

Retrospective SOUV Cultural Criteria

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Rules of the Game

- World Heritage Committee established OUV at the time of inscription
- We have to put that information into form of modern SOUV
- Have to use the information available at time of inscription

Priority of information sources

- Committee decision, particularly if they defined criteria
- Advisory Body evaluation
(in many cases, these provide all you need)
- Nomination dossier

Essential Reference Material

- Guidance on the Preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (2010)
- Preparing World Heritage Nominations (2010)

Criteria

- SOUV must contain justification for why the property meets each of the criteria under which it has been inscribed
- New criteria cannot be added without a new nomination
- NB criteria definitions have changed through time. It is essential to use definition in force at time of inscription

Where the Committee has agreed the justification for the accepted criteria, the wording that was adopted must be respected. In some exceptional cases the text that was adopted by the Committee may not be enough to convey fully why the property is considered to have met the relevant criteria. In such circumstances it is important that no text from the Committee decision on criteria may be deleted, but this text may be added to, for clarification. However any additions should be based clearly on the conclusions of the Advisory Body evaluation and should only be added in relation to the criteria that were agreed by the Committee. (*Guidance on the Preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value* (2010))

Possible additions to existing definitions of criteria

Three scenarios possible:

- Significant discoveries since description relate to original justification for inscription. - these attributes can be referred to in SOUV
- Significant discoveries relevant to, but broader than current justification for inscription – refer to Advisory Body
- Significant discoveries relating to criteria not used in inscription – re-nomination required

Where no justification for the criteria was agreed by the Committee, then a justification should be proposed related to the evaluation of the property at the time of inscription. The text should make reference not only to how the property satisfies each of the relevant criterion, but also to the specific attributes that convey those ideas. Care should be taken to demonstrate how the property as a whole addresses each criterion and through which attributes. (*Guidance on the Preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value* (2010))

Criterion i

1977: Represent a unique artistic **or aesthetic** achievement, a masterpiece of human creative genius

1983: Represent **a unique artistic achievement**, a masterpiece of human creative genius

1996: Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

Criterion ii

1977: Have exerted considerable influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on **subsequent** developments in architecture, monumental **sculpture, garden and landscape design, related arts, or human settlements**

1980: Have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, **or town planning and landscaping**

1994: Have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, or town planning and landscape **design**

1996: Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or **technology**, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design

Criterion iii

1978: **Be** unique, **extremely rare, or of great antiquity**

1980: **Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared**

1994: Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization **or cultural tradition** which has disappeared

1996: Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization **which is living or** which has disappeared

Criterion iv

1977: Be among the most characteristic examples of a type of structure, the type representing an important cultural, social, artistic, scientific, technological or industrial development

1980: Be an outstanding example of a type of structure which illustrates a significant stage in history

1983: Be an outstanding example of a type of **building or architectural ensemble** which illustrates a significant stage in history

1994: Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble **or landscape** which illustrates **(a)** significant stage(s) in human history

1996: Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural **or technological ensemble** or landscape which illustrates **(a)** significant stage(s) in human history

Criterion v

1977: Be a **characteristic** example of a **significant, traditional style of architecture, method of construction, or human settlement, that is fragile by nature or** has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible **socio-cultural or economic** change

1980: Be an **outstanding** example of a traditional human settlement **which is representative of a culture and which** has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

1994: Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement **or land-use** which is representative of a culture **(or cultures)**, **especially when it** has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

2005: Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, **or sea-use** which is representative of a culture (or cultures), **or human interaction with the environment** especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

Criterion vi

1977: Be **most importantly** associated with ideas or beliefs, **with events or with persons**, of outstanding **historical importance or significance**

1980: Be **directly or tangibly** associated with **events or** with ideas or beliefs of outstanding **universal significance (the Committee considered that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances or in conjunction with other criteria)**

1994: Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considered that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances or in conjunction with other criteria)

2005: Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria)

Writing criteria from scratch

- Be as brief as possible
- Explain why each criterion applies by reference to attributes of the property
- Attributes are the qualities which define the OUV of the particular property
- Be descriptive of attributes since these are key to future management of the property
- Be factual about attributes
- Derive your text from what was said in documents available to the Committee