

Executive Summary

State Party

Turkey

State, Province or Region

The component properties chosen for the inclusion in the World Heritage List are situated in 5 different provinces which are listed below:

- Merkez District, Province of **Afyonkarahisar**, Aegean Region
(component 1 - Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque)
- Altındağ District, Province of **Ankara**, Central Anatolia Region
(component 2 -Ahi Şerefeddin (Arslanhane) Mosque)
- Sivrihisar District, Province of **Eskişehir**, Central Anatolia Region
(component 3 - Sivrihisar Ulu Mosque)
- Merkez District, Province of **Kastamonu**, Black Sea Region
(component 4 - Mahmut Bey Mosque)
- Beyşehir District, Province of **Konya**, Mediterranean Region
(component 5 - Eşrefoğlu Mosque)

Name of Property

Medieval Mosques of Anatolia with Wooden Posts and Upper Structure

Component Parts of the Nominated Property is listed below:

1. Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque, Merkez District, Province of Afyonkarahisar
2. Ahi Şerefeddin (Arslanhane) Mosque, Altındağ District, Province of Ankara
3. Sivrihisar Ulu Mosque, Sivrihisar District, Province of Eskişehir
4. Mahmut Bey Mosque, Merkez District, Province of Kastamonu
5. Eşrefoğlu Mosque, Beyşehir District, Province of Konya

Geographical coordinates

No.	Name of the Component Part	Region	Coordinates of the Central Point
01	Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque	Aegean Region, Province of Afyonkarahisar	N 38° 45' 18.129" E 30° 31' 46.471"
02	Ahi Şerefeddin (Arslanhane) Mosque	Central Anatolia Region, Province of Ankara	N 39° 56' 12.681" E 32° 51' 55.042"
03	Sivrihisar Ulu Mosque	Central Anatolia Region, Province of Eskişehir	N 39° 27' 03.559" E 31° 32' 14.202"
04	Mahmut Bey Mosque	Black Sea Region, Province of Kastamonu	N 41° 28' 49.594" E 33° 41' 17.702"
05	Eşrefoğlu Mosque	Mediterranean Region, Province of Konya	N 37° 41' 00.476" E 31° 43' 06.992"

The nominated properties are located in the central part of Anatolia.

Textual Description of the boundaries of the Nominated Property

The boundaries of the Nominated Property have been drawn to include all those areas and attributes that are a direct and tangible expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of each component of the property in accordance with the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention Parag. 99-102.

The boundary of each component encompasses the full extent of the nominated mosques. In addition, the boundary of component 2 (Ahi Şerefeddin Mosque) encompasses Ahi Şerefeddin Tomb and its zaviya all of which form a complex (kulliya) together with the mosque. Furthermore, the boundary of component 5 (Eşrefoğlu Mosque) includes Süleyman Bey's Tomb and Half Tomb (*Yarım Türbe*) located in the east of the mosque as well.

The buffer zones were drawn in order to encompass important views of and from each component by considering the topographic features, land-use pattern and ownership status (cadastral lots). The buffer zones incorporate all areas that contribute to the visual setting of each component.

Each component is registered as “cultural property” and thus is subject to the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties Law (Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarını Koruma Kanunu) No. 2863, 23/07/1983 as amended by the Law No. 5226, 14/07/2004 and its supplementary regulations.

The area of the Nominated Site is 0.61 ha. The area of the Site together with the Buffer Zone is 37.27 ha.

Please find attached the more detailed description of the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone in annex 2.

Maps of the Nominated Property, showing boundaries and buffer zone

See 1.e.

The map showing the location and the boundaries of the nominated properties and their buffer zones are provided at the end of this section and listed below.

Fig. 1.5: Base map showing the boundaries of Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque (component 1) and its buffer zone; p.23

Fig. 1.9: Base map showing the boundaries of Ahi Şerefeddin (Arslanhane) Mosque (component 2) and its buffer zone; p.26

Fig. 1.13: Base map showing the boundaries of Sivrihisar Ulu Mosque (component 3) and its buffer zone; p.29

Fig. 1.17: Cadastral map showing the boundaries of Mahmut Bey Mosque (component 4) and its buffer zone; p.32

Fig. 1.21: Base map showing the boundaries of Eşrefoğlu Mosque (component 5) and its buffer zone; p.35

Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria)

ii, iv, vi

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a. Brief Synthesis

The nominated serial property consists of five historic mosques located in five different provinces of Turkey, built between the late 13th and the early 14th centuries. The components include the Great Mosque of Afyon (1272-77), the Great Mosque of Sivrihisar (1274-75) in Eskişehir; Ahi Şerefettin (Arslanhane) Mosque in Ankara (1289-90), the Beyşehir Eşrefoğlu Mosque in Konya (1296-99), and the Mahmut Bey Mosque (1366-7) of Kasabaköyü in Kastamonu.

