

Macao (China)

No 1110

1. BASIC DATA

<i>State Party:</i>	People's Republic of China
<i>Name of property:</i>	The Historic Monuments of Macao
<i>Location:</i>	The Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR)
<i>Date received:</i>	31 January 2002
<i>Category of property:</i>	

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*. In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, this is an area of a historic town that is still inhabited.

Brief description:

Macao was under Portuguese administration from the mid 16th century until 1999, when it came under Chinese sovereignty. The historic monuments of Macao consist of the historic street with related architectural and urban structures in the centre of the old town, which represent this encounter between the Western and Chinese civilizations. Macao was crucial in establishing a lucrative trade port which had a strategic significance in the development of international trading. The historic core of Macao is a testimony to this representing a unique fusion of aesthetic ideals, and cultural, architectural and technological influences.

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

Macao Special Administrative Region is located on the southeast coast of China to the west of the Pearl River Delta. It is 60km from Hong Kong and 145km from the city of Guangzhou (former Canton). It consists of the Macao peninsula and the two islands of Taipa and Coloane. The population of the administrative area is ca. 461,000. The nominated property on the Macao peninsula is made up of two separate core zones in the urban centre of the city, each surrounded by a buffer zone.

The core zone 1 consists of the central area of the historic settlement of Macao. It includes a series of urban spaces and buildings representing the integration of Portuguese and Chinese elements along the city's primary urban route, *Rua Direita*, which leads from the ancient Chinese harbour in the south to the old Christian city in the north. It includes the following ensembles:

Barra Square with the *A-Ma Temple* (15th century), an example of Chinese culture inspired by Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism and folk beliefs. The temple is used especially during Chinese Spring Festival, and consists of the Gate Pavilion, the Memorial Arch, the Prayer Hall, the Hall of Benevolence, the Hall of Guanyin, and Zhengjiao

Chanlin (a Buddhist pavilion). North of the temple, along *Rua Direita*, there is the neo-classical *Moorish Barracks* (1874) with its wide verandas, and raised on a granite platform. It was built to house police forces recruited from Goa.

Lilau Square is one of the first residential quarters of the Portuguese in Macao. The *Mandarin's House* (1881), a traditional Chinese residence belonging to a prominent Chinese literary figure, covers an area of 4,000m². It consists of a series of courtyard houses in brick, extending to some 120m along Barra street.

St. Augustine's Square was established by Spanish Augustinian priests in 1591, and still maintains the tradition of the Easter Procession. Here are *St. Augustine's* church and *St. Laurence's* church. The latter was built by the Jesuits before 1560 and rebuilt in the 1850s. *Dom Pedro V Theatre* (1860), the first western-style theatre in China, is a neo-classical brick building. It has a lobby area, a small ballroom, and a circular auditorium. *St. Joseph's Seminary Building and Church* (1758) was the principal basis for the missionary work in China, Japan and the region. It is the only example of baroque architecture in China. Sir Robert Ho Tung Library (1894), with a rare collection of books, is a luxurious Western estate in neo-classical style, with Chinese interiors and lush gardens.

Leal Senado Square is the main public square of the town with the *Leal Senado Building* (1784), a two-storied neo-classical structure. It has a simple front elevation topped with a triangular pediment and granite Doric columns. Close by is the *Holy House of Mercy*, used by a charitable institution, founded in 1569. This two-storied building in neo-classical style has an elaborate front elevation. Close by, there is the *Cathedral Square* with the *Cathedral Church* (rebuilt in 1850), and the headquarters of Macao's Diocese. Further north is *St. Dominic's Square* with *St. Dominic's Church* (founded in 1587) and the old Chinese bazaar area. Here there is the *Sam Kai Vui Kun Temple* (restored in 1792), which is testimony to Macao's enduring respect to Chinese and Portuguese communities as equals.

