
Historic Center of Odesa (Ukraine) No 1703

1 Basic information

Official name as proposed by the State Party

The historic center of the port city of Odesa

Location

City of Odesa
Ukraine

Brief description

The historic centre of Odesa is part of a port city located on the Ukrainian shores of the Black Sea. It stands on a shallow indentation of the seacoast about 30 kilometres north of the Dniester River estuary. The city was founded in 1794 by a strategic decision of the Empress Catherine II to build a warm-water port after the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792. As the port prospered in the 19th century, the city grew rapidly, attracting residents from within the empire and beyond, but declined in the early 20th century.

Planned as a system of spacious straight streets and rectangular blocks, the city's architecture reflects its rapid growth in the 19th century, its wealth and its multicultural communities, to which Odesa owed its reputation as a cosmopolitan city. Its rapid decline helped to preserve the 19th century character of the mercantile areas; the port was developed in the 21st century to become one of the largest in the Black Sea.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

Included in the Tentative List

6 January 2009

Background

The nomination was submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the State Party on 11 October 2022 to be evaluated under the emergency evaluation procedure as set out in paragraphs 161 and 162 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. It was transmitted to ICOMOS on the same date.

The nomination was submitted by the State Party as an emergency nomination because of the invasion of Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine.

This is a new nomination.

Consultations and technical evaluation mission

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

ICOMOS, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, considered the feasibility of a technical evaluation mission to the nominated property. However, given the safety and security conditions, the mission could not take place.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 26 October 2022 requesting further information on the description of the nominated property, its attributes, as well as the emergency response to threats affecting the nominated property.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 18 November 2022.

All additional information received has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

29 November 2022

2 Description of the nominated 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 provides only a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and history

The nominated property has an area of 237.5 ha and a buffer zone of 1068.5 ha. It covers part of the historic centre located at the elevated plateau together with part of the railway and port area situated below on the coastal area of the bay.

Although a settlement existed on the site in ancient times, and in the 14th century a Turkish fortress of Khadzhibey was established there, the present city was founded in 1794 by a strategic decision of the Empress Catherine II to build a warm-water port named Odesa.

Planning and building Odesa started with the foundation of a military camp at the site of the Turkish fortress Khadzhibey, developed by François-Paul Sainte de Wollant, a Dutch military engineer, and built in 1792-1794. Already in 1794, De Wollant planned the city as a system of straight perpendicular spacious 32-metre wide streets and rectangular blocks with 85-120-metre sides, the direction of which conformed to the orientation of two deep ravines cutting through the Odesa high plateau perpendicular to the sea, coastline, and location of the fortress. The ravines served as natural water collector and descent to the shore and the harbour. To the west to rectangular streets was planned another grid of blocks laying at a forty-seven degrees angle in relation to the first.

In 1819, during the Count Alexandre-Louis Andrault de Langeron's administration, a new master plan was developed by architect François Shalem. The plan resolved pressing urban problems and streamlined the planning structure of the city. The project envisaged the construction of a wide boulevard along the edge of the plateau and a central street perpendicular to the course of the boulevard underlined by squares and ending with a staircase leading to the port.

It was the port that played a dominant role in determining the development of the city and its character. It also, together with the conducive policy of the governors and skilful administration of the Duke of Richelieu, the first Governor of Odesa, and of his successor, gave the foundation to the city's rapid development in the 19th century, compounded by the status of free port held in the years 1819-1859 and coming of railways in 1865. In 1802, the population of Odesa stood at about 8,000 to 9,000 persons; by 1825, it had quadrupled to some 32,000 and was still rapidly growing in 1900s.

Odesa became Russia's second most important port, after Saint Petersburg. Grain was its principal export.

The presence and competition of various diverse communities was an important factor of the city development. The trade and the liberal policies – i.e. the inhabitants of Odesa were given land and exempt from taxes, the settlers and their descendants were exempt from military recruitment, enjoying freedom of religion – attracted newcomers who formed a multi-ethnic and multicultural community. Multiculturalism gave a flavour to the city and created its special atmosphere. It also caused tensions that triggered a number of violent events since 1821 with the year 1905 known as the worst pogrom in Odesa's history.

The city maintained the pace of development but in the first decades of the 20th century strikes and revolutionary agitation brought about the city's decline. In the 1930s, during the period of the Great Terror in the USSR, there were so-called national operations – Polish, Harbin, Romanian, German. As a result of these, Odesa lost many residents. The city also suffered some severe damages and many casualties during the Second World War. After the war, it rebuilt its status by becoming one of the largest ports in the USSR, and since 1991, of free Ukraine.

The city centre is a densely built-up area characterised by the relatively low-rise two- to four-storey buildings of historic quarters with the courtyards typical of Odesa and wide perpendicular streets lined with trees. Most of the buildings and structures located within the proposed boundaries of the nominated property were erected in the 19th-early 20th centuries. Theatres, religious buildings, schools, private palaces and tenement houses, clubs, hotels, banks, shopping centres, warehouses, stock exchanges, terminals and other public and administrative buildings designed by architects and engineers, mostly from Italy in the early years, but also of other nationalities,

represent both diversity in architectural styles, with eclecticism as a dominant feature, and in the main activities in the trading city. Prymorsky Boulevard with a single row of building with fronts looking to the port, Potemkin Stairs and the ensemble of Odesa Opera and Ballet Theatre and Palais-Royal are the city's main landmarks.

Historic maps show large number of religious buildings in the wider city testifying to the presence of residents of various confessions and different cultures are underlined by the toponymy in the old town. Street names such as: Jevrejska (Jewish), Polska (Polish), Nemetska-Remisnycha (German-Artisan), Italijska (Italian) identify areas where different communities lived at this stage of Odesa development. But most of these are not included within the boundaries of the nominated property.

Gradually, the process of adaptation and a certain assimilation meant that street names no longer reflected the diverse composition of the city's residents.

The port area is included in the boundaries of the nominated property because of its historic relevance and its dominant role in determining the urban system of the city. The description of the site in the nomination dossier does not include a description of the port and the railroad, sited between the city and the bay. It has not been provided due to security considerations that have prevented the submission of any details, as explained by the State Party in its response to ICOMOS' additional information letter.

The original orientation of the urban complex to the sea and the port remains a distinctive feature of the city and the historic centre retains the main administrative and cultural functions. However, the importance of the port to the economic life of modern Odesa has decreased compared to the 19th century. This is due to administrative and economic changes and the associated decline in the direct contribution of the port to the economy of the city.

