to the Lion Gate at Mycenae, opens out into the space between the outer and inner walls through a second gate.

To the north there is an open defended area, thought to have served as a place of refuge in troubled times for the population of the surrounding area. Concealed stairways give access to underground *springs*, as at Mycenae.

The main part of the *Upper Citadel* is reached through a forecourt, with a colonnade on one side, and the *Great Propylon*, consisting of two porches with columns. The colonnade is in front of a series of galleries (there are others to the south) built in a remarkable style, with walls corbelled inwards and terminating in an acute angle at the top.

Next comes the *Outer Palace Courtyard*, which leads in turn through another defended gateway (a smaller version of the Great Propylon) into the *Central Courtyard*. Opening out of this colonnaded open space, with an altar in its centre, is the *Megaron*, the walls of which must have been lavishly decorated, to judge from surviving fragments. Other parts of the Palace cluster around the courtyard; of especial interest is the *Bathroom*, the floor of which is a single limestone slab weighing more than 20t.

The entire complex opens out to the west, the direction of the sea. This was accessible by means of an impressive flight of steps approached through a small postern gate.

## **Management and Protection**

### *Legal status*

Both sites are protected under the provisions of the 1932 Greek Antiquities Law No 5351, as amended in 1981 (Laws Nos 1126 and 1127), which declares all cultural property to be the property of the State. Permits

are required from the competent authority for any form of intervention on protected sites.

The boundaries of the archaeological site of Mycenae and its buffer zone were established by Ministerial Decree No 2160 of 1964. Protection extends to the Citadel (Acropolis), the areas outside the walls, and the wider surrounding area, including the natural environment of the site. Those for Tiryns are covered by Decrees 241 of 1956 and 379 of 1991.

#### *Management*

Both sites are the property of the Greek State. The protected area (buffer zone) around Mycenae has either been expropriated by the State or belongs to the Municipality of Mycenae or private individuals. In the latter case, there are strict controls over the use of the land. Similar considerations apply at Tiryns.

Overall management is vested in the Ministry of Culture and delegated to the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities. Direct management (including maintenance, administration, investigation, restoration, and conservation) of the sites is the responsibility of the 4th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, based in Nauplion.

Each site has its own curator, who is an archaeologist from the 4th Ephorate. Daily site inspections are carried out by the curators and their site guards (ten at Tiryns and twelve at Mycenae). Professional and technical backup services are provided by the 4th Ephorate in Nauplion, which is close to both sites.

#### - Mycenae

The Programme for the Restoration and Conservation of Mycenae, which began in 1997, has been combined since March 1998 with that of the Work Team for the Conservation of the Monuments of the Asclepion of Epidauros. Restoration work has been completed on a number of sections of the site. A five-year extension of the programme will include a study of the environment and architectural documentation. Financing for this Programme is assured from the Ministry of Culture, the Credits for the Execution of Archaeological Works Distribution Fund, and the EU Delors II credits.

A detailed 1½-year Master Plan has been developed, important aspects of which include the creation of a new entrance system and an extensive network of paths leading to platforms for viewing the site. Information signs in Greek and English, hitherto completely lacking, are being installed. Work has been completed on the new Site Museum, which will house interpretative material and finds from the site, as well as storage and laboratory facilities. Its siting near the North Gate will help to reduce visitor pressure on the Lion Gate.

Current visitor numbers are 500,000-700,000 annually. A new and much larger parking area, with a shuttle service to the site, is to be constructed in the nearby modern town.

#### - Tiryns

A programme of restoration and conservation has been in progress under the direction of the 4th Ephorate for

several years, concentrating on restoration of the walls and the area around the Acropolis. These had been in a poor state of repair for some years, as a result of which access to the site was restricted.

A detailed study of future requirements in the Acropolis itself has been carried out by the German Archaeological Institute and is currently being implemented.

A further programme relates to the visitor management and facilities on the site. It covers the creation of pathways, increased parking, installation of restaurant and other facilities, and the rehabilitation of an old building on the site as an information centre.

Current visitor numbers are 20,000-50,000 annually.

## **Conservation and Authenticity**

### *Conservation history*

Mycenae was excavated by Heinrich Schliemann in 1874-76. Subsequently, a number of limited excavations have been carried out by Greek and British archaeologists. During recent years a topographical survey has been carried out on the buildings (by the British School of Archaeology in Athens), two aerial surveys have been made of the entire site and its surroundings, and the entire Acropolis and the structures outside the walls have been recorded.

