

# ***Research on the Preservation and Inheritance of Cultural Landscape in XiuRong Ancient Town, Xinzhou***

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**Abstract:** This study, based on the theory of cultural landscape, takes XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou as an example to deeply reveal its unique historical and cultural value and rich cultural connotation through the analysis of material and non-material cultural landscape elements. Combining current issues and the contemporary context, it proposes protection strategies such as emphasizing ecological improvement, preserving the historical texture of the ancient town, restoring the scale of streets and alleys, achieving authentic architectural restoration, compiling cultural collections, and encouraging community participation. The aim is to explore the path of sustainable development for the preservation and inheritance of historical urban cultural landscapes.

**Keywords:** historical urban area, cultural landscape, constituent elements, protection strategies, XiuRong ancient town

## **1. Introduction**

Over the millennia, with continuous economic, political, and cultural development, cities have evolved from simple gathering places for human activities to become repositories of human history and cultural crystallization. The diversity in customs, religious beliefs, ideologies, geographical and climatic conditions, and other factors in different regions has endowed each city with its unique characteristics. XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou, founded in the 20th year of the Eastern Han Dynasty, has a history of 1800 years. Covering a total area of 192.38 hectares, approximately 2885.7 acres, with a circumference of about 5 kilometers, the city walls enclose an area of approximately 1.6 square kilometers. With one main north-south street and five east-west streets, intersected by fifty-two alleys, the town carries the shared memories of generations of people in Xinzhou.

However, at present, the ancient town is facing erosion due to the construction of modern urban areas, resulting in the loss of urban memories, decline of urban businesses, damages to ancient buildings, and destruction of cultural relics. It is essential to conduct systematic research and effective preservation to prevent the historical appearance and folk culture of XiuRong Ancient Town from being eroded by modernization, leading to the loss of its unique characteristics. Nonetheless, there is a concern about the homogenization and standardization in the conservation of historical urban cultural landscapes. Some cultural phenomena and styles are blindly converging

due to cultural exchange and infiltration, neglecting the protection of the city's own characteristics and cultural heritage. As a result, cities lack their distinctiveness and vitality, gradually becoming monotonous, which seriously hinders the continuity and inheritance of cultural heritage [1-3]. Based on these circumstances, this study focuses on XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou and conducts research on the preservation and inheritance of its cultural landscape.

## **2. Understanding the Connotation of Cultural Landscape and Ancient Town Preservation**

### **2.1. Cultural Landscape Theory**

The term “cultural landscape” was first proposed by American geographer Carl Sauer, defining it as “the forms of human activity attached to the natural landscape” [4]. Cultural landscape theory is a framework used to study and explain the interaction between human culture and the environment. It explores how human activities shape the environment and how the environment influences the formation and evolution of human culture [5]. In 1992, the World Heritage Committee officially included cultural landscapes in the category of World Heritage, involving multiple disciplines such as human geography, anthropology, archaeology, and architecture. It helps us understand the complex relationship between humans and the environment and provides guiding principles for the conservation and management of cultural landscapes.

### **2.2. Cultural Landscape Elements of Historical Towns**

In November 2011, UNESCO adopted the "Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape," elevating the conservation of historical towns to a new level of cultural landscape preservation. However, there is no clear classification of the cultural landscape elements of historical towns in academia. Li Heping used a deductive approach to divide the constituent elements of cultural landscapes into "material" and "value" aspects. The material system includes behavior, architecture, space, structure, and environment, while the value system comprises human habitation, history, industry, and spirituality [6]. Zhang Yang and others categorized the cultural landscape of Xinjiang's scenic areas into four types: scenic spots and relics, religious memorials, human settlements, and production skills, based on the classification of world cultural landscapes [7]. By drawing on existing research and considering historical towns comprehensively, their cultural landscape elements are divided into material cultural landscape elements and non-material cultural landscape elements.

### **2.3. Connotation of Historical Town Preservation**

From the perspective of cultural landscape theory, the preservation of cultural landscapes in historical towns involves not only the physical heritage such as buildings, structures, and streets but also the conservation and inheritance of intangible heritage such as traditional customs, cultural activities, and local knowledge. The preservation connotation includes comprehensive protection, authenticity expression, regional expression, inheritance expression, holistic expression, and sustainable development. This comprehensive conservation approach aims to maintain the unique cultural identity and value of historical towns while promoting their harmonious development in contemporary society. Additionally, it focuses on the interrelationships and coordination among various elements within historical towns, seeking overall harmony and unity. The protection of ancient towns should be sustainable and dynamic, which means it should be people-oriented and seek development while preserving cultural landscapes, exploring methods to revitalize them. The following section uses XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou as an example to explore how traditional ancient towns can be preserved from the perspective of cultural landscape theory.