State of conservation

As a technical evaluation mission has not been conducted and as no detailed information has been provided in the nomination dossier due to lack of comprehensive monitoring of the state of conservation of the property during the current emergency situation, it is not possible to draw an accurate description and assessment of the state of conservation of the nominated property.

Within the development of the nomination dossier, a "Research and Production Center ECOSTROY+" conducted, before the recent conflict, an inspection of the technical condition of 196 monuments (30 of national significance and 166 of local significance) located on the territory of the nominated property. The results of the inspection show that the degree of damage and physical wear of structures, parts, and elements of buildings differ. Twenty-four monuments were found to be in a good condition, seventy-five in satisfactory condition, forty-six in satisfactory close to unsatisfactory condition, thirty-

seven in unsatisfactory condition, one in unsatisfactory condition, and thirteen in unsatisfactory close to dilapidated condition.

The state of conservation of the internal parts of the building quarters, such as courtyards and background buildings, have not been assessed. Nor is any information provided on the state of conservation of the port area.

It should be noted that the main building material was local shell rock cut into blocks, quarried in the traditional manner from quarries around the city. Natural conditions and stone quarrying within the city led to the creation of a labyrinth of underground tunnels, known as “catacombs” or “mines”. Their presence can affect structures and limit the height of buildings.

It is acknowledged that the history and current state of the ownership – nationalisation and the process of property reprivatization – has an impact on the state of conservation, as has the lack of effective development control measures.

There has been a range of conservation and urban renewal projects undertaken in the nominated property over the last decade. Nevertheless, as it is stated in the nomination dossier, ICOMOS recommends that a regeneration plan is developed, that includes the restoration and adaptation of legally protected architectural monuments, the conservation of background buildings, and the removal of some insensitive recent new additions.

Factors affecting the nominated property

Based on the information provided by the State Party, ICOMOS considers that the main factor affecting the nominated property is the recent conflict, while development pressures, the lack of adequate development control measures, and traffic are also other key factors.

The main threat affecting the nominated property is the current unstable situation brought about by the recent conflict, and the potential for damage or destruction of the port and historic centre of Odesa. The risks of damage to cultural heritage come from direct strikes and other hostilities. The seaport was hit by missiles on 23 July 2022. Some damage has been detected and identified in five locations. Two of them involve the Vorontsov Palace located within the proposed boundaries of the nominated property and Odesa Fine Arts Museum which is in the buffer zone. The monitoring and its analyses did not reveal any severe structural damages yet, only breakage of windows and glass rooftop, but the threat remains.

Information on emergency responses and risk preparedness plan has been requested from the State Party in ICOMOS’ additional information letter. In its response the State Party informed that some of the buildings were secured with sandbags, windows of some buildings were sealed, several monuments were shielded, several were scanned, and the material was secured in the

city archives. Fifty buildings of the city are marked with the Blue Shield.

The nominated property is located within the area where the main administrative, public, business, and cultural institutions are situated. It experiences various development pressures characteristic of city centres. ICOMOS has been informed about constructions of new buildings in the centre, on the site of historic buildings, or next to them, that negatively affect the nominated property. There are also cases of new developments which exceed the scale of historic buildings. They pose negative impact on the coherent 19th-century historic urban landscape and its visual integrity. Constructions of high volume in the city core above the catacombs may also cause structural changes of the ground and of the neighbouring historic buildings, which, in many cases, have relatively low resistance due to unauthorised redevelopment and demolition of load-bearing walls.

The State Party acknowledges the need for stronger development control measures and has indicated that new measures had started to be developed before the start of the recent conflict.

The development of the Maritime Station on the New Pier, along with the dominant Odesa Hotel built in 2001 on the extension of the Potemkin Stairs, blocks the distant view from the stairs and affects the historic compositional layout of this part of the city.

Traffic congestion in the historic centre of the city is considerable and has an impact on the nominated property. Descents like Vijskovy, Polsky, Karantynny and Devolanivsky Uzvis have lost their former importance as arteries related to the port but have retained their role as corridors connecting the central part of the city located on elevated plateau with the Prymorska Street running along the port area, which has evolved from a secondary route to one of the most important highways of the city, with a ring road function.

The authorities of the city have taken steps to reduce traffic volume in the central part of the city by introducing restrictions on vehicular traffic (one-way traffic on selected sections of the city centre) and excluding individual streets from traffic. In addition, vehicular traffic was restricted on weekends in the area of the strict historic centre.

The State Party also reports that, in addition to the flow of traffic, a problematic issue that needs to be resolved in the near future is the insufficient number of parking spaces near and in the nominated property. The existing underground parking lot in Hretska Square does not meet the growing demand for parking spaces.

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:

- It represents a unique example of a city founded in the late 18th century on the north-western shore of the Black Sea, representing, as stated in the nomination dossier, “the last, both geographically and chronologically, founded European city”. It was developed according to “a plan that ideally echoed the Late Renaissance concept of the “ideal city” and represents a unique phenomenon in European cultural and urban planning history”.
- The historic centre of Odesa, within the boundaries proposed, maintains spatially legible, consistent, designed urban layout, with compositional axes forming a regular grid of blocks. Individual buildings together comprise what is seen as the complete 19th century architectural ensemble reflecting the city evolution during that time.
- The link to the port remains clear in the structure and composition of the city. Straight, wide streets leading towards the port, a seaside boulevard on an elevated bank facing the port, a giant staircase leading to the sea highlight one of the main compositional land-city-port-sea axes of symbolic character of the city.
- The multi-ethnic and multicultural society of Odesa was created by coexisting traditions of Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Italians, Moldovans, Poles, Russians, Romanians and Tatars. The multiculturalism of the city is reflected in eclecticism of architectural styles (classicism, empire, historicity, eclecticism, and later modernism), which, despite the modularity of the urban layout, presents diverse stylistic and compositional solutions represented by individual iconic buildings.
- The port which played a dominant role in determining the development of the city and its character represents today one of the main strategic nodes for international naval trade.