Schliemann also excavated at Tiryns (in 1884), and his work was carried on by his assistant, Wilhelm Dörpfeld. Latterly, more intensive work has been carried out on the Acropolis by the German Institute of Archaeology. The most recent architectural and topographical survey took place in 1980.

Considerable restoration and conservation work has been carried out at Mycenae, but this has only begun recently at Tiryns, where there have been serious problems associated with the stability of the walls.

All work at the two sites has been carried out in conformity with strict Greek practice. Only at Tiryns have interventions been more drastic, but these were occasioned by the need to stabilize the walls, which were dangerous in places.

### *Authenticity*

The authenticity of both sites is very high. Neither site has been subject to interventions of any kind since they were forcibly evacuated in the 5th century BC. Indeed, both were lost until rediscovered in the 19th century.

## **Evaluation**

### *Action by ICOMOS*

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Mycenae and Tiryns in 1999.

### *Qualities*

The Mycenaean civilization marked a major step forward in European cultural development. The two great archaeological sites of Mycenae and Tiryns

together demonstrate the spirit and the achievements of that civilization more than three millennia ago.

#### *Comparative analysis*

The role of the Mycenaean civilization in the evolution of European culture is unique in its significance and influence. Mycenae and Tiryns are the most outstanding sites of that culture, and complement one another in the material evidence that they provide of the Mycenaean civilization. For these reasons, therefore, it is impossible to look for comparative sites.

#### *ICOMOS recommendations for future action*

For *Mycenae* it is important that the new management plan should be implemented with the minimum delay. This plan should be complemented by a plan for regular inspection and maintenance. It would be desirable if greater attention could be given in presentation to the post-Mycenaean levels on the site.

At *Tiryns*, as at Mycenae, it is recommended that the well formulated management plan should be complemented by a regular inspection and maintenance plan.

The area of ancient Tiryns proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List is restricted to that in State ownership. Whilst that part in private ownership is protected by law, ICOMOS feels that it would be more logical if the entire area of the ancient city could be included in the nominated area.

ICOMOS does not wish to make the implementation of these recommendations a condition of inscription, since the cultural importance of the two sites is undeniable and they are currently well managed. So far as the extension of the site proposed for inscription at Tiryns is concerned, it is recognized that this may well present legal problems that will require considerable time for negotiation. The State Party is encouraged to initiate this process straight away, with the objective of proposing an extension at some time in the future.

#### **Brief description**

Mycenae and Tiryns are the imposing ruins of the two greatest cities of the Mycenaean civilization which dominated the eastern Mediterranean world in the 15th to 12th centuries BC and which played a vital role in the development of the culture of classical Greece.

#### **Recommendation**

That these properties be inscribed, as a single site, on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria i, ii, iii, iv, and vi*:

*Criterion i* The architecture and design of Mycenae and Tiryns, such as the Lion Gate and the Treasury of Atreus at Mycenae and the walls of Tiryns, are outstanding examples of human creative genius.

*Criterion ii* The Mycenaean civilization, as exemplified by Mycenae and Tiryns, had a profound effect on the development of classical

Greek architecture and urban design, and consequently also on contemporary cultural forms.

*Criteria iii and iv* Mycenae and Tiryns represent the apogee of the Mycenaean civilization, which laid the foundations for the evolution of later European cultures.

*Criterion vi* Mycenae and Tiryns are indissolubly linked with the Homeric epics, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the influence of which upon European literature and the arts has been profound for more than three millennia.

ICOMOS, September 1999

## Mycènes et Tirynthe (Grèce)

No 941

### Identification

<i>Bien proposé</i>	Sites archéologiques de Mycènes et de Tirynthe
<i>Lieu</i>	Région du Péloponnèse, province d'Argolide
<i>État partie</i>	Grèce
<i>Date</i>	1 <sup>er</sup> juillet 1998

### Justification émanant de l'État partie

[*Note de l'ICOMOS* : Bien que les deux sites ne forment qu'un seul et même bien proposé pour inscription, l'État partie a fourni des dossiers séparés. Les justifications sont données ci-dessous pour chacun d'entre eux, précédées d'une section relative à la proposition d'inscription conjointe, qui ne contient aucune proposition de critère.]

