
Monuments of Ancient Pskov (Russian Federation) No 1523

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Monuments of Ancient Pskov

Location

Pskov
Pskov Region
Russian Federation

Brief description

The Monuments of Ancient Pskov are located in the historic city of Pskov and along the banks of the Velikaya River in the north-west of Russia. The nominated property includes 18 serial components, which are attributed to three groups of monuments representing the Pskov School of Architecture. The groups of monuments encompass examples of fortifications, and religious and civic architecture ranging from the 12th to the 19th centuries. The components include 2 fortification towers, 1 bell tower, 2 monasteries, 3 cathedrals, 11 churches and 2 administrative chambers. Seventeen components are located in the historic centre of the city of Pskov, while the ensemble of Snetogorsky Monastery is situated to the north-west on the right bank of the Velikaya River, still within the contemporary administrative boundaries of Pskov City.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of 18 serial components, among them 13 *monuments*, 4 *groups of buildings* and 1 *site*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

25 January 2002 as "Great Pskov"

Background

This is a new nomination.

One serial component, the ensemble of Pskov Kremlin, was previously nominated in 2012 as one of three serial components in a nomination of Russian Kremlins. This was recommended by ICOMOS not to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee referred the nomination to develop further the comparative analysis of the three components, considering the four Russian Kremlins already inscribed on the World Heritage List. The nomination of the Russian Kremlins was not resubmitted within three years following the decision 36 COM 8B.35 of the World Heritage Committee.

Consultations and Technical evaluation mission

Desk reviews have been provided by ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, members and independent experts.

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 17 to 22 September 2018.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 8 October 2018 requesting further information about the selection of the serial property, in particular the attributes which illustrate the School of Architecture in Pskov in general, as well as the contribution of each serial component. The letter further enquired as to the ability of individual monuments to represent Pskov as a frontier town and as a "centre of origin of Russian statehood". Lastly, the State Party was requested to provide further information on zoning and land-use plans existing or in the process of preparation.

The State Party responded by letter on 8 November 2018 with additional material provided on 9 and 10 November 2018. This has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report.

An Interim Report was provided to the State Party on 21 December 2018 summarising the issues identified by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. The Interim Report considered that the greatest potential to meet Outstanding Universal Value was to present an architectural testimony of the Pskov School of Architecture by selecting the most representative masterpieces of this School. To this end, ICOMOS requested that the State Party present a survey aimed at identifying specific typological and decorative features, unique to the School of Pskov, and highlight which monuments provide the best representative evidence of these. ICOMOS further recommended the State Party reconsider whether the selection of properties initially presented is indeed satisfactory in representing the most exceptional examples of the Pskov School, or whether the serial selection of components should be revised.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 27 February 2019 and has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report. The materials submitted include further analyses of the specific typological and decorative features of the Pskov School of Architecture and comparative consideration of the nominated components and other products of the Pskov School. The State Party concluded that the initial selection of components presented was the best possible representation of the Pskov School of Architecture.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2019

2 Description of the property

Note: The nomination dossier and additional information contain detailed descriptions of this property, its history and its state of conservation. Due to limitations on the length of evaluation reports, this report only provides a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and history

The 18 serial components are located in the City of Pskov in the region (oblast) of Pskov in north-west Russia. The city developed on both sides of the Velikaya River and has extended continuously so that today all components are within its administrative boundaries, while historically one component, the Snetogorsky Monastery, was located outside Pskov's historic centre. According to archaeological research, the ancient city was founded in the 6th century CE. The first mention of the city in chronicles dates to the year 903.

The Pskov School of Architecture, which the selected monuments in the nomination are proposed to represent, emerged out of the Novgorod School in the 12th century and was formally established in the 14th century. It became most influential in the 16th and 17th centuries, after Pskov entered the Russian State in 1510 and became a principle trade partner of the Hanseatic League. During this time, which is often referred to as the Golden Age of Pskov, the city was a well-known craft, trade and cultural centre. In the 18th century Pskov lost its frontier status and with it its significant role in foreign trade. The two World Wars in the 20th century brought irreparable losses to the city, with a significant part of the historic centre destroyed.

The Pskov School is known for its architectural works which illustrate simplicity in form and similarity amongst a range of built monuments, which often feature asymmetries, a careful consideration of their natural setting, and organic architectural forms. Most of the School's output is transmitted in religious structures, which are characterised by additional spaces, such as side-chapels, vestries, narthexes, porches, galleries and belfries and these tend to be the best-preserved testimonies of the School's output.

In the area of the historic city, the nomination combines individual monuments or groups of buildings of religious, defensive and civic architecture dating back to between the 12th and the 19th centuries. The oldest structure proposed as a serial component is the Transfiguration Cathedral in the Ensemble of the Spaso-Mirozhsky Monastery, which originally dates back to the 12th century but underwent later restorations. It was built predominantly of local limestone and plastered with lime mortar, as were the later 14th and 15th century churches. In addition to the Transfiguration Cathedral, 13 churches and cathedrals are proposed to represent the religious monuments of ancient Pskov. The majority of these date to the 15th and 16th centuries, while the Cathedral of *Ioann Predtecha* of the Ivanovsky Monastery, dating to 1240, and the Church of the Archangel Michael, dating to the 14th century, are additional early examples. The standard layout of churches in Pskov is that of the cubic four-pole structure with a single dome

and either one or three apses. The later churches and cathedrals were constructed after the Pskov architects had gained regional recognition for their decorative skills.

