



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Ms. Gwenaëlle Bourdin, Director of the  
ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation  
Unit  
11 rue du Séminaire de Conflans  
94220 Charenton-le-Pont FRANCE

Permanente  
Vertegenwoordiging van het  
Koninkrijk der Nederlanden bij  
UNESCO  
7 rue Eblé  
75007 Parijs  
France

Contact:  
[pau@min  
buza.nl](mailto:pau@minbuza.nl)  
Referentie 2023B-2  
Tel: +33 6 02 18 43 59

Datum: 9 February 2023

Dear Ms Bourdin,

On 21 December 2022 we received from ICOMOS the "World Heritage List 2023 - Koninklijk Eise Eisinga Planetarium (Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium) (Netherlands) – Interim report and additional information request". (Ref. GB/EG/1683/IR)

In this report, ICOMOS requests for additional information in the context of the evaluation of the nomination file. We are of course happy to provide ICOMOS with the information requested.

Your three questions are addressed consecutively below.

#### 1) Boundary of the nominated property

“.. For these reasons, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property should be drawn to include the totality of the building that existed at the time the planetarium was constructed, in order to meet the conditions of integrity. Hence, ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could consider reviewing the boundary of the nominated property accordingly and submit the respective new maps.”

It will be no problem for the State Party to adjust the boundary of the property as requested by ICOMOS. The boundary of the property was the subject of extensive discussions when preparing the nomination file. The boundary now proposed by ICOMOS was also considered at the time, but in the end a smaller property was opted for. We are in agreement with the substantive considerations put forward by ICOMOS for expanding the property to include the entire original 15th century house. Furthermore, the existing protection of the – previously submitted - property, its management, etc., also applies to the entire house in which the planetarium is located. Consequently, the expansion of the property can be effected without any problems, and protection and measures will apply to the new property similarly to those applicable to the property as originally submitted.

Below you will find the amended description and the maps showing the new boundary of the property.

#### Description

The nominated World Heritage Site consists of the planetarium built between 1774 and 1781, including the residential house of which it is part. The planetarium is inextricably linked to the ceiling of the former living / bedroom, now called the planetarium room.

The residential house is located at Eise Eisingastraet 3 (Cadastral Municipality of Franeker, section A, number 3020). Apart from the planetarium room, the building contains an entrance area (former wool shop), a raised room (with a cellar underneath), a mezzanine (with gear) and an attic.

Below you will find the cadastral map, indicating the property, and a map of the ground floor of the building. The third map shows the new – expanded – property within the unchanged buffer zone.









## Property Eisinga Planetarium in Franeker



Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed  
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap

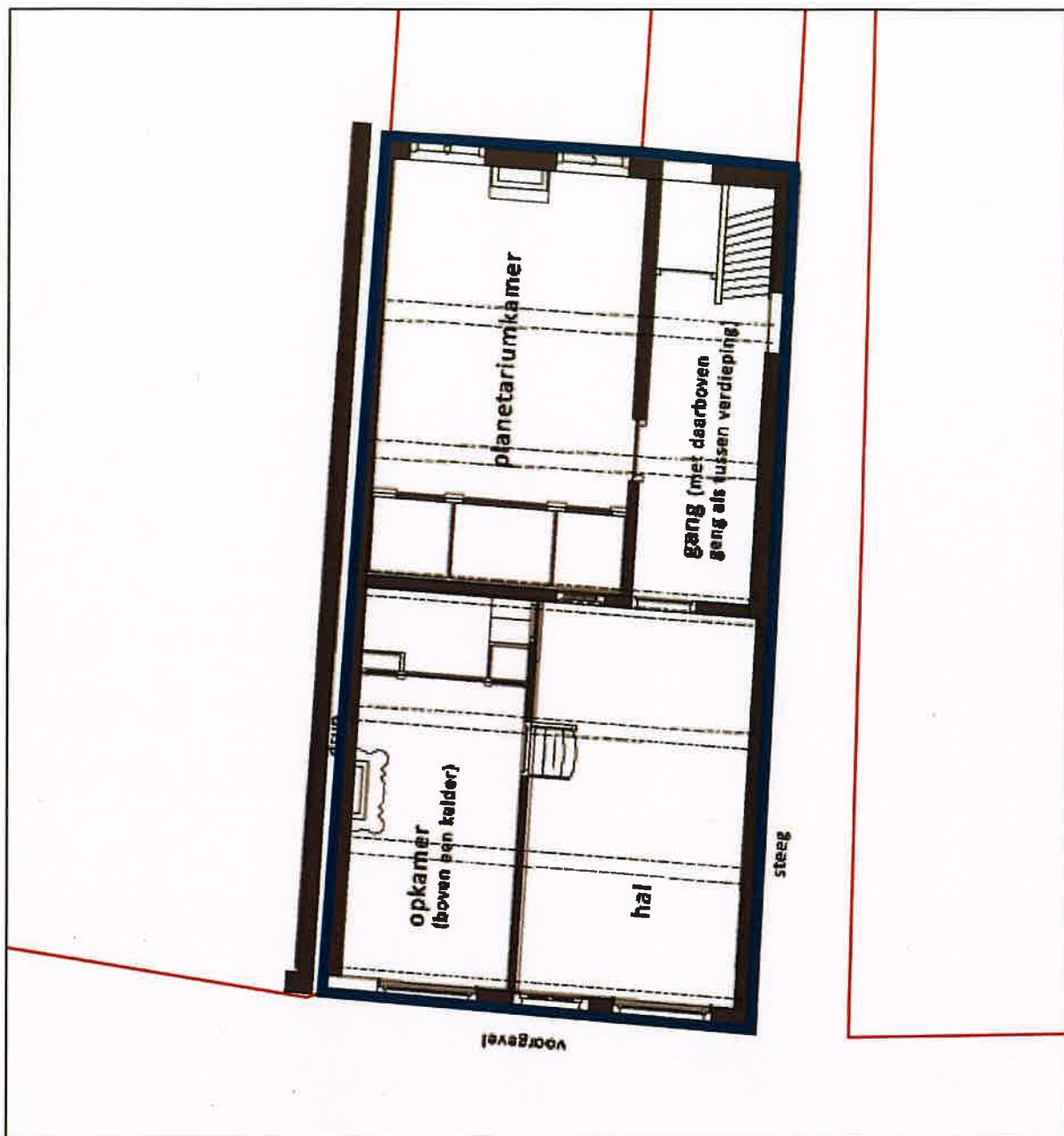
### Legend

-  World Heritage property
-  State Monument (15669)
-  building or construction
-  cadastral border
-  coordinate grid Rijksdriehoekstelsel (Netherlands National System)
-  coordinate grid WGS 84 UTM Zone 31N

Scale 1:250



Topographical background:  
J.W. van Aalst, [www.opentopo.nl](http://www.opentopo.nl)



**Property Eisinga Planetarium  
and building plan  
in  
Franeker**



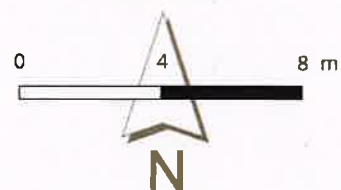
Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed  
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap

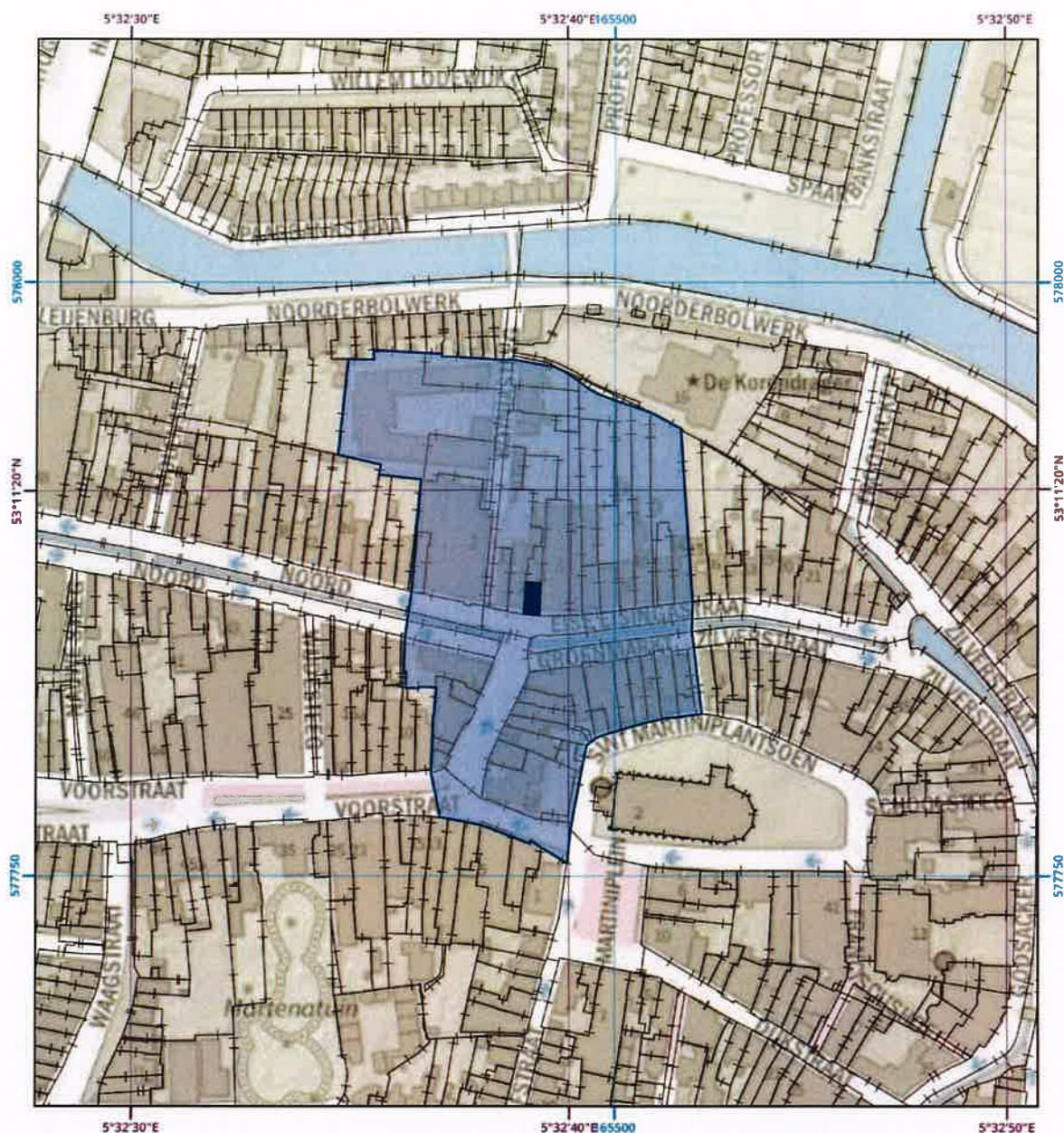
**Legend**



World Heritage property  
building or construction

Scale 1:100

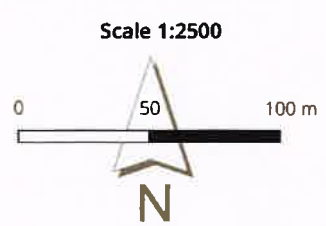




## Property and buffer zone Eisinga Planetarium in Franeker



- World Heritage property
- World Heritage buffer zone
- cadastral border
- coordinate grid Rijksdriehoekstelsel (Netherlands National System)
- coordinate grid WGS 84 UTM Zone 31N



Topographical background:  
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## 2) Buffer zone

“... Therefore, ICOMOS would be pleased to understand the rationale behind the proposed delineation of the buffer zone and if the possibility of matching the buffer zone boundary with the protective cityscape area was considered.”