Il est proposé que les sites archéologiques de Mycènes et de Tirynthe soient inclus dans la Liste du patrimoine mondial en tant qu'unité représentative des exemples les plus caractéristiques des citadelles mycéniennes. Mycènes et Tirynthe sont toutes deux des chefs d'œuvre du génie créateur de l'humanité. Elles présentent similitudes et différences, et constituent une entité continue en ce qu'elles sont complémentaires.

#### *Mycènes*

Le site de Mycènes, chef d'œuvre du génie créateur de l'humanité, abrite des monuments architecturaux et des sculptures remarquables, uniques au monde : les imposantes murailles de la citadelle, avec la porte des Lions et le relief des Lions, le trésor d'Atrée, le cercle de tombeaux A et la citerne souterraine. **Critère i**

Mycènes, le plus célèbre centre du monde mycénien, fut décrite par Homère dans son légendaire poème épique, l'*Illiade*, qui transmet ainsi l'esprit de la civilisation mycénienne depuis l'Antiquité jusqu'à nos jours. Depuis l'époque d'Homère, un échange permanent de valeurs humaines, dans cette zone culturelle dont l'envergure s'est faite de plus en plus mondiale, a exercé une influence notable sur l'évolution des civilisations.

La religion, l'écriture et l'architecture des Grecs de l'ère classique trouvent toutes leurs racines dans la culture mycénienne. De plus, le *mégaron* anticipe le plan adopté par les temples grecs, tandis que le relief des Lions est le premier exemple d'une sculpture

monumentale qui devait par la suite avoir un grand avenir.

**Critère ii**

Mycènes, non contente d'être le principal site archéologique de la civilisation mycénienne, qui s'épanouit aux alentours de la mer Égée avant de se répandre dans toute la région méditerranéenne entre 1600 et 1100 avant J.-C., représente aussi un témoignage exceptionnel des accomplissements tant artistiques que technologiques de cette civilisation, ainsi que d'une économie et d'une organisation sociale très avancées pour l'époque.

L'architecture monumentale a connu une étape décisive avec la construction des massives murailles défensives de Mycènes et des tombes en forme de ruches, *tholos*. Pour leur part, les cercles des tombeaux A et B ont livré des objets remarquables (objets métalliques, bijoux).

Le site de Mycènes présente en outre certains éléments caractéristiques de l'organisation économique et sociale propre à la civilisation mycénienne, dotée d'un réseau élaboré d'échanges fondé sur des centres dirigés par un *wanax*, axe de toutes choses – palais, ateliers, entrepôts et lieux de culte. Il comprend également une rampe d'accès monumentale unique, destinée à mettre en valeur la puissance du Palais, et le cercle des tombeaux A, construit pour vénérer les ancêtres.

**Critères iii et iv**

Mycènes fut découverte en 1876 par Heinrich Schliemann ; c'est alors que le théâtre légendaire des épopées homériques et foyer d'Agamemnon, l'un des héros les plus populaires de celles-ci, sortit du mythe pour entrer dans l'Histoire. Les Grecs de l'Antiquité considéraient ses légendaires souverains, les Atrides, comme leurs ancêtres. Tout au long des siècles, nombre d'œuvres artistiques et littéraires remarquables y puisèrent leur inspiration. **Critère vi**

#### *Tirynthe*

Tirynthe représente une étape majeure dans l'histoire de notre planète, puisqu'elle remonte à la civilisation mycénienne, la première civilisation palatiale dotée de caractéristiques urbaines et d'un système administratif centralisé en Europe.

Là aussi, son architecture est un hommage au génie créateur de l'humanité. Les murailles peuvent être décrites comme une création qui dépasse l'entendement, comme en témoigne l'attribut "cyclopéen" qui les qualifie dans les poèmes homériques, adjectif tiré du nom des Cyclopes, ces géants légendaires de Lycie à qui on en attribuait la construction. L'ensemble architectural que forment les enceintes cyclopéennes et le complexe du palais est un témoignage majeur de l'ère préhistorique la plus importante de la civilisation grecque. **Critère i**

Le système administratif du palais mycénien, avec sa structure centralisée, fonctionna pendant cinq siècles. À l'apogée de sa prospérité (1300-1200 avant J.-C.), la région mycénienne abritait une société homogène, connue sous le nom de *Koinê* mycénien. Cette vaste homogénéité est évidente dans la religion, le langage et

l'art. En outre, c'est là que s'épanouit le concept de conscience ethnique commune. **Critère ii**

