
Historic Centre of Florence

(Italy)

No 174quater

1 Basic information

State Party

Italy

Name of property

Historic Centre of Florence

Location

City and Province of Florence
Tuscany Region

Inscription

1982

Brief description

Built on the site of an Etruscan settlement, Florence, the symbol of the Renaissance, rose to economic and cultural pre-eminence under the Medici in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its 600 years of extraordinary artistic activity can be seen above all in the 14th-century cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), the Church of Santa Croce, the Uffizi and the Palazzo Pitti, the work of great masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

9 March 2022

2 Issues raised

Background

The Historic Centre of Florence has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi), without a buffer zone.

A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been adopted in 2014 (Decision 38 COM.8E).

An extensive buffer zone has been added to the property and approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2015 (Decision 39 COM 8B.44).

In 2021, a minor boundary modification of the property was approved by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 44 COM 8B.56), in which an existing formal error in the delimitation of the property was corrected by incorporating within the boundary of the inscribed zone the San Miniato al Monte – a religious complex which represents an important attribute, explicitly mentioned in

the Statement of the Outstanding Universal Value and contributing to the integrity of the property.

The Historic Centre of Florence encompasses, within its area of 532 ha, the core of the historic city and the settled area on the opposite side of the Arno River enclosed by the 14th-century city walls. The buffer zone extends over an area of 10,453 ha. The property is framed by the hills that border Florence to the north (the Hills of Careggi, Fiesole and Settignano) and to the south (the Hills of Bellosguardo, Arcetri, Poggio Imperiale and San Miniato).

Modification

The delineation of the minor boundary modification approved in 2021 (Decision 44 COM 8B.56) was guided by the route of the ancient city wall (still partially existing), and followed the adjacent roads, stretching from the San Miniato gate, through the *Viale dei Colli* up to the Abbey of San Miniato al Monte, with its cemetery and the *Parco della Rimembranza* (Veteran's Memorial Park), further towards *Piazzale Michelangelo*, ending at the San Niccolò tower.

The current request for a minor boundary modification has been submitted by the State Party to rectify three graphic discrepancies in the 2021 perimeter's demarcation line, which have been identified during the process of cartography validation, following the request of the World Heritage Centre to submit more detailed maps of the minor boundary modification approved in 2021. The graphic modification consists in correcting identification on the map of *Passo all'Ertà*, adjacent to *Viale Galileo* and *Via di Giamonte*; correcting the graphic representation of *Via del Monte alle Croci*; and properly identifying on the map the corner of *Via di San Miniato al Monte* and *Viale Michelangelo*.

The proposed modification will correct the cartographic representation of the property to reflect fully the reality on the ground. Due to its graphic nature, the proposed modification will not affect the actual area of the property or of the buffer zone.

The proposed minor boundary modification will enhance the protection of the property, by enabling the Municipality of Florence, within the administrative territory of which the property is located, to apply the relevant management measures and protection mechanisms to the entire actual area of the property, based on the appropriate, and legally binding maps used by the Department of Municipal Urban Planning.

The proposed minor boundary modification does not affect the legal protection of the property, to which a number of legal acts apply at the national, regional and municipal levels. At the highest level, the area of the proposed graphic modification is protected as a Landscape Asset (*Beni Paesaggistici*) (Art. 143 of the Legislative Decree 42/2004). At the regional level, it is regulated by the PIT (*Piano di Indirizzo Territoriale*) which, from a legal point of view, has the same value as

the Landscape Plan (Regional Law 65/2014, Art. 21). At the municipal level, the territory is regulated by the Structural Plan (Regional Law 65/2014, Art. 30 et seq.), approved in 2015 and updated in 2019; the Town Planning Regulations, approved in 2015 and updated in 2019; and the Building Regulations of the Municipality of Florence, approved in 2019 (Resolution no. 2019/C/00014). These tools are currently being updated.

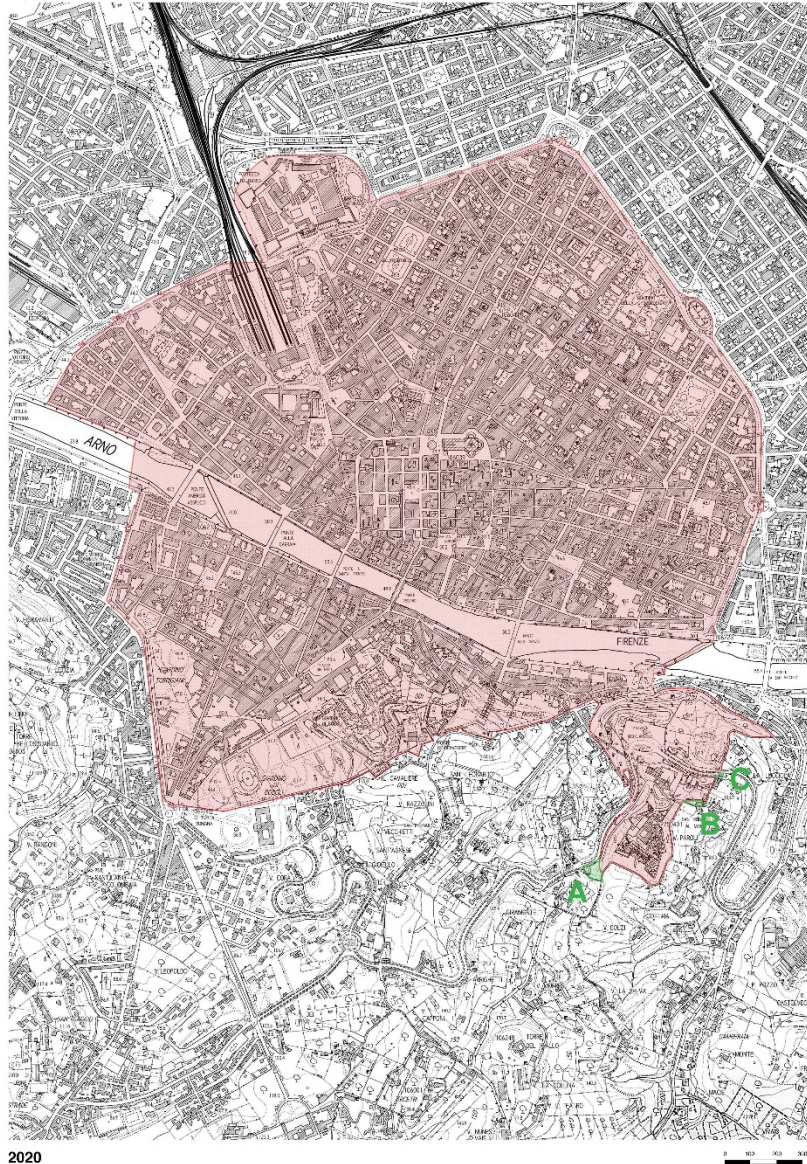
Given that the proposed modification is of a graphic nature only and noting that the correction will improve the protection of the property by providing legal clarity on the application of appropriate management measures to the entire extent of the property based on the updated cartography, ICOMOS considers that the proposed minor boundary modification is appropriate.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed minor boundary modification will contribute to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and strengthen its integrity and management.

3 Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the Historic Centre of Florence, Italy, be **approved**.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property (February 2022)