ICOMOS considers that it is difficult to see Odesa as an “ideal city” designed around central administrative buildings. Such a notion is not recorded by those who provided the designs – either the original design by François-Paul Sainte de Wollant in 1794, or the later revision of the 1803 General Plan of Odesa, which are not included in the nomination dossier. And it was not until the 1820s that the outline of the city took shape with the construction of Prymorsky Boulevard, the semi-circular square at the southern end of Katerynynska Street and the Potemkin Stairs. These later developments also created the administrative and cultural centre of the city, with the main landmarks located there. Odesa was not the last European city to be constructed and cannot be seen as outstanding for its urban planning. It is also difficult to see it as an outstanding classical settlement.

Odesa was certainly a multicultural city. The tensions and competition between those communities appear to have contributed to its growth and prosperity but they never merged into a multicultural social unit. This multiculturalism is reflected in different cultural quarters and in the heterogeneous urban buildings that lined the boulevards. In this respect, Odesa has similarities with other Eastern European cities whose built form reflects the diversity of their inhabitants and a diversity of architects. It is distinguished from other cities by its land form, with the main buildings raised above the port, by the central access and staircase linking the city to its port, and by its comparative intactness that reflects its rapid growth and rapid decline.

The current proposed boundaries encompass only part of the city that emerged in the 19th century – covering part of the area of the late 18th-century plan – although the majority of its buildings date from the second half of the 19th century as a result of the construction boom of the 1870s, rather than from earlier periods of the city's development. The boundaries also exclude some important buildings and some areas that reflect the cultural complexity of the city.

This issue was highlighted by the “map of the multinational toponymy in Odesa”, provided by the State Party as part of the additional information. The map shows that most of the streets whose names refer to the national or cultural groups that settled in Odesa are located beyond the proposed boundaries of the nominated property, such as Polska (Polish) Street that runs along the proposed boundary, and with only Hretska (Greek) Street being within them.

Religious buildings are also mentioned as testimony to the city's multiculturalism. And again, some of these are apparently outside the current proposed boundaries – such as the Greek Orthodox Cathedral Holy Trinity, the Orthodox Dormition Cathedral, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Paul, and the main synagogue.

The restricted area of the boundaries causes some discrepancy between the early designed plan and the overall 19th-century architectural ensemble of buildings as a considerable portion of the planned 19th-century city is within the buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property are too narrowly drawn and cannot be seen to reflect the complete historic ensemble of the 19th-century city.

The port area is included within the boundaries of the nominated property in recognition of its current significance as a strategic node for international naval trade. Although the port had a considerable role in shaping the significance of the city, and the connection between the city and sea is still preserved, it cannot be said to have survived as a reflection of its 19th-century layout and function. Therefore, the port is not a key attribute of the nominated property.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis has examined properties throughout the world inscribed on the World Heritage List, inserted in the Tentative Lists of States Parties as well as other properties considered to possess similar values. The comparison has been structured in two levels: a broad overview of sites presented in a table and a deepen comparison with the most similar ones to clarify the similarities and/or differences in greater detail. Forty-six port cities in Europe and in other parts of the world dating from the 18th to 19th centuries and the 20th century were selected for comparison. The properties identified are cities with a port settlement and which were crossroads of trade routes: historic port town, colonial port town and newly founded port town. The attributes of the nominated property chosen for comparison are the time and period of construction, the importance in international trade, the multicultural character, and the presence of the original urban plan together with buildings representing different cultures, ethnic groups, economy and social life.

Twenty-seven World Heritage sites were considered, of which eight were reviewed in depth. The latter included Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (UK, 2004, criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv), delisted in 2021); Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation, 1990, criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi)); White City of Tel-Aviv – the Modern Movement (Israel, 2003, criteria (ii) and (iv)); Historic Centre of Macao (China, 2005, criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi)); Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (India, 2018, criteria (ii) and (iv)); Kulangsu, a Historic International Settlement (China, 2017, criteria (ii) and (iv)); Urban Historic Centre of Cienfuegos (Cuba, 2005, criteria (ii) and (iv)); and Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire, 2012, criteria (iii) and (iv)). All of the World Heritage sites considered represent port cities from the 19th and 20th centuries developed with a combination of local and European influence. However, Odesa appears to differ from these by location, chronology, urban qualities and integrity, and the unique combination of multi-ethnic cultures.

Twelve sites were considered from the Tentative Lists of State Parties. Of these, only three were reviewed in depth: Rade de Marseille (France); The Historical Port City of Izmir (Türkiye); and *Casablanca, Ville du XXème siècle, carrefour d'influences* (Morocco). What emerged is that Odesa is very different from colonial historic ports.

Finally, Odesa was compared to other sites including Helsinki (Finland), Trieste (Italy), Kherson (Ukraine), Mykolaiv (Ukraine), Izmail (Ukraine), Kerch (Ukraine), and Varna (Bulgaria). In conclusion, the comparative analysis testifies to the uniqueness of Odesa in several areas: in regional location uniting the Russian Empire with Western Europe and the East; as a new built city developed during a specific period of time with an urban plan still legible; as a stone-built city; as a duty-free port; as a multi-ethnic enclave with diverse cultural influences and with a high level of artistic accomplishments and integrity.

ICOMOS notes that the comparative analysis proposed by the State Party shows Odesa among port cities of the same period. It highlights the extremely rapid development of Odesa in the previously unurbanised area during the late 18th-early 20th century and the multiculturalism of its residents, reflected in the urban planning and stylistic diversity of the architecture of the city.

ICOMOS considers that the urban plan presented by the State Party as main attribute of the nominated property, as designed by François-Paul Sainte de Wollant in 1794, provided a basis on which Odesa could develop into a 19th-century European modern town, evolving freely, in accordance with the liberal credo, no longer like a decade earlier in Paris under Haussmann or in other cities to achieve a harmonious, uniform design of the buildings. The concession of economic, cultural and communal privileges such as tax exemption, freedom of trade, freedom of religion or the transfer of building land, building materials and building plans/types of buildings etc., are part of the instruments of the state settlement policy. This required a highly rational settlement ground plan that is reliably developed and expanded over decades. A city layout with an orthogonal street grid, which takes into account topographical and climatic conditions as well as future requirements, has perfectly met these requirements. The creation of rectangular blocks of similar size, which were also very deep, and the relatively wide streets made it easier to market the plots. The structure of the building blocks and the variety of styles in the design of the facades reflect the freedom and pace of development of the city.

ICOMOS considers that, in this respect, a suitable comparative example would be in addition to port cities also other cities, which, like Odesa, show a comparable development from a small town into a metropolis in the 19th and early 20th centuries, are located in East Central Europe or in Eastern Europe and were hegemonized by the great powers of the time, such as Tsarist Russia, the German Empire or the Habsburg Empire.