La ville en dehors de la forteresse de Tirynthe était elle aussi très étendue et bien organisée. Le système administratif du palais contrôlait la production agricole, l'élevage de bétail et le commerce. Ce système politique, social et économique complexe de l'ère mycénienne représente un témoignage exceptionnel des premiers stades de la civilisation grecque. **Critère iii**

Les citadelles mycénienes sont des exemples uniques de fortifications. Les murailles cyclopéennes abritent les édifices publics, les ateliers, les entrepôts et les lieux de culte. La réalisation de cette construction massive exigea une planification architecturale précise, de même que le contrôle d'architectes hautement qualifiés. L'architecture des citadelles fortifiées, qui ont été bien préservées jusqu'à ce jour, représente un exemple remarquable d'une forme unique d'expression architecturale. **Critère iv**

La civilisation mycénienne est l'un des temps forts de l'histoire de l'humanité. Le système administratif fortement centralisé, l'architecture monumentale, les objets d'art et les premières traces de la langue grecque préservées sur les tablettes à écriture linéaire B inspirèrent Homère, qui décrivit ce monde impressionnant dans ses poèmes – particulièrement dans l'*Odyssee*. L'esprit de la civilisation mycénienne subsiste à ce jour grâce aux épopées homériques, qui firent partie de la tradition orale et de l'enseignement scolaire jusqu'à la fin du monde classique. C'est d'ailleurs la tradition homérique qui conduisit Schliemann à rechercher et à révéler les plus importants centres de cette civilisation. Des milliers de visiteurs influencés par cette tradition écrite continuent aujourd'hui de rechercher à Mycènes et à Tirynthe les traces des légendaires royaumes d'Agamemnon et de Proetos. La civilisation mycénienne en général, et les deux centres majeurs de Mycènes et de Tirynthe, en particulier, ont une signification universelle exceptionnelle, en leur qualité de temps forts de la civilisation humaine. **Critère vi**

### Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, Mycènes et Tirynthe sont des *sites*.

### Histoire et description

#### Histoire

La civilisation mycénienne s'est développée sur le continent hellénique à l'âge du Bronze récent (xvi<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C.) Il s'agissait essentiellement de la continuation de la culture de l'Helladique moyen, transformée par les influences minoennes venues de Crète.

Les connaissances de ses deux périodes plus anciennes, les périodes I (vers 1580-1500 avant J.-C.) et II (vers

1500-1400 avant J.-C.) viennent principalement des tombes, et particulièrement des tombes à fosse de Mycènes. Vers la fin de la période II, des types de tombe plus élaborés se développèrent – grandes tombes à chambres funéraires pour les familles et sépultures royales en forme de ruche (*tholos*).

Mais c'est à la période III que la civilisation mycénienne connut son apogée (vers 1400-1120 avant J.-C.), à l'époque de la construction de fortifications imposantes et de palais élaborés. Vers la fin de cette période, une écriture connue sous le nom de linéaire B fit son apparition ; il fut prouvé que le langage utilisé était une forme ancienne de grec, ce qui confirma que les Mycéniens parlaient un dialecte grec d'origine indo-européenne.

La structure politique était une monarchie autocratique, dont le souverain était connu sous le nom de *wanax* ; ce dernier administrait son territoire à l'aide d'une structure hiérarchique de représentants officiels. On observait en outre une classe à part composée de prêtres et de prêtresses. Le peuple était organisé selon un système complexe de classes, et l'esclavage était monnaie courante.

Des fouilles ont montré que le site de *Mycènes* était occupé depuis le néolithique (vers 4000 avant J.-C.). Au cours de la période de l'Helladique moyen, un cimetière fut établi sur le versant sud de la colline naturelle, lequel incluait le cercle des tombeaux B (daté du xvii<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C.) et le cercle des tombeaux A (xvi<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C.). Le palais fut érigé au sommet de la colline et entouré de massives murailles cyclopéennes, en trois phases (vers 1350, 1250 et 1225 avant J.-C., respectivement). Pendant la dernière étape, la citerne souterraine fut elle aussi fortifiée.

Une série de sépultures à *tholos* fut construite sur les versants sud et sud-ouest de la colline à l'époque mycénienne : la tombe dite tombe d'Égisthe (vers 1500 avant J.-C.), la tombe à *tholos* des Lions (vers 1350 avant J.-C.), la tombe de Clytemnestre (vers 1220 avant J.-C.) et, enfin, le trésor d'Atrée, à une certaine distance des autres sépultures. Quatre grands édifices, dont on pense qu'ils étaient les ateliers royaux, furent construits au xiii<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C. à proximité du cercle des tombeaux B.