### **3. Analysis of the Cultural Landscape Elements of XiuRong Ancient Town**

#### **3.1. Overview and Historical Evolution of XiuRong Ancient Town**

XiuRong Ancient Town is located in the southern part of Xinfu District, Xinzhou City, Shanxi Province, China. Its specific location extends from Guangming Street to the east Fourth Alley of Shengli Road in the north, and from the planned road to Xiangyang Street in the south. Its eastern boundary reaches Yunzhong East Street, and its western boundary ends at Qi Yi Nan Road, covering an approximate area of 1.9 square kilometers.

According to records, XiuRong Ancient Town was founded in the 20th year of the Eastern Han Dynasty (215 AD) when Cao Cao established the New Xing Commandery. In the "Records of the Three Kingdoms, Wei Shu, Annals of Emperor Wu," it is mentioned: "In the 20th year of Jian'an (215 AD), Yunzhong, Dingxiang, Wuyuan, and Shuofang were reduced to four counties, with one county set up for each to govern its people, and the combined reduced counties became the New Xing Commandery." About 1700 years ago, during the Sixteen Kingdoms period, the founders of the Han-Zhao regime, Liu Yuan, Liu Cong, and Liu Yao, were successively born in New Xing Commandery, and Liu Yuan and Liu Cong were praised for their "elegant and noble appearance." As a result, the commandery was renamed to XiuRong Commandery. Over 400-200 years ago, XiuRong Ancient Town experienced three major expansions in the Ming Jiajing 28th year (1549), Ming Wanli 24th year (1596), and Qing Tongzhi 7th year (1868), and the town became known as the "Three Exhibitions Lying Ox Town," forming its current layout.

XiuRong Ancient Town consists of one main north-south street and five east-west streets, intersected by fifty-two alleys, preserving the collective memories of generations of people in Xinzhou. Despite having experienced wars, natural disasters, and erosion due to new urban development, many cultural heritages have managed to survive. Cultural and educational buildings such as Wenmiao, Guandi Temple, Baihe View, and XiuRong Academy still stand. The rich and excellent culture nurtured numerous literati and scholars, such as Cheng Ying, Han Jue, and Gongsun Chupiu. Beloved classical love stories, such as the love between Ban Jieyu and Emperor Cheng of Han, Lu Bu and Diao Chan, and Yang Jiye and She Taijun, have been deeply cherished and passed down in this region for centuries.

#### **3.2. Material Cultural Landscape Elements**

##### **3.2.1. Landscape Pattern**

XiuRong Ancient Town is located in the southern part of Xinfu District, Xinzhou City, Shanxi Province, covering an approximate area of 1.9 square kilometers. The geographical location of the ancient town is advantageous, with hilly and plain terrains. The eastern part is relatively flat, suitable for habitation and construction, while the western part is higher, forming a well-arranged architectural layout. The town falls under the North Temperate Monsoon climate zone, experiencing distinct seasons with cold winters and hot summers. Surrounding the ancient town are three rivers: Yunzhong River, Mumah River, and Huttuo River, creating a densely distributed water system. Situated at the confluence of the three rivers, the town is characterized by mountains and rivers, undulating hills, and buildings along the riverside, forming a natural layout with mountains at the back and facing the water. The combination of these natural landscapes with its rich historical and cultural landscapes has created a unique urban scenery. XiuRong Ancient Town serves as the carrier of Xinzhou's millennium history and an important archaeological site from the Northern Dynasties period. Due to its long history, the ancient town has inevitably suffered some damage, but the overall pattern remains intact, maintaining the natural environment of "backed by Longgang Mountains and facing Mumah River." The main feature of the landscape pattern of XiuRong

Ancient Town is "pleasing in form," highlighting the planning idea of integrating with nature. This concept is consistent with the idea emphasized in the "Guanzi, Chariots and Horses" chapter that the city's location should be determined by local materials and favorable conditions, not necessarily following standard rules or norms.

