

IDENTIFICATION

- Nomination** : Historical Centre of Telč^v
- Location** : Moravia
- State Party** : Czechoslovakia
- Date** : 26 September 1991

DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The town of Telč^v, located near the south-western border between Moravia and Bohemia, is in a region that was thickly forested until the 13th century. The origins of the settlement are unclear: there was an early medieval settlement at Staré Město to the SE of the present town, but there is no mention of Telč^v in documentary records before 1333-5, when reference is made to the existence there of an important castle (and presumably also a church and settlement). The town itself was probably founded in the mid 14th century.

It developed on a hilltop, round a market square in the form of an elongated triangle. The town was surrounded by stone walls, further strengthened by a network of ponds. Until a fire in 1386 most of the houses were wooden, but they were reconstructed in stone. The parish church of St Jacob, built in 1360-72, also had to be rebuilt. The Gothic castle was reconstructed in High Gothic style in the later 15th century.

The second half of the 16th century was a period of great prosperity under Zacharias of Hradec, who began work on the Renaissance castle. He also rebuilt the market place in the same style following another devastating fire. The resulting town is an outstanding example of Renaissance town planning and architecture.

Baroque elements were introduced by the Jesuits, who built a college (1651-65) and the Church of the Name of Jesus (1666-67). At the same time Baroque gables were added to the facades of some of the houses in the market place; Rococo and classical elements also followed in later remodellings.

The Industrial Revolution of the early 19th century saw considerable cultural awakening in the region and increased prosperity. Nevertheless, the town of Telč^v retained its traditional character.

The town covers 9 ha and contains 85 designated historical monuments. Its centre is the Renaissance chateau, which retains substantial evidence of its Gothic precursor. The Golden Hall to the north of the castle complex is notable for its fine gilded ceiling of 1561, which shows considerable Italian influence. The latest phase of reconstruction was under the charge of Baldassar Maggi of Arogno, and dates to the late 16th century.

The houses in the market place, although embellished with facades from various periods, are basically Renaissance and conform to a standard plan. The parish Church of St Jacob has a twin-aisled layout dating from the early 14th century; a Renaissance choir was added in 1638 and the Gothic tower was crowned with a Baroque dome in 1687.

AUTHENTICITY

Telč was not affected by the mania for over-restoration of the 19th century and so both the individual buildings and the townscape retain authenticity in materials and design.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Telč has been an official Historic Urban Reserve since 1970, and a protective (buffer) zone was created in 1985 by the District National Committee of Jihlava. There is a management plan in place which is kept under review.

Individual buildings have been well maintained over a long period on a five-year cycle. According to the dossier, 47% of them are in good condition, 33% need repair, 15% need reconstruction, and only 5% are partially unfit for use.

The chateau has been extensively and painstakingly restored and is open to the public. Work is in progress on a number of other important buildings.

EVALUATION

Qualities

Telč is an example of a medieval planned town, preserving its original layout and the castle-settlement relationship very clearly. The quality of the architecture is high, particularly the Renaissance market place and chateau.

Additional comments

The outstanding nature of Telč in terms of the quality and authenticity of its cultural elements, the tangible evidence of its origins and evolution represented by its layout, and its dramatic setting is unquestionable. The ICOMOS Bureau was concerned, however, about its representativity in relation to other central European small towns. Following consultation with experts, it is satisfied that Telč is of special importance by virtue of being a planned town deliberately planted for political and economic reasons in a region of primary forest in the 13th or 14th century.

Five members of the ICOMOS Bureau had personal knowledge of the town.