Monastic complexes, which partly incorporate the previously referred-to churches and cathedrals, add additional architectural features to the representation of religious architecture. Specific mention should be made of the ensemble of Snetogorsky Monastery located on Snatnaya Hill, which is first mentioned in 1299 and whose first stone cathedral is known to have been constructed in 1309.

The Monuments of Ancient Pskov also contain examples of fortification architecture, in particular the 15th century Pokrovskaya Tower, previously an integral component of a larger fortress along the Velikaya River; and the five-tier 16th century Gremyachaya Tower, which is part of the previously extensive fortification walls on Gremyachaya Hill. Lastly, the nomination refers to monuments of civic architecture, which are represented through the Administrative Chambers in Pskov Kremlin and the Pogankin Chambers within the outer part of the historic centre, both dating to the 17th century.

Boundaries

The area of the 18 components totals 29.32 ha, with two buffer zones totalling 625.6 ha. The boundaries encompass individual buildings, at times with their immediate exterior surroundings, such as gardens or adjacent green spaces. Only four components delineate larger areas: the Pskov Kremlin with its Trinity Cathedral, Bell Tower and Administrative Chamber, which are divided into two components sharing a common boundary; the ensemble of the Spaso-Mirozhsky Monastery; and the ensemble of Snetogorsky Monastery. Except for these, the boundaries of the serial components are tightly drawn around the architectural monuments, which therefore appear somewhat disconnected within the larger urban fabric. ICOMOS notes that while all key historic monuments identified in ancient Pskov are located within the property boundaries, these boundaries are not always consistently drawn in relation to relevant physical or administrative features.

Two large buffer zones surround the 18 components, one generously drawn to the north-west of the historic centre around the Snetogorsky Monastery component, and one more complex one in the urban fabric of Pskov historic centre, surrounding all property components by a single shared buffer zone. Both buffer zones are not yet legally adopted, which is envisaged for March 2019. However, the 17 components in the historic centre of Pskov are located in an earlier recognized protected area of Historic Pskov, which provides most buffer zone functions, except for the protection of additional view axes which have been identified to the south and north along the Velikaya riverscape. In the dialogue held with the State Party, it was suggested that the two protective layers, i.e. the proposed buffer zone and the protected area of historic Pskov, could be harmonized, to simplify the buffer zone

boundary except for the very few sight-lines which extend beyond the protected area.

ICOMOS considers this a relevant suggestion by the State Party which would ease the protective application of the buffer zone. Therefore, ICOMOS endorses the suggestion to use the existing protection zone as buffer zone, by harmonization of their boundaries, and to legally add just the two view corridors along the Velikaya River to the north and south of the historic centre. ICOMOS further recommends the State Party to consider simplifying the boundaries of the buffer zone of Snetogorsky Monastery and to adjust the boundaries of all components to either their property boundaries or very essential physical markers in the cityscape.

State of conservation

Conservation measures were undertaken frequently in the past, mostly dating back to the post-World War II measures in the 1950s and 1960s and an intensified period of conservation activities in the late 20th and early 21st century, i.e. in the past 25 years. The state of conservation of the individual components varies, although they share that almost all historic surfaces have been restored following war damage and have subsequently been regularly restored as part of overall maintenance schemes. A few of the components are in clear need of attention, such as the Gremyachaya Tower (1.2), which is merely consolidated in its ruined state; the Church of the Dormition *s Paromenya* (2.10); or the bell tower and side chapel of the Church of the Archangel Michael (2.5), which are in a deteriorated condition.

Other monuments have been recently conserved and restored and have no need for further attention except for regular maintenance. These include the Church of Georgiya *so Vzvoza* (2.8), or the Church of the Theophany (2.9), which, however, integrates partial reconstructions after World War II. In other structures, damage from World War II has been restored extensively or remains evident, such as the bell tower and Trinity Cathedral of the Ensemble of the Kremlin (2.1), the lost bell tower of Snetogorsky Monastery (2.4) and the Church of Koz'ma and Damian *s Primostya* (2.7). In rare cases, restoration works have been so extensive that it has become difficult to relate the monument to its original era of construction, such as for the Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi* (2.11) or half of the Pogankin Chambers (3.2).

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is overall acceptable with few structures in need of urgent attention. For all of these, conservation activities are envisaged within the next decade, which is reflected in the strategic goals for property management and the action plan to preserve the property's proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Factors affecting the property

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the main factors affecting the property are increasing traffic and visitor flows. In terms of traffic flows, regulations prevent heavy vehicles from entering the historic protection zone but car traffic is increasing. In terms of visitor numbers, special provisions on visitor circulation and, if needed, limitations, are in place for Pogankin Chambers (3.2), the the Transfiguration cathedral of Mirozhsky Monastery (2.3), the Cathedral of the Nativity in Snetogorsky Monastery (2.4) and the Kremlin Administrative Chambers (3.1).

Further negative factors arise from environmental and climatic conditions, especially from the Baltic climate with its constant temperature changes around freezing point and the resulting challenges of destructive freezing/de-freezing processes and organic material expansion and contraction.

3 Proposed justification for inscription

Proposed justification

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The city of Pskov, in its historical frontier position, has determined the formation of a unique social and cultural environment which nurtured the emergence of the Pskov School of Architecture;
- The property illustrates the best examples of the Pskov School of Architecture, which is recognized as one of the most artistic and original in the Russian State;
- The architectural beauty of the Pskov architecture inspired artists across and beyond the Russian State. It therefore greatly influenced developments in architecture in the wider geo-cultural region.

