

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party

Turkey

State, Province or Region

Eastern Anatolia, Province of Malatya

Name of Property

ARSLANTEPE MOUND

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

38° 22' 58.00'' N - 38° 21' 47.43'' E

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

The nominated property comprises the mound of Arslantepe, which was scheduled as first degree archaeological conservation site in 1989 according to legal regulation and was then enlarged in 2010 by declaration of two adjacent parcels in the North as first degree archaeological conservation site. This boundary comprises the whole mound plot and surface, together with adjacent small portion of land where movable cultural objects dated to settlement layers the mound embodies were recorded.

The determination of the buffer zone boundary surrounding the mound was based on the boundaries of the 3rd degree archaeological conservation site, defined in 2018. The reference for this boundary line was basically the result of archaeological survey project conducted by MAIAO in 2005 in an area with approximate 500 m. radius around the mound. The main road axes where it was possible to follow within a-500-meter air-distance diameter was taken as basis to delineate the exact boundary line, while topographic thresholds and the cadastral parcel boundary lines in the southwest were also determinant. Residential buildings in Orduzu settlement area exceeding 500-meter diameter was left outside the buffer zone. The buffer zone boundary also overlaps with the management plan boundary, approved by the Ministry in 2018.

A4 (or "letter") size map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (if present)

See Pages 6-10

Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria)

ii, iii, iv

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a) Brief Synthesis

Arsilantepe is a *tell* of about 4.5 ha in extension, and 30 m high, at the heart of the fertile Malatya plain, some twelve kilometres from the right bank of the Euphrates. The long sequence of the site covers several millennia at least from the 6th millennium cal BC until the final destruction of the neo-Hittite town - *Malitiya* according to Hittite sources, *Melid*, *Meliddu* or *Meliteya* in neo-Assyrian and Urartu sources - by Sargon II of Assyria in 712 BC. After a short neo-Assyrian occupation, the site was abandoned for a while, to be occupied again in the Late Roman age and subsequently in the Byzantine/Medieval time, when the site was used mainly as a cemetery.

Arsilantepe shows in detail the complex processes bringing to the birth of the State and a sophisticated bureaucracy before writing, offering basic information on the early formation of this new society, which was at the basis of our contemporary world. The site, being located in a real geographic and cultural border, thanks to the intensive and varying external relations that have significantly marked its history, is also a testimony of fundamental events and changes in various and different civilisations of the Near East.

Arsilantepe 4th millennium levels, in particular, show fundamental changes in human relations in the period of State formation, which involved Eastern Anatolian and Mesopotamian societies in the course of the entire 4th millennium BC, and is thus an exceptional testimony to the first emergence of State society in the Near East, original though related with the great 4th millennium Uruk civilization. This interchange of cultural traditions and social values resulted in the emergence of new social and political systems based on hierarchies and social differences, economic privileges and new power relations which led to new developments in monumental architecture, administrative technology and iconography of power in artistic representation.

The extensive and systematic excavations of the palace complex, full of material in situ, and the thorough researches conducted on them have allowed to reconstruct the characteristics of this civilization, the life of these first elites and their activities with incomparable details, enlightening the emergence of a centralised government controlling the economy of the population and exercising a central political authority. The finding of an exceptional group of metal weapons, among which the earliest swords so far known in the world, which were probably hanging on a wall in one of the building of the palace (and are now exhibited in the Malatya Museum), also points to the beginning of forms of organized combat as the prerogative of an elite, who probably flaunted it as an instrument of their new political power.

b) Justification for Criteria

(ii) to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design

Arsilantepe exhibits important human values in the development of an **original and innovative architecture and monumental art**, unique in the entire South-Western Asia and in the world in such an early period (the 4th millennium BC), whose exceptional state of preservation and conservation makes them enjoyable from the public.