Company of Jesus Square has *St. Paul's Ruins*, and *Na Tcha Temple*. The *Ruins of St. Paul's* represent the remaining front elevation of the Church of Mater Dei (1603-40). The façade is based on classical orders in mannerist style integrating distinctly Oriental motifs. Near the church there are the archaeological remains of the old College of St. Paul's, a witness of the first Western model university in Asia. *Na Tcha Temple* (1888) is a small traditional structure standing close to the old city walls. The *Section of the Old City Walls* (1569), 18.5m long, is built in *chunambo*, a local material made from a mixture of clay, sand, rice straw, ground rocks and oyster shells compacted in layers. East of these is the *Mount Fortress* (1626), which stands on the Mount Hill (52m above sea level). The fortress covers an area of 10,000m²; its plan is a trapezoid. It was built against attacks from the sea.

Camões Garden area has *St. Anthony's church* (16th century), the old headquarters of the British East Indies Company, and the *Protestant Cemetery* (19th century) with the tombs of renowned personalities, such as Robert Morrison (chapel built in 1821), the author of the first Chinese-English Dictionary.

The core zone 2, some 500m east of the zone 1, consists of the *Guia Fortress* (1622-38) located on the *Guia Hill* and incorporating *Guia Chapel* (1622) and *Guia Lighthouse* (1885) the oldest lighthouse in South China seas.

Buffer zones surround each of the two core zones. In the case of zone 1, the boundary of the buffer zone coincides with the former shore line of the ancient harbour of Macao. In practice, the buffer zone delimits the territory of Macao as it was until the early 19th century. From the late 19th century through the 20th century, more land has been reclaimed on both sides of the Macao peninsula. The land use in the buffer zone is mixed, including mostly residential and commercial use, but also governmental, religious and financial functions. The buildings include traditional shop-houses, military structures, churches and chapels, early banking structures, traditional Chinese pawnshops, noble mansions, small Chinese shrines, Art-Deco vernacular architecture, the old commercial district of the city and other public spaces. The core zone 2 with the Guia fortress is enclosed within a buffer zone that covers the surrounding park and immediate urban area.

History

The site of Macao was settled by fishing people long before the arrival of foreigners. It was a sheltered bay on the peninsula and a stopping point for seafarers sailing down the Chinese coast from Fujian province. The temple for the Goddess A-Ma, built in the late 15th century, is testimony to their faith. The Portuguese first arrived to China in 1513, visiting the famous market of Canton. In 1557, they arrived in Macao, which became the oldest permanent European settlement in East Asia.

The name of Macao derives from the Ma Kwok temple, built in the 14th century. At the time, the native inhabitants were scattered in small villages. Barra village and Patane village were small settlements of seafaring merchants, while the other villagers were farmers. When the Portuguese arrived, they built simple timber-clay houses in the Inner Harbour area. Several catholic churches and chapels gave the character for the settlement, becoming the focal points for road patterns. In the early 17th century, the Portuguese built a series of forts against other Western powers, e.g. the Dutch. In mid 17th century, the settlement was divided into two parts: the Portuguese in the south and the Chinese in the north. There was relatively little development in the 18th century due to restrictive legislation by the Chinese authorities.

In 1849, Portugal proclaimed Macao a free port, which was confirmed in a protocol in 1887. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Catholic Church increased its power constructing new or renovating major churches. Due to Macao's role as a trading base, and due to lucrative opium trade, foreign companies established a base in an enclave prior to heading further up the Pearly River to Canton. This increased the quality of the building construction.

At the end of the 19th century, not being able to compete with Hong-Kong, Macao's main finances were based on offering a popular sojourn spot for foreigners. As a result, many luxurious villas were built here, including new functions and buildings, such as Dom Pedro V Theatre, the

Military Club, the Moorish Barracks, and Bela Vista Hotel. At the same time, the Chinese continued building in their own style, including Earth God Temple, the God of Justice Temple, Na Tcha Temple, and A-Ma Temple. From this period, there also started the process of land reclaim, which continued through the 20th century, providing a substantial extension to urbanised area.

