

# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Historic Centre of Telč

### Brief description

The houses in Telč, which stands on a hilltop, were originally built of wood. After a fire in the late 14th century, the town was rebuilt in stone, surrounded by walls and further strengthened by a network of artificial ponds. The town's Gothic castle was reconstructed in High Gothic style in the late 15th century.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription**

**1992**

#### Agency responsible for site management

- Municipal Authority Telč  
Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce 10  
58856 Telč  
e-mail: [sekretariat@telc-etc.cz](mailto:sekretariat@telc-etc.cz)  
Website: [www.telc-etc.cz](http://www.telc-etc.cz)
- National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites  
Valdštejnské náměstí 3  
11801 Praha 1  
e-mail: [stulc@up.npu.cz](mailto:stulc@up.npu.cz)  
Website: [www.npu.cz](http://www.npu.cz)

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria**

**C (i), (iv)**

#### Justification by the State Party

According to Art. 24 /i/ [...] the historical centre of Telč represents a unique, well-preserved and completed urban unit in the Gothic-Renaissance style not affected by further development and it will not be modified prospectively.

The transformation of the medieval town of Telč in the second half of the 16th century is evidence, under Art. 24 /iv/ [of a] mature Renaissance structural and artistic culture. The exquisite chateau and the unique set of burghers' houses in the market place are evidence of the creative power of Italian and local artists. The centre of Telč with its impressive panorama and vistas has retained its level of housing that gives prominence to all the dominant features.

While the remarkable castle-chateau demonstrates a mature structural culture of the early and late Renaissance styles, the set of houses is characterised by an impressive variety of facades of various architectonic styles united along the market place by a sequence of porticos in the early Renaissance style. By the nature of its historical centre, Telč belongs among the most notable and most attractive small historical towns in Europe. The historical houses forming by their layout a recurrent type of the Telč house, show in compliance with Art. 24 /v/ a high standard of residential houses in the second half of the 16th century.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

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 Telč is the best preserved surviving example.

#### Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- 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

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Law No.20/1987 Coll., on the state monuments care that codifies the care for cultural monuments and protected conservation territories
- Historic centre of the town (the area of the estate) declared Municipal Conservation Area

by the Decree of the Ministry of Culture (ref. No. 7419/70-II/2 of April 27, 1970)

- Buffer zone established in 1985 (by the decision of the department of culture of the District National Committee in Jihlava ref. No. kult. 39/85 of January 22, 1985)
- Government Order No. 262/1995 Coll., the chateau of Telč was declared national cultural monument and by Order of the government No. 336 of June 19, 2002 that national cultural monument was declared again in compliance with the current cadastral layout
- Development plan of the town of Telč approved by the authorities of the town on November 12, 2001 and its change was approved on October 30, 2002
- Programme of regeneration of the Municipal Conservation Area was approved by the town representatives on October 20, 2002
- Strategic plan of the micro-region of the area of Telč was approved on May 10, 2002
- The protection arrangements are considered highly effective

#### 4. Management

##### Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, urban centre

##### Management /Administrative Body

- No Steering group, although establishment planned by the end of 2005. State Party notes that the commission for regeneration of the municipal conservation area and municipal conservation zone already fulfils partially the function of the steering group
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

##### Actions proposed:

- Establishment of steering group, coordinator and elaboration of management plan according to the operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005
- The estate management has engaged in the PICTURE project that is oriented at sustainable development of tourism in historic seats with stress laid on the sensitive approach to the unique character of the place

#### 5. Management Plan

- No management plan, although under preparation
- Implementation to be commenced: 06.2007
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Municipal Authority Telč

#### 6. Financial Resources

##### Financial situation

- State Budget: Financial budget of the estate management is a part of the individual chapters of the all-town budget. This budget includes costs of the information centre operation and publication of publicity materials, and of ensuring external relations (e.g. the membership in the NGO Czech UNESCO Heritage, international cooperation). A separate budget exists for maintenance of verdure, cleaning and cleaning of the roads of the historic centre of the town the maintenance of the municipal movables and information. The operation of the state chateau of Telč (a part of the site) is covered from the state budget
- Monument conservation funds from subsidy programmes of the Ministry of Culture (the 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)
- Every year the Region Vysočina provides the town of Telč with financial assistance for the repairs and publicity of the estate
- Financial gift of the partner municipality of Belp, Switzerland (amount not given)
- State Party also points out that increasing interest in organized and individual tourism investments have been extended into the private sector
- Sufficient