In this context, the importance of Arsilantepe is also derived from the **plurality of cultural expressions** manifested at the site as a result of both the intensity of interactions and

encounters between cultures and societies, and the uninterrupted succession of diverse periods and cultural developments, from the 5th to the 1st millennia BC, which have significantly transformed the Arslantepe society across time. Arslantepe indeed does not present a homogeneous culture from a single historical period, but it represents a strong expression of cultural diversity in the course of several millennia, which was primarily the result of the site's location at the intersections of diverse civilizations, and at the crossroads of population movements, political and cultural contacts, transhumance and trade routes, all making Arslantepe a "cosmopolitan" economic and political centre where diverse communities lived together.

Co-existence of different cultural traditions are reflected in the architecture, seal designs, pottery and metal production, motifs and themes in wall paintings and decorations. The exceptional economic, artistic, architectural and cultural growth of Arslantepe reflects the multicultural vocation of the site, where different traditions met, producing original unparalleled developments and cultural expressions. The site is an example of the integration of diverse cultural components in the course of its long millenarian history.

(iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared

Arslantepe is an **exceptional testimony to the first emergence of State society** in the Near East, with an original form though related with the 4th millennium Uruk civilization. The extensive excavations of the palace complex, full of material in situ, has allowed to reconstruct the characteristics of this civilization, the life of these first elites, their activities and relations with the rest of the population with incomparable details, enlightening the emergence of a centralized government in a non-urban centre, controlling the basic economy of the surrounding population. The thousands of clay sealings found in situ in the Palace have allowed reconstruct a very sophisticated and **innovative bureaucratic system** for administering the movements of goods and the redistribution of staples as a compensation of labour. This is a unique testimony of the emergence of a state bureaucracy and accountability before any writing was invented, by using the seals as a document of the transactions performed and the identification of the authors of these transactions, in a highly developed and advanced administrative system.

The location of Arslantepe in **an area outside the conventional borders of Mesopotamia**, also shows that the mountainous regions surrounding the alluvial plains of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers have greatly contributed to the development of this momentous phenomenon, **changing the traditional knowledge on the rise of State civilizations** in the old world.

The Arslantepe Palace have been brought to light over a very large area (3500 square metres), offering a wide information on **a very early and unique political experiment** of central government and exercise of authority, where new codified forms of paying tribute to the rulers are attested. Meaningful and symbolic artistic expressions materialized in wall paintings and in seal designs, supported and displayed this new type of authority and its ideology of power. The archaeological evidence brought to light at the site have indeed shown that the Palace was the expression of **a new type of secular power**, not based any more on a religious/ceremonial consensus, which developed very early (around 3400 BC) at Arslantepe, in the Upper Euphrates region of Eastern Anatolia.

Storerooms full of vessels and seal impressions, now largely kept in the Malatya Museum and partly in the excavation house stores, also reveal the development of an original

culture and artistic expressions in the context of the new forms of **political and economic power, controlling resources and labour**.

A group of arsenical copper weapons, some with silver inlay, found in one of the buildings of the palace, and now exhibited in the Malatya Museum, shows the development of a sophisticated metallurgical technology and artistic taste. Among them, **9 swords constitute the earliest examples of this type of weapon discovered so far in the world**, and testify the innovation of the forms of combat and a new political power exhibiting force.

All these anthropological and historical achievements write a new page in the history of early civilizations and are explained to the public in the Arslantepe Open Air Museum.

(iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The **Arslantepe mud-brick architecture**, due to its antiquity, advanced technology, and state of preservation, is also an **outstanding example of a traditional building system** representative of a millenarian culture shared by all Near Eastern communities, which documents a sustainable and successful human interaction with the environment, well in keeping with the local climatic conditions and easy to maintain.