The urban planning and architectural quality represented in Odesa can also be found in other cities in the former Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires. Unlike in other cities, Odesa has preserved large areas of its historic fabric that still represent its development in the 19th century and the population structure at that time, which was far more diverse than in many other cities as a result of the liberal policies of the governors and its status of free port. The society was, at the time, mixed with Russians, Ukrainians, Greeks, Germans, Poles, Bulgarians, French, Armenians, Russian ethnic groups, and a very high proportion of Jews. Therefore, Odesa, through its urban planning and built heritage reflecting different cultures, values, customs, social structures, and denominations, can be considered to stand out as a testimony to multicultural and multi-ethnic traditions of Eastern Europe cities of the 19th century.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

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

Criterion (ii): *to 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 historic centre of Odesa shows an important exchange of values in Eurasia as a Late Renaissance western European civilisation at the northern coasts of the Black Sea. It is represented by the urban environment of the rapidly developed port city of Odesa under the influence of many cultures: Ukrainians, Poles, Greeks, Jews, Italians, Armenians, Karaites, Bulgarians, French, Moldovans, and other peoples, with the composition originally reflected in various European architectural styles.

ICOMOS considers that the historic centre of Odesa could be seen to represent an important interchange of human values within Eastern Europe through its heterogeneous architectural styles, developed during its rapid growth in the 19th century, that reflect the coexistence of many cultures and a combination of influences characteristic of the border area of Europe and Asia.

However, ICOMOS considers that to justify criterion (ii) the boundaries of the nominated property would need to be expanded in some areas to include all relevant attributes and areas that evidence the way multiculturalism has shaped the architecture and planning of the city during the century following its foundation, while the port area would need to be reduced to those structures that still reflects its 19th-century form.

Criterion (iv): *to 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 historic centre of Odesa is an outstanding example of a newly founded ensemble of the 19th-century classicist town, which witnesses the period of industrial revolution in Central and Eastern Europe, and the formation of a market economy integrated into international trade. Its engineered plan effectively using the topography, reflecting climatic conditions and the entrepreneurial orientation, resulted in a largely coherent urban ensemble.

ICOMOS notes that the nominated property is an urban ensemble dominated by heterogeneous buildings mostly from the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, which successively occupied earlier defined square blocks, and form a coherent historic landscape of the time which reflects the rapid evolution of the town during the 19th century. Thus, the historic centre could be seen as an outstanding “time capsule” of 19th-century urban planning and architecture which reflects the

exceptionally fast growth of the city based on the prosperity generated by the Industrial Revolution.

However, ICOMOS considers that to justify criterion (iv) the boundaries of the nominated property would need to be expanded to include all relevant areas that are integral to the 19th-century historic layout and also reduced to exclude those areas of the port that do not reflect its 19th-century layout.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property could justify criteria (ii) and (iv) if its boundaries are expanded to include all relevant attributes and areas that express the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and if the port area is reduced to exclude those that do not contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The integrity of the nominated property relies on the intactness of the town planning and architecture that reflects its rapid development in the 19th century, and whether sufficient attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value are included within the boundaries.

In the absence of a technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS has been unable to evaluate fully the integrity of the property and its potential vulnerabilities. The following reflects what has been presented in the nomination dossier, in the additional information provided by the State Party, and in the views of experts familiar with the city.

While the designed plan of Odesa evolved in certain respects as the city grew, its main outline remained unchanged. The grid structure and the linear connection with the port and the sea are retained and legible in the cityscape, while many of its 19th-century buildings have survived. ICOMOS notes, though, that the boundaries of the nominated property have been narrowly drawn and some important parts of the early development of the city have been excluded, such as many examples of religious buildings and areas of settlement, which reflect the multicultural diversity of the inhabitants of the city and their religious affiliations. These areas can be seen as attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and ICOMOS notes that they are included in the Integrated Protection Zone of the current General Plan of Odesa.

On the basis of the information available, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property are drawn too tightly to encompass all the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The conditions of integrity of the city's 19th- and early 20th-century architecture, this seems to be mainly satisfactory for the key buildings, but remain highly vulnerable due to the lack of adequate planning controls, as the State Party has indicated. There could also be an issue in respect of the intactness of the form and characteristics of Odesa's

building quarters behind the main street facades, as has been mentioned above.

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity relating to overall intactness could be met if the boundaries were modified to include the areas within the Integrated Protection Zone of the current General Plan of Odesa. A mission would be necessary to define clearly the integrity of individual buildings and ensembles of buildings.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the nominated property relies on how clearly the attributes, both individually and collectively, convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

In the absence of a technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS has been unable to evaluate fully the authenticity of the property and its potential vulnerabilities. The following reflects what has been presented in the nomination dossier, in the additional information provided by the State Party, and in the views of experts familiar with the city.

The key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value relate to the planned layout of the city, and its heterogeneous architecture that reflects the diversity of its multicultural trading communities. There needs to be enough of these attributes to convey the idea of a coherent city, developed rapidly during a period of economic growth and with buildings that reflect fully the intertwined social, cultural and architectural influences that prevailed.

ICOMOS considers that currently an insufficient area of the city has been nominated to encompass all the necessary attributes and fully convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

In terms of the authenticity of individual buildings, currently the information available is insufficient to allow an appropriate assessment of how well they have been conserved, how their contexts have been respected, and how the new buildings that have been developed during the last twenty years have impacted adversely on the overall authenticity of the urban ensemble.

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of authenticity relating to the inclusion of sufficient attributes conveying the proposed Outstanding Universal Value could be met if the boundaries were modified to include the area within the Integrated Protection Zone of the current General Plan of Odesa. A mission would be necessary to assess the authenticity of individual buildings, ensembles of buildings, and the visual coherence of the urban plan.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the historic centre of Odesa, relating to intactness and the need to include enough attributes within of the nominated property, could be met if the boundaries of the nominated property are modified

to include the area of the Integrated Protection Zone of the current General Plan of Odesa. A mission would be necessary to assess the integrity and authenticity of individual attributes.

Boundaries

The nominated property is part of the coastal area of the city, and includes some areas of the port. It covers the territory of the city defined by Prymorska Street, Torhova Street, Sadova Street, Soborna Square, Preobrazhenska Street, Zhukovskoho Street, Polsky Descent, Karantynny Descent, Kanatna Street, Nakhimova Lane, Suvorivska Alley.