ICOMOS considers that, whilst in principle masterpieces of the Pskov School of Architecture might have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value, the serial components proposed do not have equal strength in illustrating characteristic features, typologies, products and developments of this School. The selection of the serial nomination therefore needs to be considered in light of the additional information survey provided by the State Party.

Unfortunately, the State Party did not consider a revised serial composition in the additional information submitted in February 2019, despite the ICOMOS request in the Interim Report. Based on the additional information provided by the State Party, its own internal expert review and the documentation of its technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that a number of, but not all, serial components can be considered as exceptional examples of the architectural works of the Pskov School of Architecture. ICOMOS notes that these components, which illustrate the mastery of architectural achievements under the Pskov

School, are exclusively found among the religious properties suggested.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis as presented in the nomination dossier commences with a description of the establishment of the Pskov School of Architecture and the earlier architectural traditions it relates to and was influenced by. Following this, the analysis aimed to compare predominantly European sites known at international level, through World Heritage or Tentative Listing, and at national level. The selection is focused on sites which enjoyed cultural exchanges due to exposure to foreign cultural influences and formed architectural schools under these conditions, in particular in cities which witnessed important historical events.

ICOMOS notes that, based on these three qualifiers, multiple comparators all across Asia and Europe have been identified. The State Party identified as one of the most relevant comparators the Flemish *béguinages* (Belgium, 1998, (ii), (iii), (iv)), which comprises 13 components including houses, churches, ancillary buildings and green spaces, built in styles specific to the Flemish cultural region. It is argued that, like in Pskov, different functions of buildings were selected to act as a witness to a specific cultural tradition.

ICOMOS notes that the exceptionality of output and influence of the Pskov School of Architecture would have better been established by comparing a number of architectural schools in Russia, such as in Moscow, Yaroslavl or the Novgorod School, which either predated the emergence of the Pskov School of Architecture or exerted equally strong and at times longer-lasting influence. However, these and other schools or their works were only mentioned in the comparative analysis, such as for the Novgorod School, which did not substantiate the exceptionality of the Pskov School of Architecture.

However, based on its network of experts and review processes, ICOMOS considers that the Pskov School does present exceptionalities, which are not comparable to the other schools mentioned. Yet, what was not provided in the nomination dossier submitted was a critical identification of the masterpieces of the Pskov School of Architecture by means of a comparative analysis considering the local and regional works of this School and the capacity of the monuments to act as masterpieces in terms of their characteristics and state of conservation.

Whilst the State Party concluded its initial comparative analysis with a consideration of the selected serial components within Pskov, this section largely argues why each component that has been selected does feature prominently among the best possible examples in Pskov. Products of the Pskov School outside Pskov have been mentioned where they achieved World Heritage recognition, such as the Historic and Architectural Complex of the Historic and Architectural Complex of the

Kazan Kremlin (Russian Federation, 2000, (ii), (iii), (iv)) or the Assumption Cathedral and Monastery of the town-island of Sviyazhsk (Russian Federation, 2017, (ii), (iv)) but not beyond these already-listed examples.

ICOMOS therefore, in its Interim Report, requested that the State Party reconsider the initial selection by means of a comparative analysis of all potential monuments representing the School, considering their specific typological and decorative features. The additional information received in response from the State Party in February 2019 provides more comprehensive information on the ability of each of the selected monuments to feature as a masterpiece of the Pskov School of Architecture. It further considers other monuments produced under the School, both within and outside Pskov, and discusses their ability to feature as part of the series. Unfortunately, the legal protection status of each of these comparators was applied as a comparative criterion and as such many promising examples not protected at national level had to be excluded for lack of protection. ICOMOS considers that it would have been more beneficial to pay closer attention to the state of conservation, integrity and authenticity, rather than the individual present protection status.

ICOMOS considers that, while the State Party concludes that the series initially presented is the best possible selection of masterpieces of the Pskov School, the documentation provided further indicates that this is not actually the case. Whilst a number of monuments within the series could easily feature as masterpieces of the Pskov School of Architecture, ICOMOS cannot confirm that the entire series as presently proposed would have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. ICOMOS therefore concludes that the comparative analysis demonstrates Outstanding Universal Value for a reduced number of serial components, namely 10 of the religious monuments in the series.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis and the additional information provided justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List on the basis of the importance of the Pskov School of Architecture; but that the comparative analysis does not justify the selection of all the nominated components.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): *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;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the outstanding architecture of Pskov is inseparably connected with the Novgorod School of Architecture, which started to develop its own style from the 12th century onwards. The autonomy gained from Novgorod in the 14th century fostered the development of

the Pskov School of Architecture, which reached its full flourishing in the 15th and 16th centuries. From that time on, Pskov architects were invited to other regions of Russia and influenced the development of Russian architecture well into the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.

ICOMOS considers that, whilst the Pskov School of Architecture exerted great influence within the wider region and especially the Russian state, this is not easily demonstrated through the presently-proposed series of monuments in Pskov. In the additional information provided in February 2019 in response to the Interim Report of ICOMOS, the State Party considered a number of monuments providing evidence of the regional scope of influence through their location outside Pskov itself, but these were disregarded as potential elements for a serial nomination largely based on their lack of legal protection at the highest national level. ICOMOS considers that for monuments which are masterpieces of the Pskov School and which have the capacity to provide authentic evidence of its influence across a wider region, the lack of current legal protection at the highest national level should not be the only reason for exclusion.

With regard to the series proposed, in the tabular overview of elements and features attributed to each criterion prepared by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' request for additional information, the State Party documents that only 3 of 18 components make a substantial contribution to this criterion. ICOMOS, however, considers that the ability of some components to be recognized as bearing the capacity to provide authentic evidence of the influence across a wider region of the Pskov School of Architecture exists and that 10 components of the present series can be said to fulfil this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (ii) has been met for a limited number of selected components of the series.