Le palais fut pour sa part abandonné à la fin du xii<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C. et certains édifices furent endommagés par le feu. Toutefois, le site resta occupé jusqu'en 498 avant J.-C., date à laquelle il fut conquis par Argos, qui expulsa ses habitants. Le sommet de la colline fut alors nivelé afin de permettre la construction d'un temple archaïque. Le site fut brièvement occupé à nouveau pendant la période hellénistique, qui vit la construction d'un autre temple et d'un théâtre, érigé sur la tombe de Clytemnestre. Lorsque le voyageur grec Pausanias visita Mycènes, au ii<sup>e</sup> siècle après J.-C., elle était totalement désertée depuis déjà de nombreuses années.

À l'instar de Mycènes, la première occupation humaine connue à Tirynthe remonte au néolithique. Les plus anciens vestiges architecturaux, dans l'enceinte

supérieure, datent du début de l'âge du Bronze (vers 3000 avant J.-C.). Cette zone accueillit de nouveaux édifices à l'âge du Bronze moyen (1900-1600 avant J.-C.).

Tirynte connut la prospérité sous l'ère mycénienne. Un nouveau palais fortifié fut construit au XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C. Les ouvrages défensifs furent agrandis au début du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C., et l'enceinte inférieure fut elle aussi fortifiée. À la suite d'un tremblement de terre et d'un incendie, le site fut reconstruit, les nouvelles fortifications clôturant une zone de 20 hectares ; quant à la ville extra-muros, elle couvrait plus de 25 hectares.

Avec le déclin de la civilisation mycénienne, Tirynte et Mycènes connurent un sort identique. Tirynte ne fut abandonnée qu'à l'expulsion du V<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C., mais elle avait déjà, à cette époque, dû renoncer à son pouvoir et à son influence.

#### *Description - Mycènes*

Le site se dresse sur une petite colline, sur les versants du mont Eubée, au croisement des routes qui mènent du golfe d'Argolide à Corinthe et à Athènes.

La zone de la *citadelle* ou *Acropole* est entourée de murailles massives, de 6 à 8 m d'épaisseur, qui s'élevaient probablement à une hauteur de 18 m à l'origine. Trois phases de construction peuvent être identifiées, les deux premières de la période mycénienne, utilisant des blocs massifs de calcaire d'abord non taillés puis équarris, et la troisième durant la période hellénistique (petits blocs taillés).

Les murailles sont percées de deux portes. La *porte des Lions* se compose de quatre grands blocs, un linteau et deux jambages ; le triangle de décharge au-dessus du linteau est un bloc de calcaire portant le fameux relief des Lions. La *porte du Nord* est une réplique légèrement plus petite de la porte des Lions, avec un triangle de décharge sans motif.

Le *grenier*, construit contre la face intérieure de la muraille, était une structure de briques à deux étages.

Dans l'axe de la porte des Lions se trouve la *grande rampe monumentale*, construction gigantesque et raide faite de blocs de pierre cyclopéens et flanquée de murets, qui mène au sommet de la colline et au palais.

Le *palais*, d'environ 170 m sur 50-80 m, est construit sur plusieurs niveaux, sur un sol égalisé, et doté de murailles cyclopéennes. Sa forme actuelle est celle qu'il avait à la fin de la période mycénienne. Parmi ses caractéristiques figurent le *propylée* rectangulaire, constitué de deux portiques monostyles, la *cour principale*, et le *mégaron*, le principal édifice du palais, qui était un complexe de pièces, de portiques, d'escaliers et de corridors construit sur plusieurs niveaux obtenus grâce à des travaux de terrassement.

La *citerne souterraine* fut construite au XII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C., par une profonde entaille dans la roche. Un escalier descend jusqu'à une porte cyclopéenne, puis

ensuite jusqu'à la citerne proprement dite, dont les murailles sont revêtus de ciment hydraulique.

La région au sud-est de l'Acropole est connue sous le nom de *centre du culte*, les édifices fouillés ayant permis de trouver de nombreux autels, sanctuaires et fresques dépeignant des rituels religieux.