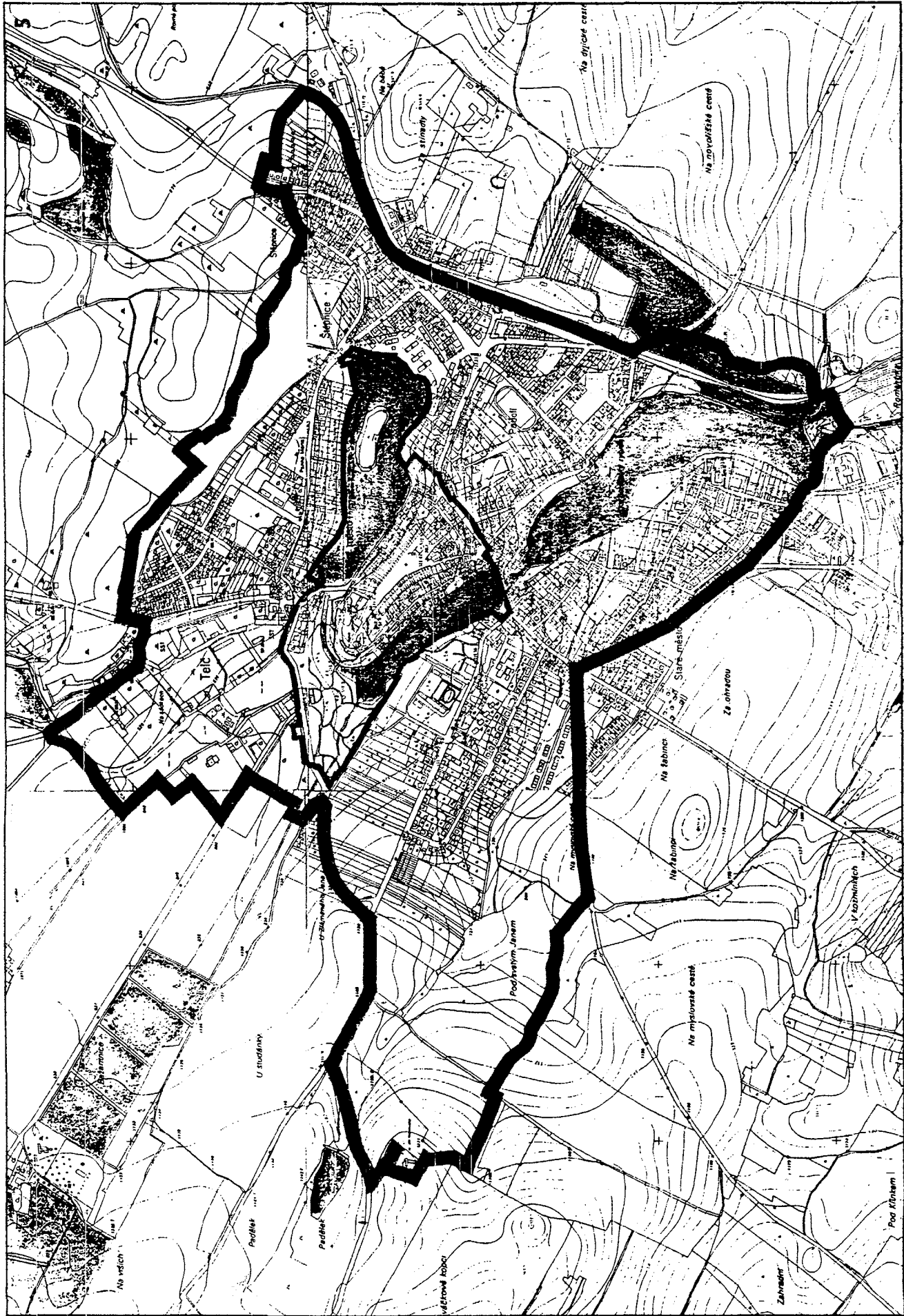
ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria i and iv.

- **Criterion i** : Telč is an architectural and artistic ensemble of outstanding quality. Its triangular market place possesses great beauty and harmony as well as great cultural importance, surrounded as it is by intact and well preserved Renaissance buildings with a dazzling variety of facades.

- **Criterion iv** : The later Middle Ages in central Europe saw the "plantation" of planned settlements in areas of virgin forest for reasons of political control and economic expansion, and Telc is the best preserved surviving example.

ICOMOS, October 1992



— BUFFER ZONE
- - - BOUNDARIES OF THE PROTECTED AREA

Telč : plan