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Pskov School of Architecture was formed within a unique cultural tradition, the Pskov *veche* Republic. This refers to the city and lands being ruled by an assembly of free citizens, a democratic form of government. Within these historic conditions, the Pskov School developed a specific style which is characterized by simplicity, severity of forms, laconicism, organic shapes in line with natural inspiration, nobility of proportions and monumentalism.

ICOMOS considers that, within this justification, no reference to an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilization could be identified. ICOMOS notes in reference to the notions of spiritual connectedness and self-awareness of residents in terms of architecture, which are reiterated in the additional information provided, that at a global level most religious edifices communicate

spiritual power and interconnectedness and that most architectural works of cities reflect in one way or another the self-identity of its residents. ICOMOS cannot confirm that these phenomena are unique or at least exceptional in the case of Pskov.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iii) has not been met.

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Monuments of Ancient Pskov are outstanding examples of the heritage of Ancient Rus of the 12th to the 17th centuries, a centre of Russian statehood, and were witnesses to a number of important historic events, both at a regional and global scale, such as their connection to Alexander Nevsky (1221-1263), the monk-scholar Filofey (1465-1542), who developed a concept of Russian Orthodox statehood, or the treaty of Yam-Zapolsky, which designated the truce at the end of the Livonian War (1558-1583).

ICOMOS considers that no specific typology of architecture or urban plan is shared for the series. ICOMOS has no doubt that the city of Pskov played an important role in the history of Ancient Rus. However, this role as witness of historic events has not yielded an outstanding typology of buildings, city or landscapes. Just as for the previous criteria, it also becomes evident in the tabular overview provided as part of the additional information received in February 2019 that not all components provide discernible contributions to this criterion.

In response to ICOMOS' enquiry on a possible typology of Pskov as a frontier town or what is referred to as the centre of Russian statehood, the State Party responded in its additional information that these aspects are represented by the selection of individual components which form the foundations for spiritual unity of the Russian people. ICOMOS cannot see support for an urban typology in a series of 18 individual complexes and buildings and does not support the notion that the religious structures and civic buildings proposed together constitute a typological reference to Russian state formation.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iv) has not been met.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (ii) is demonstrated for a series comprised of 10 components which are all religious structures testifying to the influence and the specific style of architectural design and decoration of the Pskov School of Architecture; but that the remaining components should be excluded. ICOMOS considers that criteria (iii) and (iv) have not been demonstrated.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The aim of the State Party is to present within this nomination the best-preserved and most picturesque examples of the Pskov School of Architecture and that integrity in the sense of completeness and wholeness would be achieved by a selection of these. For each serial component integrity would therefore be measured in terms of the components' ability to contribute by distinctive and discernible features which testify to the products of the School in a recognisable way. The State Party further underlines that through the establishment of protection schemes and conservation programmes the intactness of the property is assured in the long term.

ICOMOS considers that, despite a few serial components which remain in need of conservation attention, the property is largely free of immediate severe threats and intactness could be assured. However, the series as such in its selection of serial components does not demonstrate integrity in terms of wholeness or completeness. A number of components do not meet the benchmark of best-preserved or a representative example of the Pskov School of Architecture.

In terms of the individual serial components, ICOMOS observes that a small number of these have been negatively affected by development, such as the Church of the Dormition s Paromenya (2.10), which is compromised by a modern reinforced concrete bridge which is rather high and situated very close to the property. This bridge cuts across the perception and sight relations to and from the serial component and hence affects its visual integrity. In other cases, such as the Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi*, structures have suffered from severe damage or destruction and therefore are restricted in material terms in their ability to testify to the era of the Pskov School of Architecture, since their contemporary appearance references almost exclusively subsequent restoration campaigns.

Authenticity

As with the integrity discussed above, the authenticity of the serial components varies and will be discussed based on examples below. In terms of authenticity of the series, it needs to be stated that the serial components appear somehow fragmented in a historic city of predominantly later date, due also to severe destruction in the first half of the 20th century. While this does not affect authenticity in material, substance, use, function or spirit and feeling, which particularly applies to some religious properties, it does have a strong impact on the authenticity of setting. ICOMOS notes, however, that up to the present day the historic centre of Pskov has remained free of tall or high-rise buildings. Through this policy the city has preserved the traditional volumes and heights of the setting, even where the historic substance is no longer present.

In terms of the individual components, several have undergone restorations and at times even reconstructions following damage in World War II. These include the Pokrovskaya Tower (1.1), the bell tower of the Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi* (2.11), here also with changes in form and design, and the Pogankin Chambers (3.2). In other cases, authenticity of function and use has been affected. While the fortification structures are obviously no longer used for defence, some of the churches, such as the Transfiguration Cathedral of the Spaso-Mirozhsky Monastery (2.3), which is presently closed for restoration and will afterwards be partially used as a museum, are not presently used for services and at the Church of Old Ascension (2.13), the authenticity of the whole former ensemble is threatened by a new division of ownership and function.

ICOMOS considers that if all structures are assessed in terms of their being credible testimony to the Pskov School of Architecture, a number of structures retain the ability to communicate the specific architectural styles and decoration elements of the School, even if they have been subject to different restoration campaigns over time. ICOMOS acknowledges the general tendency to frequently restore the outer surfaces of religious buildings to maintain their pure and aesthetic appearance but is able to confirm that 10 serial components remain as credible testimonies to the work of the Pskov School of Architecture and can as such be said to demonstrate authenticity.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the requirements of integrity and authenticity of the series have been met for a reduced set of the nominated components; and that the requirements of integrity and authenticity of the individual sites that comprise the series have been met for the majority of individual components but is compromised, at times, for their setting.