In the course of preparing the nomination file, various options regarding the buffer zone were examined and discussed with experts. Also, a comparative study was carried out on the subject of buffer zones of small World Heritage Sites, in order to be consistent with existing practices. During this process, the idea of aligning the buffer zone with the boundary of the protected cityscape was also extensively discussed. Although this was (and is) regarded as a serious option, it was not chosen.

The outcome of the discussions as regards the buffer zone was to emphasise the safeguarding of the visual aspects of and around the planetarium. By keeping the surface of the buffer zone limited – although it is still considerable in relation to the property – the management emphasis can be placed on the visual safeguarding of the urban landscape: the canals, the facades, the relaxed small-town ambience and the atmosphere in the area. At the same time, because of the added presence of the protected cityscape there, spatial safeguarding can take place both within the buffer zone and within the surrounding territory of the protected cityscape, meaning spatial and architectural projects.

In the opinion of the State Party, the focus on the visual safeguarding in the buffer zone does more justice to the intended World Heritage Site.

The boundary of the chosen buffer zone is based on the sightlines in the city from where the property can be seen. When determining the buffer zone in the nomination file, we already assumed the building in which the planetarium is located. As a result, the expansion of the property to include the entire building, as discussed above, has no effect on the size of the buffer zone.

In order to determine the size of the buffer zone, map material was used, and an inspection on foot took place to conduct an on-site check.

On all sides around the planetarium, the sightlines are limited by facades of houses. To ensure that those sightlines are not defined too narrowly, not the front facades of the buildings in question have been taken as the boundary of the buffer zone, but in most cases the plot boundaries behind these buildings. Consequently, in the State Party's view the boundary of the buffer zone has been carefully determined.

## 3) Name of the nominated property

“... Therefore, ICOMOS would like to know if the State Party would agree to change the name of the property to ‘The Historic Planetarium of Franeker’.”

We understand the arguments for the proposed name change as put forward by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, but have some difficulty in accepting this suggestion. For that reason, we would like to submit a substantiated counter-proposal which would solve a number of the problems identified by ICOMOS.

In the first place, the Planetarium being named after its creator represents a historical fact. Removing his name would cause confusion, as the Eisinga name has been associated with the Planetarium since time immemorial – both in the Netherlands and far beyond. It is with good reason that Eisinga earned a place in The Canon of Dutch History under the name of ‘Eise Eisinga’. Therefore, the inscription entitled ‘The Historic Planetarium of Franeker’ would adversely affect the international reputation built up by the Planetarium over the past two hundred and forty years.

Moreover, the designation ‘historic’ could give the impression that the Planetarium is ‘a thing of the past’ when, in fact, it has lost nothing of its powers of persuasion, and also in our modern times performs an important astronomical educational function.

Having said that, the Netherlands is not insensitive to the arguments put forward by the ICOMOS Panel. The term ‘Royal’ is indeed a recent addition, which is not inextricably linked to the Planetarium. Consequently, we agree with you that this part can be omitted. Also, there is something to be said for not linking the inscription too emphatically to the person of Eise Eisinga. By leaving out the first name, ‘Eisinga’ in the name of the Planetarium can be considered as a kind of brand name, which it has in fact become over the centuries.

For these reasons we propose to nominate the Planetarium for the World Heritage List under the name ‘*Eisinga Planetarium*’.

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For these reasons we propose to nominate the Planetarium for the World Heritage List under the name '*Eisinga Planetarium*'.

We hope that by answering the above mentioned questions we contribute to a successful assessment process by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel and we wish you every success in the continuation of your work.

Yours sincerely,



Monique van Daalen

Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO