

# Slovakia

## Vlkolíneč

### Brief Description

Vlkolíneč, situated in the centre of Slovakia, is a remarkably intact settlement of 45 buildings with the traditional features of a central European village. It is the region's most complete group of these kinds of traditional log houses, often found in mountainous areas.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription** 1993

#### Agency responsible for site management

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Department of World Heritage  
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- Regional Monuments Board Žilina  
Local Branch Ruzomberok  
Mariánske námestie 9  
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### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (iv), (v)

#### Justification as provided by the State Party

(IV) Vlkolíneč is a remarkably intact unit settlement representing a Central European type of settlements, with log-built architecture as frequently seen in the hillside and mountain areas. From town-planning aspects the settlement had experienced only negligible changes and its architectural features were fully retained. It represents the most preserved and comprehensive urban unit of original folk constructions in the broad context of surrounding regions.

(V) There are 45 nearly undamaged homesteads in the intramural, retaining a multitude of archaic building elements. There is no evidence of another similar unit in a corresponding state of preservation, conditions, type and category as the Vlkolíneč reservation.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

At its 16th meeting in Paris, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee requested ICOMOS to carry out a comparative study among similar properties in central Europe. This study is under way and the results will be presented to the Meeting of the World Heritage Committee in December 1993.

#### Recommendation

That the consideration of this nomination be further *deferred*, to enable the comparative study to be completed.

#### Committee Decision

Bureau (1992): The Bureau decided to return the nomination to the competent Czech and Slovak authorities so that additional information may be provided regarding the natural and rural environment of the village and to supply details of the management plan for the ensemble. Furthermore, the Bureau requested ICOMOS to carry out a comparative study among similar properties in Central Europe.

Session (1992): The requested information arrived too late to enable ICOMOS to make an evaluation and recommendations to the Committee, hence the inscription of this cultural property was deferred.

Bureau (June 1993): The Bureau recommended that ICOMOS complete the on-going study on Central European villages which is being carried out in consultation with specialists from all the countries concerned. In the light of the results of this study, which should be presented at its next session in December 1993, the Bureau will take a decision regarding the inscription of this property on the World Heritage List.

Bureau (December 1993): ICOMOS presented to the Bureau the results of the comparative study on "Traditional Villages in the Carpathian Basin and its immediate surroundings" which has been carried out in consultation with specialists from all the countries concerned. In the light of the results of this study, ICOMOS concluded that Vlkolíneč has universal value and recommended its inscription under criteria (iv) and (v). The Bureau, commending ICOMOS on its comparative study, recommended that the Committee inscribe this site under criteria (iv) and (v).

Session (1993): The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criteria (iv) and (v). The Committee commended ICOMOS on the comparative study on "Traditional Villages in the Carpathian Basin and its immediate surroundings"

which has been carried out in consultation with specialists from all the countries concerned.

[deferral recommended by ICOMOS; recommendation by State Party adopted:]

Vlkolinec is a remarkably intact unitary settlement of a characteristic central European type with log-built architecture, which is often found in mountainous areas. The layout of the town has remained virtually unchanged and the architectural style has been fully retained. It is the best preserved and most comprehensive unit of its kind in the whole region (criterion iv).

There are 45 unaltered buildings in the ensemble, retaining many early constructional features (criterion v).

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Proposal for text has not been made by State Party but is requested
- No change required

#### **Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- As of 2005, there is a possibility of future reassessment with a view to improve legislative protection of the site

#### **Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### **3. Protection**

#### **Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Acts: protection and development of territory of Banská Štiavnica and its surroundings (2001); Building Act No. 50 (1976)
- Laws: on protection of monuments and historic sites (2002); on Landscape and Nature Protection (2003)
- Protective zone of the reserve forms National Park (former Protected Landscape Area) of Veľká Fatra, whose boundaries are determined by the Edict of the MC SSR No. 8/1974 Col
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

### **4. Management**

#### **Use of site/property**

- Visitor attraction, national park, rural landscape, lived-in settlement

#### **Management /Administrative Body**

- Steering group: formally constituted (1990)
- Site manager: on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is not sufficiently effective

Proposed actions: improvement of human resources

- Accredited seminar "Management of World Heritage" (2006)

### **5. Management Plan**

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 06/2003
- Title: "Revival of MRFA Vlkolinec – recovery project as part of programme of revival of Slovak localities listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List for period from 2003 to 2006"
- adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Ružomberok Town

### **6. Financial Resources**

#### **Financial situation**

- Budget sources: many state sources are mentioned such as the Environment and Culture ministries, the Pro-Slovakia Programme and 'Let's Renew Our House' Programme
- Bi-lateral: Contributions from the SGI Foundation
- Sufficient

### **7. Staffing Levels**

- Number of staff: 3

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, promotion; interpretation; education
- Average: visitor management