### 3.2.2. Spatial Structure

#### (1) Layout of Streets and Alleys

The six main streets and fifty-two alleys of XiuRong Ancient Town are still preserved today. The six main streets are Nanbei Street, Da Dong Street, Nan Guan Street, Xue Dao Street, Xing Si Street, and Dong Shun Cheng Street. The fifty-two alleys include names such as Guandi Temple Alley, XiuRong Alley, Wenchang Temple Alley, Lan Qiang Di Alley, Bai He Alley, Caishen Temple Alley, Cheng Huang Temple Alley, Liu Family Alley, Zao Jian Alley, San Guan Miao Alley, Cao Shi Alley, Zhou Family Alley, Da Mo Alley, Zhao Jia Bao Alley, Ren Yi Alley, Nan Zhu Shi Alley, and others. Streets and alleys are named in three main ways: firstly, based on local historical buildings, such as "XiuRong Alley," "Guandi Temple Alley," "Caishen Temple Alley," "San Guan Miao Alley," "Tai Shan Miao Alley," "San Yan Ge Alley," "Yang Sheng Alley," "Wen Chang Temple Alley," "Cheng Huang Temple Alley," "Yun Lu Alley," etc. Secondly, they are named after prominent local surnames, such as Zhou Family Alley, Liu Family Alley, Zhang Family Alley, Yang Family Alley, Zhao Jin Shi Alley, etc. Thirdly, names are derived from the living environment of the local people, such as Cao Shi Alley, Da Mo Alley, Jin Yi Alley, Xiu Yi Alley, etc. The main axis has four city gates, north, south, east, and west, forming the city's entrances and exits. The streets and alleys intersect and interlace, creating a complex and orderly network, facilitating local residents' travel and commercial activities.

#### (2) Distribution and Arrangement of Buildings

The buildings in XiuRong Ancient Town are mainly brick and wood structures, closely distributed. Most of the buildings take the form of three- or four-sided courtyards, and the courtyards are interwoven, forming a layout with multiple courtyards. The architectural layout of the ancient town is not strictly symmetrical along the central axis but takes on the shape of a recumbent ox, formed based on the terrain and historical evolution, making the entire ancient town full of changes and delights.

#### (3) Division of Public and Private Spaces

XiuRong Ancient Town has clear boundaries between public and private spaces. The streets and alleys are public spaces for citizens' travel, commercial activities, and social interactions. The courtyards and houses inside the buildings are private spaces where residents live, creating a sense of intimacy within the community. The ancient town also has public squares and temples for public gatherings and religious activities.

### 3.2.3. Architectural Structures

(1) Residential Buildings: The residential buildings in XiuRong Ancient Town are mainly in the form of three- or four-sided courtyards. The courtyards are divided into front, middle, and rear courtyards, and the buildings inside the courtyards consist mainly of the main house, wing rooms, and kitchen. The residential buildings mostly feature suspended eaves, where the front slopes are long, and the back slopes are short, forming crane and animal-shaped eaves and drainage ridges with hanging bells. The doors and windows are finely carved, with paper windows on the upper parts and glass windows on the lower parts, adorned with elaborate patterns. The colors of residential buildings are usually dominated by clear lacquer and black, giving a simple and low-key feeling.

(2) Temple Buildings: Places of commerce and scenic spots in the ancient town are often built at major street intersections or important city gates, forming the core area of the ancient town. These places are often where people gather, and they serve as centers for commercial and cultural activities. XiuRong Ancient Town was a bustling commercial center, and merchants from various regions built numerous temples in the town to pray for safety and wealth. The ancient town was famous for its large number of temples and exquisite architectural appearance during that time. There were "three palaces, five pavilions, nine temples, and ten shrines" in the ancient town, including Guandi Temple, Wenmiao, Baihe View, and other temple buildings. Temple buildings are mostly brick and wood structures with suspended or hard-ridge roofs. The gate towers of the temples have diverse shapes, adorned with colorful paintings and decorative elements. Inside the temples, there are statues and shrines, and the walls are covered with painted murals and sacrificial objects.

(3) Academy Buildings: XiuRong Ancient Town has XiuRong Academy, founded during the Tianfu period of Later Jin Dynasty and transformed into an academy in the 40th year of Emperor Qianlong's reign in the Qing Dynasty. It was the first academy in Xinzhou and served as an ancient cultural and educational institution. The buildings of XiuRong Academy are mainly brick and wood structures, often featuring hard-ridge roofs. On the west slope of the academy, three pavilions were successively constructed, forming the highest point in the city. In front of the Hexagon Pavilion, there is a brick archway called "Tian Zhi Qu." The academy has multiple study rooms and reading rooms for students to study and read. The architectural layout of the academy is elegant, with a peaceful environment, making it an important place for cultivating literati and scholars.

(4) City Walls and Gate Towers: Some parts of the city walls and gate towers are preserved in the ancient town. The city walls are made of brick and stone, tall and solid. The gate towers are wooden structures with brick and tile construction, mostly featuring three-tier hip and gable roofs, presenting an elegant curve. The gate towers were iconic buildings in ancient cities and an essential part of city defense.

(5) Archways and Stone Tablets: There are also some wooden archways and stone tablets in the ancient town, commemorating significant historical events or honoring outstanding figures. Archways and stone tablets are often wooden structures or stone carvings with exquisite carvings and fonts.

### **3.3. Intangible Cultural Landscape Elements**

The intangible form of cultural landscape refers to cultural factors created by humans that may not necessarily have directly perceivable material forms. It is usually expressed through localized production and lifestyle, language habits, customs, values, religion, ethics, etc. Sometimes, it is manifested as a form of cultural "atmosphere." The cultural landscape of XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou not only includes tangible cultural elements like local street and alley architecture but also encompasses the hidden cultural connotations and essence embedded within it. The intangible cultural landscape elements of XiuRong Ancient Town can be summarized as follows:

#### **3.3.1. Folk Culture**

XiuRong Ancient Town preserves a rich variety of traditional customs, including festivals, wedding rituals, and religious ceremonies. During traditional festivals like the Spring Festival, Qingming Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, etc., residents of the ancient town hold various celebrations such as dragon and lion dances, setting off firecrackers, ancestral worship, and Erren Tai performances. Wedding rituals are traditional ceremonies during marriage, typically including wedding ceremonies, welcoming processions, and banquets. In terms of religious

ceremonies, Guandi Temple, as an important religious site, attracts numerous believers who come to worship and pray. During the leisure time in the agricultural off-season, there is a folk activity called "Scratching Sheep Race." Additionally, Xinzhou's folk customs integrate Central Plains culture with local and ethnic traditions, exhibiting simplicity and charm. The Northern Banging Opera (Beilu Bangzi), Central Banging Opera (Zhonglu Bangzi), and Erren Tai are well-known in the northern part of Shanxi. Xinfu District, where XiuRong Ancient Town is located, is renowned as the "hometown of wrestling" in China, with a long history of wrestling dating back to the Song and Yuan Dynasties. Wrestling has continued to flourish and remains popular to this day.

### **3.3.2. Handicrafts**

The intangible cultural landscape elements of XiuRong Ancient Town include various traditional crafts, such as paper-cutting, dough sculpture, embroidery, straw painting, Chengni inkstones, wood carving, etc. These handicrafts have been passed down through generations, embodying the wisdom and creativity of the town's residents, enriching the cultural connotations of the ancient town, and becoming precious cultural heritage.

### **3.3.3. Ideological Culture**

For thousands of years, the people of the ancient town have upheld virtues and moral conduct as the foundation of their lives. Firstly, they prioritize the interests of the country, society, and the nation, always placing the welfare of the world before their own joys and happiness. Secondly, they pursue their endeavors tirelessly and are hardworking and enduring in the face of hardship. Thirdly, they are modest, polite, honest, and trustworthy. Fourthly, they uphold loyalty, filial piety, fraternity, and incorruptibility.

### **3.3.4. Local Knowledge**

The locally transmitted knowledge in the ancient town includes historical legends, folklore, dialects, and languages. For instance, the town has many historical legends related to the origins of ancient relics and stories about historical figures, reflecting the local people's understanding and memory of history. Furthermore, the local dialects and languages of the ancient town are also part of its intangible cultural landscape, with distinctive regional characteristics, reflecting the town's cultural and social traits.

## **4. Preservation Strategies for the Cultural Landscape of XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou**

### **4.1. Emphasizing Ecological Restoration to Create a Landscape of Harmony Between Mountains and Water**

During the Northern and Southern Dynasties, XiuRong Ancient Town was called XiuRong, and it was known as Xinzhou during the Sui Dynasty. The ancient town suffered severe damage during the Jin and Yuan dynasties due to wars. Since the Ming and Qing dynasties, there have been three major restoration projects, with the second one laying the foundation for the town's current layout. However, due to certain trends driven by interests, some mountains and vegetation in the ancient town have been damaged, greatly affecting its appearance. The natural geographical environment is the basis for the existence of the cultural landscape. To protect XiuRong Ancient Town, we should focus on the overall appearance of the town, pay attention to the protection of surrounding natural landscape elements such as terrain, landforms, and mountains, and be cautious in opening up mountains for vegetation protection and creating green areas. We should effectively protect the

characteristic landscapes of the ancient town to enhance its aesthetic value while preserving its cultural landscape features.

#### **4.2. Continuing the Texture of the Ancient Town to Protect Traditional Patterns**

The outline of XiuRong Ancient Town generally reflects the characteristics of its era, and the authenticity of some building materials has been preserved. However, the city walls and many ground relics have suffered varying degrees of damage. Due to insufficient protection efforts and the lack of awareness among local residents, many relics' integrity has been affected, resulting in various degrees of damage, such as excavating walls to create cave dwellings and enclosures. Such behavior has caused serious cracking and collapse of the walls. The adverse impact of local residents' production and lifestyle on the relics has far surpassed that of weathering, plant encroachment, and natural reasons, becoming the primary factor for relic damage. If effective protection measures are not taken for existing relics, they will continue to be threatened, leading to irreparable losses and regrets for the cultural landscape of the ancient town.

Based on historical records of the city walls, reasonable and feasible restoration measures should be taken. For walls damaged due to natural causes, "repairing them as they were" should be carried out. For walls damaged by human activities, nearby unauthorized buildings should be demolished and relocated, and management efforts should be strengthened in the future to restore the traditional pattern of the ancient town as much as possible.

#### **4.3. Restoring the Original Scale and Preserving the Texture of Streets and Alleys**

Currently, the streets of XiuRong Ancient Town generally retain their original layout. However, with the development of the city, the current situation of many streets and alleys no longer meets the needs of the town's development. The spatial scale of streets and alleys is mainly influenced by their functions. In simple terms, streets and alleys with high pedestrian traffic (such as commercial streets and main traffic arteries) usually require a relatively wide scale, while streets and alleys with a residential nature should mainly adapt to people's daily communication and living needs. The protection of the scale of streets and alleys in XiuRong Ancient Town should be based on respecting the original scale and texture, and scientific adjustments and dredging should be made according to the town's development needs.

The North-South Street, with a total length of 840 meters, is one of the iconic streets in the ancient town and was the most prosperous commercial street during the Ming and Qing dynasties. However, the current scale of the street can no longer meet the needs of the town's cultural construction and development. The buildings on both sides of the street have also lost their original characteristics. Based on the historical scale and current situation of the street, the width of the South Street should be restored to about 12 meters from the original 20 meters, and the width of the North Street should be controlled at 6.5 meters. The Grass Market Alley should be widened on the basis of the historical scale of 4 meters to accommodate future recreational and traffic functions, planning a width of 6 meters. Other major streets and alleys (such as XiuRong Alley, Guandi Temple Alley, Taishan Temple Alley, and Caishen Temple Alley) should be restored to the historical scale of 4 meters. The facades of buildings on the main streets, such as the North-South Street, should be renovated and restored, adding elements like roof ornaments and gateways to restore the former elegance of the high-ridged roofs and doorways. By controlling the width of streets and alleys, we can not only restore the unique spaces of the ancient town, which are friendly, commercial, and gathering spots but also facilitate the reasonable planning of buildings on both sides of the streets and alleys.

#### **4.4. Following the Principle of Restoring as It Was to Achieve Authenticity in Building Preservation**

The main historical buildings in XiuRong Ancient Town include the Confucian Temple, Guandi Temple, Caishen Temple, Baihe Temple, and XiuRong Academy. For buildings such as the Confucian Temple that have suffered damage, restoration should be carried out on their original sites. For relatively well-preserved buildings like Guandi Temple, Caishen Temple, and XiuRong Academy, protection and restoration should be based on maintaining their "authenticity." The reconstruction of the Confucian Temple should rely mainly on existing historical records and consider harmonizing with the surrounding new architectural environment, ensuring that the temple's former splendor is revived while remaining harmonious with the overall environment of the ancient town. The renovation of the academy should follow the principle of "restoring as it was," adhering to the original design, materials, and craftsmanship to protect its true historical value. Currently, local efforts are underway to renovate the academy, including the repair of octagonal, square, and hexagonal pavilions within the academy that urgently require attention. The interior colors of the Guandi Temple have faded over time, and the exterior brick walls have suffered weathering and human-induced damage. During restoration, the principle of minimal intervention and overall protection should be followed, with a focus on restoring the temple's architectural colors and repairing damaged brick walls.

