



Vietnam's old imperial capital of Hue, an American battleground during the Vietnam War, will be named a center of world cultural heritage.

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Vietnam's imperial capital listed as world cultural center

By The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — The old imperial capital of Hue, which became a battleground during the Vietnam War, will be added to UNESCO's world heritage list, the state-owned Vietnam News said Thursday.

Straddling the banks of the Perfume River, Hue was the seat of Vietnam's Nguyen dynasty from 1802 until 1945. Chief among its historical sites are a citadel enclosed by a moat, six

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miles of brick ramparts, and ornate tombs of Nguyen emperors.

The decision will lead to a formal campaign by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to help

conserve the city's monuments, the newspaper Lao Dong reported.

Burned and sacked by French troops in 1885, Hue was also heavily damaged during the Vietnam War's 1968 Tet offensive. The citadel's Forbidden Purple City, once the sole preserve of emperors and the concubines and eunuchs serving them, was leveled by fighting and is now used to grow vegetables.

North Vietnamese forces seized Hue and held it for 24 days in their most ambitious and sustained effort of the offensive.