Built in a unique wooden structural system, where a flat wooden ceiling is carried by wooden posts that have muqarnas or spolia column capitals, and exhibiting exceptional carpentry skills and artistic work, the selected five mosques represent outstanding examples of a specific building type that constitutes an important place within the development of Islamic architecture.

The five mosques have some shared architectural features and historical connections, and highly maintained their authenticity in terms of location, use/function, design and materials, which justified their selection as a group to represent the best preserved and early examples of the hypostyle type wooden mosque. Ahi Şerefettin (Arslanhane), Beyşehir Eşrefoğlu and, Mahmut Bey mosques have a longitudinal rectangular, basilical plan, while the Sivrihisar and Afyon mosques have Kûfe type of plan. While the exterior of the buildings was built with a masonry system using rubble and cut stones, the interior of the buildings has a wooden structural system. The main prayer hall (*harim*) is covered with a flat ceiling with wooden beams supported with wooden posts. Originally with flat earthen roof, now all mosques have pitched roofs sheathed with copper or lead. The wooden beams and the consoles supporting them; column capitals in muqarnas; and in some cases, the imposts on the muqarnas capitals have been intricately hand-dyed with natural dyes called *kalemişi*.

The nominated mosques are also significant for the skillful uses of woodcarving and workmanship that was lavishly used on the architectural fittings and furnishings including doors, minbars, columns, capitals, ceiling beams, and consoles. Some of them have an outstanding example of the late 13th century minbars with the tongue-and-groove construction (*kündekari*) technique. They also bear inscriptions giving the names and titles of the craftsmen who made them as carpenter (*neccar or derüdger*) or decorator (*nakkaş*).

b. Justification for Criteria

Criterion (ii): The selected five mosques with wooden posts and a timber ceiling are significant evidences for the interchange of ideas and practices regarding a building type (using a specific wooden construction) that originated in the early Islamic architecture in the Arab region and Central Asia, and transmitted to Anatolia during the medieval period. They also exerted considerable influence in large areas of Anatolia and beyond during the following centuries from the 14th to early 20th centuries.

Criterion (iv): The selected five mosques are the surviving representatives the hypostyle type mosques built in a unique wooden structure where the original timber ceilings composed of wooden beams running perpendicular and/or parallel to the *kibla* wall, is carried by wooden columns that have capitals either with wooden muqarnas shells or marble (spolia). As a specific group, they testify an important historical period of medieval Anatolian architecture which illustrates expertise in timber construction techniques, use of wood as structural element, decorating style of interior, woodcarvings, and artworks.

Criterion (vi): The five mosques are tangibly associated with Islamic belief, art and architecture prevailed in Anatolia during the medieval period. They illustrate unique examples of craftsmanship and artworks regarding woodcarvings and hand-drawn painted decoration.

c. Statement of Integrity

The serial property composed of five component parts contains all the necessary attributes that can reflect the architectural style, construction techniques, cultural traditions, workmanships and aesthetics of a major type of mosque that developed in the history of Islamic architecture. The unique timber construction system, wooden architectural elements and decorations; the form and design of its components, traditional historic settings where the components are located and historic cultural and social relations and the functions have been well preserved and all these are included within the boundaries of the nominated property. The form and structural design of each individual component of the nominated property is largely intact. As each component of the property is located within whether urban sites (designated historic conservation zones) or delineated conservation areas their setting as well as visual integrity with their environs are well preserved. Furthermore, all the components of the nominated property have a designated buffer zone which comprises a wider setting of each component and important views in order to sustain the relations and values of the site. Restrictions for new developments have been determined within the buffer zones of each component of the nominated property with the conservation plans. Besides the components of the nominated property are protected by a strict regime of maintenance and control, derived from extensive statutory protection.

