

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

L'viv (Ukraine)

No 865

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	L'viv - the ensemble of the historic centre
<i>Location</i>	Halychyna, L'viv Oblast'
<i>State Party</i>	Ukraine
<i>Date</i>	30 June 1997

Justification by State Party

The nominated property is:

- a unique example of an urban building environment, both for the region and for eastern Europe;
- the result of the common influences of architectural traditions with different origins and of deliberate urban activities;
- an example of the effective conservation of an historic environment and the harmonized development of a large city.

There is a unique concentration of architectural and artistic masterpieces of the highest value, resulting from the symbiosis of styles and traditions from local (the Halychyna school of Old Rus architecture), oriental (Byzantine and Armenian), and western European (mainly Italian and German) cultures. Among the most important of these are temples from the Old Rus period, magnificent Renaissance ensembles, Baroque and Rococo architecture and sculpture, and influences from the *Art Nouveau*, *Sezession*, and Modern Ukrainian schools.

Many of the historic buildings preserve in their interiors monumental paintings and historic relics.

The historic centre of the city of L'viv belongs not only to the Ukrainian culture but also to the national heritage of the Armenian, German, Jewish, Polish, Italian, and Austrian peoples.

The nominated property is the historic quarter of a living city, as defined in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. The historic centre of L'viv is much better preserved than that of any other town in Ukraine. It qualifies under **criteria i, v, and vi** of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

History and Description

History

The settlement on the banks of the Poltava river below Zamovka hill began in the mid 5th century AD, at the crossing point of important trade routes linking the Baltic, central Europe, the Mediterranean, and Asia. It gradually developed by the 13th century into an organized and well fortified town known as L'viv. It was the main town of the lands of the Eastern Slavs on the Bug, Sian, and Dnister rivers (Halychyna/Galicia), which entered history as a political entity in the 10th century, when it became a vassal state of the kingdom of Kiev (Kyiv). Kniiaz (King) Roman Mstyslavovych, who inherited the lands in 1199, united the territories of Halychyna and Volyn' in a single state, which continued after the collapse of the Kievan kingdom. L'viv was rebuilt and extended by Kniiaz Lev Danylovych (1264-1301).

L'viv had become the capital of the joint kingdom in 1272 and remained so until that, too, disappeared in 1340, when it was annexed to Poland by Casimir III the Great. However, the town maintained its paramountcy in western Ukraine, and its strategic and commercial importance brought it many privileges that ensured a monopoly over trade with the east. It was made the seat of a Catholic archbishopric in 1412.

The city attracted a multi-ethnic population, and the different groups lived in separate communities. The Ukrainian, Armenian, and Jewish communities were self-governing, unlike the Catholic (German, Polish, Italian, and Hungarian) groups. There was intense rivalry between them, which resulted in the creation of many architectural and artistic masterpieces.

The prosperity of L'viv was not materially harmed by frequent epidemics, fire, or wars. However, it was badly hit by the Ottoman siege in 1672 and had not recovered when it was captured and sacked by Charles XII of Sweden in 1704. Notwithstanding, some important religious buildings, especially monasteries, were built during the 18th century. With the First Partition of Poland in 1772 L'viv became the capital of the new Austrian province.

Under Austrian rule (which continued until 1918), the fortifications were dismantled and many religious foundations were closed down, their buildings being used for secular purposes; there was also considerable reconstruction of medieval buildings. The revolutionary year of 1848 saw serious damage in the centre of the city as a result of military action. In 1918 L'viv became part of the new Republic of Poland, but it returned to Ukraine after World War II.

Description

The area of the historic centre of L'viv proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List is 120ha

The heart of the city is the *High Castle (Vysokyi Zamok) and the area around it (Pidzamche)*, which developed in the later Middle Ages. Only the castle mound still survives, on its dominating site. In the 13th and early 14th centuries Pidzamche was the site of ten Orthodox churches and monasteries, three Armenian churches, two Catholic cathedrals, a mosque, and a synagogue. Of these only five churches remains:

- The *Church of St Mykolai* was first mentioned in 1292 and was the family church of the Halychyna kings. This cruciform domed structure, which still retains its 13th century stone walls, is typical of the unique style of Halychyna architecture.
- The *Church of St Paraskeva Piatnytsia* was also built in the 13th century, and was reconstructed in the 1640s. In plan it consists of a nave and a small chancel; there is an important 18th century iconostasis. The tower, crowned by a dome, was rebuilt in 1908.
- The *Church of St Onufrii* began as a wooden structure in the 13th century, and this was replaced in the 16th century by a new stone church which was extended and reconstructed in the 18th and early 20th centuries. Adjoining it is the *Basilian Monastery*, built and expanded in the 16th-19th centuries, with defensive walls dating from the 17th century.
- The small *Cathedral of St John the Baptist* was built in the mid 13th century and underwent many reconstructions, culminating in 1887, when it was rebuilt in Neo-Romanesque style.
- The *Church of Maria Snizhna* was established by German colonists in the 14th century as a stone basilica with apse. Despite substantial renovation in the late 19th century it retains many original features, including fine Baroque wood carvings in the interior.