After 1949 the population grew especially by an influx of Chinese refugees from the mainland. In 1974, Macao was established as a Chinese territory under Portuguese administration. Under the terms of the 1987 agreement, Macao became a special administrative region under Chinese sovereignty in December 1999. In the 1990s, there has been a real-estate boom, resulting in a large number of high-rise buildings in the city centre area, though principally outside the defined buffer zones. At the same time, there have been campaigns for the restoration of the historic monuments.

Management regime

Legal provision:

St Joseph's complex, Dom Pedro V Theatre, and Holy House of Mercy Building are owned by respective institutions. The other properties are the property of Macao Special Administrative Region SAR Government. The Moorish Barracks, Mandarin's House, and Dom Pedro V Theatre are protected as 'Buildings of Architectural Interest'. The other properties are protected as 'Monuments'.

The principal legal basis for protection includes: "the Basic Law of the Macao SAR of the P.R. of China", Decree Law no. 56/84/M and Decree no. 83/92/M, relating to the Defence of Architectural, Environmental and Cultural Heritage, and Decree n. 7/91/M relating to General Regulations for Urban Construction.

The historic areas included within the buffer zones are designated as classified heritage areas.

Management structure:

The Macao SAR is a local administrative region of P.R. of China. The Cultural Institute of Macao is the principal agency with management authority over issues relating to cultural heritage preservation and the implementation of all heritage protection laws. The individually listed properties have each their own management office.

Resources:

The financial resources for the preservation of listed cultural heritage are provided by the government.

Justification by the State Party (summary)

Criterion ii: *The Historic Monuments of Macao* are the best and most complete example of Western and Chinese cultural interchange. The group of buildings and original streetscapes of the proposal clearly depict the multicultural dimension of Macao's historic roots, where the primary urban fabric illustrates a unique fusion of Western and Chinese spatial organization concepts, architectural styles, aesthetic ideals, artistic workmanship and technological interchange. ... Macao was crucial in establishing a

lucrative trade port in China and a more permanent Portuguese settlement in the region, providing conditions to support the lucrative golden triangle of maritime trade routes between India, Japan and China, which became the principal source of revenue supporting the influential Portuguese Maritime Enterprise in the long run. ... Macao was very influential in Chinese military structural design and also in upgrading the quality of military equipment productions in China and within the region.

Criterion iii: *The Historic Monuments of Macao* are a unique testimony to the first and most enduring encounter between the West and China, as represented by the overall group of buildings, primary route and original city districts inside the Core Zone, where examples of both Western and Chinese cultures appear side-by-side in the urban environment and present a clear fusion of architectural styles and technologies.

Criterion iv: Macao presents outstanding integrity for an early trading settlement structure in an Asian context, incorporating a complete array of unique vernacular architectural examples, of both Western and Chinese roots that, altogether, illustrate Macao's crucial role in Human History.

Criterion vi: In the proposal there are several pioneering examples that are associated with significant influential changes in China. The architectural monuments include several first case-situations in China, (e.g. related to theatre, university, administration, and architecture) ... Figureheads such as Dr. Sun Yat Sen found ideological inspiration in the social and cultural models that they witnessed first-hand in Macao, through a local array of artistic productions, rich creative literary works (namely, those of Zheng Guanying), community lifestyle, cultural environment and local economic models. ... In this context, Dr. Sun Yat Sen's activities in Macao, directly motivated him to lead important changes in China's economic and political ideals, ultimately ending an era of imperial feudal system and introducing China into a modern Republic.

3. ICOMOS EVALUATION

Actions by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the nominated property in September 2004.

ICOMOS further consulted the International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH).

After a preliminary evaluation of the nomination, ICOMOS contacted the State Party for clarifications. This resulted in a revised definition of the nominated property, a detailed comparative study, and additional information about the historic development and strategic role of the site.

Conservation

Conservation history:

The city of Macao has had an important increase of population after 1949, followed by economic development. In recent decades, efforts have been made to protect and

restore heritage buildings in the city centre. For this purpose, there are new laws dating from 1984, which regulate the management and provide relevant guidelines.