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

ICOMOS considers that the Pskov School of Architecture is one of several Russian Schools which exerted influence on the development of architectural styles in Russia, leading to specific architectural and decorative references. In its request for additional information on the exceptionality of the Pskov School of Architecture as well as its features and attributes, the State Party responded that its international significance only became clear recently. In the further additional information provided in response to ICOMOS' Interim Report, the State Party identified characteristic features illustrated by works of the Pskov School and highlighted the presence of these beyond Pskov, which testify to the influence and exchange of the architectural traditions of the Pskov School within Russia.

ICOMOS considers that despite the importance of the Pskov School of Architecture within Russia and beyond, the selection of monuments in Pskov proposed to represent the most outstanding products of this School remains unsatisfactory and that not all components of the present series have the capacity to illustrate authentically the mastery of the Pskov School. ICOMOS however considers that, based on the additional information provided, the rich

literature available on the historic monuments of Pskov, and the expert reviews and technical evaluation report it has received, that 10 components of the present series do meet the requirements for inscription on the World Heritage List.

These components are: element no. 2.2 “Cathedral of *Ioann Predtecha* (John the Precursor) of the Ivanovsky Monastery, 1240”; element no. 2.3 “Ensemble of the Spaso-Mirozhsky Monastery: the Transfiguration Cathedral, 12th century”; element no. 2.4 “Ensemble of the Snetogorsky Monastery: the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God, 16th century”; element no. 2.5 “Church of the Archangel Michael with a bell tower, 14th century”; element no. 2.6 “Church of *Pokrova* (Intercession) of *Prolova* (at the breach in the wall), 15th-16th centuries”; element no. 2.7 “Church of *Koz’ma* and *Damian s Primostya* (near the bridge), remains of the belfry, gate, fence of the 15th-17th centuries”; element no. 2.8 “Church of *Georgiya so Vzvoza* (St. George near the river descent), 1494”; element no. 2.9 “Church of the Theophany with a belfry, 1489”; element no. 2.11 “Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi* (St. Nicholas from the dry place), 16th century”; and element no. 2.14 “Church of *Vasiliya na Gorke* (St. Basil the Great on the hill), 15th century”.

ICOMOS concludes that this reduced series of 10 religious structures illustrates Outstanding Universal Value in relation to presenting the influence and architectural testimony of the Pskov School of Architecture.

Attributes

In the additional information provided at the request of ICOMOS, the State Party describes in further detail the attributes it considers most significant for the Monuments of Ancient Pskov in representing the mastery of the Pskov School of Architecture. These physical attributes include, among others: architectural elements influenced by Byzantine traditions; use of local construction materials; pragmatist stone buildings with economic approaches to decoration, both pragmatic and minimalist, characterized by restraint in form and decoration; a limited set of decorative techniques and architectural elements illustrating a synthesis of vernacular styles brought into urban and monumental contexts; cubic volumes; domes, tholobates, side chapels, porches, narthexes and belfries, as well as other decorative features. The churches are recognizable with their historic architectural structures and their immediate property setting in the form of access routes, gardens, surrounding walls and fences, as well as vegetation.

ICOMOS considers that, for the series proposed by the State Party, the comparative analysis did not support the serial selection and justification for inscription for the series as a whole. However, ICOMOS considers that a reduced series of 10 religious elements demonstrates Outstanding Universal Value in reference to criterion (ii). For this smaller series requirements for integrity as well as authenticity are overall met.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Conservation measures

The conservation plans for the serial property are included in the Management Plan under the title “Physical preservation”. The aim is to establish a conservation system, which integrates physical preservation measures, monitoring of restoration processes, preservation of movable property within the edifices, and safety and security measures. These measures are guided by the State Committee of Pskov Region for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, which is the decision-making body on conservation priorities and methodologies based on consultation with owners, users and conservation experts. The preservation efforts also extend to the setting of the individual components and include the preservation of view perspectives, panoramas and landscape revitalization within the buffer zones.

In the action plan, presented as volume 6 of the nomination, concrete conservation works are documented to be underway or foreseen for the Pokrovskaya Tower, the Church of the Archangel Michael, Church of *Koz’ma* and *Damian s Primostya*, Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi*, the Church of the Old Ascension, and the Pogankin Chambers.

In ICOMOS’ view, based on observations during its technical evaluation mission, the conservation activities are thoroughly programmed, in line with international conservation standards and carried out by skilled and scientifically-trained conservation professionals. ICOMOS further commends the maintenance manual which has been published for non-conservation-trained stakeholders responsible for the Orthodox churches.

Monitoring

Systematic monitoring is legally required every five years. Based on the monitoring exercise, which is focused on observing any changes in the state of conservation, necessary restoration and maintenance works are defined. Special attention in this periodic process is given to frescoes and structural stability. The responsible agency for this process as for conservation measures is the State Committee of the Pskov Region for the Protection of Cultural Heritage.

Monitoring methodologies include object mapping, photo documentation and comparison, temperature and humidity monitoring as well as, in some places, counting visitor numbers. Risk preparedness plans further require the monitoring of functionality of fire-fighting and detection systems twice a year. ICOMOS considers that, although the nomination does not present specific monitoring indicators, the materials of earlier reporting exercises undertaken since 2010 convince that the property is adequately monitored. ICOMOS recommends specifically developing indicators in relation to traffic flow and density as well as urban and infrastructure development.

