
Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč (Czechia)

No 1078bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Czechia

Name of property

Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč

Location

Třebíč district, Vysocina Region
Czechia

Inscription

2003

Brief description

The ensemble of the Jewish Quarter, the old Jewish cemetery and the Basilica of St Procopius in Třebíč are reminders of the co-existence of Jewish and Christian cultures from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The Jewish Quarter bears outstanding testimony to the different aspects of the life of this community. St Procopius' Basilica, built as part of the Benedictine monastery in the early 13th century, is a remarkable example of the influence of Western European architectural heritage in this region.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

14 March 2018

2 Issues raised

Background

The property The Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003 on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iii). The Periodic Report in 2014 notes the boundaries and buffer zone are both adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value. As part of the report, a map with modified boundaries was submitted, notably reducing the area for the Basilica. However, these modified boundaries were not submitted to the World Heritage Committee and were not adopted at the time.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted for the property in 2016 during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Decision 40 COM 8E, Istanbul, 2016).

In 2016, the State Party proposed the better definition of the boundary of the three components of the serial property for two reasons – because of technical improvements in mapping for the property, and to better reflect the Outstanding Universal Value in the case of one component, the Jewish Quarter.

In the case of the buffer zone, the better definition of the boundary is proposed because of technical improvements in mapping for the property.

While ICOMOS supported the minor boundary modifications for components 002 and 003, and the buffer zone at that time, several issues were identified in the case of the minor boundary modification for component 001.

The World Heritage Committee decided (Decision 41 COM 8B.42) to refer the proposal back to the State Party in order to provide additional justification for the proposed change of boundary for component 001. The additional justification sought related to the choice of an historical (1822) boundary as the basis of the component boundary in the context of the history of the property and its significant period up to World War II, as well as clarification of discrepancies between the 1822 boundary and the proposed boundary.

The Committee also recommended the State Party ensure integrated management for the property, including the former monastery.

Modification

The proposed area changes are: component 001 – The Jewish Quarter, reduction from 4.73 ha to 4.34 ha; component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery, reduction from 1.23 ha to 1.13 ha; and component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica, increase from 0.23 ha to 1.08 ha (although this increase appears to have been calculated by the State Party based on the change from the map produced as part of the 2014 Periodic Report, rather than the original boundary map). The overall property area increases from 6.19 ha to 6.55 ha.

The boundaries identified in the nomination dossier relied on a relatively large-scale map with thick, hand-drawn boundaries. This original map lacked precision, and the proposed modified boundaries provide much better accuracy at an improved scale.

The State Party also proposes to slightly modify the boundary for component 001 – The Jewish Quarter, to better reflect an historical map of the quarter. Due to an error in the 2016 minor boundary modification proposal, the date of this map was shown as 1822, and the State Party has clarified that the map actually dates from 1922. Additional justification has been provided for the use of this map as the best basis for defining the component – the 1922 map is the last available map of The Jewish Quarter prior to World War II.

Accordingly, the use of the 1922 map is a satisfactory basis for determining the boundary of component 001 – The Jewish Quarter.

It is also noted there are some discrepancies between the modified boundary for this component and the boundary in the 1922 map. The discrepancies occur with the central part of the northern boundary of the component. Unfortunately, the requested additional information to explain these discrepancies has not been provided.

In all cases, the discrepancies appear to involve a slightly increased area compared to the 1922 map. It is also surmised the proposed boundary may align with current land boundaries which are larger than in 1922, and using these current boundaries will be better understood on the ground and be more effective for management.

On this basis, the proposed boundary for component 001 – The Jewish Quarter appears to be an accurate and satisfactory reflection of the contribution of the component to the Outstanding Universal Value.

The proposed boundary for component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery appears to be an accurate and satisfactory reflection of the cemetery boundary.

The proposed boundary for component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica appears to be an accurate and satisfactory reflection of the component boundary as proposed at the time of nomination.

In the case of the buffer zone, the better definition of the boundary is proposed because of technical improvements in mapping for the property. The modified buffer zone appears to be an accurate and satisfactory reflection of the boundary as proposed at the time of nomination.

The State Party notes there will be no change in the area of management as a result of the proposal.

The State Party has provided assurances about the ongoing integrated management of the property, including the former monastery. It has also advised that, partly in response to Decision 41 COM 8B.42, a draft memorandum is being prepared to provide a formal framework for cooperation between the administrators of the three components of the property. In addition, the management plan when next updated will include the entire former monastery.

The legal protection for the property will not be affected by the boundary modification. Many houses in component 001 – The Jewish Quarter are declared cultural monuments protected under the Act on State Heritage Conservation, and otherwise the component is within a larger urban heritage zone. Component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery and component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica are both declared national cultural monuments and have the highest legal protection.

ICOMOS considers the proposed modifications to the property boundary with respect to component 001 – The Jewish Quarter, component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery and component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica, and to the buffer zone, will contribute to protection of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and strengthen management.

ICOMOS welcomes the assurances about the ongoing integrated management of the property, including the former monastery.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč, Czechia, be **approved**.

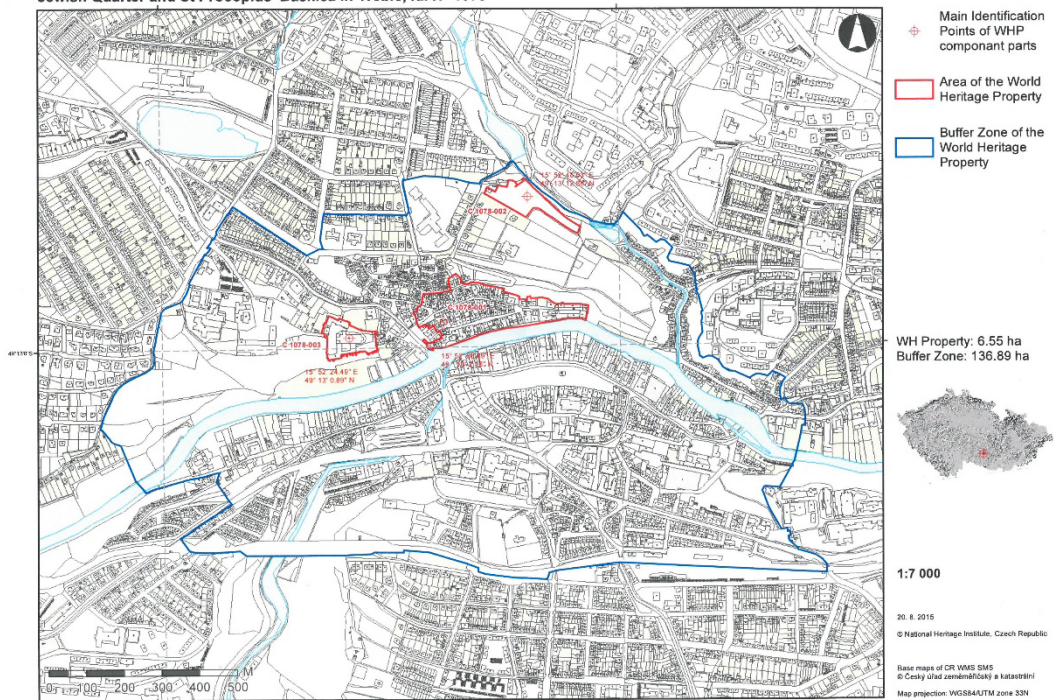
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč, Czechia, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following points:

- a) Completing the draft memorandum to provide a formal framework for cooperation between the administrators of the three components of the property,
- b) Include the entire former monastery in the management plan when next updated.

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Map showing the revised boundaries of the property