

Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation  
Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution  
"State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical, Architectural  
and Arts Museum-Reserve"



**WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

# **"WHITE MONUMENTS OF VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL"**

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION No. 633**



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"WHITE MONUMENTS OF VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL"  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Customer:

Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution "State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical,  
Architectural and Arts Museum-Reserve"

Developers:

D.S. Likhachev Russian Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Federal State Budgetary Cultural Institution "State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical,  
Architectural and Arts Museum-Reserve"

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

Church – Russian Orthodox Church

Museum – State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical, Architectural and Arts Museum-Reserve

OCH – Object of Cultural Heritage

OUV – Outstanding Universal Value

PMP – Property Management Plan

PMS – Property Management System

WHP – World Heritage Property

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## INTRODUCTION

The monuments that make up the serial nomination "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992 and became one of the first Russian properties to replenish the treasury of the World Heritage.

Inscribing these properties on the World Heritage List we recognize their outstanding universal value at the international level. It means that these properties are of big significance that is so exceptional that it makes them the best examples of cultural heritage, transcends national borders and represents universal value for present and future generations of all mankind. Preserving the special qualities of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" is a universal responsibility. But first of all, the obligations to preserve World heritage properties, in accordance with the International Convention, are assumed by the States to which they belong.

The Convention "On the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage", adopted at the 17th session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on November 16, 1972 and came into force on December 17, 1975, marked the beginning of the formation of the World Heritage List, which has become the most prestigious list of heritage properties in the world. The main purpose of the Convention is to unite the efforts of the international community to identify, protect and comprehensively support outstanding cultural monuments and natural objects on a global scale. In 1975, the Convention was ratified by 21 States. Currently, 193 States that joined the Convention, besides 11 associate members.

On the territory of Russia (on the territory of the USSR) the Convention came into force on 12.01.1989 in accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated 09.03.1988 No. 8595-XI. Russia is a Convention State Party, therefore, it is obliged to fulfill international obligations in order to ensure the preservation of World Heritage properties.

Surely the World Heritage property is very attractive in terms of obtaining a number of advantages, both in the cultural context and in terms of comprehensive support for the territories inscribed on the World Heritage List.



The Convention provides large opportunities in the legal, informational and economic field.

The main advantages are the following:

- additional guarantees of the safety and integrity of unique cultural and natural complexes;
- priority in attracting financial resources to support WHP from federal and regional budgets, as well as international sources;
- increasing the prestige of territories and institutions managing them;
- popularization of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- organization of additional monitoring and control over the state of preservation of properties through international mechanisms – periodic reporting, reactive monitoring;
- access to the most modern technologies and developments in the field of heritage preservation;
- opportunity for the national scientific, expert and professional community to broadcast their experience in the conservation and management of the World Heritage at the international level.

Today Heritage faces many challenges, most of which are related to changes (often inevitable) originating from various areas of life. In this regard, the key to the preservation of WHP and their OUV is the effective management of all changes that can have an impact on heritage.

The WHP may be affected in different ways for many reasons – actual property relations system, different ways of using the object, new scientific data and following new theories and principles of heritage protection, decentralization, land managing and development, limited resources, globalization, social and political conflicts, natural disasters and climate change, the need to preserve national identity and to determine the significance of heritage in the daily life of person and society, political changes, raising number of visitors, etc.

The very theory of the Heritage preserving has changed together with the development of ideas about heritage (from individual properties to historical places and

cultural landscapes). Now it is treated as the preservation of architectural monuments together with the surrounding cultural and natural environment.

The expansion of the heritage concept, the complication of its typology and the recognition of the importance of the relationship between heritage and its environment started the shift from the individual heritage properties' protection and the idea of conservation of just as physical protection, to understanding the role of cultural, natural, social, economic and other factors in it.

That is why today the management of World Cultural heritage properties is understood as a complex process. It includes three parts: the preservation of the OUV of the WHP (including the maintenance of its integrity and identity), the regular development of the property and its environment, as well as the achievement of public understanding of the goals and principles of the preservation and development of the property. This concept is called the integral management approach or Sustainable Integrated Conservation.

Sustainable integrated conservation is based on a systematic interdisciplinary approach which involves the local community and other stakeholders. It covers all areas of heritage: tangible and intangible, objects and the environment, as well as people living in the territory and influencing its development.

Keeping to the Convention today seems to be the most effective instrument on a global scale for the protection of natural and cultural properties. Introducing a special legislative protection and developing management plan (or another documented WHP management system) indicate of the fulfillment of national obligations to follow the Convention. The Property management plan (PMP) describes the way to preserve the OUV of the WHP, preferably with the participation of various parties (article 108 of the Manual). The PMP is a comprehensive planning document designed to reflect the specifics of the property, to ensure the setting of goals and objectives for the future, to fix the system of stakeholders and their mutual rights and obligations in relation to the nominated property, guaranteeing its safety.

The preservation of the property is ensured, first of all, by the preservation of its OUV, which is the basis for its inscription on the World Heritage List. Today, this value is

considered not as just a set of characteristics of a property, but is understood as a set of its interrelated distinctive features:

- 1) it must meet at least one of the criteria formulated by the World Heritage Committee;
- 2) it must be characterized by its integrity and authenticity;
- 3) it should be provided with an appropriate system of protection and management.

The MP is formed around the unique WHP with its features and needs. That is why there is no fix model for the development of such a document. All methodological directives for heritage management and the preparation of PMP contain only general recommendations that define the main problems and possible approaches.

The main goal of management is the long-term preservation of the property and its OUV universal value. To achieve this goal we must consequently solve the questions related to the protection, preservation, use and popularization of the World Heritage. These questions are often interrelated and cannot be solved separately. While working out the PMP, analyzing the set questions directions to improve the actual management system, we define programs of prior, short-term, medium-term and long-term activities.

The MP is one of the main tools for the preservation of the property and for its consequent development. In case there is no PMP in the nomination dossier, the dossier is considered not formed and is returned to the applicant State for reconsidering.

"White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" was inscribed on the World Heritage List in the 1990s, as well as the main part of Russian objects. At that time there was no strict requirement to offer a management plan as part of the nomination dossier. For this reason a number of Russian UNESCO properties do not have these documents.

Meeting the requirements of the Convention the Russian Federation keeps to its main obligation to preserve the outstanding universal value of the property, to ensure the integrity and authenticity of its parts, to create conditions for the consequent development of the property and its territory on the basis of state policy in the field of preservation of cultural heritage, supported by the norms of federal legislation and appropriate financial support.



The realization of the PMP and its influence on the state of preservation of the WHP is regularly monitored by the UNESCO World Heritage Center to check the MP efficiency. The document is designed to be as effective as possible, still remaining flexible, taking into account possible changes taking place in different fields of life. Planning of the property management is a dynamical process that does not stop since the MP is adopted. With the knowledge and experience of those involved in the management of the property, some changes in management priorities may be included in the PMP. To provide information of effective management and preserving the object monitoring is regularly held being the part of the PMP.

The "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" PMP is a strategic planning document which is addressed not only to the managing organization – the State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical, Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve (hereinafter – the Museum), but also to other parties interested in the preservation, use and development of the property. The management plan makes it possible to develop a long-term strategy and effective mechanisms for preserving the outstanding universal value of the property for future generations on the basis of a comprehensive understanding of the features of the object by all participants in the management process.

# GENERAL PROVISIONS

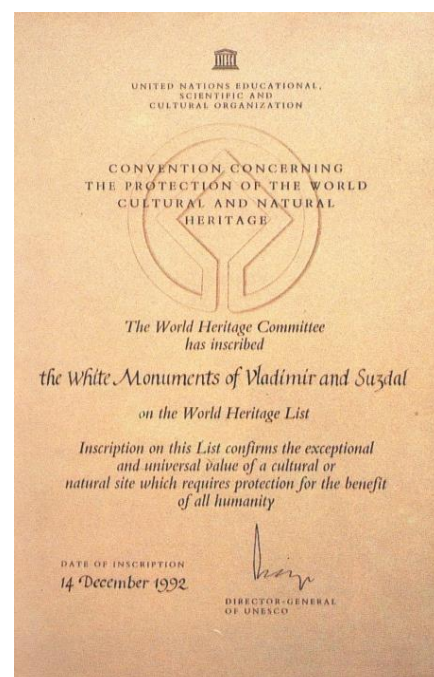
## SHORT REVIEW OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

### "WHITE MONUMENTS OF VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL"

The WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List by the decision of the 16th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee No. CONF 002 X.A. The session was held in Santa Fe (USA) in December 1992.

The registration number of the Property is 633.

The property is a serial nomination consisting of 8 components located on the territory of the Vladimir region in four localities. Information about the components of the UNESCO WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" is given in Table 1.



***Certificate of inscribing the nomination in the UNESCO World Heritage List***

*Table 1*

*UNESCO WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" components data*

Element number	WHP Component Name, according to UNESCO World Heritage Committee	Component Name, according to Russian Federal Register of the cultural heritage sites	Register number, according to Russian Federal Register
633-001	Cathedral of the Assumption (1158)	"Ensemble of the Assumption Cathedral", 1158-1160, 1186-1189, 1810, 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century: - "Assumption Cathedral", 1158-1160, 1186-1189	331520368520006 331910368520016
633-002	The Golden Gate (1164)	"Golden Gate", 1164	371410022580006
633-003	The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo (1165) (Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Staircase Tower of the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	"Ensemble of Bogolyubovo Convent": - "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin", 1158 - "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky", 1158	331420082890006 331410082890036 331410082890046