State of conservation:

The state of conservation of the nominated properties is reported to be generally reasonable. There has been noteworthy attention to the restoration of historic buildings, also recognised by UNESCO, who have awarded Honourable Mention for the restoration of St. Joseph's Church within the programme of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. Within the *Ruins of St. Paul's* a new structure depicts the position and height of the original choir. The church floor has been designed so as to recall the floor plan. In the centre of the *Mount Fortress* grounds, there is a new *Macao Museum* building. This is a multi-level structure with the top floor visible above ground. A pedestrian route with escalator links the fortress to the Ruins of St. Paul's. A modern extension is being constructed at the rear of the *Moorish Barracks* in response to requirements imposed by the Fire Department for emergency exit. The West Wing of *St. Joseph's Seminary* is being converted into a museum and interpretation centre. *Mandarin's House* is subject to a gradual restoration process. The architectural surfaces of the Guia Chapel and Fortress are currently being restored, forming an interesting learning experience. *Leal Senado Building* and the *Holy House of Mercy* have been refurbished and opened to the public.

Management:

While the Cultural Institute will continue to serve as principal heritage manager, the new *Heritage Environment Management Council* (HEMC) will be the leading body responsible for coordinating all city and community sectors that have direct responsibility for the overall state of conservation of the properties and good environmental condition of the respective buffer zones. Members of this Council will include representatives from Governmental and Non-Governmental bodies, such as the management boards of each proposed property, community associations related to neighbourhoods, culture, architecture, urban planning, infra-structures, tourism development and other relevant fields.

An Action Plan has been prepared for the management of the nominated properties and buffer zone areas. The current management system is considered adequate. During the ICOMOS mission, however, there was also discussion about taking it one step further by improving the correlation of Macao's economic development and management strategies and plans for the island's heritage resources. Macao has some 15 million visitors per year. This figure is considered an optimum, which however may soon be exceeded. It will be important to give due attention to a balanced interpretation of the sites, taking into account the overall context.

The boundaries of Buffer Zones 1 and 2 are superimposed over the "protected zones". In buffer zone 1, starting at A-Ma Temple, this zone follows the city's primary urban route that links the first Chinese temple to the "Christian city", joining 11 monuments. Following the ICOMOS mission, the buffer zone 1 has been modified to coincide with the outline of Praia Grande Bay.

Risk analysis:

The peninsula has a population of ca. 493,000, and the buffer zones have some 36,000 inhabitants. The historic areas have been subject to development pressures over the past decades, resulting in high-rise buildings. Due to the protection efforts by the authorities, the pressures are now less and the development is focused elsewhere on the peninsula.

Macao is located in a sub-tropical zone and surrounded by sea. It has high humidity, which exposes the built structures to a variety of problems. One of these is termite attacks. Wooden structures are also vulnerable to fire. Furthermore, the region is subject to natural phenomena, including typhoons. In recent years, there has been much less damage though probably due to more resistant systems of construction.

Authenticity and integrity

The town of Macao has had an important economic development in the recent decades. This has resulted in the concentration of business and commerce in the relatively restricted island of Macao. At the same time, it is noted that the historic core areas and buffer zones, proposed for nomination to the World Heritage List, have been relatively less affected. The historic route that leads from the A-Ma Temple and the ancient Chinese port towards the Christian town in the north has retained much of the historic fabric becoming testimony of the history of the place. Part of the buffer zone has a certain amount of relatively high-rise buildings. Nevertheless, the various facets of the colonial inheritance of the place have certainly been retained.

The individual monuments and places nominated for inscription have retained their original material and form. Most of these monuments have been subject to recent works of rehabilitation and presentation.

Comparative evaluation

The original nomination document set out a comparison with only one site: Goa in India. The revised nomination document instead has provided a much more detailed comparison taking into account the general development of trading between the Orient and Western countries. Macao is compared to other Portuguese settlements, such as the Churches and Convents of Goa (World Heritage in 1986), the Portuguese City of Mazagan (World Heritage in 2004), and Malacca, as well as other colonial sites, such as the Historic Town of Vigan (World Heritage in 1999), the Baroque churches of the Philippines (World Heritage in 1993), and the Dutch settlement of Batavia in Indonesia. Reference is also made to Hong Kong (established in 1840 close to Macao), and other sites in China, such as Canton, Xiamen, Shanghai, and Quanzhou. The Portuguese settlements in South America, furthermore, have a different character representing a different cultural context.