While the boundaries of the nominated property correspond to the late 18th-century plan, according to which the city was founded, the majority of the buildings date from the second half of the 19th century during which the city plan had been enlarged. The restricted area of the urban boundaries thus results in a degree of mismatch between the designed plan and the overall 19th-century architectural ensemble that supports the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS notes that a large historic area that was indicated already in the 1803 and 1809 plans of the city is not included into the proposed boundaries of the nominated property. This area is part of the early development of the city, and could have been delimited following the limits determined by the early line of terrestrial fortification present on the 1809 and later maps and still legible in the current city layout. In addition, it is confirmed by the delineation of the Integrated Protection Zone in the current General Plan of Odesa.

The cartographic material included in the nomination dossier shows the extent of the historic areas, as well as the Integrated Protection Zone covering the area of the grid layout of the city within the boundaries of Prymorska, Staroportofrankivska and Panteleimonivska, Leontovicha Streets and Lydersovskyi Boulevard, including the area of the fortress which is now Shevchenko Park. This area coincides with the proposed buffer zone in this part of the city.

Therefore, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property should coincide with those of the Integrated Protection Zone as shown in the current General Plan of Odesa so that all relevant attributes are included in the nominated property.

The proposed boundaries of the port area are not described in detail in the nomination dossier and their delineation is not easily legible on the map submitted. No detailed description is offered for any components of the port area.

From the individual and historical materials available, ICOMOS considers that the port, which now functions as a modern utility, cannot be said to have survived as a reflection of its 19th-century layout. Although the inclusion of the port area is seen by the State Party to be relevant as its function had motivated the city's foundation, how its

contemporary function, infrastructure and spatial arrangements relate to the city and its proposed Outstanding Universal Value are not explained in the nomination dossier, nor does the nominated port area have any legal heritage protection.

ICOMOS considers that the port should be excluded from the boundaries of the nominated property but included in its buffer zone for the reasons set out under the section on the justification for inscription.

The proposed buffer zone consists of three main parts: the internal waters of the port defined by wave breakers; the area of the city that had been a “free port” in the 19th century; and the Shevchenko Park together with the area between Frantsuz'ky Boulevard and the coast.

Buffer zones are established in order to give an added layer of protection to the nominated property through supporting its proposed Outstanding Universal Value, as explained on paragraph 104 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. A clear explanation for how the buffer zone protects the nominated property should be provided in the nomination dossier as well as justification for its delineation. No details of either of these are provided in the nomination dossier. Once the boundaries are modified in different areas of the nominated property, a new buffer zone should be defined to protect the immediate setting of the property and facilitate the preservation of functional and spatial ties with the nominated property and controlling existing urban pressures.

In summary, ICOMOS recommends an extension of the boundaries of the nominated property to cover more of the historic city in line with the delineation of the Integrated Protection Zone as shown in the current General Plan of Odesa, the removal of the port areas from the nominated boundaries, and a new delineation of the buffer zone to encompass the immediate setting of the enlarged boundaries of the city. This will facilitate the preservation of functional and spatial ties of the nominated property with the rest of the city and support the protection of its attributes in relation to existing urban pressures.

Odesa is the third largest city in Ukraine with slightly over 1,000,000 inhabitants (2022). The estimated population of the nominated property as proposed for inscription was approximately of 14,000 people in 2021. The number of inhabitants within the boundaries of the buffer zone was approximately of 117,000 people in 2021.

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of the property “The historic center of the port city of Odesa” on the World Heritage List; that criteria (ii) and (iv) could be justified and the overall conditions of integrity and authenticity could be met if the boundaries of the nominated property are expanded to include all relevant areas that are integral to of the historic urban layout of the initial 18th-century plan

and its evolution during the 19th century; and that the port area should be excluded from the boundaries of the nominated property and included within a new buffer zone defined around the modified urban area; a mission would be needed to assess the integrity and authenticity of individual attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Documentation

No comprehensive and complete inventory of the property's condition has been carried out. Only the technical condition of individual monuments, which were restored and repaired, have been recorded.

The “Historic architectural reference plan, project of monument protection zones, and the graphic definition of the historic area boundaries of Odesa” developed in 2007 by the Scientific Research Institute of Monument Protection Studies (Kyiv, Ukraine) as a component of the master plan of Odesa, is, according to the information provided in the nomination dossier, the only document with a basic inventory of historic areas and buildings. The document is in the process of being updated and completed as part of a revision of land use documents. The final version will include mapping of the monuments and their configuration.

Conservation measures

Successively, since the decision to apply for World Heritage status was taken, the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Odesa City Council, which is responsible for heritage protection at the municipal level, developed programmes aimed at improving the state of conservation of the heritage of the city. In 2013, the “City target program for inclusion of the central historical building area of Odesa in the main list of UNESCO World Heritage for 2013-2015” has been adopted by decision of the Odesa City Council. It was then continued under the programme called “Nomination of the historical heritage of Odesa to the UNESCO World Heritage List” adopted for the years 2016-2018. Then the “City comprehensive program for the preservation and development of the historic center of Odesa for 2019-2021” was approved. A number of repairs, restoration and conservation works were carried out in the historic centre of the town, mainly the landmark buildings and architectural monuments of national or local importance, but also some streets, boulevards and squares were subject to conservation works. No details have been provided in the nomination dossier, the works that have been undertaken are listed in the draft management plan.

ICOMOS notes that the programmes aimed at conservation have been suspended due to the current emergency situation.

Monitoring

A comprehensive and complete monitoring of the condition of the nominated property has never been carried out.

The current situation is holding back concrete actions. Nevertheless, the draft management plan envisages the establishment of an administrative structure dedicated to the development, in cooperation with international experts, of a monitoring system that will take into account the current state of conservation of the nominated property and damages arising from the recent conflict it is facing. First, an inventory and assessment of the structural condition of the nominated property is planned to be conducted and indicators will also be developed. In the proposal, the State Party indicates the areas of concern that will be addressed by the monitoring system. These are the state of conservation (technical aspects), restoration works and their methodology, natural and anthropogenic factors affecting the nominated property, the effectiveness of protection and conservation measures, and controls for new developments and constructions.

ICOMOS considers that, given the recent conflict situation, the development of an inventory of buildings of national and local importance, together with an assessment of their condition, should be a priority task. Ongoing monitoring, even to a limited extent, will allow timely estimation of the situation and planning of actions that could help mitigate potential casualties.