ICOMOS considers that conservation programmes and monitoring schemes are appropriate but recommends integrating additional indicators to monitor traffic flows and development pressures.

5 Protection and management

Documentation

All property components are inventoried, including their state of conservation and previous conservation measures. These inventories, included as volume 3 of the nomination, are frequently updated as new activities are implemented and can be used as baselines for conservation monitoring. The inventory records are being held at the State Committee of the Pskov Region for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the “Research and Development Centre for Conservation and Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Pskov Region”.

Legal protection

All 18 properties are protected as architectural monuments of State importance according to the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of 30.08.1960, no. 1327. In accordance with the Federal Law of June 25, 2002 N 73-FZ “on Cultural Heritage Properties (Monuments of History and Culture) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation”, the 18 components previously listed have now been given the status of cultural heritage property of federal significance and are included in the unified state register of cultural heritage properties (monuments of history and culture) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. The specific boundaries of each component were approved by the State Committee of the Pskov Region between 2010 and 2015. Subsequently, by order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 17.09.2016 No 1975-r, all components of the property “Monuments of Ancient Pskov” were included in the Code of the most valuable cultural heritage properties of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. ICOMOS considers that this protection level constitutes protection at the highest national level.

The protection at national level is complemented by local protection schemes integrated in urban and development plans. Based on the additional information provided by the State Party, these are well-established and consider cultural heritage concerns within their occasional revision processes. Traditional protection further applies to the components of religious architecture for which the Orthodox Russian monastic and guardian communities care according to religious requirements of maintenance.

For the buffer zone, legal protection was envisaged to be granted in March 2019. However, much of the southern buffer zone overlaps with an existing urban conservation zone, which provides relevant legal backing with the exception of sight lines, view corridors and cityscape protection. ICOMOS considers that, whilst this existing urban conservation zone protects 17 out of 18 components from development pressures, the full legal protection of the

northern buffer zone and the view corridors of the southern zone will only be achieved with their formal legal adoption anticipated for 2019.

Management system

Management is coordinated by the State Committee of the Pskov Region for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, formally represented by its president, who is also the site manager. It places the highest decision-making authority for the Monuments of Ancient Pskov into the position of having direct responsibility for their management. According to the structural arrangements envisaged, the site manager administers the property in three sections, grouped as (1) components managed by the Pskov State Museum Reserve, (2) Churches managed by the Pskov Eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church, and (3) all other components, per definition managed by the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for the Management of Federal Property. ICOMOS considers that the management division and emphasis may have to be reconsidered in light of the reduced series composed of only religious monuments.

A management plan was prepared in parallel with the preparation of the nomination and submitted as volume 5 of the nomination dossier. This management plan was formally approved by the Governor of the Region of Pskov and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The management plan is based on two simple and straightforward strategic goals: to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to create conditions for the preservation and sustainable development of the property’s surroundings. For these two goals specific strategies and action plans have been developed which are envisaged to be implemented within a period of four years. In addition, a risk management plan paying attention to safety and security measures is annexed to the first strategic goal section. The management plan provides an integrated action plan for four years (2017 – 2020) and integrates its own quality assessment evaluation scheme which, at the end of the initial period, will commence a review of successes and the reformulation of necessary actions. ICOMOS considers that the management plan, although it is somewhat convoluted in its descriptive sections, will provide sufficient guidance for the effective management of the property as well as quality assessment of management achievements. The only concern that should be raised, is that although an increase in traffic volumes was identified as a key challenge for the property, this challenge has not been addressed in the management plan. ICOMOS recommends developing a traffic volume and navigation strategy as part of the second strategic goal of the management plan.

Visitor management

Few interpretation tools exist on site and, based on the strategies of the management plan, these will be augmented in the future by means of a comprehensive approach to interpretation. In terms of visitor management, the management plan foresees developing a sustainable tourism development policy for the city of Pskov. This is a key part of the strategy for the socio-economic

development of Pskov tourism, which aims at utilizing the tourism potential towards the growth of the municipal economy.

Objectives for sustainable tourism development in the short term include: to support the development of tourist infrastructure; provide information to visitors and organize touristic events; ensure the creation of a unified information environment and spatial orientation for visitors; ensure accessibility for visitors with physical challenges; and familiarize young people with the property.

Community involvement

Local communities in the sense of expert and stakeholder communities were involved in the preparation of the nomination, which brought together members of the Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, the local history club, the local branch of the Historians' Union, as well as the religious and residential communities directly concerned. The religious communities were in particular involved in the preparation of the management plan as they will play a role in, and take responsibility for, its implementation.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the protection and management of the nominated property

ICOMOS considers that, whilst several components of the overall protection and management system are in the process of being finalized, such as the legal protection for the buffer zones and the development and implementation of the visitor management strategy, the overall protection and management scheme provided for the serial property components is effective.

However, although an increase in traffic volumes was identified as one of the key challenges in the nomination, this aspect is not addressed in the management plan. ICOMOS therefore recommends that traffic volumes and directions are considered in a vehicular traffic strategy for the property.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection status and management arrangements are adequate. Specific areas which need to be established or finalized are the legal protection of the buffer zone, a traffic management strategy, and a visitor management plan.

