
Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) No 500bis

1 Basic information

State Party

Peru

Name of property

Historic Centre of Lima

Location

City of Lima

Inscription

1988 as "Convent Ensemble of San Francisco de Lima", extended in 1991 as "Historic Centre of Lima"

Brief description

The Historic Centre of Lima, known as the "Ciudad de los Reyes" (City of Kings), is located in the Rimac valley, and was founded by Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro in January 1535 on the territories led by the Chiefdom of Rimac. Lima was the political, administrative, religious and economic capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru and the most important city of the Spanish dominions in South America. The city played a leading role in the history of the New World from 1542 to the 18th century when the creation of the Viceroyalties of New Granada (1718) and of La Plata (1777) gradually put an end to the omnipotence of the oldest Spanish colony on South America.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2023

2 Issues raised

Background

The Historic Centre of Lima was first inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988 on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv) as "Convent Ensemble of San Francisco de Lima" including only the convent ensemble of San Francisco built in the 17th century and located in the core of the Historic Centre of Lima. Later in 1991, the property was extended and inscribed under the name "Historic Centre of Lima", on the basis of criterion (iv), encompassing parts of the historical town located in both sides of the Rimac river. On the left bank, it includes the monuments built around the Plaza de Armas (Plaza Mayor), as well as the entire quarter lying between the Plaza de Armas and the convent of San Francisco. On the right bank, it includes a residential district, known as "el Rimac", with promenades and one of the oldest convent ensembles, the Monastery of Descalzos.

A clarification of the property boundaries (Decision 37COM 8D) and a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (Decision 37COM 8E) were adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2013. The Historic Centre of Lima is recognised as a testimony of the architecture and urban development of a Spanish colonial town of the 17th century of great importance in Latin America.

The property has been under reactive monitoring since 2002 (Decision 26COM 21B.64) initially due to plans for modern buildings, and then to assess its state of conservation and the potential impact of proposed and approved projects on its Outstanding Universal Value (Decision 33COM 7B.145). The World Heritage Committee has requested the State Party to revise the property's management plan (Decision 27COM 7B.99), to set up a Management Coordination Unit (Decision 28COM 15B.120), and to finalise, approve and implement the new Master Plan (Decision 33COM 7B.145; Decision 37COM 7B.102; Decision 39COM 7B.92; Decision 41COM 7B.64; Decision 43COM 7B.102). In 2017, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the invitation of the State Party for an Advisory mission to provide technical assistance regarding the issues concerning the management and conservation of the property (Decision 41COM 7B.64).

The 2017 Advisory mission advised the State Party, among other recommendations, to request a minor boundary modification to include the Church of Santiago Apostol del Cercado, the rhomboid square and the former School of the Prince in the neighbourhood El Cercado, located in the buffer zone, depending on their conditions of authenticity and integrity. Furthermore, it suggested that the minor boundary modification includes the monuments of Santa Rosa de las Monjas (Santa Rosa de Santa Maria Church and Monastery), Nuestra Señora del Prado Church and Monastery, "del Corcovado" House, San Bartolomé Hospital and Quinta del Rincón del Prado, also located within the buffer zone.

Based on the recommendations of the 2017 Advisory mission, the World Heritage Committee encouraged the State Party in 2021 to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to include within the property's boundaries the above-mentioned monuments (Decision 44COM 7B.169).

Modification

In January 2023, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for a minor boundary modification in order to improve the understanding of the property by incorporating attributes that are considered indispensable for the comprehensive expression of its Outstanding Universal Value, and to improve the conservation and management of the property and buffer zone. It consists of three measures:

1. To incorporate in the property's boundaries six monuments located within the buffer zone. From these, four are adjacent to the property's boundaries: Prado or

“del Corcovado” House, San Bartolomé Hospital, Nuestra Señora del Prado Church and Monastery, Santa Rosa de Santa Maria Church and Monastery; and two are separate areas: Ancient Indigenous Reduction of Santiago Apostle of Cercado and Quinta and Molino de Presa. With this minor boundary modification, the property would become a serial property composed of three serial component parts: Historic Centre of Lima, Ancient Reduction of Santiago Apostle of Cercado and Quinta and Molino de Presa.

2. To adjust the boundaries of the inscribed polygon at a plot level, in order to improve the management processes and control of the property and to favour its integrity, by including only complete plots in the delimitation.
3. To adjust the boundaries of the buffer zone to include monuments that are currently partially included.

With these modifications, the property that consisted of 259.36 ha would be extended to 277.99 ha, and the buffer zone of 766.7 ha would be extended to 806.71 ha.

