Proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification to the boundaries of the World Heritage Property

“Historic Centre of Florence”

Florence, Italy

January 2020

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The proposed modification of the boundaries of the World Heritage Site the “Historic Centre of Florence” aimed at rectifying a formal error in the graphic representation of the perimeter of the as a minor modification to the World Heritage. This procedure is regulated by Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, WHC.19/01 10 July 2019. The following documentation is submitted by the concerned State Party to the review of the relevant Advisory Body(ies) and to the approval of the World Heritage Committee.

Florence, 10/01/2020

Site Manager

Carlo Francini
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I. Area of the property (in hectares)

1. Basic data of the property (as inscribed in 1982)

Country
Italy

State Province or Region
Tuscan Region

Name of the property
Historic Centre of Florence

Id. N°
174

Date of inscription
1982

Exact location on map ad indication of geographical coordinates
Latitude: N43 46 23.016
Longitude: E11 15 21.996

More precisely, the location of the site at its central point, is shown by the following geographical coordinates:
- **Tower of Palazzo Vecchio**
  - latitude: 43° 46’ 21”
  - longitude: 11° 15’ 00”
- **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore**
  - latitude: 43° 46’ 07”
  - longitude: 1° 15’ 46”

The points at the South-West and North-East summits of the rectangular enclosure of the Historic Centre are identified by the following geographical coordinates:
- **Geodetic system ROMA40:**
  - North-East angle latitude: 43° 50’ 01”
  - North-East angle longitude: 0° 10’ 00”
  - South-West angle latitude: 43° 43’ 37”
  - South-West angle longitude: 1° 18’ 16”
- **Geodetic system WSG84:**
  - North-East angle latitude: 43° 50’ 0,3”
  - North-East angle longitude: 12° 37’ 07”
  - South-West angle latitude: 43° 43’ 39”
  - South-West angle longitude: 11° 08’ 51”

Extension property (ha) – Core Zone
505 ha

Extension Buffer Zone (ha)
10,480 ha

(see Annex Map 1 – “Map of the original inscribed property with Buffer Zone”)
Brief description of the property

The city of Florence was built on the site of an Etruscan settlement and the later ancient Roman colony of Florentia (founded in 59 BC). This Tuscan city became a symbol of the Renaissance during the early Medici period (between the 15th and 16th centuries), reaching extraordinary levels of economic and cultural development.

The area listed in the World Heritage List is its Historic Centre, the part of the city enclosed inside the system of avenues (Viali di Circonvallazione) and the remains of the ancient city walls dating back to the 14th century. These walls are represented by surviving gates, towers, and the two Medici strongholds: that of Saint John the Baptist in the north, popularly known as “da Basso”, and the Fort of San Giorgio del Belvedere located amongst the hills of the south side.

The Arno River runs east and west through the city and a series of bridges connects its two banks including Ponte Vecchio and Ponte Santa Trinita.

Seven hundred years of cultural and artistic blooming are tangible today in the 14th-century Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Church of Santa Croce, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery, and the Palazzo Pitti.

The city’s history is further evident in the artistic works of great masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo.

During the urban development of the city, which began at the end of the 19th century, areas of special urban importance were created with buildings of remarkable quality and homogeneity. Particularly significant was the opening to the public of the monumental Cascine Park, a real swath of green that stretches for about 118 hectares along the right bank of the river Arno, and the creation of the hill pathway of San Miniato.

The Historic Centre of Florence can be perceived as a unique social and urban achievement, the result of persistent and long-lasting creativity, which includes museums, churches, buildings and artworks of immeasurable worth. Florence had an overwhelming influence on the development of architecture and the fine arts, first in Italy, and then in Europe. It is within the context of Florence that the concept of the Renaissance came to be. This heritage bestows upon Florence unique historical and aesthetic qualities.

