

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



STATE PARTY

Federal Republic of Germany

STATE, PROVINCE OR REGION

Thuringia, Erfurt

NAME OF PROPERTY

Jewish-Medieval Heritage of Erfurt

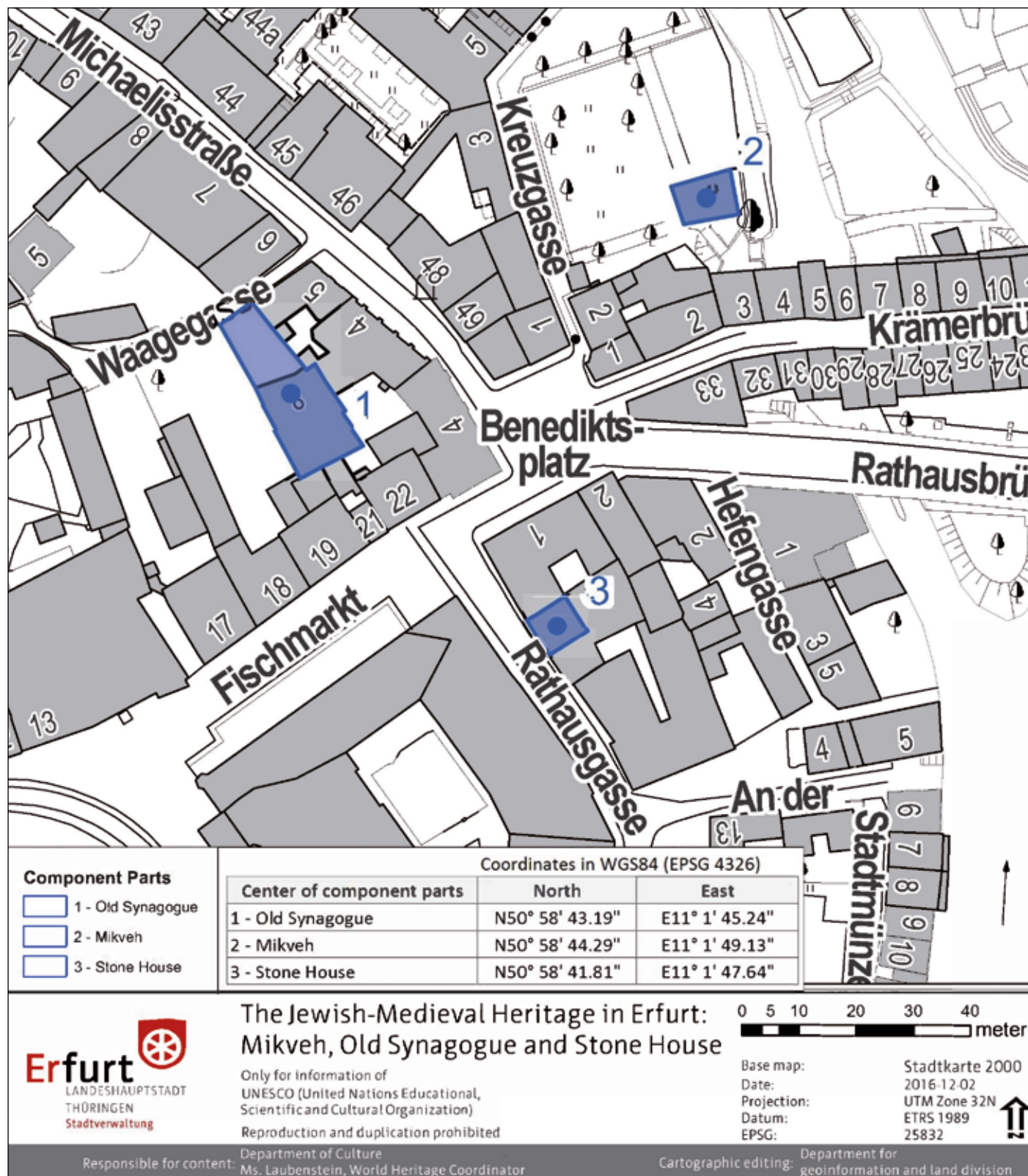
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES TO THE NEAREST SECOND

1. OLD SYNAGOGUE	N 50° 58' 43.04"; E 11° 1' 45.39"
2. MIKVEH	N 50° 58' 44.29"; E 11° 1' 49.13"
3. STONE HOUSE	N 50° 58' 41.72"; E 11° 1' 47.73"

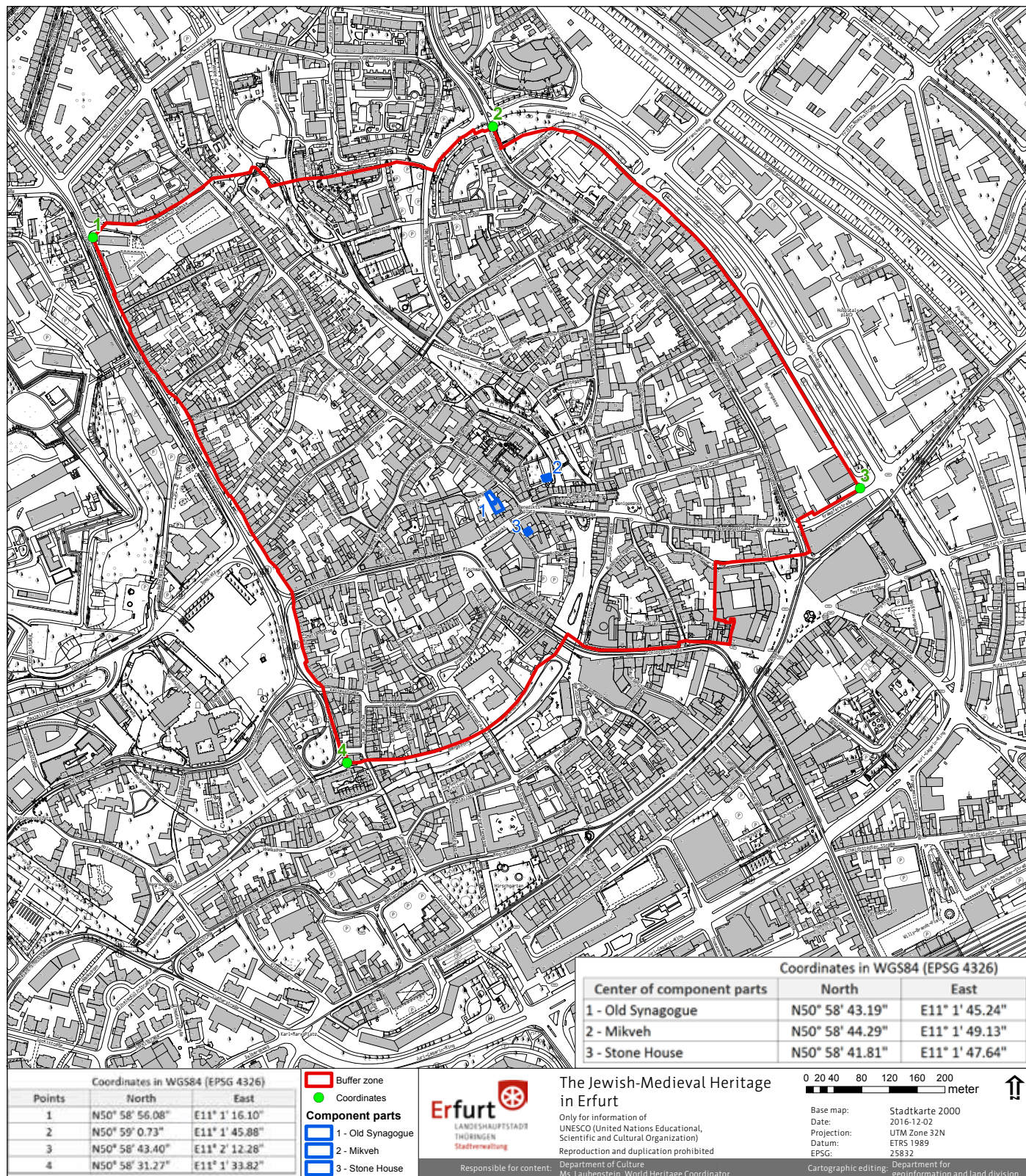
TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARY(IES) OF THE
NOMINATED PROPERTY

The boundaries of the three components of the property are the boundaries of the buildings of the three components respectively, which are located on the following parcels of land:

001 OLD SYNAGOGUE	Waagegasse 8 , Erfurt-Mitte, Plot 141, parcel of land 60/6
002 MIKVEH	Erfurt-Mitte, Plot 136, parcels of land 49 and 48
003 STONE HOUSE	Benediktsplatz 1, Plot 141, parcel of land 62



» Section from the cadastral map



» Map of the nominated property with buffer zone

CRITERIA UNDER WHICH THE PROPERTY IS NOMINATED

Criterion (iii)

The properties should "bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared".

Criterion (iv)

The properties should "be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history".

DRAFT STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

BRIEF SYNTHESIS

The Old Town of Erfurt in Thuringia is home to exceptional testimonies to the Jewish community from the period between the end of the 11th century and the mid-14th century. With its oldest structural components originating from around 1100, the Old Synagogue is the best-preserved Jewish prayer house in Central Europe with the beginning of construction dated during this early period. The Mikveh was built at a high technical standard as a ritual bath with a barrel vault on the bank of the River Gera in the 13th century. The Stone House, which was built around 1200 and redesigned around 1250, is a unique example of a medieval secular building under Jewish ownership with its Gothic structural forms and its painted wooden ceiling on the first floor.