633-004	Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl' (1165)	"Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'", 1165	331510368550006
633-005	Cathedral of St Demetrius (1194-1197)	"St Demetrius Cathedral", 1197	371410022570006
633-006	Kremlin of Suzdal and Cathedral of the Nativity	<i>"Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace", 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries:</i> - "Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin", 1222 - 1225, 1528 - 1530-s; - "Archbishop's Palace and Annunciation Refectory Church", 16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries; - "Belltower with the House-church", 1636, 1680-s; - "Gate and walls", 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries; - "St Nicholas Church (wooden)", 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries (brought to the Suzdal Kremlin from Glotovo village of Juriev-Polskoy district)	331520003950006 331510003950026 331510003950036 331510003950046 331510003950016 331510003950056
633-007	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, founded in 1352	<i>"Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", 16<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century:</i> - "Transfiguration Cathedral", late 16 <sup>th</sup> century; - "Assumption Refectory Church", 1525; - "Belfry", 1530, 1599, 1691; - "Abbot's residence", 16 <sup>th</sup> century; - "Prison building", 19 <sup>th</sup> century; - "Monks' Chambers", late 17 <sup>th</sup> century, mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century; - "Ciborium", 18 <sup>th</sup> century; - "St Nicholas Church", 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> centuries; - "Wall and Towers", 16 <sup>th</sup> century - "Annunciation Gate Church", 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries; - "Utility Building", early 20 <sup>th</sup> century; - "Gatekeeper's Hut", 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries; - "Gatehouse", early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	331520003960006 331510003960026 331510003960036 331510003960046 331510003960076 331510003960086 331510003960096 331510003960056 331510003960066 331510003960016 332110003960136 332110003960106 332110003960116 332110003960126
633008	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	<i>"Group of Churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha", 1152 – 17<sup>th</sup> century:</i> - "Church of Sts Boris and Gleb", 1152	331620 331510368530016

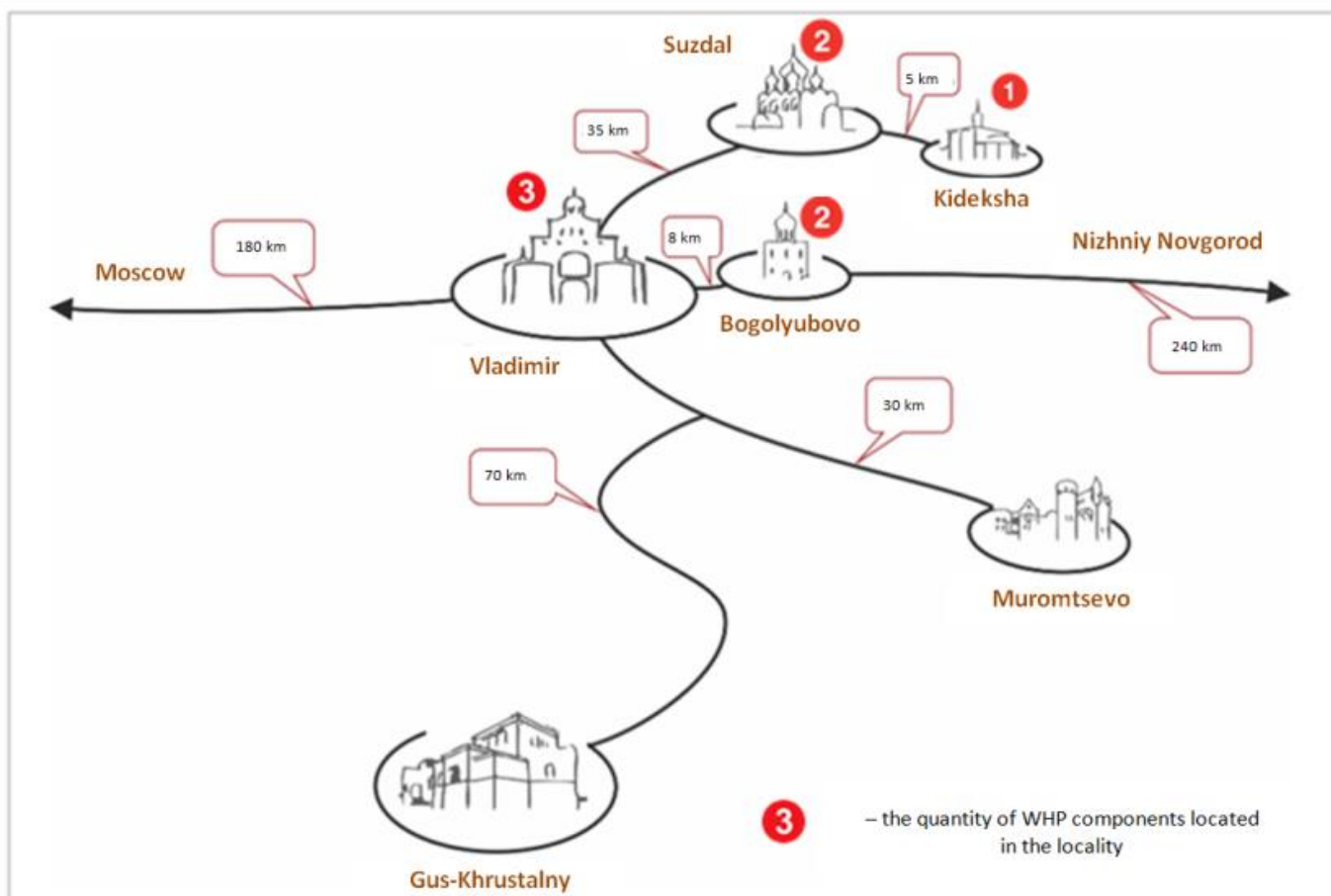
The components of the Property are located in several settlements of the Vladimir region:

- Vladimir – 3 components (Golden Gate, Assumption Cathedral, St Demetrius Cathedral);
- Suzdal – 2 components (Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace, Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius);



- Bogolyubovo village – 2 components (the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin with the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, the Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl’);
- Kideksha village – 1 component (the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb).

*Fig.1 Museum Spatial scheme*



*Table 2*  
*WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" location*

№	Object Component Name	Object Component Location
<b>Vladimir city</b>		
1	Cathedral of the Assumption (1158)	Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 56
2	Cathedral of St Demetrius (1194-1197)	Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 60
3	Golden Gate, (1164)	Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 1a
<b>Suzdal city</b>		
4	Kremlin of Suzdal and Cathedral of the Nativity	Kremlyovskaya Str., 20
5	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, founded in 1352	Lenin Str., 133g

<b>Suzdal District, Bogolyubovo village</b>		
6	The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo (1165) (Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Staircase Tower of the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	Lenin Str., 51v, building 1 Lenin Str., 51v, building 2
7	Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl' (1165)	Right bank of the River Nerl', 1,5 km south-east from Bogolyubovo village
<b>Suzdal District, Kideksha village</b>		
8	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	Staraya Str., 2g

## **CRITERIA FOR THE INSCRIBING OF THE PROPERTY ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

### *Criterion (i):*

The white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal are outstanding examples of ancient Russian architecture. These white-stone structures are a unique phenomenon, incorporating the best work of creative master-minds and presenting an amazing synthesis of architecture and monumental art.

### *Criterion (ii):*

The white-stone architecture of Vladimir and Suzdal is an outstanding example of the development and perfection of architectural forms and white-stone building techniques which formed a unique school of architecture. This influential style began and achieved its greatest expression here and illustrates a most important stage of human history and culture in the North-Eastern Rus'. Widely used as an example for subsequent construction throughout Russian history, they set a standard as a benchmark of architectural beauty and expressiveness of Russian ecclesiastical architecture.

### *Criterion (iv):*

The white-stone monuments and architectural ensembles of the Vladimir-Suzdal School of Architecture are outstanding examples of architectural creativity, perfect examples of technical and construction art, in harmonious unity with the surrounding natural landscape. They reflect the period of formation and heyday of white stone construction of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and are marked by extraordinary harmony and perfection of architectural forms.



## **DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE UNESCO WHP "WHITE MONUMENTS OF VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL"**

The ancient cities of Vladimir and Suzdal, which stood at the head of the Old Russian Vladimir–Suzdal Principality in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, are located in the center of the European part of Russia about 200 km east of Moscow 30 km distant from each other. During the existence of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality, there was its own architectural and art school. The real masterpieces of this school are the architectural monuments that make up the serial nomination "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal": Assumption Cathedral, St Demetrius Cathedral, Golden Gate in Vladimir; Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' and Church of the Nativity of the Virgin with a staircase tower with the passage of Andrei Bogolyubsky in the village of Bogolyubovo, near Vladimir; Suzdal Kremlin with the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius in Suzdal; Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in the village of Kideksha near Suzdal. The white stone monuments belong to the pre-Mongol period, are unique works of architecture, part of the treasury of Russian culture.

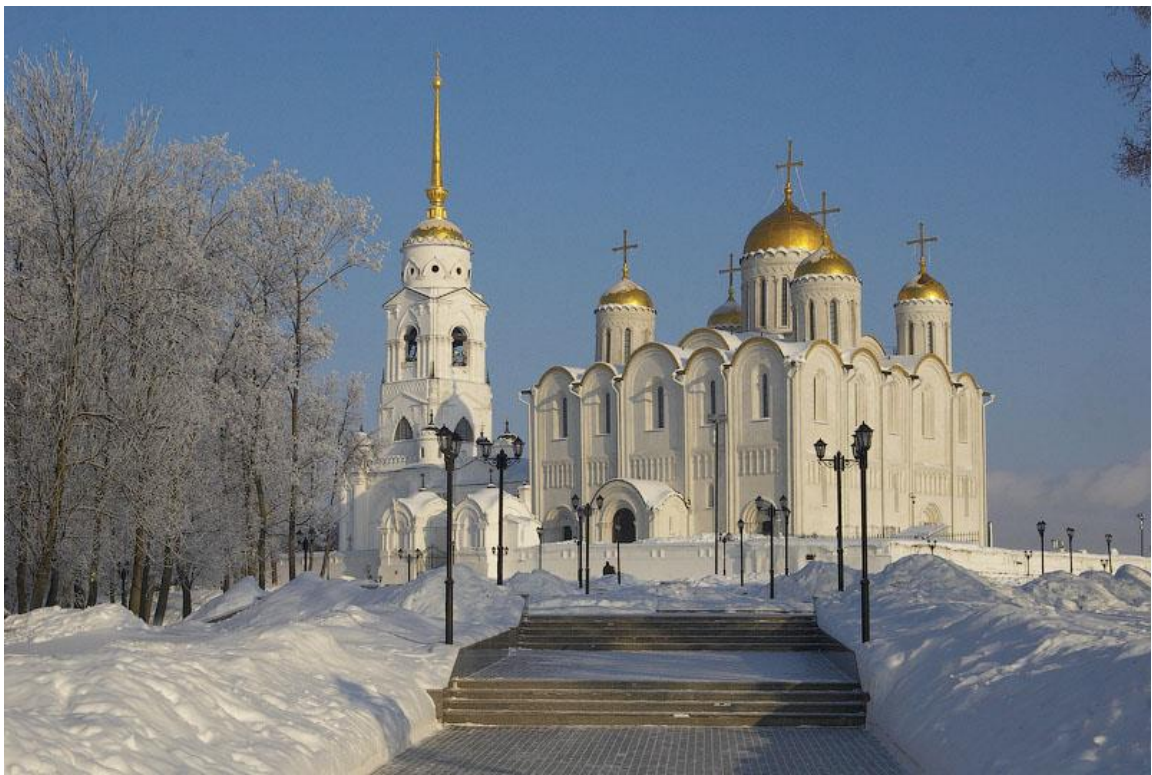
The following features are characteristic of the original architecture of the Vladimir-Suzdal land: masonry made of white limestone squares (hence the name – "white stone monuments"), refinement of proportions, fine stone carving, external lightness of buildings and the ability of former church builders to harmoniously fit their buildings into the surrounding urban and natural landscape.

The monuments are unique for their antiquity, authenticity of architectural forms, historical connection with the founders of the Russian statehood, the largest figures of the Middle Ages – Yuri Dolgoruky, Andrei Bogolyubsky, Vsevolod the Big Nest and George Vsevolodovich.

The white stone architecture of the ancient Vladimir-Suzdal land is an important milestone in the history of architecture. Russian Vladimir-Suzdal School has become one of the most influential Russian architectural schools, which has characterized the development of architectural styles in Russia for centuries and has made a significant contribution to the treasury of Russian and world art.

The majestic **Assumption Cathedral** (1158-1160, 1186-1189) is one of the oldest Russian cathedrals, a shrine of the Orthodox Church, a witness to the most important historical events, a grand–princely necropolis of the Monomakhs of the XII-XIII centuries and bishops, a repository of unique ancient paintings; the only documented and accurately dated monument that preserved frescoes of the beginning of the XV century by the famous icon painter Andrei Rublev.

Assumption Cathedral is located in the central part of Vladimir (in the ancient Kremlin), on a steep high hill above the Klyazma River, within the most protected part of the former Russian capital.



*Assumption Cathedral, 1158-1160, 1186-1189*

This most important monument of the Russian history and culture has two main construction periods. The original temple, erected in 1158-1160 during the reign of Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky, was a small, single-domed, but still affecting structure of that time – the cathedral designed as the main temple of North-East Russia. The idea and architecture of the cathedral had to emphasize the importance of the city as a new capital – the political and religious center of the Vladimir Principality. In 1186-1189, Prince Vsevolod the Big Nest expanded the original temple significantly: two-level side galleries were added from

three sides, 4 gilded helmet-shaped domes were placed over the corners. The original temple turned out to be inside the walls of the new large cathedral "as a nut in the shell". The appearance of the cathedral became much more solemn, "truly metropolitan", which further consolidated its central role not only in the architectural ensemble, but also in the life of the whole city.



*A. Rublev. The Last Judgment. Painting of the northern slope of the central nave. 1408  
Assumption Cathedral*

The cathedral, preserving its authentic forms of 1189, is a cross-domed building: six-column, five-nave large, five-domed, three-apse white stone church, with a choir-gallery in the west and side galleries along the three walls.

From the very beginning and till 1480, the cathedral served the home for the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God, one of the earliest known and one of the most revered miraculous icons of the Russian Orthodox Church.

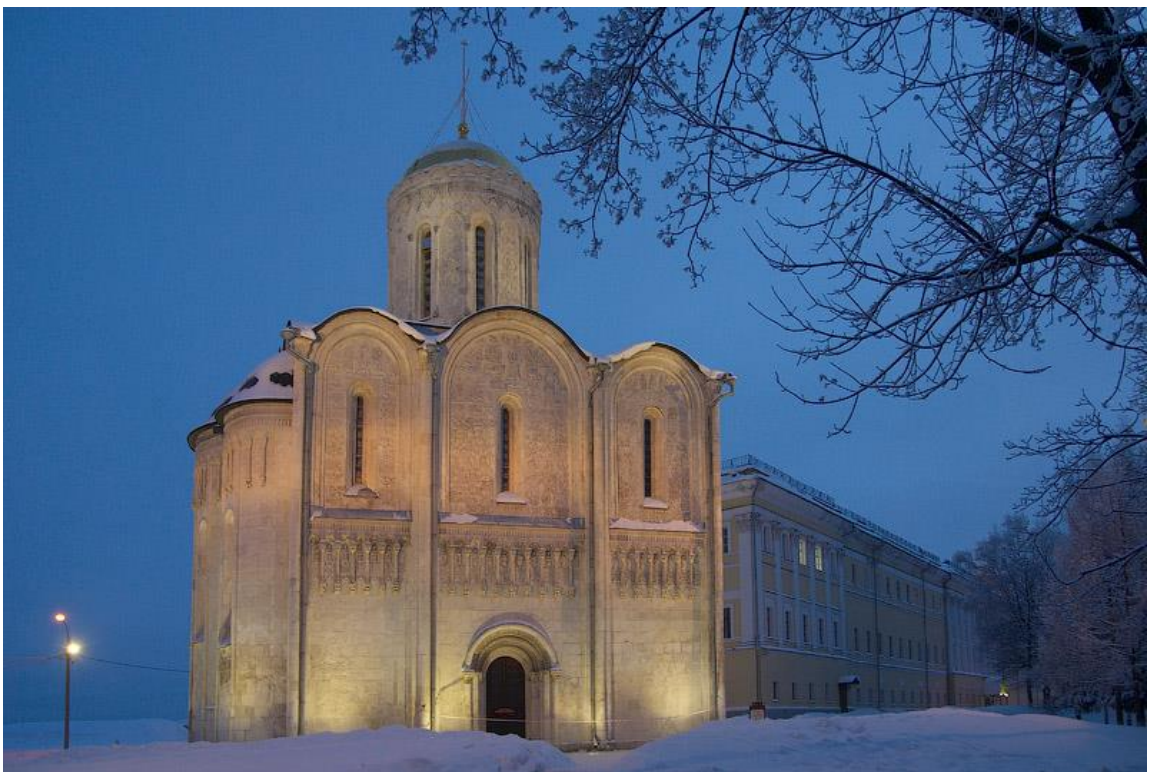
In 1767-1774 a carved gilded iconostasis was arranged in the cathedral – a highly artistic example of Russian decorative and applied art of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in magnificent Baroque style.



The Assumption Cathedral is a well-preserved authentic example of religious architecture of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, representing an amazing combination of white stone architecture, stone carving, wall paintings, iconography, decorative and applied art of the 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The architecture of the cathedral testifies to the high technical and artistic skill of the architects. It is no coincidence that the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir served as a model for the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin, erected under the guidance of the Italian architect Aristotle Fioravanti in 1475-1479.

**St Demetrius Cathedral** (1197) is a unique example of white stone architecture in the Russian and world culture. The cathedral was built by Prince Vsevolod the Big Nest as a palace home-church and as a reliquary dedicated to the Prince's patron saint – Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica. The same 1197 was the birthyear of Vsevolod son, baptized as Demetrius.

The cathedral made by local craftsmen impresses with its harmonious architectural forms, monumentality, solemnity, magnificent carved decoration.



*St Demetrius Cathedral, 1197 z.*

There are more than 1500 reliefs with images of plants, animals, including fabulous and even fantastic ones. In these carvings full of mythological and biblical content the researchers find the idea of glorifying the beauty and perfection of the world created according to the divine laws, stone images affirm the idea of the superiority of power of the Vladimir Prince, him being God-chosen, righteous and wise.

The subjects carved in stone later served models for the relief decoration of other pieces of architecture on the territory of Vladimir and Suzdal area.

Unique fragments of authentic frescoes of the late 12<sup>th</sup> century created by Byzantine and Russian masters are still preserved inside of the church.



*St Demetrius Cathedral, 1197 c.  
Northern facade.*

Thanks to the majestic exterior decoration of carved stones that survived despite the destructive power of the ages passed we consider now St Demetrius Cathedral to be one of the most remarkable and well preserved examples of Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architecture of the time of its highest development.



**The Golden Gate** (1164) is the only white stone example of the ancient Russian fortification of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was erected by the masters of Vladimir-Suzdal following the mighty images of the Golden Gates of Kiev, Jerusalem and Constantinople.

It serves the symbol of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Vladimir. Through more than 8 centuries it still remains eloquent evidence of the heyday, greatness and piety of the Vladimir Rus' – the memory of the sovereign rule of Andrei Bogolyubsky.



*The Golden Gate, 1164*

The Golden Gate was the most important part of a powerful defensive system consisting of five outer gates, high earthen ramparts and deep moats that reliably protected ancient Vladimir from enemies.

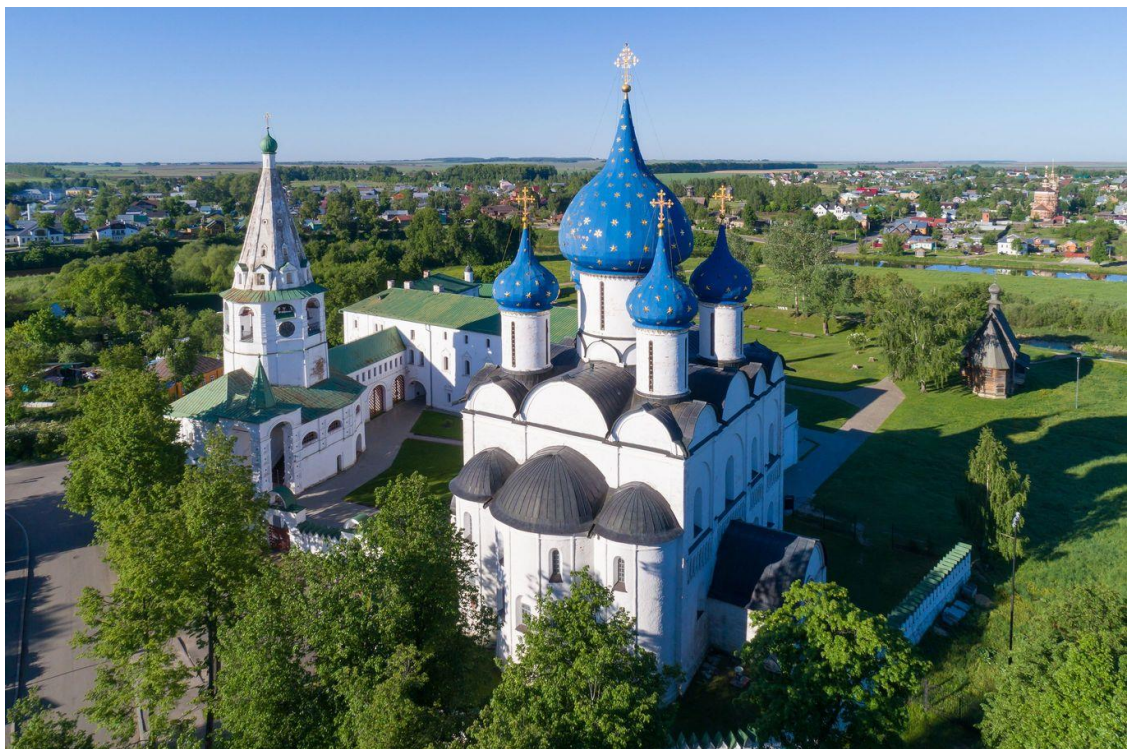
The Golden Gate universally combines several functions: a high triumphal arch – main entrance to Vladimir from its most important – western side, a combat tower with two combat platforms and a small gate church in honor of the Holy Virgin.

