

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Country

Argentine Republic

State, province or region

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires

Name of the property

ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

LAT. 34°32'11.91" S

LONG. 58°27'55.20" W

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone

Both the limits of the nominated property and those corresponding to its buffer zone are the result of coalescent factors that clearly define them. Such factors involve the historical events which took place in those spaces, the historical and current property rights, the legal status, the historical and current physical urban and architectural delimitation, the existing heritage protection measures, and the existing institutional management system.

The boundaries framing the nominated property are defined by the fraction of the polygon structured by the following:

- NW: Inner face of the perimeter fence located on the lot line of the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, facing Pico St.
- NE: Inner face of the perimeter fence located on the lot line of the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, facing La Cachila St.
- SE: Murature St., internal street of the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights.

- S: Inner face of the perimeter fence located on the lot line of the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, facing Del Libertador Ave.
- The boundaries of the buffer zone, the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, are
- defined by the cadastral delimitation of the parcel taken up by Territorial constituency 16, Section 29, Block 110 A. Such parcel covers the entire Block 110 A, facing the following streets:
 - SW: Del Libertador Ave.
 - NW: Pico St.
 - NE: La Cachila St.
 - NW: Santiago Calzadilla St.
 - NE: Leopoldo Lugones Ave.
 - SE: Comodoro M. Rivadavia Ave.

Criteria under which property is nominated

Criterion (iii) and (vi).

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

BRIEF SYNTHESIS

ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination represents a testimony and a symbol of State terrorism based upon the enforced disappearance of persons, and a testimony and a symbol of the value of persuasiveness and social consensus as a means of achieving Justice.

The Museum and Site of Memory is located on the grounds of what was once the Officers' Quarters of the Navy School of Mechanics (ESMA), a remarkable set of more than 30 buildings spread over 17 hectares in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Its mission is to inform and convey to all mankind the events which took place in the Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination during the civic-military dictatorship ruling the country from 1976 to 1983, along with their precedents and consequences, through the preservation of historical heritage and different sorts of representation which foster

reflection and stimulate debate for the strengthening of democracy.

In the Clandestine Center installed at the ESMA Officers' Quarters, officers and subordinates belonging to the Argentine Navy kidnapped, tortured, and murdered more than 5,000 people, carried forward a plan to steal babies born in captivity, exercised sexual and gender violence, subjected groups of detained-disappeared persons to forced labor of various kinds, and organized the appropriation of movable and immovable assets of the victims. Due to its building and operational magnitude, its location in the heart of the city, the coexistence of naval officers and detained-disappeared persons and the variety and complexity of the crimes committed, ESMA Clandestine Center transcended its political and geographical borders to turn into an international milestone as an emblematic symbol representing the characteristics of enforced disappearance of persons, considered today as a crime against humanity by the United Nations.

After democracy recovery, several different sectors from Argentine society have been reconstructing, in subsequent stages, what happened and demanding Justice at the same time. The growing consensus attained over the years, summarized in the slogans "Never Again" and "Memory, Truth and Justice", promoted the earliest possible stage of the justice process through the trial of the Military Juntas in 1985, prevented the demolition of the whole ESMA complex in 1998, achieved the annulment of impunity laws and the 2003 re-opening of the trials of all those responsible for the crimes committed and, finally, led to the creation of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory in 2015, whose educational and cultural role has gained wide national and international recognition.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA

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

The ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination is a unique testimony of the characteristics and complexity involving the enforced disappearance of persons in the context of an illegal systematic repression plan, an expression of a cultural tradition which considered the use of force to conquer political power a valid set-up. The structure and attributes of the building in which it is located reveal the coexistence of illegal operations along with the normal functioning of State institutions. The museological concept developed for the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory is based upon the protection of the historical-constructive strata as evi-

dence of the events that took place there and that even today constitute judicial proofs to the cases brought against those responsible for crimes against humanity perpetrated there.

Criterion (vi): To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

The ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination is nationally and internationally recognized as the most prominent symbol of the illegal repression carried out and coordinated by the dictatorships of the region on the grounds of the enforced disappearance of persons. Its mere existence on a venue that Argentine society turned into a center for cultural events linked to the defense and promotion of Human Rights represents the universal value of peaceful opposition to State terrorism and the strength and persuasiveness of the human spirit.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The property presented is physically complete and contains all the strata which clearly explain its historical-constructive evolution, necessary to understand its Outstanding Universal Value. The building has been protected as judicial evidence since 1998 owing to the crimes against humanity committed there during the operations of the Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination. From then on, any kind of modification was prohibited. The disaffection of its use was ordered to the Argentine Navy in

2004, which vacated and handed over the empty building.