From this comparison emerges the particular position that distinguishes Macao. Its geographical location on the Chinese continent and the special interaction between the Chinese government and the foreign traders gave it a strategic position in the international trading network.

Macao is also characterised by its multicultural blend of influences that are still reflected in the present-day community.

Outstanding universal value

General statement:

Macao is identified as the first and most enduring encounter between the West and China, which has become an exceptional example of Western and Chinese cultural exchange. While the Portuguese came first, other nationalities found here a base as well, e.g. the Dutch, the French, the British. As a result, Macao developed a spontaneous blend of different cultures, as documented in its heritage, involving not only the arts and architecture, but also religion, literature, different fields of culture, science and medicine. Even the special Creole language (*Maquista*) of Macao is testimony to the cultural mix, being based on Portuguese but with contributions from many other languages.

Within the world trade connections, Macao has played a strategic role. In relation to China, it was the principal affiliated port to Canton (today's Guangzhou), which strongly contributed to its development. It became the crossroads for several major trade routes, including the route Macao-Goa-Europe (trading e.g. in raw silk, silk, porcelain, and herbs from China; woolen textiles, crystals, glassware and clocks from England; industrial products from Flanders; wine from Portugal), the route Macao-Japan (exchanging silk to silver), the route Macao-Manila-America ('Silk Road on the Pacific Ocean'), and the route Macao-Southeast Asia competing with Malacca.

Macao was instrumental in generating significant changes in and introducing new ideas to China. These include, e.g., the first western-style theatre, the first western model university, the first western senate administration structure. Due to the importance of Macao as a medical centre, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the ideological founder and first president of modern China, worked here finding crucial inspiration in its intellectual and cultural environment. In fact, Macao has been associated with several prominent Chinese and European cultural and especially literary figures. Macao can be seen to have outstanding universal value in having been the first and most enduring gateway to generate the cultural exchange between China and Europe.

Evaluation of criteria:

Criterion ii: The history of Macao is intimately associated with the development of world-wide trading routes. Its strategic location on the Chinese territory, and the special relationship that was established between the Chinese and Portuguese authorities gave Macao a strategic position for the important interchange of influences and human values in the various fields of culture, sciences, technology, art and architecture.

Criterion iii: Macao bears a unique testimony to the first and longest-lasting encounter between the West and China, from the 16th to the 20th centuries. It was the focal point not only for traders but also for missionaries (Catholic and Protestant), and developments in the different fields of learning, such as literature and medicine. The impact of this encounter can be traced in the mixture of different types of architecture with a fusion of styles and

technologies from the different cultures that characterise the historic core zone of Macao. This encounter can also be detected in the existing culture of the place, its traditions, and even its special Portuguese-Creole that mixes influences from a great number of other languages.

Criterion iv: Macao represents an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble that illustrates the development of the encounter between the Western and Chinese civilisations over some four and half centuries. The historical route, with a series of urban spaces and mixture of vernacular architectural ensembles, linking the ancient Chinese port with the Portuguese city, has evolved over time into a unique combination of buildings and structures that testimony to the different phases of the cultural encounter.

Criterion vi: Due to its particular geographic and cultural location and the mutual exchange of influences, Macao has been associated with the exchange of a vast variety of cultural, spiritual, scientific and technical influences between the Western and Chinese civilisations. Dr Sun Yat Sen, the first president of China, found ideological inspiration in the social and cultural models of Macao, where he worked as a medical doctor. These ideas directly motivated him to introduce important changes in China, ultimately ending the era of imperial feudal system and establishing the modern republic.

Criterion vi: Macao has been associated with the exchange of a variety of cultural, spiritual, scientific and technical influences between the Western and Chinese civilisations. These ideas directly motivated the introduction of crucial changes in China, ultimately ending the era of imperial feudal system and establishing the modern republic.