The buildings of the Jewish community were incorporated into the medieval city and did not vary from the buildings of their Christian neighbours with

regard to the style of architecture and the use of local materials. The Old Synagogue, the Mikveh and the Stone House are testimonies to the early heyday of Central European Jewish culture and to its abrupt end as a consequence of the far-reaching wave of pogroms during the mid-14th century. As an archaeological find, the Jewish Erfurt Treasure secured near the synagogue, which contains a wealth of silver coins and exquisite Gothic goldsmiths' works, provides unique information about the status, everyday life and trade relations of the Jewish citizens of Central European cities, as well as the threat that faced Jewish communities due to conflict, persecution and expulsion.

Criterion (iii)

The Old Synagogue, the Mikveh and the Stone House in the historic centre of Erfurt are exceptional testimonies to Jewish rites, Jewish everyday life and Judeo-Christian coexistence, as well as the persecution and expulsion of Jews during the Middle Ages. Together with the Erfurt Treasure, the three buildings uniquely illustrate the medieval everyday life of an important Jewish community in Ashkenaz.

Criterion (iv)

The ensemble is an early and rare testimony to Jewish religious and secular architecture from the Middle Ages. The buildings illustrate the conformity with vernacular architecture and local conditions; they remained preserved because their use changed. The long-concealed original building fabric is testimony to their original purpose and, in conjunction with the Erfurt Treasure, to Jewish everyday culture. The traces of a key event of European history, the wave of pogroms of 1348–50, have been preserved and are clearly perceivable to this day in a unique way as signs of fire and repair on the original buildings.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The Old Synagogue, the Mikveh and the Stone House, in conjunction with the archaeological find of the Erfurt Treasure, include all elements necessary in order to express the Outstanding Universal Value. The urban development integration of the buildings of the Jewish community into the medieval city is impressively perceivable to this day. They reflect how Jews and Christians lived together in the midst of coexistence, persecution and expulsion in a medieval city in Europe. The three components are of adequate size, so the protection of the characteristics and processes, which communicate the significance of the property, is guaranteed. The Jewish-Medieval Heritage of Erfurt is not threatened by adverse developments or neglect.

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

The form and materials of the Old Synagogue, the Mikveh and the Stone House are largely preserved. The urban development integration of the buildings of the Jewish community into the medieval city is impressively perceivable to this day. Evidence of their construction and use by the Jewish community and Jewish citizens of the city and their conformity with local building traditions and techniques is provided by the preserved original medieval building fabric. The exceptionally well-preserved building fabric of the Old Synagogue dates back for the most part to the four medieval construction periods from around 1100 to the early 14th century, during which the building was used as a synagogue.

In the Mikveh, with construction periods in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, the form of the ground plan and room height, as well as the medieval building fabric, have been authentically preserved. Its original function as a ritual bath is fully perceivable.

The Stone House is largely preserved in its

fundamental structural components from the 13th century and its unique interior design.

The traces of a key event of European history, the wave of pogroms of 1348–50, are clearly perceivable to this day and documented by the archaeological find of the Erfurt Treasure. This profound historic event is documented just like a snapshot: The fire during the pogrom of 21 March 1349 is architecturally and archaeologically verifiable, while the subsequent reconstruction of the synagogue and the repair of the Mikveh are visible to this day. The Erfurt Treasure, hidden just before the pogrom, is one of the most impressive testimonies to this persecution.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The laws and other regulations of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Free State of Thuringia guarantee the continuous protection of the Jewish-Medieval Heritage of Erfurt. The Old Synagogue, the Mikveh and the Stone House are registered as cultural monuments in the Book of Monuments (Denkmalbuch) of the Free State of Thuringia in accordance with Article 4 of the Protection of Cultural Heritage Act of Thuringia (ThürDSchG). In addition, they are component parts of the monument ensemble "Old Town of Erfurt", which is also recorded in the Book of Monuments. All measures in the monument ensemble "Old Town of Erfurt", in which the three nominated components and the buffer zone of the nominated property are located, require permission from the Local Cultural Protection Authority (Untere Denkmalschutzbehörde). In addition, municipal statutes and planning such as the preservation and design statutes and the Urban Development Concept ensure the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property and the protective function of the buffer zone.

The City of Erfurt is responsible for management as the owner of the property. A management plan has been developed as a binding action and planning instrument; it will be updated if required. Since 2009, two scientific employees of the Municipal Administration of Erfurt (Stadtverwaltung Erfurt) have been responsible for the property as Representatives for UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. The two positions will be assigned to the planned Site Coordinator in the event of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. The most important tasks in the medium term are the development of a utilisation and communication concept for the Stone House and the creation of a visitor centre.

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE OFFICIAL LOCAL INSTITUTION/AGENCY

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