d. Statement of Authenticity

Each component of the property retains a high degree of authenticity in terms of form and design, materials and substance, use and function, spirit and feeling, traditions and management system, location and setting. The mosques retain their original layout together with the valid contributions of later periods. The most important intervention to the form and design of the components were carried out during 1940's and 1950's. Due to difficulty of implementations such as periodic maintenance and repair, renovation, rainwater isolation and drainage in practice, and extra load they put on the structure, form and materials of the authentic flat earthen roof of each component have been modified with restorations and changed with pitched roof covered with copper, lead and tile sheeting on the exterior. Most of the

architectural elements of the monuments preserve their authenticity. Hence, they reflect examples of traditional material, craftsmanship and technique of their period. Each component has maintained its original function since its construction date (13th and 14th century) and prayer services are conducted regularly. Each component has spiritual and intangible values not only for the local people but also for the wider public. Hence the property retains high degree of authenticity in spirit and feeling of the place.

e. Requirements for protection and management

All nominated components are protected under the most fundamental law concerning protection in Turkey, Law on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Properties numbered 2863 and dated 1983. Except for Mahmut Bey Mosque in Kastamonu, all mosques and their buffer zones are located within the boundaries of an “urban site”. The proposed mosques are also protected by Foundations Law No. 5737, which was amended and entered into force in 2008. All projects and implementations related to foundation properties are carried out by Regional Directorates for Foundations.

The sites have also proper conservation and management mechanisms which ensured its protection for decades. A site manager was appointed in order to coordinate the necessary works defined in management plan in order to protect, enhance and promote not only the properties but also the wider setting. Also, advisory boards and coordination and supervision boards comprising the representative of the local people, academicians, NGO’s, local authorities and conservation authorities were established.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

Institution:

Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums (*Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü*)

Address:

Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü
II. Meclis Binası
06110 Ulus Ankara
Turkey

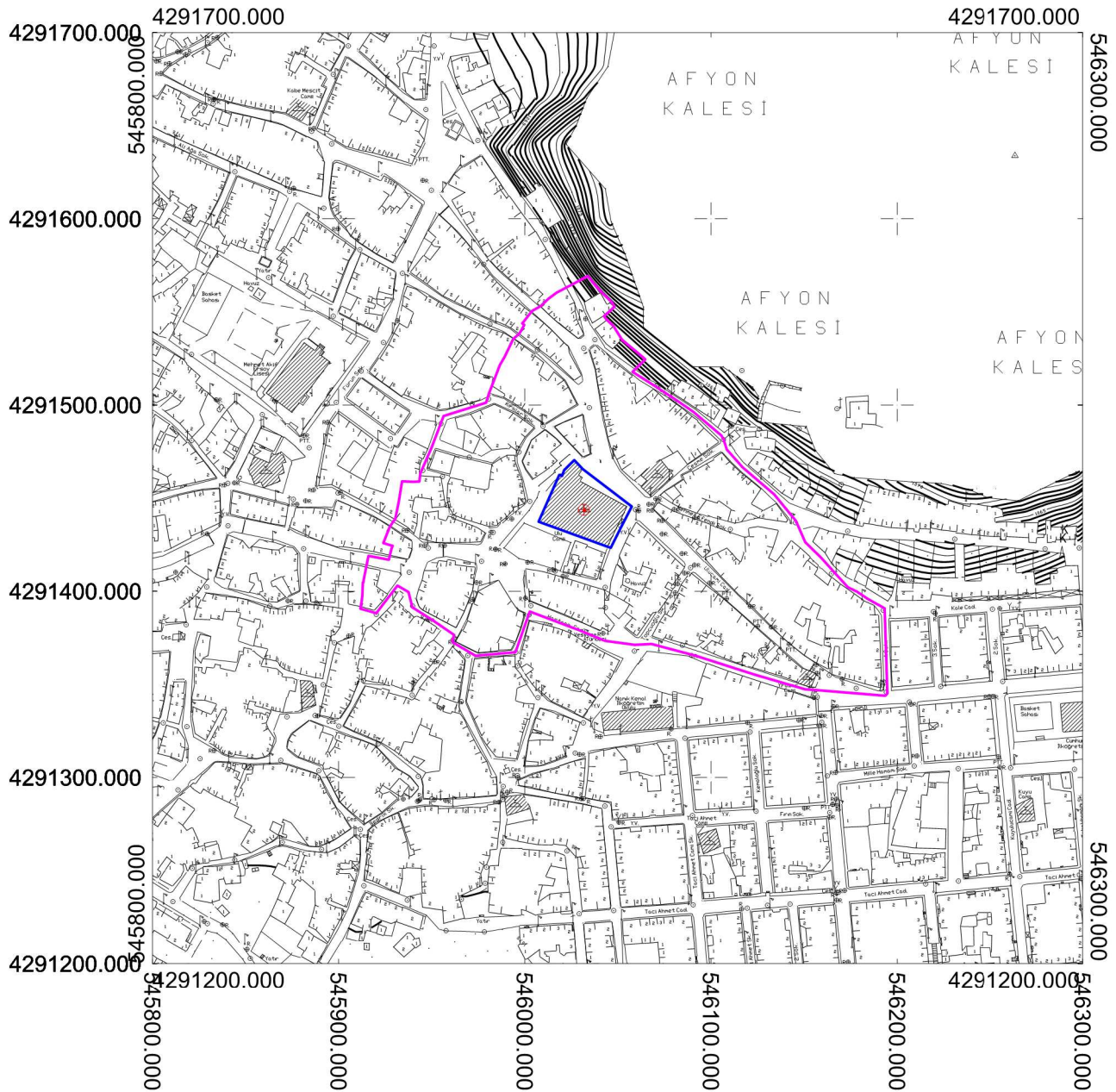
Tel: 90 (312) 470 8000

Fax: 90 (312) 470 6532

e-mail: kulturvarlikmuze@kultur.gov.tr

website: <https://kvmgm.ktb.gov.tr/>

AFYONKARAHİSAR ULU MOSQUE



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS

MEDIEVAL MOSQUES OF ANATOLIA WITH WOODEN POSTS AND UPPER STRUCTURE
AFYONKARAHİSAR ULU MOSQUE, AFYONKARAHİSAR (TÜRKİYE)

LEGEND
BOUNDARIES

- Boundaries of the World Heritage Property (0.13 ha.)
- Boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property (3.11 ha.)
- ⊕ Main Identification Point of the World Heritage Property