3. Recommends that the name of the nominated property be changed into: “The Historic Centre of Macao”.

4. Further recommends to make every effort to develop the management system so as to retain the existing structural and visual integrity, and to maintain the principal sightlines of the nominated area within its contemporary setting.

ICOMOS, April 2005

4. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

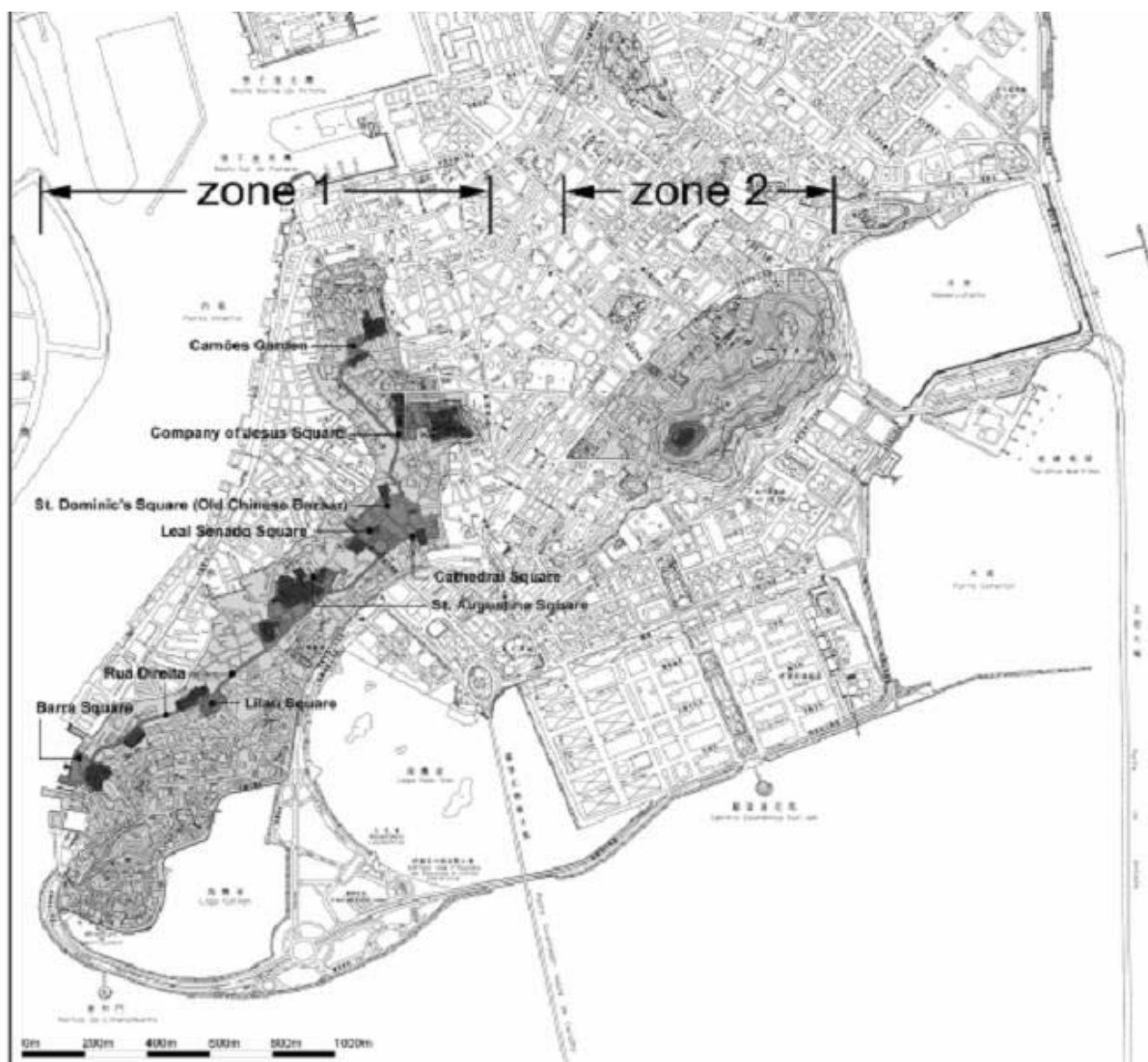
The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B,
2. Inscribes the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria ii, iii, iv and vi**:

Criterion ii: The strategic location of Macao on the Chinese territory, and the special relationship established between the Chinese and Portuguese authorities favoured an important interchange of human values in the various fields of culture, sciences, technology, art and architecture over several centuries.