According to the State Party, the monuments to be included would contribute as attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and reinforce its integrity as follows:

- a. Prado or “del Corcovado” House: It is one of the very few examples of a colonial and republican domestic architecture that is preserved in an integral manner in Lima, practically unchanged since the 17th century. It adds 0.63 ha to the property.
- b. San Bartolomé Hospital: It was the viceregal hospital for “free brown people” and maintains most of its original architecture and layout. It will complete the ensemble of three historic viceregal hospitals within the property, together with the Ancient Hospital for “Indians” of Santa Ana and the ancient Hospital for Spaniards of San Andrés. It adds 4.38 ha to the property.
- c. Nuestra Señora del Prado Church and Monastery: It is one of the few and best-preserved examples of Lima’s monastic architecture of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It adds 3.71 ha to the property.
- d. Santa Rosa de Santa Maria Church and Monastery: This religious architectural complex was built in the same place where Santa Rosa de Lima died, a venerated and indivisible character in the history of the city. The complex is surrounded by a large number of buildings of monumental value, as well as the remnants of La Concepción Church and Monastery and the Mercedarian School of San Pedro Nolasco, thus consolidating an urban area with an important historical and architectural heritage. It adds to the property 3.85 ha.
- e. Ancient Indigenous Reduction of Santiago Apostle of Cercado: This settlement or “reduction” of indigenous people was designed to be a satellite of the city. It helps understanding the relationship between the

colonial city and the indigenous reduction. It adds to the property 10.20 ha.

- f. Quinta and Molino de Presa: one of the best architectural expressions of the mid-18th century and the only one of its kind in Lima, it is a rococo style mansion used as a pleasure house, then located in the suburbs of Lima and now part of the traditional neighbourhood of Malambo. It adds to the property 1.62 ha.

The adjustment of the boundaries allows an adequate regulation of land use by adding only complete plots. In the process of boundaries verification (measure 2), five monuments have been proposed for inclusion: Gran Biblioteca Pública de Lima, Casa Mitsuwa, Jr. Ucayali N° 463, 467, 471, 479, Edificio Ferrand and Edificio Central. At the same time, some areas and buildings which are not attributes of Outstanding Universal Value nor monuments or monumental areas have been proposed for exclusion: Av. Abancay blocks 7,8 and 9, Av. Emancipación N° 443, 447, Av. Abancay N° 235, 251, Jr. Casma 213, 277, and Jr. Viru 207-227.

The modification of the buffer zone (measure 3) is guided by an update of the boundaries of the Historic Centre of Lima (Monumental Zones of Lima and Rimac) in the new Master Plan 2019-2029. It allows the complete inclusion of the following monuments: Archbishop Loayza Hospital, Barbones Military Headquarters and Jose Pardo Polytechnic Institute.

All the monuments included in the minor boundary modification are located in areas declared Cultural Heritage of the Nation.

ICOMOS acknowledges the detailed documentation provided by the State Party, and notes that some of the monuments that are being incorporated in the property’s boundaries are in a poor state of conservation. In this regard, ICOMOS notes that restoration and enhancement projects, as well as the reconstruction of some monuments (for example, El Buque in Barrios Altos) are being proposed in the Master Plan. ICOMOS considers that all restoration and enhancement projects, and in particular, reconstructions, need to be carefully planned to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property by following standard principles based on evidence and baseline documentation.

ICOMOS notes as well that the State Party has added to the original recommendation of the 2017 Advisory mission, the inclusion of Quinta and Molino de Presa where a tourist proposal is being developed, instead of Quinta del Rincón del Prado which is in a bad state of conservation.

ICOMOS considers that the inclusion of the six proposed areas will improve the comprehensive understanding and expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Historic Centre of Lima. Furthermore, ICOMOS considers that the revision of the boundaries of the property is positive because it includes attributes of Outstanding

Universal Value. In addition, the adjustment of the boundaries of the buffer zone will favour the management of the monumental area, and will permit the inclusion of monuments in their totality contributing to the integrity of the property.

ICOMOS notes that the Historic Centre of Lima will become a serial property of three component parts, from which two are small and irregular. Nevertheless, because the component parts are connected through the buffer zone, and belonging to the Monumental Zones of Lima and Rimac as defined in the Master Plan 2019-2029, ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the property will be maintained and enhanced.

3 Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Historic Centre of Lima, Peru, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the buffer zone of Historic Centre of Lima, Peru, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

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

- a) Carefully planning and implementing restoration, enhancement and reconstruction projects in line with standard principles based on evidence and baseline documentation,
- b) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*,
- c) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposals in the property, its buffer zone and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value ;