15.09.2021

@Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Base map of Afyonkarahisar

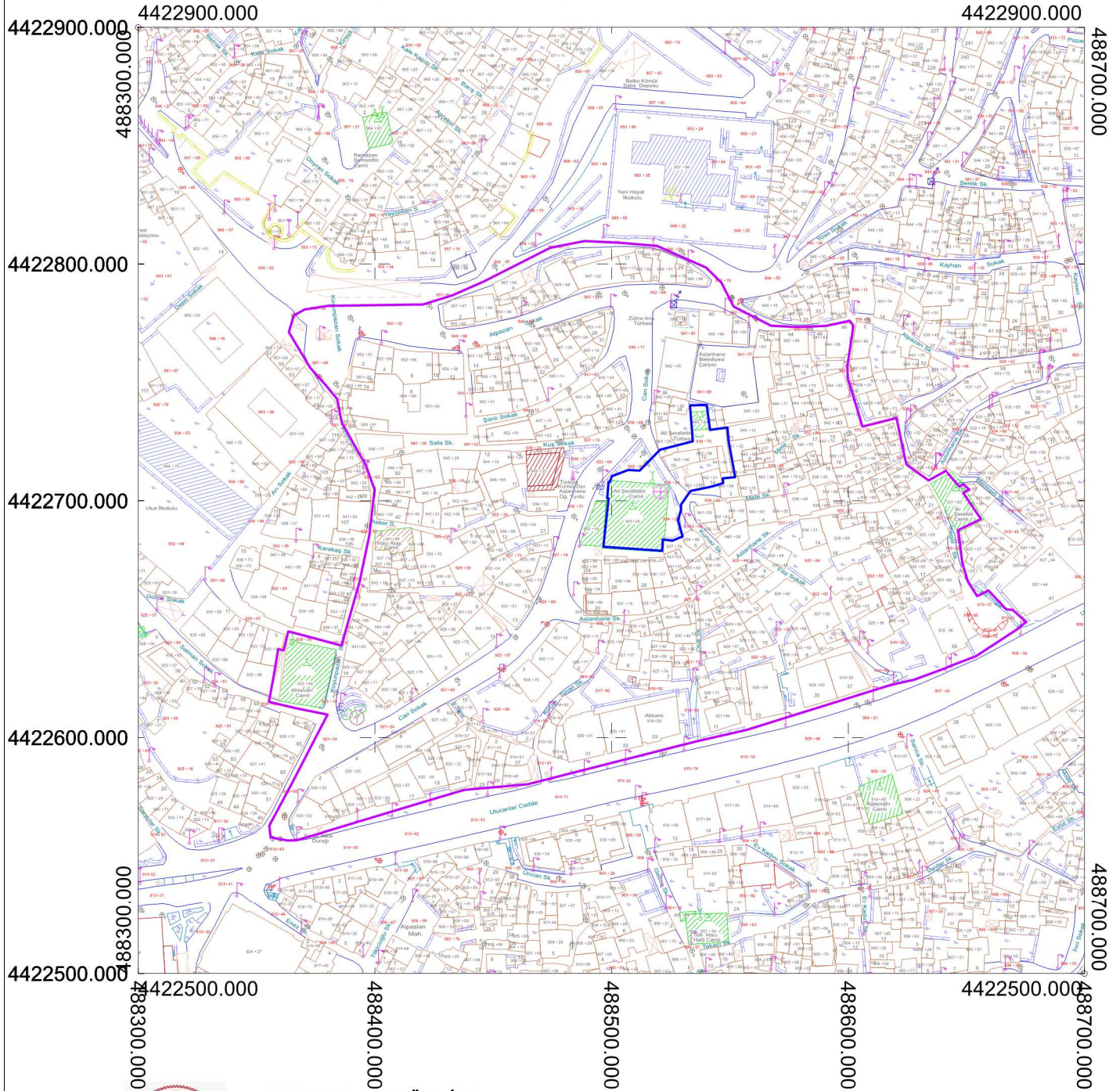
Scale: 1/3,500

Map Projection: UTM 3°, ITRF 96, 30



Fig.1.5 Base map showing the boundaries of Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque (component 1) and its buffer zone (reduced size version of the original copy of 1:1000 scaled map inc. in Annex 1.a)

AHİ ŞERAFEDDİN (ARSLANHANE) MOSQUE



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS

MEDIEVAL MOSQUES OF ANATOLIA WITH WOODEN POSTS AND UPPER STRUCTURE AHİ ŞERAFEDDİN MOSQUE, ANKARA (TÜRKİYE)

LEGEND

BOUNDARIES

- Boundaries of the World Heritage Property (0.16 ha.)
- Boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property (4.88 ha.)
- ⊕ Main Identification Point of the World Heritage Property

15.09.2021

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Base maps I29B08A2D and I29B08A3A