### **8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques**

- Scientific institutions: local universities
- Museum conservation facilities: museum of Liptov village in Ružomberok with many

professional seminars aimed at issue of folk wooden architecture and its conservation

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: (2004) 60,000
- Trend: moderate decrease
- Visitor facilities: visitor centre with small shop, "Farmer's House" museum, rural boarding services, private accommodation in the town centre, car park

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; site value studies; monitoring exercises; condition surveys; archaeological surveys; agricultural and horticultural studies; tourism impact studies
- Studies used for management of site, in the regular decision-making process of the Monuments Board
- The studies are used as basic materials for elaboration of conceptual materials for execution of care of monuments in the territory of the locality. Review of the Central List of Monuments and Historic Sites in Slovakia. The goal of this research task is update of data about monuments and historic sites of the Slovak Republic, including localities inscribed in the World Heritage List, evaluation of subject of care of monuments with direct reflection of its usage in decision-taking process of protection of monuments and historic sites SR, presentation of information on monuments and historic sites provided directly and, potentially, through computer network, topography of monuments and historic sites of the Slovak Republic and preparation of updated List of Monuments in Slovakia. The research task of the Monuments Board SR is systemically realised since 1997

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Events: annual cultural events and festivals; International Children's Day events; sporting events (independently organised)
- Web site available: [www.ruzomberok.sk](http://www.ruzomberok.sk)

- Local participation: the locality is living village – municipal part of Ružomberok. Inhabitants have all possibilities to influence both elections of members of local councils in particular self-governments as well as partial approaches in the locality. Essential developmental documents, such as developmental planning documentation, subject to public comment procedure

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

#### Conservation interventions

- Installation of various infrastructure elements (water pipelines, electric cables, communications materials)
- Present state of conservation: adequate

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Natural disasters, number of inhabitants, visitors & tourism, agricultural and forestry activity
- Specific issues if mentioned: in Vlkolínec, 73 objects and the bell tower are registered in the Central List of Monuments and Historic Sites under 36 registration numbers. The objects are mainly farmer's log cabins and farm buildings (barns, cowsheds, hoggeries, granaries, mows). The structural condition of cultural monuments is generally satisfactory. Needed changes mainly include replacement of roofing with new wooden shingles and regular maintenance. Some of these are of poor structural quality, as they were not used for original purposes for a long time
- Emergency measures taken: studies of impacts of tourism, elaborated with respect to specific problems of Vlkolínec, have to be put into practice

### 13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: the Regional Monuments Board Prešov, local branch Levoča and Regional Monuments Board Košice have created "passport" cards of immovable national cultural monuments and monuments objects in monitored territory and passport cards of objects supplementing monuments as well as realize monitoring of entire territory. Data on the passport cards is thoroughly evaluated and used as basis both for periodical report, that is elaborated by the Monuments Board of the

Slovak Republic and submitted to the Ministry of Culture SR once a two years, as well as for procedure in the matter of protection of monuments and historic sites in the case of wrong condition of protection of national cultural monument

- Measures planned: brief description of changes having influence on authenticity and integrity and evaluation of significant interventions into protected locality with respect to increased or decreased threat to said aspects; full risk assessment; evaluation of the conservation of values; a central list of regulations and measurements adopted for protection

beginning in Trlenská dolina, not immediately below municipality. Collecting car park in Trlenská dolina should cause decrease of number of tourists, reducing devastation of territory and simultaneously eliminating adverse effects to psychical health of local inhabitants

- (3) Sound functioning of municipality and/or conservation of life functions also require creation of new working opportunities through revival of traditional crafts and recovery of traditional methods of farming; (4) seminars for owners, (5) realization of active state financial policy for rescue and restoration of world cultural heritage, (6) increase of financial assistance

#### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social factors, economic
- Strengths of management: development of infrastructure; gradual restoration of historic objects and fastened rescue and restoration of threatened objects, return to authenticity (roofs); increased awareness of extraordinary character of locality; possibility of easier acquisition of funds for direct restoration or supporting programs from foreign and national sources; increased offer of educational activities, increased offer of services, increased interest of foreign visitors in the locality
- Weaknesses of management: reserves in organization and regulation of tourist trade, continuously decreasing number of inhabitants, low number of working opportunities, inflexibility of local bodies in realization of new projects, low legal consciousness of owners, permanently insufficient financial assistance on the side of state authorities

#### **Future actions:**

- In accordance with principles and initial goals, level of tourism needs to be strictly regulated touristic for the sake of territorial development of Vlkolínec. Any other activities of boarding and accommodation nature should be thus located out of urban area of the municipality. Therefore, expansion of the facilities in Vlkolínec itself and its immediate surroundings is not desired.
- (2) Practical application of scientific studies related to impacts of travel trade to locality - tourist trade should be reduced or regulated on the basis of analysis of load on municipality caused by tourist trade and for purpose of "revival" of Vlkolínec. Partial limitation of entry of tourists into locality should be realised by prohibition of transport with restricted zone