The *Seredmistia* (Middle Town) was created in the mid 14th century. It preserves intact its original layout, which is an exceptional example of town planning in eastern Europe at that time. Its urban fabric was determined by the public, religious, and residential buildings of the different communities settled there in their own quarters, but this did not prevent the achievement of an overall harmony in the townscape.

Renaissance buildings predominate, many incorporating elements from earlier structures. In the 19th and 20th centuries new buildings were inserted, without adversely affecting the general picture. The central area is encircled by gardens on the site of the demolished medieval fortifications and with monasteries and aristocratic residences, mainly in Baroque style. Among the notable features are:

- The *Rynok Square*, which lies at the heart of Seredmistia, has in its centre a tower built in the 14th century, restored in the early 19th century. Around it there are many fine houses in Renaissance, Baroque, and Empire style, many of them retaining their original medieval layout, with a two-window living room and a side room with a single window facing the square. There is a fountain with

figures from classical mythology at each corner of the square, dating from 1793.

- The *Uspenska (Assumption) Church* complex, consisting of the church itself (1591-1629), the Chapel of the Three Prelates (1578-1590), and Korniakt's Tower (1572-78), is exceptional in that it combines Renaissance styles of building in stone with the local tradition of tripartite wooden places of worship, consisting of narthex, nave, and chancel. The church, with its 65m high bell tower, originally had a hipped roof, but this was replaced with the present Baroque helmet roof after a fire in 1695.
- The *Armenian Church* complex consists of the church itself (1363), the bell-tower (1571), the column of St Christopher (1726), the building of the former Armenian bank (17th century), the Armenian archbishops' palace (17th-18th centuries), and the Armenian Benedictine convent (17th century). The church combines Armenian and local design and techniques; fine 14th and early 15th century wall-paintings are preserved in the interior.
- The *Latin Metropolitan Cathedral* was built in the 14th-15th centuries in Gothic style, with a nave, two side-aisles, and long chancel; some Baroque features were added when it was restored in 1760-78. There are two chapels associated with it: Boims' Chapel (1609-15) and Kampians' Chapel (1629). The former of these is a cubic structure, surmounted by an octagon supporting a Renaissance dome; both the exterior and the interior are richly carved.
- The fortified complex of the *Bernardine Monastery* comprises the main church (1600-30), the monastery proper, the bell-tower, and a commemorative column. The church is basilican in layout and in style it combines Italian and German Renaissance elements with Mannerist details.
- There are other monastic ensembles in Seredmistia. These include the *Jesuit Church* (1610-30) and its college of 1723, and the 18th century *Dominican Church*, one of the most grandiose Baroque buildings in L'viv, with its 16th-17th century monastery complex and mid 19th century bell-tower.
- Some fragments of the 14th century *defensive walls* survive on the eastern and western sides. The *City Arsenal*, an austere building of 1574-75, the Baroque *Royal Arsenal* of 1639, and the mid-16th century *Gunpowder Tower* (one of the bastions of the lower defensive wall) all formed part of the eastern defences.

Also included in the area nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List is the *Ensemble of the Church of St Yuri the Dragon Fighter*, which lies outside the medieval city on a hillside terrace. This began with the construction of a wooden church and monastery in the late 13th century. The existing church was built of stone and brick in 1744-70, combining Italian Baroque with the traditional Ukrainian spatial layout. It is richly decorated with monumental sculpture and carvings. The crypt contains the tomb of the Halychyna king

Yaroslav Osmomyysi and dignitaries of the Ukrainian church. Associated with the church are the Palace of the Metropolitan (1772-74), the bell-tower (1828), in which is hung a bell cast in 1341, and other monastic features.

