

# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Historic Centre of Český Krumlov

### Brief description

Situated on the banks of the Vltava river, the town was built around a 13th-century-castle with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. It is an outstanding example of a small central European medieval town whose architectural heritage has remained intact thanks to its peaceful evolution over more than five centuries.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription** 1992

#### Agency responsible for site management

- The National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites  
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### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criterion** C (iv)

#### Justification provided by the State Party

The historic core of Český Krumlov represents a uniquely preserved and developmentally compact municipal entity which has not been affected in essence by later development and will not be modified in the future.

In the sense of Article 24 para (i), the architectural ensemble of Český Krumlov [is a] unique historical municipal ensemble in the European context. The creative endeavour of centuries has developed most intensively here.

In the sense of Article 24 para (ii), the architectural milieu of Český Krumlov had a Central European response. The outstanding Czech gothic builder Jan, nephew of Staněk, is beyond any doubt identical with Hans Krumenauer, who was active in

Landhut and Passau in Bavaria. His son Štěpán (Stephen) Krumenauer was an outstanding architect of the late Gothic period in Bavaria and in Austria.

In the sense of Article 24 para (iv), the historic core of Český Krumlov demonstrates the high standards of structural and artistic activity of the 15th and 16th centuries, which corresponded to the economic and political culmination of the ruling Rožmberk family, as well as of the town's inhabitants. The reconstructions of the castle, secular structures, ecclesiastic structures, burgher houses all testify to a considerable effort having been made for ostentatiousness and monumentality, often with outstanding contributions from home and foreign masters. The historic core of Český Krumlov has preserved not only its urban structure -- the parcelling, the composition, the shape of roofs and the expression of façades but also a wealth of original layouts, vaulted spaces and interiors. Totally unique is the wealth of historic details (the work of carpenters, cabinet-makers, smiths and locksmiths, and master stonemasons). All these values together with the dramatic configuration of the landscape and the natural framework create a highly effective unique entity. This provides Český Krumlov with a leading place not only among Czechoslovak historic towns but also on an international scale.

In the sense of Article 24 (v), the ensemble of Český Krumlov burgher houses is a unique document of traditional dwelling in the Gothic, Renaissance and following periods with preserved layouts, structures and architectural details.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criterion iv.

- Criterion (iv): Český Krumlov is an outstanding example of a central European small town dating from the Middle Ages which owes the structure and buildings of its historic core to its economic importance and relatively undisturbed organic development over some five centuries. Český Krumlov grew up within a meander of the Vltava river, which provides a natural setting of great beauty. Its evolution over time is evident with startling clarity from its buildings and its urban infrastructure.

#### Committee Decision

Bureau (1992): While recommending the inscription of this property, the Bureau requested the competent Czech and Slovak authorities to take all

the necessary measures to face pressures due to over-visitation by tourists which threaten this property.

Session (1992): In view of the heavy tourism pressure in the town, the Committee requested the Czech and Slovak authorities to ensure that safeguards be established to mitigate any potential adverse impacts from the Sumava International Park project.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

#### **Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

#### **Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained/have not been maintained

### **3. Protection**

#### **Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Law No.20/1987 Coll. on state monuments care, codifies the care for cultural monuments and protected conservation areas
- Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture of June 10, 1963 ref. No. 22. 446/1963 - established in Český Krumlov the Municipal Conservation Area
- Establishment of the buffer zone of the Municipal Conservation Area Český Krumlov, District National Committee, department of culture in Český Krumlov, ref. No: Kult. 534-404/3-87/Vr. of December 27, 1987
- Decree of the government of the Czech Republic No.171/1998 Coll., of May 3, 1998 - declaration of the Chateau of Český Krumlov a national cultural monument that replaced the original Decree of the government of 1989
- Decree of the government of the Czech Republic No. 336/2002 Coll., of May 19, 2002 - declaration of St. Vitus Church in Český Krumlov a national cultural monument
- The town-planning plan of the settlement formation of Český Krumlov was approved in 1987
- The strategic plan of development of the town of Český Krumlov of 1993 is being updated at present
- Municipal regulation No. 3/1999 in the wording of regulation No. 5/1999 - rules regarding the location of advertisement and publicity facilities valid in the territorial district of the town of

Český Krumlov (the approval of the marking of places of business, their appearance, etc. by the authority of the state monuments care)

- Municipal regulation No. 7/1998 by which the market regulations are issued, is completed every year (approval of location, size and appearance of the front gardens, selling stands, etc. by the authority of the state monuments care)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective, etc.