The construction of the Golden Gate increased the political prestige of its builder – Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky. It was to demonstrate the importance, greatness and piety of the Vladimir Rus' and its new capital – the city of Vladimir.

**The ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Bishop's Palace** (13th – 19th centuries) is the heart of the ancient city of Suzdal, which arose in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The Kremlin is located in the oldest southwestern part of the town, in the bend of the Kamenka River, framed by earthen ramparts.



*The ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Bishop's Palace  
13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries*





The architectural ensemble is represented by the white stone Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin, the Bishops' Palace with the Refectory Church of Annunciation and the bell tower with the home church. All these constructions of religious and civil architecture are inscribed in the historical landscape that allows us to consider the architectural ensemble of the Kremlin a masterpiece of ancient Russian architecture and urban planning.

The oldest building of the Kremlin is the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin (1222-1225, 1528-1530-ies). The white stone Cathedral, originally three-domed (since 1528 - five-domed) was conceived as the main city cathedral and at the same time a princely shrine.

Fragments of wall paintings of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries have been preserved in the cathedral. A really invaluable pieces of ancient Russian history and art are the magnificent golden doors of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, made in the unique technique of "fire gilding" or «gold fusion», a multi-tiered iconostasis of the late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the burials of princely families and bishops.



*Archbishop's Palace and Annunciation Refectory Church», 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The Bishops' Palace is a unique monument of civil and ecclesiastical ancient Russian architecture, preserving the features of the traditional "wooden palace style". The

chambers were erected in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries as a complex building combining stone parts of different volume and height, roofed and open passages, tent-shape porches.

Special attention is drawn to the Cross Chamber – the solemn reception hall, which impresses by its size (more than 300 sq. m.) and the vaulted ceiling without any supporting pillars. Majestic passages connect the chambers with the bell tower of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**The Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymius** (16<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) is a large architectural ensemble, picturesquely located in the northern part of Suzdal on the high bank of the Kamenka River.

The monastery was founded in 1352 by Prince Boris Konstantinovich as an outpost of the Suzdal – Nizhny Novgorod Principality. Initially like the monastery cathedral the monastery had the name of Transfiguration of Our Savior. In 1507 the incorruptible relics of St Euthymius – the first prior of the monastery were unveiled. Since then the monastery became known as the Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymius.



*The Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymiu, 16<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The modern look of the Monastery was formed in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries when it was rebuilt in stone and became one of the richest Russian monasteries.



By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymius turned into a large architectural ensemble with thirteen religious and civil buildings.

A high brick wall runs around the monastery, its total perimeter is over 1160 meters. The wall was built as a real fortification – with battle galleries and twelve powerful tent towers.

The monastery played an important role in the church and political life of Suzdal and the Russian state as a whole.



*Transfiguration Cathedral, late 16<sup>th</sup> century*

The Cathedral of Transfiguration is the main building of the monastery. Its appearance reflects the ancient traditions of the Vladimir-Suzdal architectural school of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1689 the walls and vaulted ceilings of the cathedral were decorated with beautiful paintings by the greatest masters of frescoes and iconography Gury Nikitin and Sila Savin from the town of Kostroma.

All the buildings of the monastery ensemble have preserved their characteristic features and represent beautiful and rare examples of Old Russian monastic architecture of the Russian style as well as typical of the Suzdal architecture.



*Transfiguration Cathedral, late 16<sup>th</sup> century.  
Painting, XVII<sup>th</sup> century*

The Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymius is an outstanding example of a large Orthodox monastery now being one of the most popular tourist sites.

**The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky** (1158) is the only and most valuable monument of Russian civil architecture of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky – the largest statesman of Ancient Russia, who is considered in Russian history to be the founder of the idea of sovereignty (statehood), which later developed into the united Moscow state.

The Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky was located 10 km east of Vladimir and occupied the southern part of the ancient city of Bogolyubov standing on a high bank of the Klyazma River. In 1158-1165, a large-scale white stone construction started up in Bogolyubov which included a magnificent white stone palace which is a chain of

buildings stretching from north to south for 80 m. The center of the ensemble was the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin which was compared to the King Solomon temple in Jerusalem. The palace was surrounded by a fortress with earthen ramparts and stone wall.



*Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, 1158*

The basement of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and part of the staircase tower with a passage (the Prince's Palace) adjacent to the church from the north are the only original parts remaining.

Inside the church one can find round columns with attic bases – so unusual for Vladimir-Suzdal architecture. On the northern wall an elegant fringe of columns has survived, originally it decorated the main facades of the temple. Carved female masks and lion heads decorated the walls of the cathedral, three lion masks have been preserved on the western facade.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the collapsed church was rebuilt on the old basement. The remaining lower part of the staircase tower and the passage adjacent to the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin are a unique monument of Russian civil architecture of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.





*Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, 1158. Spiral staircase with a creeping vault*

Inside the tower there is a spiral stone staircase. The passage above the tower served as a link between the church and the living parts of the palace. A unique triple semicircular window has been preserved on the eastern façade of the passage. It is divided by two massive columns with leaf-type decorated capitals and bases in the shape of "lion claws" (similar to the bases of the columns of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin). The window serves a vivid example of Romanesque architecture, which testifies to the European influence on Vladimir-Suzdal architecture.

**The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb** (1152) is the first ancient monument of white-stone architecture of North-Eastern Russia which reflects the main features of the emerging architectural school of Vladimir-Suzdal existing in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The church is located in the village of Kideksha on the picturesque elevated bank of the Nerl' River at the confluence with the Kamenka River, five kilometers east of Suzdal. Here the first prince of Suzdal - Yuri Dolgoruky founded his fortified princely court.

The church is dedicated to the first Russian saints Boris and Gleb – the sons of Prince Vladimir the Baptizer, patrons of the princely family.



The church was conceived as the main cathedral of the fortified town of Kideksha on the eastern borders of the Suzdal Principality. Its boundary function reflected on the restraint of its exterior decor and simplicity of lines, especially in comparison to other white stone churches. Its smooth walls with narrow loophole windows give it the appearance of a fortress erected with an unusually high technical level of execution.



*The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb, 1152*

Inside the church you will enjoy the late 12<sup>th</sup> century frescoes, a unique omphalium located at the 12<sup>th</sup> century floor level. Under the choir gallery in the wall niches several representatives of the princely family of Yuri Dolgoruky were buried.

**The Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'** (1165) is the most perfect church created in Russia, the apex of creativity of Vladimir architects of the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, one of the greatest monuments of the world art.

The church served prototype of the St Demetrius Cathedral in Vladimir, it embodies the heyday of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality under Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky.

The location of the church is unique: the church was built right in the meadow flooded by spring floods every year. Being erected within a single summer period, standing on the confluence of two important rivers – Nerl' and Klyazma the church marked the intersection of water trade routes.



*Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl', 1165*

The church stands on top of a man-made hill, on a powerful foundation raised above the marking of the floods: the underground part of the church is 5.3 meters. With ages the riverbeds stepped away, but the church and the hill remained. Also remarkable is the fact that the church was never flooded even in the strongest flood.

Of all the Vladimir-Suzdal white-stone churches this is the smallest and most graceful: its total width is little more than 10 meters and its overall height is 20.8 meters.

Of the three dimensions forming the church volume the decisive preference is given to height. An unknown architect created the impression of weightlessness, grace, feminine slimness and fine proportions.

The church is decorated with beautiful stone carvings characteristic of the Vladimir-Suzdal architectural school.



The majestic beauty of the surrounding landscape complements the beauty of the creations of skilled craftsmen.



*Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl', 1165*



The church was consecrated in honor of a new religious holiday in Russia, introduced by Andrei Bogolyubsky – the Intercession of the Mother of God, who patronized the Vladimir land and its mighty prince.

## **Justification of the criteria**

### *Criterion (i):*

Architectural monuments and ensembles: Assumption Cathedral, St Demetrius Cathedral, Golden Gate – located in the historical center of the city of Vladimir; the Kremlin of Suzdal and the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin, the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius – in Suzdal; the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky – in Bogolyubovo, the Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl' near Bogolyubovo, the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha – represent the ancient Russian architectural heritage. Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architecture is a unique phenomenon in the world culture. It may be estimated as the highest manifestation of human creative genius. They represent an amazing synthesis of architecture and monumental art.

### *Criterion (ii):*

The white stone architecture of Vladimir and Suzdal which gave birth to a unique school of architecture, represents an strong line in the development and improvement of architectural forms and techniques of white stone construction. It reflects the importance of the development of history and culture in the North-Eastern Russia. The stone buildings of this period became an example to follow in further construction throughout the Russian history.

### *Criterion (iv):*

The white-stone monuments and architectural ensembles of the Vladimir-Suzdal school remain the outstanding examples of architectural creativity, perfect models of technical and construction skills that are in harmonious unity with the surrounding landscape. All the named constructions reflect the period of formation and heyday of white stone construction of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are also marked by extraordinary harmony and perfection of architectural forms.

## **Characteristics of integrity**

The WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" includes all the established attributes reflecting its outstanding universal value. Taking into account the dispersion of

monuments on the territory of the Vladimir region, the integrity of each individual component of the WHP is ensured by approved borders and protection zones. The status of especially valuable objects of cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation guarantees the highest degree of state protection of objects and allows them to ensure their safety and protection from negative factors.