Criterion iii: Macao bears a unique testimony to the first and longest-lasting encounter between the West and China. From the 16th to the 20th centuries, it was the focal point for traders and missionaries, and the different fields of learning. The impact of this encounter can be traced in the fusion of different cultures that characterise the historic core zone of Macao.

Criterion iv: Macao represents an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble that illustrates the development of the encounter between the Western and Chinese civilisations over some four and half centuries, represented in the historical route, with a series of urban spaces and architectural ensembles, that links the ancient Chinese port with the Portuguese city.



PROTECTED BUILDINGS, PROTECTED AREAS AND BUFFER ZONES

LEGEND:

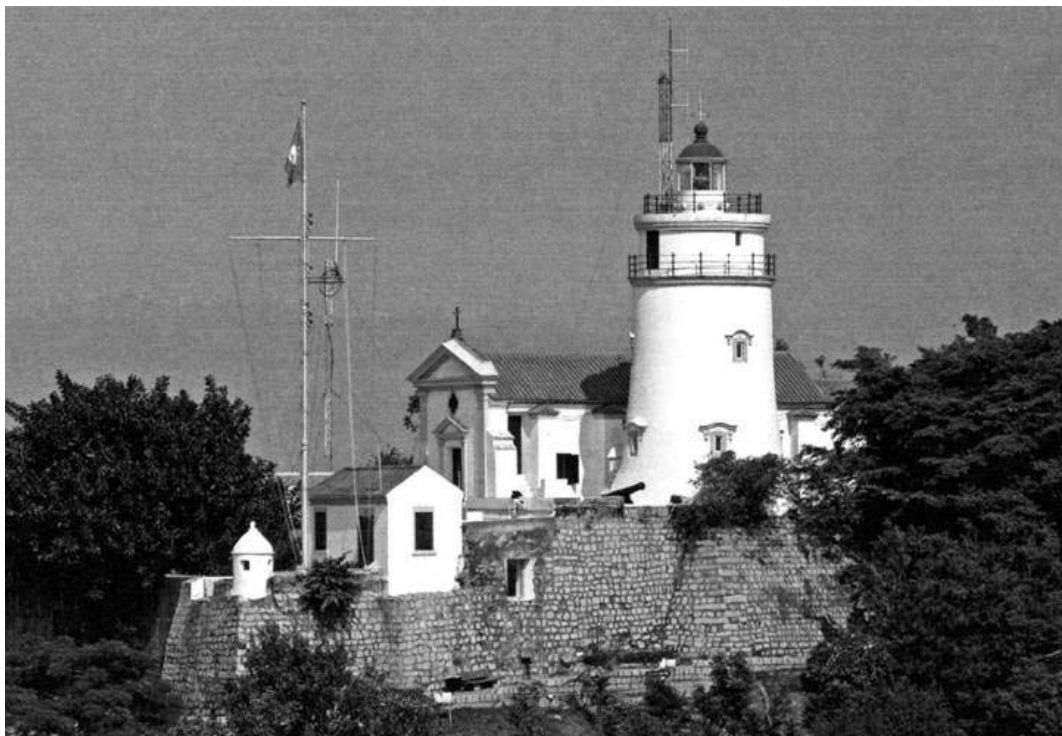
- Protected Buildings
- Protected Areas
- Buffer Zones

PLAN DOCUMENT No. 02

Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Saint Paul's Ruins



Guia Fortress (including Guia Chapel and Guia Lighthouse)