The site can be appreciated in its entirety from the surrounding hills, particularly from the hill of San Miniato with the terrace of Piazzale Michelangelo, as well as from the hill of Fiesole (old Etruscan city), both offering a striking panoramic view of the whole city. The Historic Centre of Florence is in fact framed in a particularly attractive environmental context consisting of the hills that border the city to the north (the Hills of Careggi, Fiesole and Settignano) and to the south (the Hills of Bellosguardo, Arcetri, Poggio Imperiale and San Miniato). The administrative territory of the Municipality of Florence, moreover, is scattered by minor historical centres that characterize a remarkable historical and environmental heritage (Brozzi, Peretola, Galluzzo and Settignano).

Outside the boundaries of the site, we can find the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany – a total of twelve villas and two gardens spread across the Tuscan landscape inscribed in the World Heritage list in 2014 (es: Villa Medicea of Castello, Villa of Cerreto Guidi, Villa of Artimino, Villa Demidoff, Villa of Petraia, Villa of Poggio a Caiano and Pratolino) – which are ancient hunting mansions and country residences of the Medici family that bear witness to the historical and political events of the city of Florence.
2. **Brief description of the property as proposed to be modified**

The area of the proposed minor boundary modification to the World Heritage property is of **27 ha**. It will result in an increase of 5.3% of the inscribed property, bringing the total after the modification up to **532 ha**.

The current modification intends to incorporate the San Miniato al Monte complex with its surrounding environment into the actual property boundary. This area comprises the territory that stretches from the San Miniato gate, through the *Viale dei Colli* up to the Abbey of San Miniato al Monte with his cemetery and the *Parco della Rimembranza* (Veteran’s Memorial Park), *Piazzale Michelangelo*, and rejoins the existent boundary passing through the San Niccolò tower. The San Miniato complex is located inside the San Miniato Fort, part of the ancient city walls.

The tracked perimeter here proposed is inspired by the route of the ancient city wall (still partially existing) and follows - for practical reasons - the roads adjacent to the perimeter itself (see Annex Map 3.3 – “Proposed Modification – Context Analysis”).

The area of the proposed minor boundary modification already lies on the Buffer Zone of the Historic Centre of Florence. This means that the Buffer Zone will be decreased from **10,480 ha** to **10,453 ha** (see Annex Map 5 – “Map of the Core Zone as proposed to be modified with Buffer Zone”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of interest</th>
<th>Core zone – Municipality of Florence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsible office</td>
<td>UNESCO Office of the Municipality of Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface of the inscribed property</td>
<td>505 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surface of the proposed modification</strong></td>
<td>27 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>532 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Description of the modification

The proposed minor modification of the boundary of the World Heritage property “The Historic Centre of Florence” consists in the inclusion of the San Miniato al Monte complex (the Abbey and the area embedded within the walls of the homonymous Fort) and its surrounding environment (cemetery, San Salvatore al Monte Church, Veterans Memorial Park and Ramps), an area extended on the southern hills of the city and included within the ancient city walls (see Annex Map 3.1 – “Map of the proposed modification - Detail”).

The area analyzed is included in the list of Landscape Assets (Beni Paesaggistici) and therefore subjected to protection in accordance with art. 143 of the Legislative Decree 42/2004 as “territory of the southern hills of the city of Florence and east of the Via Senese located in the Municipality of Florence (“territorio delle colline al sud della città di Firenze e ad est della Via Senese sito nell’ambito del Comune di Firenze”) with the Ministerial identification code 90066.

The asset involved in the modification is described below in detail (see Annex Map 3.2 – “Map of the proposed modification - Detail”).