Le *cercle des tombeaux A* a été créé au XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C., lorsqu'une muraille circulaire basse fut construite autour d'un groupe de grandes tombes à fosses royales (ainsi qu'autour d'un certain nombre de sépultures de moindre importance, détruites par les fouilles de Schliemann). Les tombes présentaient généralement des murs en blocaille, soutenant les poutres horizontales des murs d'ardoise ou de roseau. Au XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C., des murailles plus importantes furent construites pour ramener le cimetière au niveau de l'entrée de la citadelle.

Un groupe d'*édifices* du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C., dont la fonction est inconnue, s'étend en dehors des murailles. On trouve également en dehors des murailles le *cercle des tombeaux B*, qui contenait quatorze tombes royales à fosses et quelques-unes plus petites. Comme le cercle des tombeaux A, il était encerclé par des murailles basses.

Le *tombeau d'Égisthe* (toutes ces attributions à des personnages historiques sont fantaisistes et aucune preuve ne vient les étayer) possède un *dromos* long et étroit (entrée) menant à une *tholos* (chambre en forme de ruche), dont la partie supérieure s'est effondrée. C'est le plus ancien de ce groupe (vers 1500 avant J.-C.). Le *tombeau des Lions*, légèrement postérieur, est comparable en forme et en taille, comme le *tombeau de Clytemnestre* du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle.

La structure monumentale la plus splendide à Mycènes est le *trésor d'Atrée* (également connu sous le nom de *tombeau d'Agamemnon*). Construite aux alentours de 1250 avant J.-C., elle a été creusée dans le flanc de la colline. Le *dromos* et le *tholos* sont bordés de blocs soigneusement taillés. Il possède une façade monumentale de 10,50 m de haut, dont la décoration était à l'origine élaborée, percée au milieu d'une porte. Le *tholos* fait 14,60 m de diamètre et 13,50 m de haut.

#### *Description – Tirynte*

Tirynte est situé à 20 km au nord-est de Mycènes, sur une colline rocheuse et isolée qui culmine à 26 m au-dessus de la fertile plaine d'Argolide. Sa position stratégique lui permet de contrôler les routes qui mènent à Argos, Mycènes, Nauplie et Épidaure.

Les *murailles* cyclopéennes, construites en pierres plus grandes encore que celles de Mycènes, atteignent en certains endroits 8 m d'épaisseur et 13 m de haut, et encerclent une zone de 20 hectares. L'accès à l'entrée, à l'est, se fait par une large rampe. La *porte extérieure*, similaire en taille à la porte des Lions de Mycènes, s'ouvre sur un espace compris entre les murailles extérieures et intérieures par une seconde porte.

Au nord s'étend une zone fortifiée dégagée, dont on pense qu'elle servait de refuge, pendant les périodes de troubles, à la population de la région environnante. Un escalier caché donne accès aux *sources* souterraines, comme à Mycènes.

On accède à la partie principale de l'*enceinte supérieure* par une avant-cour, dotée d'une colonnade d'un côté, et par le *grand propylée*, qui se compose de deux porches à colonnes. La colonnade est en face d'une série de galeries (d'autres se trouvent au sud) construites dans un style remarquable, avec des murs en encorbellement se terminant au sommet par un angle aigu.

Ensuite vient la *cour extérieure du palais*, qui mène à son tour à la *cour centrale* à travers une autre porte fortifiée, version réduite du grand propylée. Cet espace ouvert délimité par des colonnades et au milieu duquel se dresse un autel s'ouvre sur le *mégaron*, dont les murs ont jadis dû porter des décorations somptueuses, si l'on en juge d'après les fragments subsistants. D'autres parties du palais se regroupent autour de la cour ; on note tout particulièrement les *bains*, dont le sol est constitué d'une seule et même dalle de calcaire pesant plus de 20 tonnes.

Le complexe tout entier s'ouvre sur l'ouest, en direction de la mer. On y accédait par une impressionnante volée d'escaliers, à travers une petite poterne.

## Gestion et protection

### Statut juridique

Les deux sites sont protégés en vertu des dispositions de la loi sur les Antiquités grecques N° 5351 de 1932, amendée en 1981 (lois N° 1126 et 1127), qui déclare tous les biens culturels propriété de l'État. Pour toute forme d'intervention sur les sites protégés, il faut obtenir un permis auprès des autorités compétentes.