6 Conclusion

The nomination proposes 18 serial component sites, of which 17 are located in the historic centre of Pskov, while one, the Snetogorsky Monastery, is situated along the banks of the Velikaya River to the north-west of the historic centre. The components are presented as the most noteworthy examples of the Pskov School of Architecture, which has exerted considerable regional influence on architectural developments within the Russian State. The components date to between the 12th and the 19th centuries and include examples of defensive, religious and civic architecture.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis does not demonstrate how the proposed series could justify Outstanding Universal Value, as not all of the currently-proposed components are relevant authentic and representative examples of the Pskov School of Architecture. However, based on the additional information provided by the State Party and information gained through expert reviews, literature and the technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that 10 serial components demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value in reference to criterion (ii). These 10 components are exclusively religious structures and by name are: element no. 2.2 "Cathedral of *Ioann Predtechka* (John the Precursor) of the Ivanovsky Monastery"; element no. 2.3 "Ensemble of the Spaso-Mirozhsky Monastery: the Transfiguration Cathedral"; element no. 2.4 "Ensemble of the Snetogorsky Monastery: the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God"; element no. 2.5 "Church of the Archangel Michael with a bell tower"; element no. 2.6 "Church of *Pokrova* (Intercession) of *Proloma* (at the breach in the wall)"; element no. 2.7 "Church of Koz'ma and Damian s *Primostya* (near the bridge), remains of the belfry, gate, and fence"; element no. 2.8 "Church of Georgiya so *Vzvoza* (St. George near the river descent)"; element no. 2.9 "Church of the Theophany with a belfry"; element no. 2.11 "Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi* (St. Nicholas from the dry place)"; and element no. 2.14 "Church of *Vasiliya na Gorke* (St. Basil the Great on the hill)".

Likewise, the initial selection of the serial property does not demonstrate integrity, while some, namely the 10 individual serial components named above, do compose a group of sites which can be said to demonstrate an adequate amount of integrity. Authenticity, with few exceptions, is better demonstrated. An elaborate conservation programme aims at reducing shortcomings in relation to continuity of historic use, function and setting of religious components. Present conservation approaches are adequate and the maintenance schemes, in particular the manual prepared for non-conservation-professional stakeholders, should be commended.

Whilst legal protection is adequate for the property, it should be finalized for the buffer zone. The legal basis of the existing protection zone in Pskov historic centre could be used as a basis if extended towards the two view corridors to its north and south. The boundaries of the serial components would benefit from more consistent delineation in line with property boundaries or relevant physical markers.

The management plan is in principle well developed. However, although an increase in traffic volume has been identified as the key challenge among the factors affecting the property, this aspect is not at all addressed in the management plan. ICOMOS recommends therefore to undertake comprehensive studies on vehicular traffic flows and develop a traffic navigation strategy. ICOMOS further recommends integrating the observation of traffic flows into the overall monitoring of the property.

7 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that only 10 of the 18 components forming the nominated series of the Monuments of Ancient Pskov, Russian Federation, namely the following: element no. 2.2 “Cathedral of *Ioann Predtecha* (John the Precursor) of the Ivanovsky Monastery”; element no. 2.3 “Ensemble of the Spaso-Mirozhsky Monastery: the Transfiguration Cathedral”; element no. 2.4 “Ensemble of the Snetogorsky Monastery: the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God”; element no. 2.5 “Church of the Archangel Michael with a bell tower”; element no. 2.6 “Church of *Pokrova* (Intercession) *ot Proloma* (at the breach in the wall)”; element no. 2.7 “Church of Koz’ma and Damian s *Primostya* (near the bridge), remains of the belfry, gate, and fence”; element no. 2.8 “Church of Georgiya so *Vzvoza* (St. George near the river descent)”; element no. 2.9 “Church of Theophany with a belfry”; element no. 2.11 “Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi* (St. Nicholas from the dry place)”; and element no. 2.14 “Church of *Vasiliya na Gorke* (St. Basil the Great on the hill)”, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The Churches of the Pskov School of Architecture are located in the historic city of Pskov and along the banks of the Velikaya River in the northwest of Russia. The property includes ten monuments of religious architecture, churches and cathedrals, as well as, in some cases, part of the monastic structures around these, which represent the architectural styles and decorative elements produced by the Pskov School of Architecture between the 12th and the beginning of the 17th century. The Pskov School of Architecture is one of the most influential Russian Schools of architecture, which fostered continuous exchange of ideas and characterized the development of architectural styles in Russia over five centuries, leading to specific architectural and decorative references known as the Pskov School.

These physical features representing the work of the Pskov School include, among others: architectural elements influenced by Byzantine traditions, transmitted through the earlier Novgorod School; distinctive use of local construction materials; and pragmatist stone buildings with purist and minimalistic approaches to decoration characterized by restraint in form and decoration. The school utilized a limited set of decorative techniques and architectural elements, illustrating a synthesis of vernacular styles brought into urban and monumental contexts, cubic volumes, domes, tholobates, side chapels, porches, narthexes and belfries, as well as other decorative features. The ten selected churches and cathedrals which compose this serial property are recognizable with their historic architectural structures and their immediate property settings in the form of access routes, gardens, surrounding walls and fences, as well as vegetation elements, all

contributing to the traditional atmosphere of these spiritual abodes which relates to the endeavours of the School to integrate architectural masterpieces into their natural surroundings.

Criterion (ii): The Pskov School of Architecture emerged under the influence of the Byzantine and Novgorod traditions and reached its height in the 15th and 16th centuries, when it exerted considerable influence in large areas of the Russian state and its stylistic and decorative characteristics became widely referenced. Whilst Pskov architects worked on monuments throughout Russia, including in Moscow, Kazan and Sviyazhsk, the ten selected churches in Pskov illustrate a local representation of the early development, experimental grounds and masterly references of the Pskov School.