The Abbey of San Miniato bears the name of the saint who lived in the 3rd century and which is considered the first Florentine Martyr. The legend tells that the saint of Armenian origin, after having been beheaded on the bank of the river Arno, took his head in his hand and headed to the Mons Florentinus, where today stands the San Miniato al Monte Abbey, to welcome his death. This event marks the spiritual and physical bond between the San Miniato hill with the Arno river, a bond that has been reevaluated during the Renaissance period in the pilgrimage itinerary to the sacred place. The construction of the San Miniato Abbey begun in 1018 by the will of Bishop Ildebrando, and ended only after many decades. The façade, raised during the 12th century, is typically Florentine for the polychrome marble cladding with geometric patterns; it has clear similarities with the outside of the Baptistery of Saint John and is of great interest for the elaborate relationship between vertical and horizontal components that reflect the projection of internal volumes.

In the upper part of the façade, bordered by the frieze, there is a classical tympanum window (11th century), with a mosaic of the 13th century on the top, depicting the "Christ blessing between Mary and St. Miniato". On the crowning, "the eagle clawing the torsello" refers to the Art of Merchants of fabrics (Arte di Calimala), which had for a long time the patronage of the church.

Characterized by the polychromy of the white Carrara marble and green Prato marble cladding, the three-nave interior with raised presbytery maintains almost intact the framework of the eleventh century, although it has undergone many renovations over time, the main aisle is marked by the rhythmic intersperse of pairs of columns, with capitals from various eras and materials, and polystyle pillars. The floor is decorated with fine marble inlays adorned with symbolic figures and countless tombstones that are also arranged along the part, these have large frescoes made between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, above other older, of which only a few traces remain. Important architectural and decorative interventions took place in the following centuries: in 1448, by Michelozzo and by order of Piero de' Medici, the "Chapel of the Crucifix" was built, which stands isolated in front of the crypt at the end of the nave, while a later period (1461-66) is dated the chapel of the cardinal of Portugal, by Antonio Manetti. The bell tower, built in 1535 as an integral part of the complex, rise up over pre-existing buildings of the fourteenth century and based on a project by Baccio D'Agnolo in 1524.

As part of the complex are the Palazzo dei Vescovi (1320) and the cemetery, known as the Cimitero delle Porte Sante, which were developed inside the San Miniato Fort by taking advantage of the large
land bordered by the defensive ramparts of the fort. Since ancient times, regardless of its defensive function, various adjacent spaces to the Abbey were used for burials, and starting from the 18th century it was officially used as a city cemetery.

III. Justification of the modification

This minor boundary modification is advanced by the UNESCO Office of the Municipality of Florence in order to rectify a formal error in the graphic representation of the “Map of the World Heritage Property” submitted in 2007 (https://whc.unesco.org/document/101315), as well as in 2015 in occasion of the proposal for a minor boundary modification for the recognition of the Buffer Zone the site (https://whc.unesco.org/document/139811).

This error consists in the absence of the San Miniato al Monte complex inside the boundary of the inscribed World Heritage property (see Map 2 – “Map of the inscribed property with excluded attribute”).

At the time of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in 1982 and in the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, which has been adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2014 (WHC-14/38.COM/8E), the San Miniato al Monte complex was explicitly mentioned in the Criteria (i) as an asset that contributes to the Universal Value of the site, but it was erroneously excluded from the boundary of the site inscribed. The San Miniato al Monte complex is an integrated part of the Historic Centre of Florence and the Criteria (i) - under which the site has been inscribed on the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee - unreservedly apply also to this area.

The content of the Criteria (i) is cited below:

“Criteria (i): The urban complex of Florence is in itself a unique artistic realization, an absolute chef-d’œuvre, the fruit of continuous creation over more than six centuries. In addition to its museums (the Archaeological Museum, Uffizi, Bargello, Pitti, Galleria dell’Accademia), the greatest concentration of universally renowned works of art in the world is found here – the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistry and the Campanile of Giotto, Piazza della Signoria dominated by Palazzo Vecchio and the Palazzo Uffizi, San Lorenzo, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce and the Pazzi chapel, Santo Spirito, San Miniato, and the Convent of San Marco which houses paintings of Fra Angelico”.

