
Humayun's Tomb (India)

No 232 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

India

Name of property

Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

Location

Delhi, India

Inscription

1993

Brief description

This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

11 March 2016

2 Issues raised

Background

Humayun's Tomb was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv) in 1993. In relation to the property boundary, the evaluation report prepared by ICOMOS at the time of inscription refers to discussions with the State Party about whether associated structures should be included in the property boundary, such as the earlier Nila Gumbad (Blue Dome) to the east, and the tombs of Isa Khan and Buhlima and their associated mosques and gardens to the west. At that time, it was agreed that the property boundary should include the Tomb and its surrounding gardens, and these other features were included in the buffer zone.

In relation to the buffer zone, at the time of the inscription, ICOMOS noted that no buffer zone had been identified, but that all protected monuments in India were surrounded by a 100-metre zone of strict control on development by the Archaeological Survey of India. A further 300 metres zone existed in which all proposed development had to be submitted to the Survey for comment.

In 2003, the Periodic Report for Humayun's Tomb foreshadowed the State Party's interests in modifying (extending) the property boundary to include monuments such as Isa Khan's Tomb, Afsarwala Mosque and Tomb,

Arab-ki-Sarai, Bu-Halima's Garden, Sunderwala Mahal and Burj, Nila Gumbad, etc.

In 2015, the World Heritage Committee approved the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Humayun's Tomb (Decision 39 COM 8E) and the clarified mapping and boundaries submitted through Retrospective Inventory processes (Decision 39 COM 8D).

Modification

The State Party proposes to add an additional area of 5.44 ha to the property boundary, and an additional area of 53.21 ha to the buffer zone.

The primary purpose of the proposed modifications is to include several 16th century Mughal garden tombs, which together with the Mughal elements already included in the property, form an important and inter-related ensemble. Since the World Heritage inscription of Humayun's Tomb, the Archaeological Survey of India has been able to acquire additional land abutting the World Heritage boundary containing these additional elements. The State Party argues that incorporation of this ensemble in its entirety is necessary in light of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and will assist in maintaining its integrity.

The program of conservation for Humayun's Tomb, especially since 2011, has ensured the use of traditional materials and building techniques, removal of 20th century additions and modern materials, and the re-establishment of missing portions of the structures and enclosure walls that had been demolished in 1989. The painstaking removal of cement, and replacement with traditional materials such as lime mortar/plaster has been particularly important. These works, and the systematic and scientific research and documentation processes that have been adopted, have allowed a model conservation process to be developed for the property. This work has been supported by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Urgent repairs have been made to a number of structures included in the proposed area to be included in the property boundary. The garden settings have been conserved. According to the State Party, the proposed revisions to the property boundary will allow visitors an enhanced understanding of the Mughal necropolis.

The areas proposed to be added to the property boundary comprise six distinct zones: Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's Garden Tomb (3.34 ha); an unknown Mughal garden tomb (0.82 ha); Sunderwala Mahal Garden Tomb (0.37 ha); Sundar Burj Garden Tomb (0.23 ha); Nila Gumbad's Garden Setting (0.37 ha); and Lakkarwala Burj Garden Tomb (0.31 ha). In the case of Nila Gumbad, the monument and its garden setting were separated by a roadway at the time of inscription, but the Archaeological Survey of India, assisted by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture have worked to restore this linkage, allowing an improvement in the integrity of this component monument.

The proposed modification to extend the buffer zone is based on the proposed revised property boundary. Additional monuments that will be included in the proposed additional areas in the buffer zone include: Sabz Burj (early 16th century tomb); an 18th century Garden Tomb; and the 17th century Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan's Garden Tomb.

This proposal is reflected in the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that was adopted by the World Heritage Committee for this property in 2015.

Management of the property is the responsibility of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the ASI also has the capacity to control development in the buffer zone. The Government Sundar Nursery is located in the buffer zone and is owned by the Central Public Works Department; landscape works there have been undertaken via an Memorandum of Understanding with the ASI and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. In general, conservation works within the property boundary and buffer zone have been undertaken by the multi-disciplinary team established by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, supervised by a committee comprising the ASI and ASI Delhi Circle officials.