Les limites du site archéologique de Mycènes et de sa zone tampon ont été définies par décret ministériel N° 2160 en 1964. La protection s'étend à l'Acropole, aux zones en dehors des murailles, et à la zone environnante, y compris l'environnement naturel du site. Pour Tirynthe, il s'agit des décrets 241 de 1956 et 379 de 1991.

### Gestion

Les deux sites sont la propriété de l'État grec. Quant à la zone protégée (zone tampon) autour de Mycènes, elle a fait soit l'objet d'une expropriation par l'État, soit elle appartient à la municipalité de Mycènes ou à des particuliers. Dans le dernier cas, l'usage de la terre est très strictement contrôlé. Des considérations similaires s'appliquent à Tirynthe.

La gestion globale incombe au ministère de la Culture, qui la délègue à la direction des Antiquités préhistoriques et classiques. La gestion directe (maintenance, administration, restauration et conservation) des sites est sous la responsabilité du 4<sup>ème</sup> Éphorat des Antiquités préhistoriques et classiques, basé à Nauplie.

Chaque site a son propre conservateur, un archéologue du 4<sup>ème</sup> Éphorat. Ces conservateurs et les gardiens du site (dix à Tirynthe et douze à Mycènes) effectuent chaque jour une inspection du site. Le 4<sup>ème</sup> Éphorat de Nauplie, proche des deux sites, fournit des services professionnels et l'assistance technique.

### - Mycènes

Le programme de restauration et de conservation de Mycènes, qui a commencé en 1997, est combiné depuis mars 1998 à celui de l'équipe de travail pour la Conservation des monuments de l'Asclépiion d'Épidaure. Le travail de restauration a été achevé sur certaines sections du site. En outre, une étude sur l'environnement et la mise en place d'une documentation architecturale y seront ajoutées dans le cadre d'une extension du programme sur cinq ans. Le financement de ce programme est assuré par le ministère de la Culture, par les Crédits pour l'Exécution du Fonds de distribution des travaux archéologiques, et par les crédits UE Delors II.

Un plan directeur détaillé sur un an et demi a été élaboré ; parmi ses aspects importants figurent la création d'un nouveau système d'entrée et un vaste réseau de voies d'accès menant à des plates-formes offrant une vue sur le site. Des panneaux d'informations en grec et en anglais, totalement absents jusqu'à présent, sont en cours d'installation. Les travaux ont été achevés sur le nouveau musée du site, qui abritera du matériel d'interprétation et des découvertes effectuées sur le site, ainsi que des entrepôts et un laboratoire. Son emplacement, près de la porte du Nord, aidera à réduire la pression qu'exercent les visiteurs sur la porte des Lions.

Le nombre des visiteurs s'élève actuellement entre 500.000 et 700.000 par an. Une nouvelle zone de parking, bien plus grande, avec des navettes desservant le site, doit être construite dans la ville moderne avoisinante.

### - Tirynthe

Un programme de restauration et de conservation est en cours, sous la direction du 4<sup>ème</sup> Éphorat, depuis plusieurs années ; il se concentre sur la restauration des murailles entourant l'acropole. Celles-ci sont en effet en mauvais état depuis plusieurs années, ce qui a motivé la restriction de l'accès au site.

En outre, l'Institut allemand d'archéologie a réalisé une étude détaillée des besoins futurs de l'acropole elle-même, étude actuellement mise en œuvre.

Un programme supplémentaire porte sur la gestion des visiteurs et les installations touristiques sur le site. Il couvre la création de voies d'accès, de plus grands parkings, de restaurants et autres installations, et la réhabilitation d'un vieil édifice sur le site, qui deviendra un centre d'information.

Le nombre des visiteurs s'élève actuellement entre 20.000 et 50.000 par an.



## Conservation et authenticité

### *Historique de la conservation*

Mycènes a été mise à jour en 1874-1876 par Heinrich Schliemann. Par la suite, des archéologues grecs et britanniques ont réalisé un certain nombre de fouilles, quoique limitées. Ces dernières années, un relevé topographique a été réalisé sur les édifices (par l'École britannique d'archéologie d'Athènes), deux études aériennes ont été conduites sur le site dans son ensemble et ses alentours, et la totalité de l'acropole et les structures en dehors des murailles ont été inventoriées.

Schliemann a également effectué des fouilles à Tirynthe (en 1884), et son assistant, Wilhelm Dörpfeld, a poursuivi ses recherches. Plus tard, des travaux plus intensifs ont été réalisés sur l'Acropole par l'Institut allemand d'archéologie. L'étude architecturale et topographique la plus récente a eu lieu en 1980.