Actions taken/proposed: (delete if not applicable)

- elaboration of the strategic plan of the town by 2006, oriented at the creation of principles for the assessment of building activity in the territory with historic peripheries and for preserving of authenticity and integrity of the historic centre

### **4. Management**

#### **Use of site/property**

- Urban centre, visitor attraction

#### **Management /Administrative Body**

- No steering group
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective, etc.

Actions proposed:

- The Municipal Authority was informed by the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites about the necessity to establish the steering group. The executive authority of the state monuments care (the department of protection of monuments of the Municipal Authority Český Krumlov), in cooperation with the management of the town is preparing the establishment of the steering group headed by a coordinator by the end of 2005

### **5. Management Plan**

- No management plan, although one in preparation - to be completed until 12. 2006
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Municipal Authority Český Krumlov

## 6. Financial Resources

### Financial situation

- Estate management is a part of the individual chapters of the all-town budget and as such the funds for the estate management are not separated. Costs connected with estate management, such as the costs of operation of the Information Centre, outer relations (e.g., the membership in the NGO, the Czech UNESCO Heritage, international cooperation), EUR 41,367 in 2004
- The operation of the state chateau Český Krumlov (a part of the estate) is paid from the state budget. In 2004 its operational budget was EUR 600,000, including minor maintenance. The State Party notes that the above-mentioned data are partial because of the varied structure of ownership a number of subjects participate in the management
- Allowance programmes of the Ministry of Culture (Programme of Regeneration of Municipal Conservation Areas and Municipal Conservation Zones, Programme of Rescue of Architectonic Heritage, Emergency Programme, Programme of Restoration of Movable Cultural Monuments) from 1992 to 2004 allocated EUR 3,543 for repairs and restoration
- WHF and Bi-Lateral: After the flood in 2002, the UNESCO General Manager addressed a worldwide appeal for assistance for the cultural heritage in the Czech Republic. That appeal contributed to massive bilateral assistance intended also for Český Krumlov, which included gifts of partner towns from Germany and Austria. The NGO, the UNESCO Czech Heritage provided EUR 33,333 for the repair of flood damage
- A special flood account established within the Czech Republic for the localities affected by the flood
- For the restoration of the Baroque chateau theatre financial gifts were granted by a number of different, predominantly entrepreneurial sources
- Sufficient

## 7. Staffing Levels

- number of staff: 26, as well as volunteer assistance in publicity and cultural undertakings and work of professional commissions and action committees

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, promotion, interpretation, visitor management
- Average: management, education

## 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Consultation and exploration activity with National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites, including town-planning, architecture, care for movable monuments, historic verdure, archaeology, technological laboratory, special monuments explorations
- Restorers' workshops and a vocational secondary school oriented at the problems of the monuments care
- Funds of the Regional Museum in Český Krumlov for participation, by its professional workers, in archaeological investigations
- Professional services provided by the workers of the State Archive and the State Regional Archive
- Professional assistance from the National Committee ICOMOS, universities, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
- Extramural courses of the monuments care in the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites in Prague
- Publishing of methodological materials of the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites which aim to unify procedures in the preparation and assessment of the undertakings of repair and restoration of cultural monuments
- Other professional seminars, workshops and other professional unrepeated events oriented at particular subjects from the field of the monuments care, repairs of building objects and restoration of works of art, at presentation of the course and at the assessment of the accomplished undertakings

## 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 300,000 entrance tickets sold to visitors of chateau in 2004
- Visitor facilities: District National History Museum (with the permanent exhibition relating to the history of the town and the region and with numerous other programmes); Centre of Egon Schiele, shops, accommodation facilities,

visitor information presented at information server [www.ckrumlov.cz](http://www.ckrumlov.cz), in Czech, English and German; Tourist and bicycle routes in surrounding towns; Four information and visitors' centres that provide complex information about cultural and social events, accommodation and boarding, tourist information, and ensure services of guides and offer a number of publicity materials and souvenirs

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; Studies related to the value of the site; Monitoring exercises; Condition surveys; Archaeological surveys
- Studies were developed into the Action Plan of the Strategy of the Development of the Town of Český Krumlov with realizations for the period of 2004 to 2006. All studies will be taken into account in the elaboration of the Management Plan according to the operation guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Joint presentation and publicity: "The Czech UNESCO Heritage" at tourism fairs
- Travelling exhibition: "Know the UNESCO World Heritage", under the auspices of the association, the NGO The Czech UNESCO Heritage – website: [www.unesco-czech.cz](http://www.unesco-czech.cz);
- Travelling exhibition: "UNESCO Czech Monuments", under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Czech embassies abroad;
- Celebration of 10 years of inscription of the town into the World Heritage List through an exhibition on the building development of the monument in recent years
- In cooperation with the Association of UNESCO associated schools, an information brochure on the UNESCO World Heritage is available
- Local participation: local inhabitants influence the estate management by the election of the municipal board of representatives and participate in the process of strategic planning.