With this proposal it will be possible to correct the boundary of the property inscribed for the Historic Centre of Florence, in order to bring the boundaries shown on the map in line with the contents of the Retrospective Statement of OUV.

Since the maps of the World Heritage property and the Buffer Zone which have been submitted and approved by the World Heritage Committee are legally binding and locally regulated by the Municipal Urban Planning, this formal error hinder the competent authorities to protect, safeguard and preserve the San Miniato al Monte complex and its surrounding environment in an effective and proper way.

IV. Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value

The proposed modification will contribute to the maintenance of the OUV of the property because it corrects the boundary of the Core Zone and therefore it increases the protection of the attributes and assets as described in paragraph II.
Moreover, the final report issued following the UNESCO / ICOMOS Advisory Mission on 22-25 May 2017 released six recommendations on site management, of which one (n.5) is related to the need in the next revision of the Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Florence to identify more clearly how the Outstanding Universal Value is expressed through the physical and social fabric, defining its attributes in detail.

This modification will enable to enhance the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property. It is considered appropriate to rectify the boundary the inscribed property in order to adequately preserve, protect, manage and maintain the site attributes.

By taking into account that in 2014, in occasion of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the condition of Integrity and Authenticity had been added to the Criteria of Inscription of the site, it is deemed appropriate to rectify its perimeter by including the San Miniato al Monte complex in order to protect and safeguard the integrity of the site, its attributes and elements in an appropriate and effective way.

The Condition of Integrity of the site is reported below:

“Innntttteegggrrraaattttyy: TThhee HHHhhiicccoorreee CCcceeenttrreee ooonn FFlloooreenncceee cccoommprrrissss allll tthhee eeelleementtss nnnecessarys ttoo eexprreesss iiitttss Oouuttsttttaannndd screevvaaaallll VVvvaallluuee. SSurrrroouunndddeddd bbyy AArroooffffliiannn wwalllleeesss ddatteedd ttoo tthhee 1114tthhh ccceenttrryyy, tthhee cciitttyy iincluddeess tthhee “qquaaddriirrilllaatatteerrrromoommnnoo,” wwhhiichh iiss mmaaakkedd oooff tthhee ppreesentt Pppiiizzzaaa dddelllleeffaallll ddddellaarreeppppubbblliccccc, tthhee nnaarrooww, ccoccbblleeestteeettss sstteerrreeettss ooff tthhee mmeeddiiivveellttcccyysstteerr, aannndd tthhee RReennnaaiiissannttcccee cciitttyysstteerr. TThhee uurrbbaann eenvviroonnmmeentt ooff tthhee hhiiissttrriiccc cceenttrreee rreemmaainnnss aalllmooostt uuunnttcttuurreenn aaaddd tthhee ssourrriinnddwwiinnggg hhiilllsss ppprrooovviideedd aaappppeerrfffeeccttiiivv EEGghhhmmmaarrrssss bbaackkdddrrrpppoo. TThhiiss llaannddsccssaass mmaaiittttaiinnnss iiss TToouussccaaann ffeeeaatttuueerrss, ccoonnttrrrriibbuuttiiinnnggg ttoo ttthhee vveeallluuee ooff tthhee HHiissttrriiccc CCeenttrreee ooonn FFlloooreenncceee [...]”.

The surrounding hill landscape system and its viewpoints are an integral part of the perception given of Florence and therefore must be protected. By safeguarding the viewpoints, the visual relationship and the identity of the historic urban landscape will be preserved and thus, the Integrity of the Historic Centre of Florence maintained. The terrace in front of the San Miniato Abbey is also a significant landscape viewpoint (Punto di Belvedere). The landscape viewpoints are an integral part and regulated by the Structural Plan of 2010 (see “Municipal constraints” in Paragraph V).

V. Implications for legal protection

The place has been ruled by a huge number of laws about preservation at different scales: state, regional, provincial, municipal scale.