#### 7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 24, not including volunteer assistance during publicity and cultural events

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

- Very good: promotion, interpretation, visitor management
- Good: conservation, management, education

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

- National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites provides consultations and professional advisory services on architecture, urbanism, care for historic verdure, archaeology, care for movable monuments
- The technological laboratory of the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites in Prague also provides specialized professional explorations
- The National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites in Prague and the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University in Prague offer specialized educational programmes in the field of the monuments care
- Professional assistance is provided, at request, by the national committee ICOMOS and the scientific council of the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites. Archaeological explorations are ensured by the Museum of Vysočina in Jihlava
- The training and congress centre, in cooperation with the authorities of the town, organizes regular professional seminars and workshops on the problems of the protection of monuments for the professional and lay public
- Unification of the procedure in the preparation and assessment of the undertakings of repair and restoration of cultural monuments by National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites, a number of which have been published

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 350,000 total, including 95,000 visitors to state chateau in Telč: estimated according to research from 2001
- Visitor facilities: sightseeing tours of state chateau, Municipal Museum, observation towers at the church of St. Jakub and at the church of the Holy Spirit, Municipal Gallery, Information acoustic panel, and Information Centre

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site, monitoring exercises, condition surveys, impact of World Heritage designation, archaeological surveys, social-economic analysis

- Results of these works were used in the creation of the town-planning documents and in the elaboration of the plan of strategic development of the locality. A number of materials will also be used in the creation of the management plan of the estate.

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Many 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
- Exhibition “The Future for Our Past” opened under the presence of J. M. Ballester, Head of the Department of the Monuments Care of the Council of Europe in 1997
- Travelling exhibition “Get to Know the UNESCO World Heritage”, under the auspices of the association the NGO The Czech UNESCO Heritage
- Travelling exhibition “The Czech UNESCO Monuments”, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Czech embassies abroad
- International cultural promotional festival “The Vacations in Telč”
- In cooperation with the Association of Associated UNESCO Schools, an information brochure on the UNESCO World Heritage is ready for publication
- Website: [www.telc-itc.cz](http://www.telc-itc.cz), managed by Municipal Authority

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

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

#### Conservation interventions

- Repaired and made accessible the tower at the church of the Holy Spirit
- Conservation of the monastery of St. Angels and the Baroque cellar hall of the former Jesuit college, today made use of as the great hall of Masaryk University
- repair of the former fire station, used for the exposition of the municipal gallery
- Conservation of the roofing and roof structures was performed at the chateau. In the chateau park the orange garden has been rebuilt

- Gasification of the town (removal of exhalations from local heating equipment) and the reconstruction of sewerage and construction of waste water treatment plant
- Cleaning of municipal historic ponds that give the character of water fortress to the historic centre of the town
- Present state of conservation: Good

#### **Threats and Risks to site**

- Development pressure
- Specific issue: Pressure of construction - in isolated cases some historic burghers' houses are used for short-term accommodation which, from the point of view of the monuments protection, unsuitable for that purpose

### **13. Monitoring**

- Formal monitoring programme in place
- Since 1998, continuous monitoring of the estate has been performed by the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites on the basis of the approved all-state methodology. and particularly attention paid to impacts on the criteria adjudged to the estate on the inscription. Social-economic indicators by the Institute of Area Development in Brno are also followed and assessed. Annual reports are discussed at professional meetings and at the talks of the town local administration authorities
- Key indicators: interventions into public premises; the panorama of the town with main dominants, its possible changes or impairment; the linking up landscape framework of the town, its preservation of possible changes; the town-planning structure, its preservation or possible further development; the development of public premises and main municipal premises; the authenticity of the historic building and monuments fund

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

- Main benefits of WH status: Conservation, Social, Economic
- Weakness of management: The Management Plan has not been elaborated yet according to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005

#### **Future actions:**

- Authorities of the town adopted the resolution on the elaboration of the Management Plan according to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005. The National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites is preparing the elaboration of the Plan of Principles of Protection of Monuments Values of Historic Territories – the Municipal Conservation Area Telč. (the territory of the site)