From 2004 to 2014, only maintenance and deterioration arrest work were performed. From 2014 to 2015, the works projected to publicly open the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory were carried out with scrupulous respect for the preservation of the state of the building, as it was at the time of its disaffection, and its status as judicial evidence.

At present, different marks and vestiges denoting the stay of the detained-disappeared at the place are preserved. The building today displays the inalterability conditions necessary to continue with studies which may allow access to new judicial evidence and, furthermore, it represents a documentary source for the historical reconstruction of the events which took place there.

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

The property has a series of attributes which account for its own authenticity. Its structure, spatial configuration, coatings, marks of the various constructive alterations and uses over time let us understand its own history and evolution. The validation of the building as judicial evidence in the trials for crimes against humanity committed there is based upon the recognition of the authenticity of the facilities and the veracity of the testimonies referring to such events.

Subsequently, the conservation and restoration protocols applied for the installation of ESMA Museum and Site of Memory were jointly endorsed by experts in such matters, by an Advisory Council made up of representatives of Human

Rights organizations and by the judicial body. Nowadays, all the conservation and restoration measures of the building are based upon scientific studies carried forward in order to preserve it by virtue of its dual nature of judicial evidence and documentary source.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Various legal and institutional protection measures, which are considered accurate and sufficient for the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value, converge in the property and its buffer zone.

Legally speaking, the building has been protected since 1998 under an injunction to maintain the status quo in its capacity as judicial evidence. Additionally, the Court continuously issues specific provisions on the topics concerning the entire building preservation.

At the heritage level, in 2008, the nominated property was listed as a National Historic Monument and its buffer zone, made up of the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (former ESMA), as a National Historic Site.

From the institutional point of view, the national decree for the creation of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination sets its administrative role as a decentralized body of the National Secretariat for Human Rights, whose mission is to inform and convey the events which took place in the Clandestine Center, its precedents and its consequences.

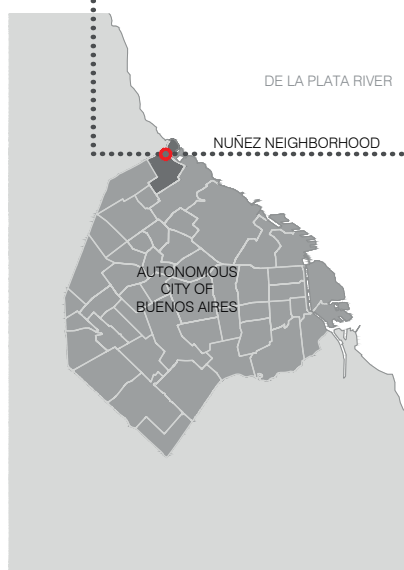
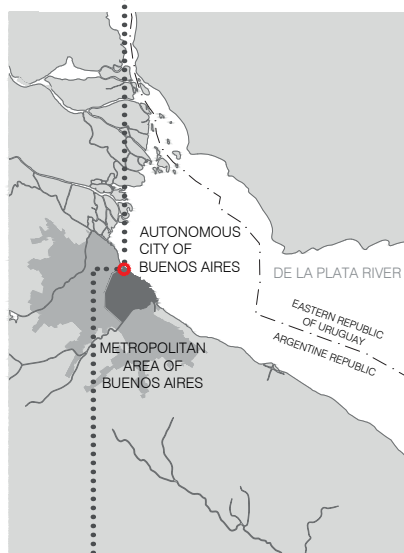
The tasks of conservation, restoration, maintenance and the displayed museographic setting for the creation of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory were first agreed with the various stakeholders interested in the protection of the property and then validated by the court in charge of its protection as judicial evidence. Currently, the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory has its own maintenance and management protocols, which utterly guarantees the preservation of its own integrity and authenticity in the long term.

The Museum and Site of Memory is located within the boundaries of the premises destined to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (for-

mer ESMA), which nowadays houses public institutions and civil society associations with a local, national and regional reach. The Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (former ESMA) is administered by an Executive Body made up of representatives from the National Government, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and a Directory integrated by Human Rights organizations. In turn, the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory is managed by an executive directorate and has an Advisory Council composed of the same members coming from the Directory of Human Rights organizations belonging to the Space for Memory and for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights.

Name and contact information of the official local institution

Executive Director Alejandra Naftal
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— BOUNDARIES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY (0.907 ha) ESMA MUSEUM AND SITE OF MEMORY - FORMER CLANDESTINE CENTER OF DETENTION, TORTURE AND EXTERMINATION

— BOUNDARIES OF THE BUFFER ZONE (16.77 ha) SPACE FOR MEMORY AND FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (FORMER ESMA)



LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS BUFFER ZONE