The public also participates in the discussing of development plans and gives opinion on the problems of town planning.

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Committee sessions: 29<sup>th</sup> (2005); 30<sup>th</sup> (2006)

#### Conservation interventions

- Conservation of the area of the chateau - Since 1994 gradual conservation has been performed of the part called Hrádek with the tower; Restored in 1997 were the decorations of the façades in the 3rd and 4th courtyards and restoration of the Baroque theatre; In 1998 the decorations of façades in the 2nd courtyard were restored; Between 1996 – 1998 the cascade fountain in the chateau garden was restored
- Under the financial co-participation of the town and the state repairs were made to the majority of the historic burghers' houses
- Restoration of St. Vitus church, the former church of St. Jošt (Latrán land-registry No. 6) with the former hospital (Latrán land-registry No. 13), the former municipal brewery, today the Centre of E. Schiele (Šíroká land-registry Nos. 70, 71), the town hall (Náměstí Svornosti land-registry Nos. 1, 2), the so-called Italian Court (Panská land-registry No. 32), completion of the general repair of the municipal theatre (Horní Brána land-registry No. 2)
- Gradual repair was performed in the area of the Minorites' monastery land-registry No. 50 and the nunnery of the Clare nuns land-registry No. 67
- Repairs to the bridge in Horní street, the bridge at Budějovická gate and the Lazebnický bridge;
- In the territory of the whole estate the underground networks were modernized, including a new collector in Latrán was solved by the building of a new collector
- Conservation was performed of municipal mobiliary and the addition of new pavements to gradually replace the asphalt surfaces
- Present state of conservation: Patchy

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, natural disaster(s), number of inhabitants, Visitor/tourism pressure
- State Party indicates that inscription into the World Heritage List has led to an increased

number of visitors to the town, which has resulted in an increase in investment property

- Specific issues mentioned: construction pressure: – construction of villas in the buffer zone on the surrounding slopes damages the character of the surrounding agricultural landscape, one of the most significant characteristics of the estate. Pressure to increase parking places, especially from the part of the operators of hotels. A study was elaborated for the construction of underground garages in existing parking places in the locality Pod poštou, and suggest that this would cause height changes of the terrain, damaging of archaeological traces and the new building of several unsuitable above-ground objects; Natural disasters. In 2002 Český Krumlov was affected by the hundred-year flood. No marked damages to the material substance of the monument were caused by direct influence of the water
- Number of inhabitants - During the nineties, in connection with the privatization of the houses and change of their use, a considerable decrease occurred in the number of permanent inhabitants in the territory of the estate. Pressure of the visitors: - overburdening of the historic centre by the number of visitors has led to the gentrification and excessive commercialization of the estate as a whole, oriented almost exclusively at tourism. This tends to decrease the authenticity of the individual monuments due to the influence of frequent building interventions, and also to the loss of the function of the place as the municipal centre used by the local inhabitants
- Emergency measures taken: Pressure of construction will be corrected by the new town plan, which should be approved by the end of 2005
  - Elaboration of the regulatory plans of both the centre of the town and of the surrounding areas
  - Flood prevention - a study has been elaborated regarding the adjustments of the Polečnice brook (a significant source of torrential water). The adjustments will be realized in 2006
  - A study to provide the material that would open a discussion for realistic considerations about the change of the functional and spatial use of the territory "Pod poštou" (under the post-office) and enable the conservation of the historic area of verdure with an acceptable solution of the parking and traffic problems. The realization of the project should result in restricting the movement of motor vehicles in the pedestrians' zone, extend the possibilities of parking by the

creation of the so-called zones of paid parking at selected local roads and make substantially more effective the use of municipal parking places and improve the standard of their services

- Visitor pressure: The Municipal Authority, in cooperation with significant stakeholders, will evaluate the current situation and in a study under preparation will address issues regarding visitor numbers

### **13. Monitoring**

- Formal monitoring programme in place
- Monitoring of the condition of the estate has been performed regularly since 1998 and annual reports and conclusions are discussed
- Key indicators: Town-planning structure and its preservation; the values of views and panorama, the roofs landscape; the linking up landscape framework of the town, its preservation or possible changes; the values of historic structures; the authenticity of the historic building and monuments fund; The level of loading of the estate by tourism.

### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: Social, Economic
- Weaknesses of management: lack of Management Plan; lack of municipal centre regulatory plan; an insufficient level of pre-project and project preparation (documentation) of the individual buildings conservation

#### **Future actions:**

- Elaboration of the Management Plan according to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005
- Establishment of the steering group and the function of the coordinator