State constraints:
Legislative Decree of 22 January 2004 n. 42, as amended and supplemented, the "Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape" about:
- Cultural heritage of artistic, historical, archaeological or ethno-anthropological heritage, including land and buildings subject to specific provision of the statement of cultural (Law 364/1909, Law 1089/1939, Legislative Decree no. 490/1999, D. Decree 42/2004);
- Landscape Assets as land and properties declared to be of significant public interest on the basis of specific legislation (Law 778/1922, Law 1497/1939, Law 431/1985, Legislative Decree n. 490/1999, Legislative Decree no. 42/2004), protected areas by law pursuant to art. 142 of Legislative Decree n. 42/2004 and Decrees of notification pursuant to Law 1497/39 and s. m. m.
The architectural and landscape constraints involved in the area included in the proposed modification are:

- D.M. 5/11/1951, G.U. 262-1951, “Territorio delle colline a sud della città di Firenze e ad est della via Senese”, tipologia art. 136 D.Lgs. 42/04, lett. c);
- L.1/6/1939, n. 1089, G.U. 8/8/1939, n. 184; Provvedimento ai sensi dell’art. 822 c.c.; “Compendio costituito dalla Basilica di San Miniato e annessi”, tipologia complesso immobiliare, identificativo bene 90480170624;
- L.1/6/1939, n. 1089, G.U. 8/8/1939, n. 184; Provvedimento di tutela diretta ai sensi della L.1089/1939 o del D.Lgs.490/1999 (Titolo I); “Cimitero monumentale di San Miniato al Monte, detto Cimitero delle Porte Sante, tipologia cimitero, identificativo bene 90480170316;

The following restrictions also have to be taken into close consideration:

- Hydro-geological restriction, river restraints, millwork trunks;
- Infrastructure and other over-commanded restrictions to communal planning: quarries of historical ornamental materials, areas of temporary preservation to build airports, airport restrictions, graveyards, electrical pipelines, methane pipelines, areas traversed by fire, stable telephone service structures.

Regional constraints:

- PIT (Piano di Indirizzo Territoriale) - which, from a legal point of view, has the same value of the Landscape Plan - art. 21 of Regional Law 65/2014, nowadays in force, was approved by Regional Council on 02.07.2014 by deliberation n. 58

Municipal constraints:

- Structural Plan (Regional Law 65/2014 artt. 30 e ss), approved on 02/04/2015 through Resolution no. 2015/C/00025 dated 02.04.2015 by the Municipal Executive Committee, updated on 18.03.2019 by deliberation n. 2019/C/00018 and published on BURT n. 24, II part;
- Town Planning Regulations, approved on 02/04/2015 through Resolution no. 2015/C/00025 dated 02.04.2015 by the Municipal Executive Committee, which also approved the simultaneous revision of the Structural Plan (Regional Law 1/2005, art. 17). Last update on October 2019;
- The Building Regulations of the Municipality of Florence, approved on 11.03.2019 through Resolution no. 2019/C/00014 by the Municipal Executive Committee.

VI. Implications for management arrangements

The implications of the proposed modification for the management arrangements of the property will correct the management measures of the site. The minor boundary modification primarily allows to rectify a formal error in the graphic representation, of relevance regarding the protection of the attributes as cited in Criteria (i) and the Integrity of the site. Thanks to this modification it will be possible to achieve the wholeness of the Historic Centre of Florence World Heritage site.
VII. Maps
In the attachment:
- Map 1 – MAPS OF THE ORIGINAL INSCRIBED PROPERTY WITH BUFFER ZONE
- Map 2 – AREA OF THE INSCRIBED PROPERTY WITH EXCLUDED ATTRIBUTE
- Map 3.1 – MAP OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION
- Map 3.2 – MAP OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION – DETAIL
- Map 3.3 – PROPOSED MODIFICATION – CONTEXT ANALYSIS
- Map 4 – MAP OF BOTH DELIMITATIONS OF THE PROPERTY
- Map 5 – MAP OF THE CORE ZONE AS PROPOSE TO BE MODIFIED WITH BUFFER ZONE