ICOMOS considers that comprehensive conservation plans for individual historic monuments of national and local significance should be developed as soon as the emergency situation allows. A general document for the revitalisation of the overall historic district (including the modified nominated area and a re-defined buffer zone) should also be developed as soon as possible. It should include measures for potential conflict damages and other casualties that may occur as its outcomes. Allocation of human and financial resources and their effective management are crucial.

ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable for a monitoring system to be developed as soon as possible to encompass all the attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value and is conceived for easy integration of its outcomes into the Periodic Reporting questionnaire.

5 Protection and management

Legal protection

General provisions for cultural heritage protection are established by the Law of Ukraine on Cultural Heritage Protection adopted in 2000 (No.1805-III of 8 June 2000, with amendments as per the Law of Ukraine No. 2518-VI of 9 September 2010). On the basis of this regulation, a register of monuments is created, in which monuments of national importance are included by decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, and monuments of local importance by decision of the Ministry of Culture and

Information Policy of Ukraine. In accordance with this law, cultural heritage assets that are registered monuments are protected and all proprietors (or their representatives) of these historic architectural monuments and their component parts, regardless of the type of property, are obliged to receive a protection agreement from the relevant heritage protection body.

The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine is the highest authority in the sphere of cultural heritage, acting on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers. It formulates and implements state policy on cultural heritage and directs the activities of state institutions related to culture and art. The Ministry is responsible for supervising and monitoring the protection of historic monuments, which may be managed at the municipal level. At the municipal level, the Department of Cultural Heritage Protection of the Odesa City Council is responsible for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage sites in compliance with regulations on historic preservation in urban planning.

There are 235 individual buildings and their complexes as well as places (memorial sites) and structures, located within and outside of the nominated property (there is no map included showing their location), entered in the State Register of Immovable Historical Monuments of Ukraine and protected in compliance with the Law of Ukraine on Cultural Heritage Protection.

The nominated property, its administrative and residential part, is protected according to the local regulations established in 2008 by the General Plan of Odesa. For the central zone, the most significant part of the city, where the main administrative, public, business, and cultural institutions are located, an Integrated Protection Zone was established by the plan. Its boundaries are delineated according to the current Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of Odesa, approved by Order of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine No728/0/16-08 in 2008, and integrated into the General Plan of Odesa.

The nominated property is currently only a part of the central zone and thus only part a of the Integrated Protection Zone. ICOMOS considers that its boundaries should be widened to be in line with the entire Integrated Protection Zone.

One of the priorities of the plan is the protection of historic sites and the conservation and rational use of monuments and cultural heritage sites located within the Integrated Protection Zone. Any project concerning the construction or reconstruction of buildings and structures should be preceded by the development of historical and urban planning justifications. It is unclear whether there is a presumption against demolition of protected monuments or what parameters might justify demolition in exceptional circumstances. It is also unclear whether constraints exist to control the setting of protected monuments.

In terms of new construction, the Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of Odesa limits the height of

new construction in the historic centre to 18.6 metres for buildings with facades facing the street and 21.3 metres on the corners of blocks. However, for buildings that do not directly face the street, the figure may increase and will be determined as a percentage according to the neighbouring houses. It allows for construction of buildings higher than historic ones in the direct vicinity.

The Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of Odesa is under revision. Clearer restrictions on new constructions and reconstructions of buildings are planned to be developed but what form these restrictions will take has not been set out. The final version will also include detailed mapping of the monuments.

On the basis of the documentation provided, and without the benefit of a mission, it appears that there is a need to strengthen protection, to ensure that the historic urban fabric is respected as an overall entity within which harmonious street scenes, and particular characteristic ensemble of courtyard building, distinctive to Odesa, can be conserved for their contributions, even though not all their distinctive features are protected as heritage assets.

Except individual buildings (the Passenger Maritime Station, Commercial Port Administration, Red Warehouses and Vorontsov Lighthouse) the port, as included in the nominated property, is not protected for its heritage assets.

A buffer zone has been proposed as an additional layer of protection. As ICOMOS recommends that the boundaries of the nominated property be modified, it would be necessary to redefine the boundaries of the buffer zone.

Management system

The heritage management system dedicated to the nominated property is at the organisational stage.

The Department of Cultural Heritage Protection of the Odesa City Council is the main body responsible for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage sites and compliance with the legislation on monument protection in urban planning activities.

A separate governing body for the management of the nominated property has not yet been established. There is a plan to establish a special structure dedicated to the management of the nominated property, hinged on the Odesa Center, a managing body that will be co-founded by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and Odesa City Council. The managing body is planned to be organically integrated into the existing structure of the local self-government and state authorities responsible for the protection of cultural heritage. Its main scope will be to develop management policies relating to the nominated property in compliance with the state policy. The future governing structure and cooperation framework are presented in the draft management plan annexed to the nomination dossier.

The draft management plan mainly reports on current city programmes and describes the future governing structure. There are no explicit strategies or programmes in the document. Also, the status of the document needs to be clarified.

There is no emergency plan existing for the historic centre of Odesa or for any individual monuments. In its response to the ICOMOS' request for additional information on measures to be implemented in emergency situations, the State Party indicated that measures are still to be developed and will be done as part of further work on the management plan and its implementation.

Effectiveness of the protection and management of the nominated property

In the absence of a technical evaluation mission, it has not been possible to assess fully the effectiveness of protection and management measures put forward in the nomination dossier or their current implementation.

ICOMOS considers that the current legal framework provides a basis for effective protection of individual monuments in the nominated property as well as in the wider central zone of the city, while the General Plan of Odesa has established an Integrated Protection Zone that should allow consideration for conservation and development at a territorial scale. So far, this does not appear to be the case as both demolitions and new constructions impacting the integrity of the historic urban landscape have been allowed.

Existing measures for the Integrated Protection Zone area should be strengthened to ensure that: there is a presumption against demolition of both national and local monuments except in exceptional circumstances; that the harmony of streetscapes and blocks of buildings that are particular characteristics of Odesa are defined and treated as discrete entities for the purposes of conservation in terms of how they contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the historic centre of Odesa; and that new constructions that do not fit the historic urban landscape and environmental conditions are not approved. The legal framework should also include Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms as a pre-requisite for all development projects and activities that are planned within or in the setting of the nominated property.