### **Characteristics of authenticity**

The white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal are unique in their antiquity, authenticity of forms, preserve authentic white-stone structures, wall paintings, necropolises and objects of applied art in the interiors. The walls of the cathedrals are made of squares of white calcareous stone in a half-foot technique. The techniques of white stone construction intersected the traditions of the Romanesque style and Russian features. The white stone during the formation of the unified Russian state became an expression of the political unity of Russia. The monuments of the monastery are built of brick, but they preserve ancient Russian traditions and authentic architectural decoration techniques. Restoration works carried out at different time periods on the monuments were aimed at preserving authentic structures, using old construction methods, techniques, building materials such as white stone, lime mortar, large-sized brick, wood and metal. The monastery has preserved the planning structure of the territory, the replenishment of traditional plants is supported.

### **Protection and management**

White stone monuments and ensembles: Assumption Cathedral, St Demetrius Cathedral, Golden Gate in Vladimir; the Kremlin of Suzdal and the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin, the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius in Suzdal; the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the chambers of Andrei Bogolyubsky in Bogolyubovo; the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha, the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' are objects of cultural heritage (OCH), protected by the state. The monuments have been part of the Museum since 1958. In 1960 By the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the monuments were accepted for state protection, since 1995 – are OCH of federal significance. By the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation in 1998, they were included in the State Code of Especially Valuable Objects of Cultural

Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. The Museum, the Church – managing the components of the Property – together with the state protection authorities carry out effective protection of monuments by legal, financial and organizational measures on the basis of Federal legislation. Currently, seven of the eight components of the Property are under the operational management of the Museum, one – the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl’ – is in use by the Church.

The current state of preservation of the monuments is good. The Museum manages the properties aimed at their preservation, monitors the condition of the monuments and territories, regulates tourist visiting.

The Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir, the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin in Bogolyubovo, the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin in Suzdal are used by the Museum together with the Church. The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl’ is 100% under the administration of the Vladimir Diocese of the Church. The management of the monuments as Museum objects with the implementation of conservation and accessibility measures, as well as church use, fills the properties with authenticity and antiquity.

As a result of recent restoration work the white stone walls and carvings of the cathedrals are protected from atmospheric influence. The necessary climatic conditions (temperature and humidity) are properly maintained in the Abbot’s Residence (since 2001), the Cathedral of Transfiguration (since 2003) and the St. Nicholas Church (since 2020) in the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, in the St Demetrius Cathedral, the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb (since 2012). In the Assumption Cathedral (since 2006), the climate-regulating system provides the preservation of the unique early 15<sup>th</sup> century frescoes by Andrei Rublev, later paintings, decorative and applied art objects. The climate of the Assumption cathedral is monitored both by the Museum staff and by the GosNIIR research institution. All the preservation and protection works about the white stone structures, facades white stone carving, monumental painting in the Assumption cathedral are carried out according to the techniques approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

Periodic reports on the Property were made twice – in 2005-2006 and 2014-2015. The reactive monitoring missions were never sent to observe the Property, the World Heritage Center has never requested the preservation state reports.

In 2017 the World Heritage Center sent a request to the Russian side regarding the events to be held in Suzdal in connection with the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suzdal in 2024. In this regard, the Russian side keeps contact with the World Heritage Center and informs about upcoming projects on urban improvement and tourism development.



## **METHODOLOGY OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

The format of management plans for natural heritage properties in Russia was introduced much earlier than for cultural properties. In 2004 by order of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, Methodological Recommendations were developed for the development of management plans for specially protected natural territories within the World Natural Heritage properties and management plans were developed for most World Natural Heritage properties in Russia within 10 years.

The situation was different with the cultural objects management plan.

In 2013 the information guide "Management of World Cultural Heritage Properties" was published, developed under the guidance of ICCROM in cooperation with ICOMOS, IUCN and the World Heritage Center. This guide continued the theme of the information guide on the management of World Natural Heritage properties (released in June 2012) and supplemented it. This new guide provides specific recommendations on the specifics of the World Cultural Heritage management of World Cultural Heritage properties and contains useful links to existing approaches and examples in this area.

As for the national legislation, the issue of the methodology for developing management plans for OCH at the level of the Ministry of Culture of Russia has not yet been settled. Nevertheless, the information management allowed us to intensify work at the level of management organizations, despite the absence of a Russian regulatory field.

In accordance with paragraphs 108-109 of Section 2F of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, each nominated property must have an appropriate PMP or other documented management system that determines how the outstanding universal value of the property should be preserved, preferably through the active participation of various parties. The purpose of the management system is to ensure effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations.

The presence/absence of plans is checked by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee within the framework of periodic reporting – a regular procedure for reporting States parties on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972.

The next (third) cycle of periodic reporting for Russia comes in 2023. In 2017 specialists of the Russian Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage attempted to develop a PMP for the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" (finalized in accordance with the recommendations of NC ICOMOS, Russia, in 2018). The Management Plan (corrected in 2022) is valid till 2038.

## **THE PMP CONCEPT AND ITS MAIN PROVISIONS**

The PMP concept is based on the integration strategy: conservation – development – management. It is based on the idea that ensuring the physical preservation of monuments is not the only objective, but involving the Property in cultural circulation, preserving the surrounding cultural and natural landscape, and this is possible only in conditions of effective and sustainable management.

The cornerstone of the concept of the Management Plan of the Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" is the priority of preserving its outstanding universal value. All the provisions of the PMP and the activities proposed in it are aimed at achieving this goal.

Thus, the complex preservation of the Property includes a combination of three elements:

- 1) preservation of the Property OUV;
- 2) sustainable development of the territories of the Property components;
- 3) management of all aspects of activities carried out on the territory of the Property components and in their immediate vicinity.

The PMP considers the Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" as the core of an integral socially-oriented museum and tourist complex (cluster) of the Museum. It also offers various forms of interaction between the interested parties, ranging from scientific research and independent study of the Property components, from museification and liturgical use to cultural, recreational and business tourism, as well as pilgrimage, accompanied by sightseeing services and all necessary infrastructure. Taking this into account, the preservation, study and popularization of the WHP "White Monuments of

Vladimir and Suzdal" will become the main factor in the sustainable development of the territory not only of the Property, but also of the entire Vladimir region.

*The purpose of the PMP development* is to ensure the preservation and effective use of the outstanding universal value of the Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal".

*The Management Plan objectives are:*

- preservation of the OUV of the Property and its components;
- strengthening the role of the Property as a factor of sustainable development of the Property territory and its immediate surroundings;
- formation of public consensus on the conservation, use and sustainable development of the Property;
- improving the efficiency of Property management;
- increasing the socio-cultural significance of the Property.

*Principles of developing a management plan:*

- an integrated approach;
- involvement of stakeholders;
- phased implementation;
- regular monitoring of implementation.

*The PMP consists of 9 sections.*

The introduction and section 1 of the Management Plan ("Analysis and evaluation of the Property OUV") are devoted to the general characteristics of the Property, the methodology for developing a Management Plan, the analysis of the Property OUV, including in terms of authenticity, integrity and compliance with UNESCO criteria, as well as the allocation of attributes of the OUV.

The second section of the PMP provides an analysis of the current state of preservation and use of the according to such indicators as: the degree of preservation,

technical condition, the state of the regulatory legal framework, the environment of the Property components, the level of popularization. The same section lists the factors influencing the change in the current state of the Property and its OUV, determines the dynamism of these factors, identifies factors that positively and negatively affect the Property and its outstanding universal value, contains information about the availability and effectiveness of the existing threat prevention system.

The third section provides the PMS analysis, including issues of financing and staffing.

The fourth section contains a SWOT analysis of the management system.

The fifth section formulates the strategic objectives and strategy of the Management Plan, in particular:

- preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Property;
- promotion of sustainable development of the territory;
- strengthening governance and coordination mechanisms;
- increasing the socio-cultural significance of the Property.

The sixth section contains information on the mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Management Plan.

The seventh section is devoted to the resource support of the Management Plan.

The eighth and ninth sections contain programs of measures for the implementation of the Management Plan – a short-term program (until the end of 2027) and a long-term program (2028-2038).

Such structure of Management Plan is standard for Russian World Heritage properties and is widely used abroad.

The principle of transparency in the intentions and activities of all stakeholders is key to the development and implementation of a Management Plan. The document offers mechanisms for monitoring the PMP implementation and quality control of its implementation. These procedures should be repeated annually in order to control the fidelity of the selected tools for the effective preservation of the OUV, integrity and authenticity of the Property.

The plan is executed in a format that allows all interested parties to get a clear idea of the state of the Property and its components, about the planned tools for the sustainable development of the Property in the near future.

For the PMP development they used the experience of Russian organizations managing World Heritage properties, in particular the Kizhi Museum-Reserve, the Sviyazhsk Island-Grad Museum-Reserve, the Solovetsky Monastery and Museum, and others, international and domestic legal acts, reference materials, data from the first and second cycles of periodic reportings.

# **1. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY**

## **1.1. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSCRIBING OF THE PROPERTY ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

The object "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 16th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee No. CONF 002 X.A (Santa Fe, USA, December 6-14, 1992). The registration number of the Object is 633.

A team of experts of the Vladimir State Restoration Centre "Vladimirrestavratsiya" worked out the set of documents to inscribe the most outstanding monuments of the Vladimir region on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The experts were: Alexander Skvortsov (team leader), Magdalina Gladkaya and Vladimir Mikhalkin (researchers of architectural monuments), Nikita Demijanov (architect).

Initially, the property name for the nomination sounded like "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal, the city of Suzdal and the Church of Boris and Gleb in Kideksha." The documents were sent to the World Heritage Center in October 1991, but later, in March 1992, the Russian Permanent Mission in UNESCO appealed to ICOMOS, which was considering the nomination dossier, with a proposal to divide the single nomination into two: "The Historical Center of Vladimir and the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl" and "Suzdal" ("Monuments and the historical center of Suzdal").

ICOMOS rejected the proposal of the Russian part, referring to the fact that the value of the nomination is in individual monuments, and not in the urban historical ensemble:

*"Taking in consideration the application, ICOMOS and the Bureau consider it expedient to abandon the complex property, which includes a large number of monuments of truly unique world significance and monuments of much lesser cultural and historical value, to ask the Russian authorities to include in the nomination five objects in Vladimir, four in Suzdal and the church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha. At the same time, the buffer zone will de facto remain approximately the same and will include other cultural and historical monuments of lesser value."*

It was also recommended to postpone the consideration of the nomination until the Russian authorities formulate a new name.

In their review of the nomination dossier, ICOMOS experts also pointed to a sufficient degree of preservation and legal protection of the monuments of Suzdal, but were not completely satisfied with the situation with the Vladimir monuments due to the lack of approved protection zones. There were also concerns about the development of the Vladimir urban area and the possible negative human-induced influence. Experts also noted the lack of a unified MP for the property.

Despite the ambiguous response of ICOMOS, the serial property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" (8 components) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List by the Decision of the 16th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which was held in Santa Fe (USA) in December 1992.

On February 27-28, 1993, celebrations dedicated to the inscribing of white stone monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List were held in Vladimir and Suzdal.



*Celebrations dedicated to the inclusion of the white stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The beginning of the presentation of monuments of white stone architecture at the Golden Gate. 1993  
(photo from the funds of the Museum)*

Since the Property was added to the World Heritage List, no separate decisions have been taken on it, what indicates a normal situation and the absence of fundamental claims on the part of UNESCO.



## **1.2. FEATURES OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE TYPOLOGY PROPOSED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (SERIAL PROPERTY)**

The Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" is a serial nomination: The property consists of 8 components having certain cultural, functional and social links.

In accordance with article 137 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention:

Nominated serial property includes two or more component parts related by clearly defined links:

a) Component parts should reflect cultural, social or functional links over time that provide, where relevant, landscape, ecological, evolutionary or habitat connectivity.

b) Each component part should contribute to the OUV of the nominated property as a whole in a substantial, scientific, readily defined and discernible way, and may include, inter alia, intangible attributes. The resulting OUV should be easily understood and communicated.

c) Consistently, and in order to avoid an excessive fragmentation of component parts, the process of nomination of the property, including the selection of the component parts, should take fully into account the overall manageability and coherence of the nominated property.

and provided the series as a whole – and not necessarily its individual component parts – is of Outstanding Universal Value.

A feature of the serial nomination as a category of WHP is also the need to establish boundaries and a buffer zone for each component of the WHP separately.

## **1.3. PERIODIC REPORTS 2005-2006, 2014-2015 (IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS) AND RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY**

The property participated in periodic reporting twice – in 2005-2006 and 2014-2015.

According to the results of the first cycle of periodic reporting (2005-2006), it was noted:

- insufficient elaboration of the statement about the property OUV in terms of formulations;
- lack of information on the buffer zones of the property;
- lack of funding;
- lack of specialized educational and professional development programs for employees of the managing organization and interested parties;
- lack of statistics on visitors;
- insufficient awareness of the status of the property, rare use of the World Heritage emblem;
- non-participation of local communities in the management of the property;
- lack of monitoring programs and regular control.

At the same time, among the positive aspects were noted:

- adequate state of preservation of the property;
- allocation of funds for the restoration of the components of the property (2004 budget);
- qualified personnel in the field of visitor management and heritage interpretation;
- availability of hospitality infrastructure – hotels, tour offices, guides, souvenir shops;
- awareness of the status of the property by visitors, local authorities and the business community.

The main threats to the property were an increase in human-induced influence due to tourism and development of the territory, as well as natural and climatic factors.

The main recommendations based on the results of the first cycle of periodic reporting related to the improvement of the management system, staff training, involvement of stakeholders and local communities, as well as monitoring on a regular basis.

According to the results of the second cycle of periodic reporting (2014-2015), along with the previous shortcomings (lack of funding, lack of buffer zones, problems with employee training), it was noted:

- gaps in legislation regarding work with WHP;

- insufficient level of coordination between various administrative structures and federal, regional and local levels of government;
- imperfection of the property management system.

Along with these problems, progress was noted in the development of the property OUV, raising awareness of the local community and improving the monitoring system.

#### **1.4. RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY**

A retrospective inventory is a clarification of the object composition of a WHP, its external boundaries (the boundaries of individual components), the boundaries of the adjacent buffer zone, geographical coordinates, the area of the properties in hectares.

The nomination dossier should contain a detailed description of the boundaries of the property itself, its individual components, and/or, for complex serial cluster properties, and the boundaries of the buffer zone adjacent to the property. It is important to correctly reflect the size of the property (area) and its geographical coordinates. The dossier should also include relevant cartographic materials made in strict compliance with the requirements of the World Heritage Center.

However, as the inventory studies of the World Heritage Center show, for a number of properties – at the time of their nomination – the composition and boundaries were not clearly defined. This vagueness made it difficult for all further work with the property: for example, when identifying new clusters (serial properties), when increasing or reducing the area of the property, when establishing a buffer zone, etc.

In 2004, the UNESCO World Heritage Center (the Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee) initiated the implementation of the project "Retrospective Inventory", which is an in-depth analysis of the nomination dossiers of the properties included in the World Heritage List in the period from 1978 to 1998.

##### ***Boundaries of the Property***

The UN (UNESCO) Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, recognizing the sovereignty of each country, obliges the country party to the

Convention to clearly define the boundaries of UNESCO heritage properties in accordance with national legislation.

It is important to emphasize that clarifying the boundaries of a WHP within the framework of a retrospective inventory means fixing the situation at the time of inclusion of the property in the World Heritage List. If recently, for example, new property protection zones have been approved that differ from the buffer zone declared when the buffer zone was included, within the framework of a retrospective inventory, it is necessary to first provide updated cartographic materials relevant at the time the property was added to the List, and then apply for a minor change in the boundaries of the property or its buffer zone.

*The need for retrospective clarification of the boundaries of WHP may be caused by the following main reasons:*

*1) The property is well delimited, clearly identified on the ground, but the maps in the dossier turned out to be poorly designed and simplified (which was especially often manifested in the very first years of the List formation, at the end-1970-1980- xx, i.e. with the available technical capabilities of that time when the digital format was not yet used). For example, maps could be made not in color, at a fairly simple artistic and graphic level, without proper geodetic reference to coordinate systems.*

*In these cases, it is necessary to draw up maps that meet the modern requirements of the World Heritage Center.*

*2) The boundaries of the property are not completely clear on the map, even if it is made at a sufficiently high level – because of a fuzzy and confusing map legend, because of incorrectly selected color and graphic solutions, etc.*

*In such cases, it is necessary to make maps that meet modern requirements, with a clearly readable legend and an unambiguously established visual line – the outer boundary of the heritage site.*

*3) At the time of submission of the nomination dossier the boundaries of the property were not allocated at all, there were no maps in the dossier.*

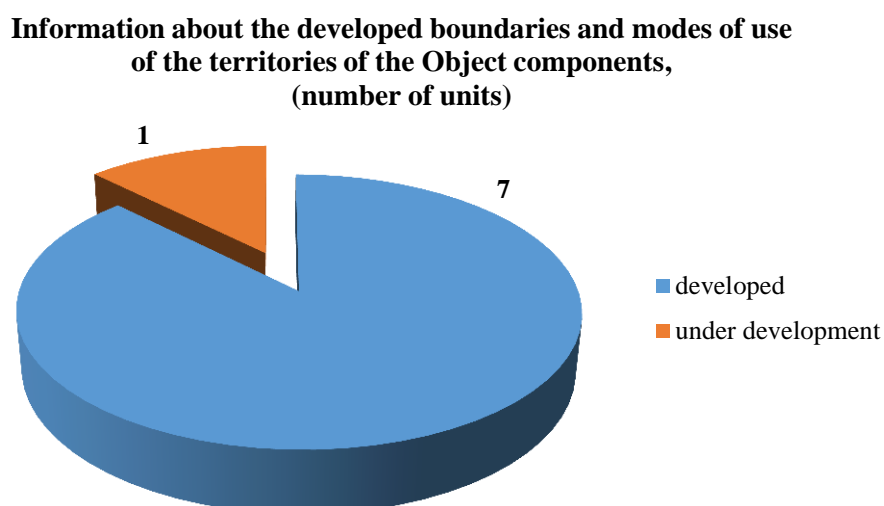
*In these cases, it is required not only to provide technically perfect maps, but first of all to make (if this has not been done) a clear delimitation of the property itself.*

Among the requirements to the maps provided, the following can be noted: a topographic medium-large-scale map is preferable for large-area properties, a large-scale cadastral map (urban planning plan level) is preferable for urban planning and

architectural properties. Maps must have a system of geographical coordinates, oriented in the north-south system, have a clear indication of the scale; they should clearly visualize the main boundaries of the heritage property itself, its individual clusters, as well as the buffer zone; the borders should be drawn with a clear thin line – different colors for the property and its buffer zone. In the case of serial properties ("White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" – serial nomination), several maps must be provided, including: a general map with the location of all the components of the nomination and several maps showing individual components.

When nominating the WHP «White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal» in 1992, very schematic maps were sent to the World Heritage Center.

Currently, the boundaries and modes of use of the territory have been established for 7 components of the Property, the coordinates of characteristic (turning) points in the local coordinate system MSK-33 have been determined (with the exception of the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir – the boundaries are in development at the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation) (see Table 3).



In accordance with clause 7 of Article 3.1. of Federal Law No. 73-FZ of 25.06.2002 "About cultural heritage sites (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation" information on the boundaries of the territories of 4 components:

1. "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin" and "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky", 1158 (Bogolyubovo village);

2. "Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'", 1165 (Bogolyubovo village);

3. "Architectural Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Archbishop's Palace", 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Suzdal);

4. "Church of Sts Boris and Gleb", 1152 (village of Kideksha)

– the Unified State Register of Real Estate (EGRN) were entered in accordance with the requirement of Federal Law No. 218-FZ of 13.07.2015 "About State registration of real estate".

Regarding the boundaries of the territories of the 3 components:

1. "Golden Gate", 1164 (Vladimir);

2. "St Demetrius Cathedral", 1197 (Vladimir);

3. "Architectural Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", 16<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Suzdal)

– the work is underway on the formation of XML-schemes for their further referral to the territorial administration of Rosreestr (Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography).

*Table 3*

*Information about the developed boundaries and modes of use of the territory of the components of the Property*

<b>Component number</b>	<b>Component Name</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage Property, Address</b>	<b>Boundaries Establishing Document</b>	<b>Data in Rosreestr</b>
633-001	Cathedral of the Assumption	- «Assumption Cathedral», 1158-1160, 1186-1189 component of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of the Assumption Cathedral», 1158-1160 years, 1186-1189 years, 1810 year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 56	In development at the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation	—
633-002	The Golden Gate	«Golden Gate», 1164 Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 1a	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2229 dated 17.12.2018	Underway on the formation of XML-schemes for their further referral to the territorial administration of Rosreestr
633-003	The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo (Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Staircase Tower of the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	- «Church of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1158 - «Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky», 1158. components of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of Bogolyubovo Convent». Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Str., 51v, building 1, 2	Order of the State Inspection for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Vladimir Region Administration No. 440-01-05 dated 12/16/2014	Index in Rosreestr 33:05-8.13
633-004	Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'	«Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'», 1165 Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Right bank of the River Nerl', 1,5 km south-east from Bogolyubovo village	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1116 dated 23.04.2015	Index in Rosreestr 33:05-8.12 (reference number 33.05.0.12)
633-005	Cathedral of St Demetrius	«St Demetrius Cathedral», 1197 Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 60	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 358 dated 29.03.2019	Underway on the formation of XML-schemes for their further referral to the territorial administration of Rosreestr



633-006	Kremlin of Suzdal and Cathedral of the Nativity	- «Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1222 - 1225, 1528 - 1530-s years; - «Archbishop's Palace and Annunciation Refectory Church», 16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries; components of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace», 13 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1909 dated 06.11.2018	Index in Rosreestr 33:22-8.161
633-007	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius,	« <i>Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius</i> », 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1731 dated 05.10.2018	Underway on the formation of XML-schemes for their further referral to the territorial administration of Rosreestr
633-008	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	«Church of Sts Boris and Gleb», 1152 component of the Cultural Heritage Property «Group of Churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha», 1152 – 17 <sup>th</sup> century. Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2g	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 158 dated 15.02.2019	Index in Rosreestr 33:05-8.55

## **1.5. RETROSPECTIVE FORMULATION OF THE OUV OF THE PROPERTY "WHITE MONUMENTS OF VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL"**

The formulation of OUV is one of the most important documents for a WHP, which should ensure a clear and common understanding by all interested parties of the reasons for the inclusion of the property in the World Heritage List. The description justifies that a property has OUV and determines to what extent it meets the criteria developed by the World Heritage Committee, the conditions of integrity and *authenticity*, as well as how the Property meets the requirements of protection and management.

A retrospective formulation of OUV is a document prepared for properties included in the World Heritage List before 2005.

The Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention (2005) prescribe the requirement to prepare the description of the OUV as part of the nomination dossier:

*Paragraph 51. At the time of inscribing of a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee adopts a Statement of OUV which will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.*

*Paragraph 154. When deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee, guided by the Advisory Bodies, adopts a Statement of OUV for the property.*

Retrospective formulations should reflect the OUV for the property at the time of its inscription in the World Heritage List and be based on the relevant decision of the World Heritage Committee, supported by the assessment of advisory bodies, and on the nomination dossier submitted by the State party. The retrospective formulations of the OUV are approved by the World Heritage Committee.

*The main sections of the OUV formulation are:*

*a. brief synthesis (content);*

*b. justification of the criteria;*

*c. characteristics of integrity (for all properties);*

*d. characteristics of authenticity (only for cultural properties nominated according to criteria I to VI);*

*e. requirements for protection and management.*

The retrospective formulation of the for the property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" was prepared by the Russian side in 2014, however, due to technical difficulties, it was sent to the World Heritage Center and considered by ICOMOS only in 2015.

The original version of the wording contained a significant descriptive part, which did not suit ICOMOS experts.

The updated retrospective formulation of the OUV for the Property is presented further in the text.

The retrospective formulation of the OUV of the property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" was approved in 2017 at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, Poland, 2-12 July 2017) by decision 41 COM 8E (annex to document WHC/17/41.COM/8E).

### **Criteria for the inscription of the Property on the UNESCO World Heritage List: i, ii, iv**

The property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" is inscribed on the World Heritage List according to three criteria: (i), (ii), (iv).

#### *Justification of criteria*

##### *Criterion (i):*

The white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal are outstanding examples of ancient Russian architecture. These white-stone structures are a unique phenomenon, incorporating the best work of creative master-minds and presenting an amazing synthesis of architecture and monumental art.

##### *Criterion (ii):*

The white-stone architecture of Vladimir and Suzdal is an outstanding example of the development and perfection of architectural forms and white-stone building techniques which formed a unique school of architecture. This influential style began and achieved its greatest expression here and illustrates a most important stage of human history and culture in the North-Eastern Rus'. Widely used as an example for subsequent construction

throughout Russian history, they set a standard as a benchmark of architectural beauty and expressiveness of Russian ecclesiastical architecture.

*Criterion (iv):*

The white-stone monuments and architectural ensembles of the Vladimir-Suzdal School of Architecture are outstanding examples of architectural creativity, perfect examples of technical and construction art, in harmonious unity with the surrounding natural landscape. They reflect the period of formation and heyday of white stone construction of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and are marked by extraordinary harmony and perfection of architectural forms.

**RETROSPECTIVE FORMULATION OF THE OUV FOR THE WHP  
"WHITE MONUMENTS OF VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL"**

*Brief synthesis*

The ancient cities of Vladimir and Suzdal, which were at the head of the Old Russian Vladimir-Suzdal Principality in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, are located in the center of the European part of Russia about 200 km east of Moscow 30 km distant from each other. At that time, there was its own architectural and art school, the white-stone monuments of which are unique architectural works that are part of the treasury of Russian culture.

8 real masterpieces of this school are the architectural monuments that make up the serial nomination "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal": Assumption Cathedral, St Demetrius Cathedral, Golden Gate in Vladimir; the Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl' and the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin with a staircase tower in the village of Bogolyubovo, near Vladimir; the Kremlin with the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius in Suzdal; the church of Sts Boris and Gleb in the village of Kideksha, near Suzdal.

**The Assumption Cathedral** (1158-1160, 1186-1189) is one of the oldest Russian churches. Its importance for the Russian medieval art and history may be expressed in different ways: shrine of the Russian Orthodox Church, witness to the most important historical events, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century necropolis of Vladimir grand-princes and bishops, a repository of unique ancient frescoes of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, the only place with

documented and dated frescoes of the 15<sup>th</sup> century by the famous icon painter Andrei Rublev. The monumental, solemn and ascetic five-domed cathedral, built on the territory of the ancient Kremlin, has preserved the authentic forms of 1189. The facades are decorated with modest carvings. The iconostasis of 1774 – a fine example of the Baroque style.

**The Golden Gate** (1164) is the only white-stone example of the ancient Russian fortification of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, erected by the masters of Vladimir-Suzdal architecture. The Golden Gate was part of a powerful defensive urban system and was its central and most important structure. The monumental architecture of the monument harmoniously combines several meanings: a high triumphal arch – the entrance to ancient Vladimir from the west side, a combat tower with two combat platforms and a small gate church in honor of the Virgin, made in features characteristic of Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architecture.

**St Demetrius Cathedral** (1197) is a princely reliquary church dedicated to St. Demetrius of Thessalonica. The facades of the cathedral are decorated with more than 1500 carved stones, which glorify the beauty and perfection of the world created according to the laws of divine harmony, they assert the idea of the superiority of princely power – the God-chosen, righteous and wise. The subjects of white stone carvings served as models for relief plasticity of architectural objects of subsequent times. The interior has preserved unique fragments of authentic frescoes of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, created by Byzantine and Russian masters.

**The Princely Residence in Bogolyubovo** (1165) is the only monument of civil architecture of the 12<sup>th</sup> century representing a fragment of the palace of the Prince of Vladimir, the largest statesman of Ancient Russia – Andrei Bogolyubsky. It includes the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the ancient foundation, and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky (part of the staircase tower with a passage). Inside the church one can find round columns with attic bases – so unusual for Vladimir-Suzdal architecture. The architectural design of the tower and the stairway is a vivid example of Romanesque architecture, which testifies to the European influence on Vladimir-Suzdal architecture.



**The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'** (1165) is the most perfect church created in Russia, the apex of creativity of Vladimir architects of the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, one of the greatest monuments of the world art. Of all the Vladimir-Suzdal white-stone temples this is the smallest and most graceful. The location of the temple is unique: the church was built right in the meadow flooded by spring floods every year. Being erected within a single summer period, standing on the confluence of two important rivers – Nerl' and Klyazma the church marked the intersection of water trade routes. The church served prototype of the St Demetrius Cathedral in Vladimir, it embodies the heyday of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality under Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky. The temple is decorated with beautiful stone carvings characteristic of the Vladimir-Suzdal architectural school. The majestic beauty of the surrounding landscape complements the beauty of the creations of skilled craftsmen.

**The Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Bishop's Palace (the Suzdal Kremlin)** is represented by the white stone Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin, the Bishops' Palace with the Refectory Church of Annunciation and the bell tower with the home church. All these constructions of religious and civil architecture are inscribed in the historical landscape that allows us to consider the architectural ensemble of the Kremlin a masterpiece of ancient Russian architecture and urban planning. Fragments of wall paintings of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries have been preserved in the cathedral. A really invaluable pieces of ancient Russian history and art are the magnificent golden doors of the early 13th century, made in the unique technique of "fire gilding" or «gold fusion», a multi-tiered iconostasis of the late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the burials of princely families and bishops.

**The Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymius** (16<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) is a large architectural ensemble with thirteen religious and civil buildings. The Cathedral of Transfiguration is the main building of the monastery. Its appearance reflects the ancient traditions of the Vladimir-Suzdal architectural school of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In 1689 the walls and vaulted ceilings of the cathedral were decorated with beautiful paintings by the greatest masters of frescoes and iconography Gury Nikitin and Sila Savin from the town of Kostroma. All the buildings of the monastery ensemble have preserved their characteristic

features and represent beautiful and rare examples of Old Russian monastic architecture of the Russian style as well as typical of the Suzdal architecture.

**The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb** (1152) is one of the first ancient monuments of white–stone architecture of North-Eastern Russia which reflects the main features of the emerging architectural school of Vladimir-Suzdal existing in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The church is dedicated to the first Russian saints Boris and Gleb – the sons of Prince Vladimir the Baptizer, patrons of the princely family. The church was conceived as the main cathedral of the fortified town of Kideksha on the eastern borders of the Suzdal Principality. Its boundary function reflected on the restraint of its exterior decor and simplicity of lines, especially in comparison to other white stone churches. Inside the church you will enjoy the late 12<sup>th</sup> century frescoes, a unique omphalium located at the 12<sup>th</sup> century floor level.