VIII. Additional information

Photo 1 – View from the terrace in front of the San Miniato al Monte Abbey
Credits: Marta Porcile, 2017. Property: Municipality of Florence
Photo 2 – View from Lungarno Diaz towards San Miniato hill (in blue color: Core Zone; in orange color: the proposed minor modification)

Photo 3 – View from the 3rd terrace of the Ramps leading to the San Miniato hill (in blue color: Core Zone; in orange color: the proposed minor modification)
Credits: Marta Porcile, 2019. Property: Municipality of Florence
IX. Bibliography


Manetti R. 1980, Michelangiolo: Le fortificazioni per l’assedio di Firenze, Libreria editrice fiorentina, Firenze


MAP OF THE ORIGINAL INSCRIBED PROPERTY WITH BUFFER ZONE
MAPPA DEL SITO ATTUALE ISCRITTO CON BUFFER ZONE
Centro storico di Firenze
Historical Centre of Florence

Map 1 – MAP OF THE ORIGINAL INSCRIBED PROPERTY WITH BUFFER ZONE

Scala (scale) 1:50.000
European Datum 1950, UTM zone 32 n
Centro storico di Firenze

Historical Centre of Florence

Map 1 – MAP OF THE ORIGINAL INSCRIBED PROPERTY WITH BUFFER ZONE

Legenda / Legend

- Centro storico di Firenze
  - Historical Centre of Florence
- Buffer Zone
  - 2014 ha

- Confini del Comune di Firenze
  - Municipal of Florence
- Confini dei comuni limitrofi
  - Surrounding municipalities
- punti di belvedere
  - Belvedere - sightseeing points
- Versante sud / south slope
  - 1. VILLA BRUNETTINO
  - 2. VILLA BRUNETTINO (architetto)
  - 3. VILLA MADERI
  - 4. VILLA MADERI (architetto)
  - 5. VILLA BARBIERI
  - 6. VILLA BARBIERI (architetto)
  - 7. VILLA DONATELLI
  - 8. VILLA DONATELLI (architetto)
  - 9. VILLA D'ARCO
  - 10. VILLA D'ARCO (architetto)
  - 11. VILLA PONTEGRASSO
  - 12. VILLA PONTEGRASSO (architetto)
  - 13. VILLA DE' MEDICI
  - 14. VILLA DE' MEDICI (architetto)
  - 15. VILLA TOSI
  - 16. VILLA TOSI (architetto)
  - 17. VILLA MICHELANGELO
  - 18. VILLA MICHELANGELO (architetto)
- Versante Nord / north slope
  - 1. VILLA DELLA MAILA
  - 2. VILLA DELLA MAILA (architetto)
  - 3. VILLA FERRAGNI
  - 4. VILLA FERRAGNI (architetto)
  - 5. VILLA MANGI
  - 6. VILLA MANGI (architetto)
  - 7. LEGS
  - 8. LEGS (architetto)
  - 9. VILLA PAGLIARUCCI
  - 10. VILLA PAGLIARUCCI (architetto)

Carta Tecnica Regione Toscana
Vectorial Map - Tuscany Region
Scala (scale) 1:50,000

European Datum 1950; UTM zone 32 n
LEGEND I LEGENDA

- Historic Centre of Florence (505 ha)
  Centro storico di Firenze

- EXCLUDED ATTRIBUTE
  ATTRIBUTO ESCLUSO

  San Miniato al Monte Complex (43°75'93"N 11°26'50"E)
  Complesso di San Miniato al Monte
LEGEND | LEGENDA

- Minor boundary modification (27 ha)

Minor boundary modification
LEGEND | LEGENDA

- Historic Centre of Florence (505 ha)
  Centro storico di Firenze
- Minor boundary modification (27 ha)
  Minor boundary modification