Scale: 1/2.500

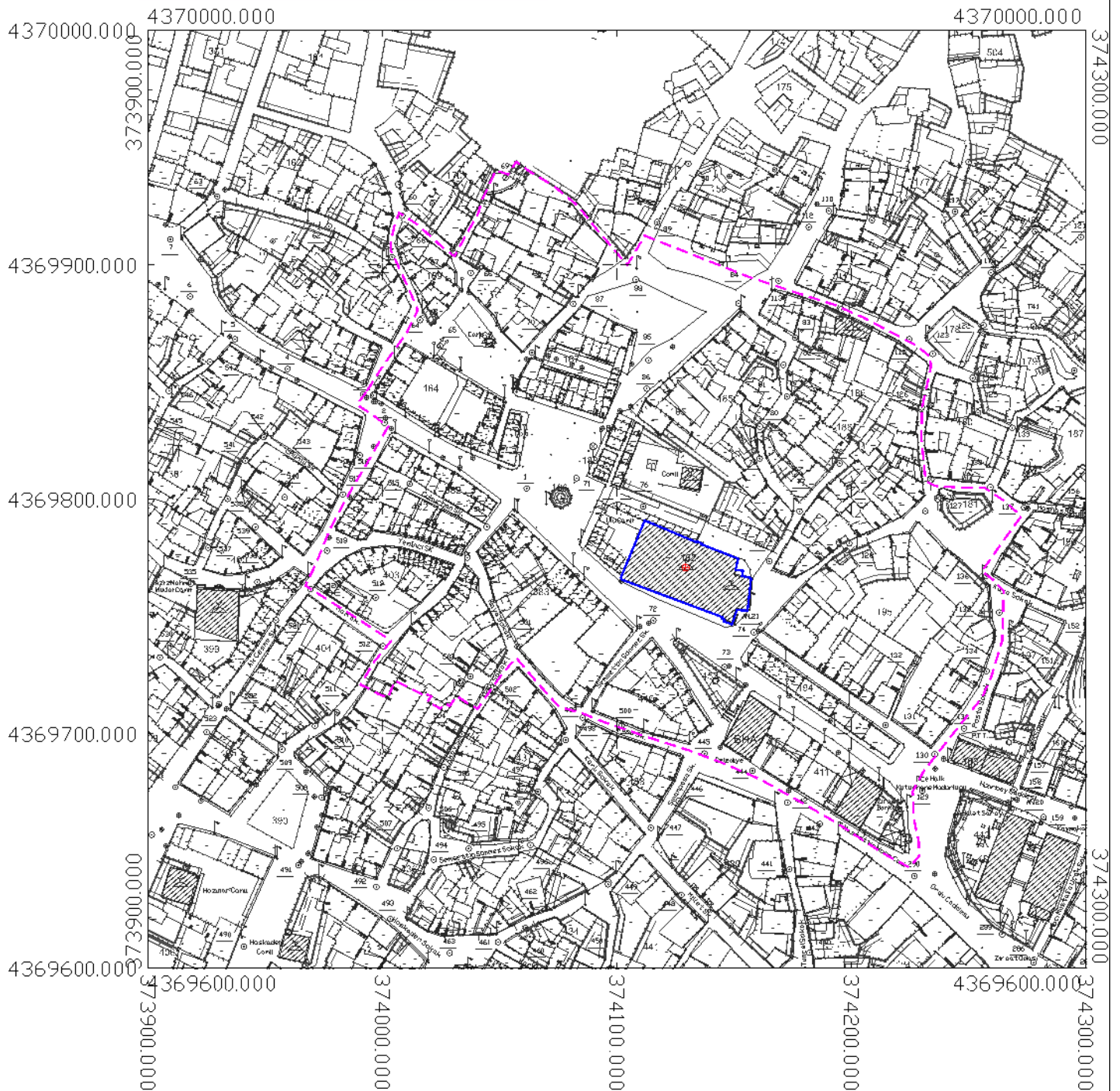
Map Projection: UTM 3°, ED50, 33

0 20 40 80 120 160 M



Fig.1.9 Base map showing the boundaries of Ahi Şerafeddin (Arslanhane) Mosque (component 2) and its buffer zone (reduced size version of the original copy of 1:1000 scaled map inc. in Annex1.b)

SİVRİHİSAR ULU MOSQUE



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS

MEDIEVAL MOSQUES OF ANATOLIA WITH WOODEN POSTS AND UPPER STRUCTURE
SİVRİHİSAR ULU MOSQUE, SİVRİHİSAR / ESKİŞEHİR (TÜRKİYE)
LEGEND

BOUNDARIES

- Boundaries of the World Heritage Property (0.13 ha.)
- Boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property (5,20 ha.)
- ⊕ Main Identification Point of the World Heritage Property