Management and Protection

Legal status

An area of 3000ha, with the 120ha of the nominated property at its centre, was designated as a National Historical and Architectural Reserve on 12 June 1975 by Resolution No 297 of the UkrSSR Council of Ministers, under the provisions of the 1970 Law on Monuments of History and Culture. It is further covered by the 1978 UkrSSR Law on the Preservation and Use of Monuments of History and Culture.

The designated Reserve includes 2007 historic monuments: 214 of these have been designated National Landmarks by resolution of the Council of Ministers (209 of these are located within the nominated area) and the remainder have been declared as being of local importance by resolution of the Oblast Administration. This legislation imposes strict controls on any activities proposed within the protected area which may have an adverse impact on the qualities for which it was designated.

Management

The entire nominated property is state-owned.

Overall supervision is the responsibility of the Directorate for the Protection and Restoration of Architectural Monuments of the National Committee on Urban Building and Architecture of Ukraine. At local level management is devolved to the L'viv Oblast State Administration and the L'viv City Executive Committee, the latter working through its Directorate for the Protection of the Historic Environment.

The overall General Programme of Regional Development has as one of its main features the functional reorientation of L'viv: it will be converted from a basically industrial city into a centre for tourism, culture, and education. This programme involves the creation of zones in the historic centre to attract foreign investment, and hence rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings and upgrading of the infrastructure. Public utilities are to be privatized, thereby providing an additional source of funding for restoration work.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

Conservation work began in L'viv in the mid 19th century under the aegis of the Austro-Hungarian Central Commission on Historic Monuments. Soon after that the Grono Organization of Conservators of Eastern Galicia was set up, followed by the Department of Conservation in the early years of the present century to deal with the protection and conservation of historic buildings in L'viv.

A national inventory programme for historic properties began in 1930, leading to the concept of designating

historic monuments. In 1937 Seredmistia was declared an historic monument because of the exceptional character of its urban fabric, and the Directorate for Building Control of L'viv Municipality assumed responsibility for the protection and restoration of historic buildings. This passed in the 1940s to the Division of Protection of Historic Buildings in the Office of the City Chief Architect and the Architectural department of the Oblast Executive Committee. Major restoration projects were carried out on the Gunpowder Tower, the Royal Arsenal, and the Dominican church and monastery in the 1950-70s.

With the creation of the National Historical and Architectural Reserve in 1975, the Directorate of the Reserve carried out further inventory and research on the historic buildings. Restoration and conservation projects were carried out on the Carmelite and Bernardine churches and monasteries, the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, the Church of Maria Snizhna, and the Church of St Onufrii, whilst the facades and interiors of a number of the buildings around Rynok square were renovated and conserved. Work is currently in progress on the Jesuit and St Yuri churches and monastic complexes.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the urban layout is very high, since the medieval street pattern and the relationship of the town to the castle and to the religious complexes, with their ethnic communities, has survived intact. In terms of materials there is an acceptable level of authenticity, taking into the account that some restoration work was carried out in the 19th and early 20th centuries before the current standards of conservation and restoration had been laid down.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited L'viv in January 1998. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages commented on its cultural significance.

Qualities

L'viv is an exceptionally well preserved example of an eastern European historic town, which has retained its medieval urban topography and street pattern almost intact. It also contains religious and secular buildings of high quality from the Middle Ages onwards.

Comparative analysis

L'viv is exceptional among the group of central and eastern European towns of medieval origin by virtue of the fact that it emerged almost unscathed from World War II. The only town in the region with which it may be compared is Krakow (Poland), which is on the World Heritage List. Its historical trajectory was, however, significantly different from that of Krakow, and this is reflected in its urban structure, and in particular in its heritage of churches and other places of worship.

ICOMOS recommendations for future action

The ICOMOS expert mission was informed that the conservation programme was awaiting final approval before being put into operation, and that action was being taken to remove the mast and antenna, which was now redundant, that dominates the skyline. Certain modifications to the nominated area were also agreed.

At its meeting in June 1998 the Bureau referred this nomination back to the State Party, requesting confirmation of points raised by ICOMOS. This information has been received and is found by ICOMOS to be satisfactory.

Brief description

The city of L'viv, founded in the later Middle Ages, flourished as an administrative, religious, and commercial centre for several centuries. It has preserved its medieval urban topography, and in particular evidence of the separate ethnic communities who lived there, virtually intact, along with many fine Baroque and later buildings.

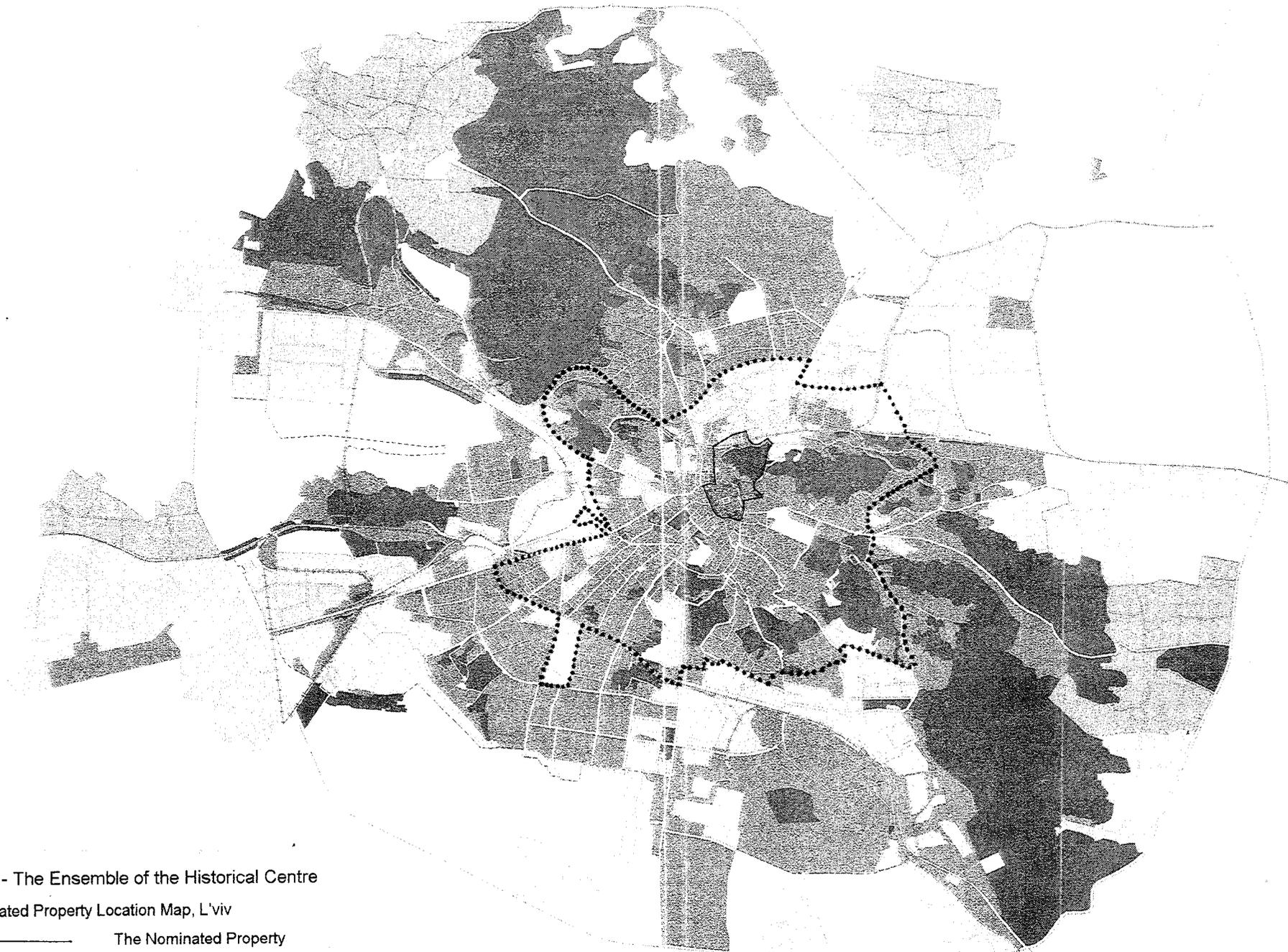
Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii and v*:

Criterion ii: In its urban fabric and its architecture, L'viv is an outstanding example of the fusion of the architectural and artistic traditions of eastern Europe with those of Italy and Germany.

Criterion v: The political and commercial role of L'viv attracted to it a number of ethnic groups with different cultural and religious traditions, who established separate yet interdependent communities within the city, evidence for which is still discernible in the modern townscape.

ICOMOS, October 1998



L'VIV - The Ensemble of the Historical Centre

Nominated Property Location Map, L'viv

- The Nominated Property
- The buffer zone

Lviv, ensemble du centre historique / L'viv, the ensemble of the historic centre :
Plan indiquant la zone proposée pour inscription et la zone tampon / Map showing nominated property and buffer zone