The draft management plan should be revised as set out above, adopted, and implemented as soon as the current situation allows. In respect of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value which is underpinned by the history of multiculturalism and multi-ethnicity in Odesa, it is recommended that the management plan include special measures to reflect and, where relevant, support the tangible and intangible multicultural aspects of the city. It is also important that the management plan includes disaster, climate change and other risk preparedness measures.

6 Threats affecting the nominated property

The State Party has set out the following threats as a reason for requesting an emergency inscription:

- On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine and the country is currently at war.
- Cultural heritage is in danger of being destroyed or severely damaged as a result of direct strikes or other forms of hostilities during war operations.
- There is a risk of damage and destruction of cultural heritage during hostilities, even if they occur at a considerable distance from the territory of the nominated property, due to fragility of the area caused by systemic anthropogenic factors.

On 23 July 2022, the seaport in Odesa was hit by the missiles.

According to the nomination dossier, five damaged sites have been detected and identified. Two of them involve the Vorontsov Palace located within the proposed boundaries of the nominated property and Odesa Fine Arts Museum which is in the proposed buffer zone. The analysis did not reveal any severe structural damages, only breakage of windows and glass rooftop.

7 Conclusion

In response to the requirements of emergency nomination as set out in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, paragraphs 161 and 162, ICOMOS has considered whether:

- The property is in danger, as a result of having suffered damage or facing serious and specific dangers from natural events or human activities, which would constitute an emergency situation;
- An immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure its safeguarding;
- The property may unquestionably justify Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that the current conflict in Ukraine poses a threat to the historic centre of the city of Odesa. The unstable situation calls for decisive action to preserve its urban heritage.

ICOMOS considers that the historic centre of Odesa has the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value but with wider boundaries than those currently proposed and excluding the port area. The boundaries of the nominated property should cover the historic area of the city, as it was developed by the end of the 19th century, and should coincide with those of the Integrated Protection Zone as shown in the General Plan of Odesa. The port area should be part of the buffer zone and protected for the way it supports the significance of the nominated property.

As the port is not a key attribute of the nominated property, ICOMOS recommends that the name of the property be changed to: "The Historic Centre of Odesa".

In order to ensure as much as possible the immediate safeguarding of the nominated property, and even though the current boundaries are not adequate to convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value or to reflect its integrity, ICOMOS recommends the nominated property for inscription on the World Heritage List and, at the same time, on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and with a recommendation that the boundaries of the urban area be modified to coincide with those of the Integrated Protection Zone.

ICOMOS considers that this recommendation should be seen as a means of ensuring that as many of the attributes as possible are not affected by direct strikes and other hostilities caused by the current conflict, and an opportunity to gain the attention and support of the international community for the protection and conservation of the nominated property.

In view of the lack of a technical evaluation mission, combined with limited details on certain aspects being provided in the nomination dossier, ICOMOS has not been able to fully evaluate the justification proposed for Outstanding Universal Value in the nomination dossier, particularly in relation to integrity, authenticity and management, but does consider that there are potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses in the nominated property as presented.

Accordingly, ICOMOS also recommends that appropriate planning regulations be developed, that resources be mobilised to address the conservation challenges, and that the protection, conservation, management and monitoring regimes for the nominated property be completed and implemented.

ICOMOS considers that the dangers facing the property constitute an emergency situation for which a decision by the World Heritage Committee is necessary for its safeguarding, and that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been demonstrated under criteria (ii) and (iv), with modified boundaries.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that The historic center of the port city of Odesa, Ukraine, be inscribed on an emergency basis on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)** and at the same time on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ICOMOS recommends that a joint ICOMOS/WHC reactive monitoring mission be invited to the property, if this is feasible, to establish a Desired state of conservation and a programme of corrective measures to

remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The historic centre of Odesa is part of a port city located on the Ukrainian shores of the Black Sea. It stands on a shallow indentation of the seacoast about thirty kilometres north of the Dniester River estuary. The city was founded in 1794 by a strategic decision of the Empress Catherine II to build a warm-water port following the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792.

The new city, built on the site of a Turkish fortress, was initially planned by a military engineer and then expanded further during the 19th century.

Odesa owes its character and rapid development during the 19th century to the success of its port, the favourable policies of its governors, and its status as a free port city from 1819 to 1859. Trade attracted many diverse people who formed multi-ethnic and multicultural communities, making Odesa a cosmopolitan city. Its pace of development, the wealth it generated and its multiculturalism all influenced its architectural expression and the variety of styles that still remain in the urban landscape. It has also caused tensions that, beginning in 1821, triggered a series of violent events.

The historic centre of Odesa is a grid system of spacious tree-lined streets divided into two rectangular blocks, the direction of which conformed to the orientation of two deep ravines cutting through the Odesa high plateau perpendicular to the sea. The city is characterised by relatively low-rise buildings. Designed by renowned architects and engineers, many from Italy in the early years, its theatres, religious buildings, schools, private palaces and tenement houses, clubs, hotels, banks, shopping centres, warehouses, stock exchanges, terminals and other public and administrative buildings represent both eclectic diversity in architectural styles and all the main activities of a trading city.

Prymorsky Boulevard, stretching along the edge of the plateau, Potemkin Stairs coming down to the shore, and the ensemble of the Odesa Opera and Ballet Theatre, and the Palais-Royal are the main landmarks of the city.

While the urban planning and architectural quality represented in Odesa can also be found in other cities in the former Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires, Odesa has preserved large areas of its historic fabric that reflect its rapid and prosperous development in the 19th century and its population which was far more diverse than in many other cities. Thus, Odesa, through its urban planning and built heritage as a reflection of many cultures, values, customs, social structures, and denominations, can be considered to stand out as a testimony to multicultural and

multi-ethnic traditions of Eastern European cities of the 19th century.

Criterion (ii): The historic centre of Odesa represents an important interchange of human values within Eastern Europe through its heterogeneous architectural styles, developed during its rapid growth in the 19th century, that reflect the coexistence of many cultures and the combination of influences characteristic of the border area of Europe and Asia.

Criterion (iv): The historic centre of Odesa is an outstanding “time capsule” of the 19th-century urban planning, with heterogeneous buildings mostly from the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, which reflects both the exceptionally fast growth of the town, based on the prosperity generated by the Industrial Revolution, and its notable diversity.