Des travaux considérables de restauration et de conservation ont été effectués à Mycènes, mais ils n'ont commencé que récemment à Tirynthe, qui a connu de très graves problèmes liés à la stabilité des murs.

Sur les deux sites, tous les travaux ont été conduits conformément aux rigoureuses pratiques grecques. À Tirynthe cependant, elles ont dû être plus drastiques, du fait de la nécessité de stabiliser des murailles devenues dangereuses en certains endroits.

### *Authenticité*

Le degré d'authenticité des deux sites est très élevé. En effet, aucun d'eux n'a fait l'objet d'interventions, de quelque sorte que ce soit, depuis leur évacuation forcée au V<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C. En effet, les deux sites ont été abandonnés et oubliés jusqu'à leur redécouverte au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle.

## Évaluation

### *Action de l'ICOMOS*

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue à Mycènes et à Tirynthe en 1999.

### *Caractéristiques*

La civilisation mycénienne a marqué un grand pas en avant dans le développement culturel européen. Les deux magnifiques sites archéologiques de Mycènes et de Tirynthe illustrent, ensemble, l'esprit et les accomplissements de cette civilisation vieille de plus de trois millénaires.

### *Analyse comparative*

Le rôle de la civilisation mycénienne dans l'évolution de la culture européenne est unique en termes de signification et d'influence. Mycènes et Tirynthe sont les sites les plus remarquables de cette culture, et donnent des preuves complémentaires de la civilisation

mycénienne. Pour ces raisons, par conséquent, il est impossible de trouver des sites comparables.

### *Recommandations de l'ICOMOS pour des actions futures*

En ce qui concerne *Mycènes*, il est important que le nouveau plan de gestion soit mis en œuvre dans les plus brefs délais. Un plan d'inspection et de maintenance régulière devrait venir le compléter. Il serait également souhaitable d'accorder une plus grande attention à la mise en évidence des niveaux post-mycéniens sur le site.

À *Tirynthe* comme à Mycènes, il est recommandé que le plan de gestion bien formulé soit complété par un plan d'inspection et de maintenance régulière.

La zone de l'ancien Tirynthe proposée pour inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial est limitée à la zone appartenant à l'État. Certes, la partie appartenant à des particuliers est protégée par la loi ; l'ICOMOS estime cependant qu'il serait plus logique d'inclure toute la zone de l'ancienne cité dans le bien proposé pour inscription. L'ICOMOS ne souhaite pas faire de la mise en œuvre de ces recommandations une condition d'inscription, l'importance culturelle des deux sites étant indéniable et leur gestion actuelle excellente.

En ce qui concerne l'éventuelle extension du site proposé pour inscription à Tirynthe, il est reconnu qu'elle pourrait bien présenter des problèmes juridiques qui nécessiteront un temps de négociation considérable. L'État partie est encouragé à entamer dès à présent cette procédure, en vue de proposer ultérieurement une extension.

## Brève description

Mycènes et Tirynthe sont les ruines imposantes des deux plus grandes cités de la civilisation mycénienne, qui domina le monde de la Méditerranée orientale du XV<sup>e</sup> au XII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C. et qui joua un rôle vital dans le développement de la culture de la Grèce classique.

## Recommandation

Que ces biens soient inscrits comme un seul site sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, sur la base des *critères i, ii, iii, iv et vi* :

**Critère i** L'architecture et la conception de Mycènes et Tirynthe, avec, par exemple, la porte des Lions, le trésor d'Atrée à Mycènes et les murailles de Tirynthe, sont des exemples remarquables du génie créateur de l'homme.

**Critère ii** La civilisation mycénienne, telle que l'illustrent Mycènes et Tirynthe, a eu un profond impact sur le développement de l'architecture grecque classique et de l'urbanisme, et par conséquent également sur les formes culturelles contemporaines.

**Critères iii et iv** Mycènes et Tirynthe représentent l'apogée de la civilisation mycénienne, qui a posé les fondations de l'évolution des cultures européennes ultérieures.

**Critère vi** Mycènes et Tirynthe sont indissolublement liées aux épopées homériques l'*Iliade* et l'*Odyssée*, dont la profonde influence sur la littérature européenne et les arts perdure depuis plus de trois millénaires.

ICOMOS, septembre 1999