15.09.2021

@Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Base map of Sivrihisar

SCALE: 1/2.500

Map Projection: UTM 3°, ED50, 33

0 50 100 150 M

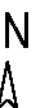
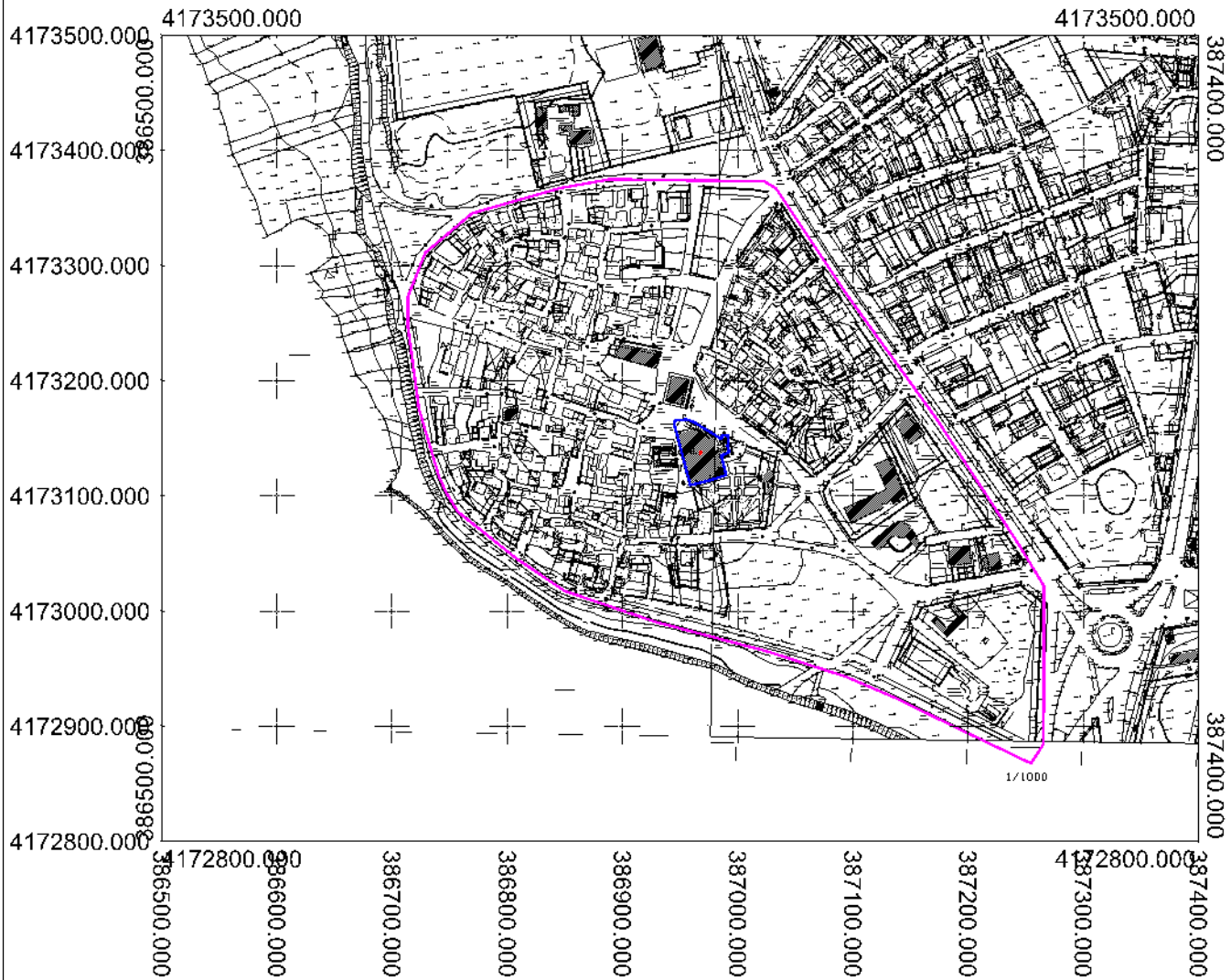


Fig.1.13. Base map showing the boundaries of Sivrihisar Ulu Mosque (component 3) and its buffer zone (reduced size version of the original copy of 1:1000 scaled map incl. in Annex 1.c)

EŞREFOĞLU MOSQUE



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS

**MEDIEVAL MOSQUES OF ANATOLIA WITH WOODEN POSTS AND UPPER STRUCTURE
EŞREFOĞLU MOSQUE, BEYŞEHİR / KONYA (TÜRKİYE)**

LEGEND

BOUNDARIES

- Boundaries of the World Heritage Property (0.17 ha.)
- Boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property (16.95 ha.)
- ⊕ Main Identification Point of the World Heritage Property

15.09.2021

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Base map of Beyşehir (Konya) M27-d-10-a-3-a and M27-d-10-a-3-b

Scale: 1/6.000

Map Projection: UTM 3°, ITRF 96, 33

0 100 200 300 M



Fig.1.21 Base map showing the boundaries of Eşrefoğlu Mosque (component 5) and its buffer zone (reduced size version of the original copy of 1:1.750 scaled map incl. in Annex 1.e)



Fig.1.1 View of Ahi
Şerefeddin
(Arslanhane) Mosque
and its environs, 2021
(Image: Altındağ
Municipality)