Legal protection for the revised property boundary and buffer zone is provided by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (and Rules, 1959); Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010; Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957; and others. Humayun's Tomb-Nizamuddin area is inscribed as a Heritage Zone in the Delhi Master Plan 2021. The ensure area proposed for inclusion in the buffer zone is an Archaeological Park, designated in 2015 that ensures that important Mughal era corridors are protected within urbanization processes.

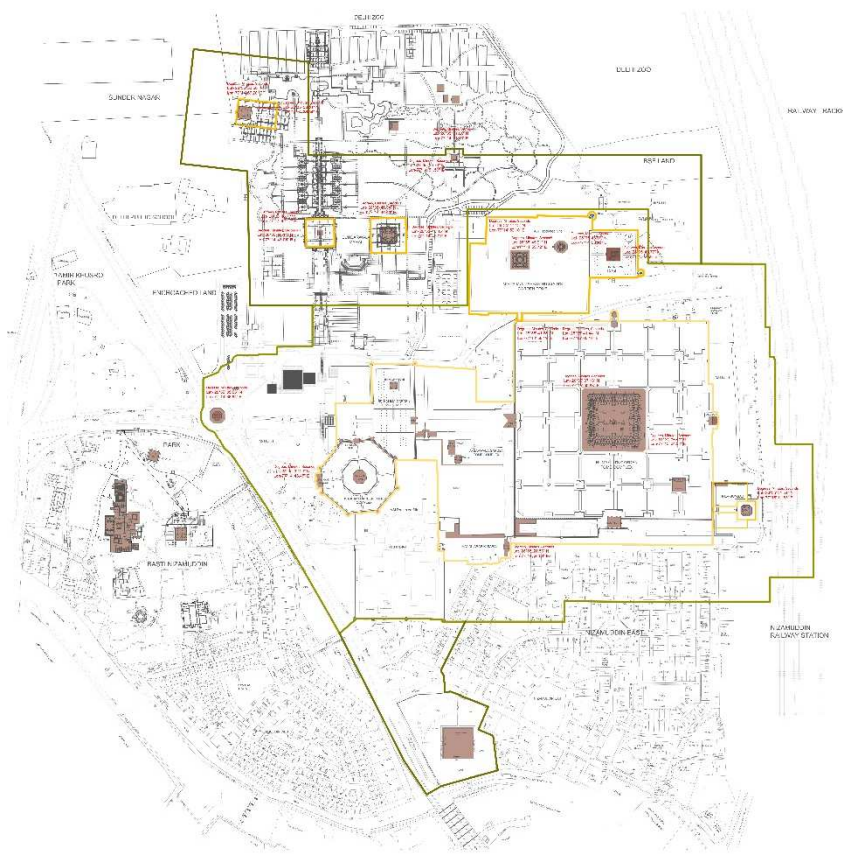
ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications to the property boundary and buffer zone for Humayun's Tomb will contribute to protection of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will strengthen the management of the World Heritage property and its presentation to visitors.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, India, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, India, be **approved**.



NOTE
The coordinates are indicated in Degree, Minute, and Second system on the map.

LEGEND

- Boundary of the World Heritage Property ——— Yellow line
- Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property ——— Green line
- Proposed Extension to the Boundary of the World Heritage Property ——— Yellow dashed line
- Proposed Extension to the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property ——— Green dashed line
- ASI Protected Monuments of National importance ——— Brown square

Area of the world heritage property: 21.60 HA
 Area of the buffer zone of the world heritage property: 3.36 HA
 Area of the extended world heritage property: 27.04 HA
 Area of the extended buffer zone of the world heritage property: 53.21 HA


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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA


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HUMAYUN'S TOMB, NIZAM-UD-DIN BASTI
 URBAN RENOVATION INITIATIVE
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SITE PLAN SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND BUFFER ZONE

Scale


 Date: 06-11-2015 AKTC
 Prepared by: WIIS/IIT/01
 Dwg No.: WIIS/IIT/01

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and the buffer zone