Integrity

The churches of the Pskov School of Architecture are largely free of immediate severe threats. As a group, they demonstrate integrity by including examples of all the historic stages of development of the Pskov School’s output, ranging from the early formative stages in the 12th century, to the apogee of the School in the 15th and 16th centuries. A number of serial components were affected during times of war, in particular during World War II, but are restored to a level which provides a credible reference to the Pskov School’s era of production.

At times, the setting of these religious monuments has become vulnerable to infrastructural and other developments. Given the strong focus of the Pskov School on the integration of monuments into their natural surroundings, it is essential to preserve these immediate settings, which is achieved by means of the designated buffer zone and should be substantiated by adequate visitor- and traffic-monitoring strategies.

Authenticity

The group of churches has preserved an acceptable degree of authenticity in style, decorative features, design, workmanship, atmosphere and, with a single exception, use and function. In material terms the churches have suffered in one way or another damage due to various wars over time, but this group of religious buildings has survived following restorations which remained true to the key architectural and decorative features of the Pskov School of Architecture. The needed repair and conservation works were undertaken using authentic materials, traditional technologies and the explicit aim of preserving the historical and cultural values of the property.

The traditional use of the churches and cathedrals as places of worship and, for some, as part of monastic structures, explicitly strengthens the authenticity, and the user community should be prominently and closely involved in the management processes to ensure the future transmission of authenticity in use and function.

Management and protection requirements

The Churches of the Pskov School are protected as architectural monuments of state importance according to the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of 30.08.1960, no. 1327. The specific boundaries of each component were approved by the State Committee of the Pskov Region between 2010 and 2015 but should be revised where necessary to align with property boundaries or relevant physical boundaries of the churches' setting. By order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 17.09.2016 No 1975-r, all components of the property were included in the Code of the most valuable cultural heritage properties of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. Traditional protection is provided by the Orthodox Russian monastic and guardian communities, who care for the property according to religious requirements of maintenance.

Management is coordinated by the State Committee of the Pskov Region for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and carried out in strong cooperation with the Pskov Eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church. A management plan was prepared in parallel with the preparation of the nomination and was formally approved by the Governor of the Region of Pskov and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The management plan provides an integrated action plan for four years (2017 – 2020) and integrates its own quality assessment evaluation scheme which, at the end of the initial period, will commence a review of successes and the reformulation of necessary actions. Future revisions of the management plan will pay closer attention to the aspects of risk management, in particular how this relates to visitor and traffic management, as well as protection of setting and traditional use of the religious structures.

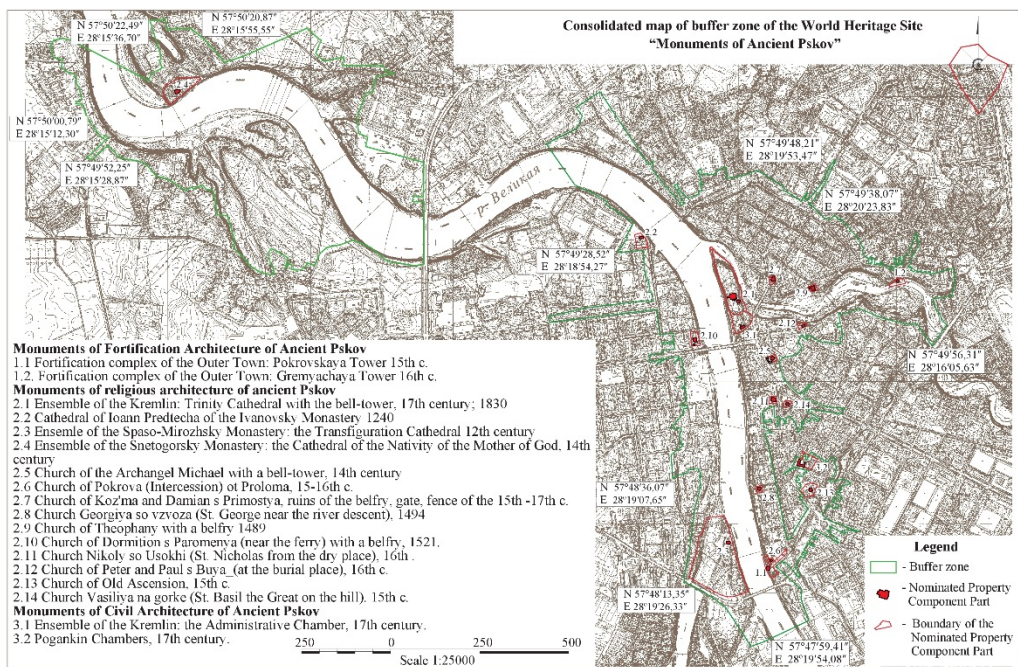
Additional recommendations

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

- a) Redefining more consistently component boundaries in line with title deeds or physical markers,
- b) Extending the existing protection zone for the historic centre of Pskov to include the two view corridors along the banks of the Velikaya River to the north and south of this urban protection zone,
- c) Augmenting the monitoring system through integration of indicators which monitor traffic flows and development pressures,
- d) Studying traffic and visitation volumes and flows and develop a vehicular traffic strategy as well as a visitor management plan for the property;

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party consider changing the name of the property from "Monuments of Ancient Pskov" to "Churches of the Pskov School of Architecture", in line with the reduced serial

composition and acknowledged Outstanding Universal Value of the property.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Church of the Archangel Michael with a bell tower



The Cathedral of *Ioann Predtecha* (John the Precursor) of the Ivanovsky Monastery



Church of *Nikoly so Usokhi*



The Transfiguration Cathedral, the cupola