Due to XiuRong Ancient Town's unique geographical location in a strategic military position, it differs from other areas in Shanxi Province, with its simple and plain architectural structures. This architectural characteristic is a result of its geographic location and the town's long-standing tradition of simplicity. In contrast to the richly ornamented appearances of other ancient courtyards in Shanxi or ancient buildings north of the Yangtze River, the buildings in XiuRong Ancient Town exhibit a sense of simplicity and elegance. The town's buildings are characterized by grey tiles, mud walls, and plain facades, reflecting the emphasis on practicality and substance over outward opulence. This architectural style is distinct from the common perception of ancient northern cities, and it exudes a unique sense of refinement and elegance, as evident in the inscription on the plaques of ancient residential buildings: "Simplicity can be stylish." The grey walls are found throughout the town, including in its streets, alleys, residential buildings, temples, and pavilions. The ancient town's unique architectural style features grey tiles and plain walls, setting it apart from other ancient cities in Shanxi.

#### **4.5. Gathering the Essence of Culture in Jiuyuan, Demonstrating the Distinctiveness of XiuRong**

Emphasis should be placed on preserving and passing down intangible cultural heritage, such as traditional customs, cultural activities, and local knowledge. Cultural heritage inheritance projects should be launched to encourage residents' participation in traditional craftsmanship and other intangible cultural activities, thus passing down the town's cultural traditions. The regional cultural characteristics of XiuRong Ancient Town are concentrated in its cultural customs, humanistic thoughts, and architectural features. Paper cutting, clay sculpture, the philosophy of trust and righteousness, grey tiles, and lined gateways are all unique features of the ancient town. To highlight its regional cultural characteristics and revitalize the charm of the ancient town, cultural elements unique to XiuRong should be extracted for secondary creation and design, combined with urban detailed design. For example, the appearance of street lamps can be designed based on the regional historical culture, and the local architectural features can be incorporated into the design of information identification systems. Local paper cutting or clay sculpture cultural characteristics can be integrated into the design of urban trash cans, enabling the ancient town's profound historical

culture to be integrated into landscape design, instilling a sense of belonging for residents and a sense of cultural identification for visitors.

#### 4.6. Encouraging Participation and Inheritance, Preserving Cultural Memory

Maintain the unique cultural identity and value of historical towns and focus on preserving the integrated expression of cultural landscapes. Preservation efforts should not be limited to individual buildings or sites but should encompass the entire town as a whole. Encourage residents and communities to actively participate in the preservation and management of cultural landscapes, involving them in decision-making and planning to ensure that protection measures align with the needs and desires of local residents. Additionally, involve more tourists in appreciating and experiencing the cultural landscapes, enhancing awareness and inheritance of the ancient town's culture. Conduct publicity and educational activities on cultural heritage preservation to raise public awareness and understanding of cultural landscape protection. Through exhibitions, lectures, and educational events, the public should gain insights into the historical and cultural value of the ancient town, enhancing the awareness and initiative in cultural preservation. The preservation of cultural landscapes should be sustainable, balancing protection and development. Properly utilizing historical buildings and sites and promoting cultural tourism and cultural industries can bring economic benefits to the ancient town, ensuring the long-term preservation of its cultural landscapes.

### 5. Conclusion

This study has conducted an in-depth exploration of the cultural landscape preservation and inheritance of XiuRong Ancient Town in Xinzhou. Through the analysis of both tangible and intangible cultural landscape elements, it has revealed the unique historical and cultural value and rich cultural connotations of the ancient town. XiuRong Ancient Town, as an important historical heritage in the Xinzhou region, carries abundant historical memories and cultural traditions, making its preservation and inheritance particularly crucial. Regarding the preservation of the cultural landscape, the preciousness and fragility of XiuRong Ancient Town's architectural structures, layout, and streets, as tangible cultural heritage, have been recognized. Combining with the contemporary context, strategies for its protection and revitalization have been proposed. Only through the collective efforts of the whole society can we better preserve and inherit the cultural landscape of XiuRong Ancient Town, making it a source of local cultural pride and a precious historical heritage, leaving behind a valuable cultural legacy for future generations.

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