Integrity

While the designed plan of Odesa evolved in certain respects as the city grew, its main outline remained unchanged. The grid structure and the linear connection with the port and the sea are retained and legible in the cityscape, and many of 19th-century buildings have survived. The modified boundaries matching those of the Integrated Protection Zone of the current General Plan of Odesa encompass all the necessary attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value.

The intactness of the city's 19th- and early 20th-century architecture, seems to be mainly satisfactory for the key buildings, but remains highly vulnerable due to the lack of adequate planning controls and inappropriate conservation. The integrity of the form and characteristics of the building quarters behind the main street facades, also appears highly vulnerable to modern infill and inadequate conservation. Given the emergency procedure and the lack of a mission to the site, at the moment of inscription an appropriate assessment of how well the integrity of individual buildings and group of buildings has been maintained is to be envisaged.

Authenticity

The key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value relate to the planned layout of the city, and its heterogeneous architecture that reflects the diversity of its multicultural trading communities. The modified boundaries matching those of the Integrated Protection Zone of the current General Plan of Odesa encompass all the necessary attributes that convey the idea of a coherent city, developed rapidly during a period of exceptional economic growth and with buildings that reflect fully the intertwined social, cultural and architectural influences that prevailed.

Given the emergency procedure and the lack of a mission to the site, at the moment of inscription an appropriate assessment of the authenticity of individual buildings, their state of conservation, how their contexts have been respected, and how the new buildings developed during

the last twenty years have impacted adversely on the overall authenticity of the urban ensemble is to be envisaged.

Management and protection requirements

General provisions for cultural heritage protection are established by the Law of Ukraine on Cultural Heritage Protection adopted in 2000. The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine is the highest authority in the sphere of cultural heritage, acting on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers. It formulates and implements state policy on cultural heritage and directs the activities of state institutions related to culture and art. The Ministry is responsible for supervising and monitoring the protection of historic monuments. At the municipal level, the Department of Cultural Heritage Protection of the Odesa City Council is responsible for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage sites in compliance with regulations on historic conservation in urban planning.

The property is protected according to the local regulations established in 2008 by the General Plan of Odesa.

The property is situated in the central zone, the most significant one in the city, where the main administrative, public, business, and cultural institutions are located. An Integrated Protection Zone was established. Its boundaries are delineated according to the current Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of Odesa, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine and integrated into the General Plan of Odesa. Selected individual buildings and their complexes are listed in the State Register of Immovable Historical Monuments of Ukraine and protected in compliance with the Law of Ukraine on Cultural Heritage Protection as historic architectural monuments.

The enhancement of the management system is needed to cover all attributes and provide for coordinated management with supporting administrative tools and decision-making mechanisms. The management system should include detailed monitoring and conservation programmes, and an overall interpretation and presentation policy. Risk management should be included.

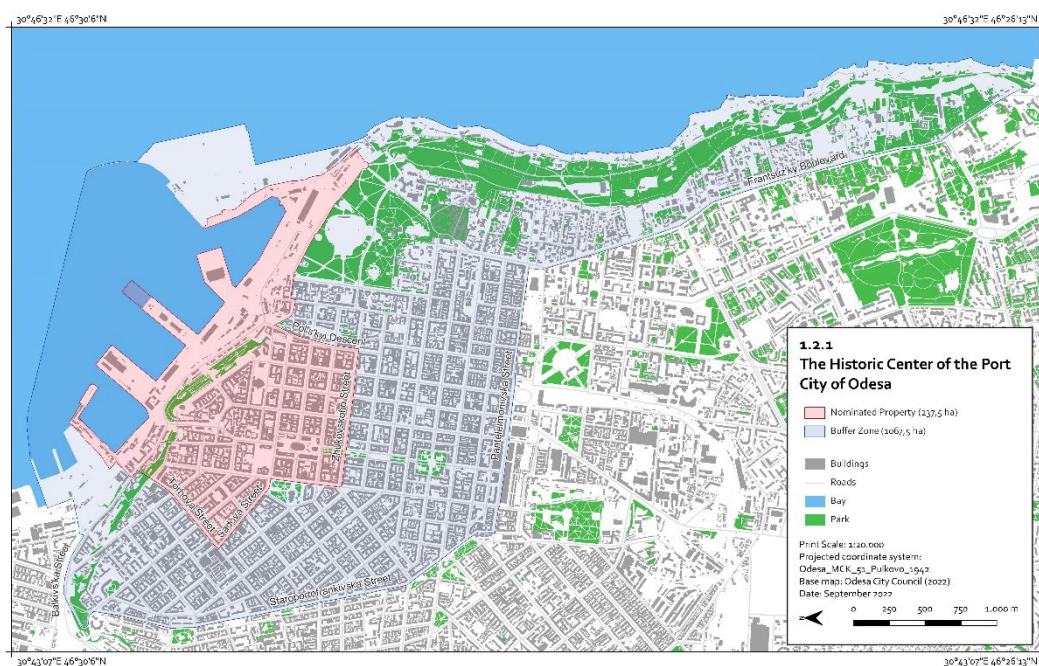
Additional recommendations

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

- a) Submitting a map and geographical coordinates showing the modified boundaries of the property, with wider boundaries than those proposed in the nomination dossier and excluding the port area, covering the historic area of the city, as it was developed by the end of the 19th century and coinciding with those of the Integrated Protection Zone as shown in the General Plan of Odesa, with the port area as a part of the buffer zone, by 1 June 2023,

- b) Extending the buffer zone to encompass the immediate setting of the modified boundaries as well as the port area, and submit a minor boundary modification request in this respect with details of how the buffer zone will be managed to support the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
- c) Reinforcing the legal regulation for the Integrated Protection Zone to protect the attributes of the property against unsuitable development,
- d) Integrating Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms into the legal framework as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within the property or its buffer zone,
- e) Developing an inventory and indicators for the assessment of the state of conservation of the property together with developing and implementing a monitoring system,
- f) Continuing the implementation of conservation programmes with priorities given to buildings at risk and areas that need urgent stabilisation or conservation interventions,
- g) Developing a study to identify tangible and intangible aspects of multi-ethnic and multicultural heritage of the city and developing measures for an interpretation policy,
- h) Revising the draft management plan to include disaster, climate change and other risk preparedness measures, as well as implementation measures for emergency responses,
- i) Submitting to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2024, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session;

ICOMOS further recommends that the name of the property be changed to: "The Historic Centre of Odesa".



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property