The Arslantepe 4th millennium “palace” complex is an outstanding example of a new type of monumental public architecture for two main reasons: i) it is the earliest example of a public palace, substantially antedating the well-known 3rd millennium examples of the Syro-Mesopotamian areas and revealing a precocious development of new forms of secular power based on economic and administrative control; ii) This architectural complex of buildings, excavated over more than 3500 square metres, is very large and in an extraordinary state of preservation, with walls more than 2-2,50 metres high, original white plasters and wall paintings, unique in their subject and style. iii) Architectural innovative solutions are manifested in the agglutinative arrangement of the buildings linking them each other in a new planning and architectural/functional concept, terracing the mound slope to locate the buildings with different functions and symbolic role at different height in the complex.

c) Statement of Integrity

The large extension of the areas uncovered, its preservation and exhibition ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the Arslantepe significance: the birth of the State and a new type of society marking a radical change in the history of humankind. The monumental palatial complex of the 4th millennium BC, in particular, has been widely exposed and preserved in perfect and integral state, with the original mud-brick walls, mud plaster and floors, internal features and paintings almost unchanged since they were brought to light in the course of more than forty years. The progressively expanding researches on the Hittite and Neo-Hittite period levels are in progress and can potentially bring to light new monuments of great historical and cultural value in the near future. All attributes that manifest proposed outstanding universal value lays within the proposed world heritage boundary which encompasses the whole mound plot and surface, together with adjacent small portion of land towards north where movable cultural objects dated to settlement layers the mound embodies were recorded. Neither the property nor its buffer zone suffered from adverse effects of new developments or inappropriate interventions so far.

d) Statement of Authenticity

All the buildings brought to light at Arslantepe and the Palace structures exhibited in the Open Air Museum in particular are totally original and no reconstruction has been made. The mud-brick walls and the whole 4th millennium BC architecture, including the internal mud features, plaster, wall paintings and floors are in the same condition in which they were found. The only interventions practiced on these buildings are minor repairing interventions made, when necessary, by using the same original materials, i.e. mud and straw tempering. The roofing system itself has not damaged the structures in any point, since it is supported by metal poles which do not stand on the walls, but directly on the floor, without perforating it and therefore even without damaging the underlying archaeological levels. The entire palatial complex has not been modified in any way and is protected maintaining its total authenticity. The landscape silhouette around the site is fairly preserved, as well.

e) Requirements for Protection and Management

The activities for the protection of the site derive from an agreement between the MAIAO (Sapienza Archaeological Expedition), the General Directorate of Monuments and Museums, the Malatya Governorship, and the Malatya Battalgazi Municipality. The whole nominated property and its buffer zone is under protection by the Turkish Legislation for Preservation of Cultural and Natural Property, Law No.: 2863. The palatial complex is already protected by a modular roofing system and it will be extended towards the newly excavated part of the palatial complex as a part of landscaping project prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and approved by Sivas Regional Conservation Council in 2017. Conservation Plan is now being prepared by Battalgazi Municipality in compliance with related legislation as to define building regulations and to control the settlement development within protected areas. A management plan is prepared by the collaboration between Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Battalgazi Municipality and Sapienza Archaeological Expedition and approved on the 8th of January, 2019. A management structure composed of a site manager, an “Advisory Board” and “Supervision and Coordination Board” is established by the Ministry.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

Ministry of Culture and Tourism,
General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums:
Anafartalar Mah. Cumhuriyet Cad. II. Meclis Binası Yani 06110 Ulus Ankara /TURKEY
Tel: +90 312 470 80 00
Fax: +90 312 470 65 32
E-mail: kulturvarlikmuze@kultur.gov.tr
www.kultur.gov.tr
www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr

ARSLANTEPE MOUND
WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

Annex 1.e.1.
LOCATION WITHIN PROVINCE AND COUNTRY



S: 1 / 5 000 000





ARSLANTEPE MOUND

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

DATE	SCALE	MAP NO.
JANUARY - 2019	1/2500	Annex 1 e.2.

WORLD HERITAGE AND BUFFER ZONE BOUNDARY

KEY DIAGRAM

- 1ST DEGREE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION SITE
- 3RD DEGREE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION SITE
- PROPOSED WORLD HERITAGE AREA (4.85 ha)
- PROPOSED BUFFER ZONE (66.46 ha)

	COORDINATES			
	X	Y	WGS 84	UTM
1	424000	400000	424000	400000
2	424000	400000	424000	400000
3	424000	400000	424000	400000