The following features are characteristic of the original architecture of the Vladimir-Suzdal land: masonry made of white limestone cubes (hence the name – "white stone monuments"), refinement of proportions, fine stone carving, external lightness of buildings and the ability of ancient architects to fit perfectly their buildings into the surrounding urban and natural landscape. The monuments are unique in their antiquity, original architectural forms, historical connection with the founders of the Russian statehood – the largest figures of the Middle Ages – Yuri Dolgoruky, Andrei Bogolyubsky, Vsevolod the Big Nest and George Vsevolodovich.

### ***The integrity***

The Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" includes all the established attributes reflecting its outstanding universal value. Taking into account the dispersion of monuments on the territory of the Vladimir region, the integrity of each individual component of the WHP is ensured by approved borders and protection zones. The status of especially valuable sites of cultural heritage of the Russian Federation guarantees the highest degree of the state protection for the sites and allows to provide their continuous preservation and protection.

### ***Authenticity***

The white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal are unique in their antiquity, authenticity of forms, preserve original white-stone structures, fresco paintings, necropolises and objects of applied art in their interiors. The walls of the cathedrals are made of cubes of white calcareous stone in stone-faced rubble masonry technique. The techniques of white stone construction intersected the traditions of the Romanesque style and Russian features. The white stone during the formation of the unified Russian state became an expression of the political unity of Russia. The monuments of the Monastery Our Savior and St Euthymius are built of brick, but they preserve ancient Russian traditions and authentic architectural decoration techniques. Restoration works carried out in different periods on the monuments were aimed at preserving authentic structures, using old construction methods, techniques, building materials such as white stone, lime mortar, large-sized brick, wood and metal. The monastery has preserved its historical layout.

### ***Protection and management***

Since 1958 white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal remain the part of the Museum. In 1960 the monuments were taken under the state protection; since 1995 they were declared objects of cultural heritage of the Federal significance; in 1998 they were inscribed on the State Register of the Sites of Cultural Heritage of the Russian Federation of Outstanding Value. In accordance with federal laws the Museum, the Church together with state protection bodies carry out effective protection of objects by legislative, financial and organizational measures (Federal Laws №73-FZ dated 25.06.2002, №327-FZ dated 30.11.2010, Russian Government Decree № 972 dated 12.09.2015 and other regulatory legal documents that currently regulate urban development and use of land within the boundaries of the WHP). The legislative protection, the system of protection zones and land use regimes are being improved in order to protect some of the components of the Property.

The current state of preservation of the monuments is good. The Museum together with the Church manage the components of the property aimed at their preservation, monitor the condition of the monuments and territories, regulate tourist visiting. The Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir, the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin in

Bogolyubovo, the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin in Suzdal are used by the Museum together with the Church. The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is 100% under the administration of the Orthodox Church. The management of the monuments as Museum objects with the implementation of conservation and accessibility measures, as well as church use, fills the properties with authenticity and antiquity.

As a result of recent restoration work the white stone walls and carvings of the cathedrals are protected from atmospheric influence. The necessary climatic conditions (temperature and humidity) are properly maintained in the Abbot's Palace (since 2001), the Cathedral of Transfiguration (since 2003) and the St. Nicholas Church (since 2020) in the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, in the St Demetrius Cathedral, the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb (since 2012). In the Assumption Cathedral (since 2006), the climate-regulating system provides the preservation of the unique early 15<sup>th</sup> century frescoes by Andrei Rublev, later paintings, decorative and applied art objects. The climate of the Assumption cathedral is monitored both by the museum staff and by the State Research Institute of Restoration (GosNIIR). All the preservation and protection works about the white stone structures, facades white stone carving, monumental painting in the Assumption cathedral are carried out according to the techniques approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

## **1.6. ATTRIBUTES OF THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY**

The formulation of the outstanding universal value of the WHP describes the key features of the object that served the basis for its inscription into the World Heritage List. However, in order to effectively monitor the preservation of the outstanding universal value and assess the impact on the outstanding universal value of restoration or construction projects in accordance with article 172 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the World Heritage, it is necessary to identify individual attributes of the outstanding universal value – characteristic features reflecting the specifics of the property and subject to conservation and monitoring.

Attributes can be tangible and intangible. Attribute is a broader concept than the individual elements of the property, it includes characteristics that convey the values of the property, highlighted in the formulation of its outstanding universal value.

Depending on the type of the property and its cultural context, attributes can be of the following type:

- form and idea;
- materials and substances;
- usage and functions;
- traditions, methods and management systems;
- location and environment;
- language and other forms of intangible heritage;
- spiritual and physical perception;
- other internal and external factors.

The allocation of the attributes of the outstanding universal value is extremely important for building a system of property protection and management, creating a system for monitoring the state of its preservation, as well as for assessing the impact on the outstanding universal value of new construction and restoration projects.

The concepts of "formulation of outstanding universal value" and its "attributes" are not directly written in the Russian legislation. The "subject of protection" can be considered as an approximate Russian analogue of these terms.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 18 of Federal Law No. 73-FZ dated 25.06.2002 "About the objects of cultural heritage (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation", the subject of protection of a cultural heritage property is a description of the features of the property that are the grounds for its inscription into the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Properties (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of Peoples Of the Russian Federation and subject to obligatory preservation.

Security items have been approved for all components of the Property (see Table 4).



*Table 4*  
*Information about approved subject of protection for the components of the Property*

<b>Component number</b>	<b>Component Name</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage Property, Address</b>	<b>Subject of Protection Establishing Document</b>
633-001	Cathedral of the Assumption	- «Assumption Cathedral», 1158-1160, 1186-1189 y. component of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of the Assumption Cathedral», 1158-1160 years, 1186-1189 years, 1810 year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 56	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 977 dated 06/16/2021 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Assumption Cathedral"
633-002	The Golden Gate	«Golden Gate», 1164 y. Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 1a	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 05.11.2014 No. 1854 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Golden Gate"
633-003	The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo (Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Staircase Tower of the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	- «Church of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1158 y. - «Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky», 1158 y. components of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of Bogolyubovo Convent». Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Str., 51v, building 1, 2	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 378 dated 03.04.2019 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin" Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 393 dated 08.04.2019 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky"
633-004	Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'	«Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'», 1165 y. Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Right bank of the River Nerl', 1,5 km south-east from Bogolyubovo village	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2180 dated 22.12.2017 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'"
633-005	Cathedral of St Demetrius	«St Demetrius Cathedral», 1197 y. Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 60	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 05.11.2014 No. 1856 "On approval of the subject of protection of the cultural heritage object of Federal significance "St Demetrius Cathedral"
633-006	Kremlin of Suzdal and Cathedral of the	- «Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1222 - 1225, 1528 - 1530-s years;	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 323 dated 03/16/2021 "On approval of the subject of

	Nativity	- «Archbishop's Palace and Annunciation Refectory Church», 16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries; components of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace», 13 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20	protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and Bishop's House"
633-007	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius,	«Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 767 dated 03.12.2021 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius"
633-008	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	«Church of Sts Boris and Gleb», 1152 y. component of the Cultural Heritage Property «Group of Churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha», 1152 y. – 17 <sup>th</sup> century. Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2g	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2181 dated 22.12.2017 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb"

Unlike the attributes of the outstanding universal value, the subject of protection is associated exclusively with the material characteristics of the Property.

Since the nomination "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" is serial, the definition of the general attributes of the Property OUV was done the Property Management Plan. Besides, the allocation of individual attributes of the OUV in relation to each component of the Property was done as well. The approved items of protection served as an important source of information for highlighting the attributes of the OUV. At the same time, an important emphasis is also placed on the urban value of the WHP and its intangible significance.

All the attributes of the Property are formed in accordance with three categories of value: architectural, urban planning and intangible.

### 1.6.1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OUV

*Table 5*  
*General attributes and components of the outstanding universal value*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition of ensembles and separate buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- memorial and burial structures</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- interiors</li> <li>- frescoes</li> <li>- monumental painting, white stone carving</li> <li>- decoration items</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> </ul>
	4. Archaeological objects and items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ancient graffiti and personal marks of craftsmen, etc.</li> <li>- items of decoration discovered during excavations</li> </ul>
Urban planning	5. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape property location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/ historical visual prospective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
Intangible	6. Sound background as an element of cultural landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- silence, wild nature sounds</li> </ul>
	7. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- preserved elements of traditional culture</li> </ul>

### **1.6.2. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE PROPERTY AND THE ALLOCATION OF ATTRIBUTES OF OUV IN RELATION TO EACH COMPONENT**

#### **Assumption Cathedral**

The Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir stands out among other white-stone buildings by the monumentality of its architectural forms, the value of its frescoes, as well as its special significance in the history of Russian culture. The Assumption Cathedral was built in the new capital of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality and the center of the Russian Metropolis, it became not only the cathedral of ancient Vladimir, but also for a certain period the main temple of the Russian Orthodox Church. The important role of the cathedral reflected in its daring height – more than thirty-two meters, above the twenty-nine-meter St Sophia Cathedral of Kiev. The Assumption Cathedral for a long time was the main temple of the entire Russia, indeed. Moscow and Vladimir princes up to Ivan III (Alexander Nevsky, Dmitry Donskoy, Ivan Kalita included) were enthroned in this very cathedral. The main Russian Orthodox shrine – the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God was kept here for several centuries.

A special attitude to the Cathedral remained till the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 15<sup>th</sup> century the Italian architect Aristotle Fioravanti was employed to build the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. The Vladimir Assumption Cathedral was taken for a model. Fioravanti noticed in the architecture of the Cathedral some Romanesque features along with the Russian features.

The appearance of the church, later repeated in many Russian cathedrals, did not take shape from the very beginning. There are two main construction periods in its history. Chronicles and analysis of construction techniques and architectural decoration stand for the Western European origin of architects and carvers. The construction was started by Andrei Bogolyubsky in 1158. The place for the Cathedral was obviously chosen with the expectation of excellent visibility of the building, which still dominates the panorama of Vladimir.

The Cathedral of the time of Andrei Bogolyubsky differed significantly from other white-stone buildings of that period, which had four pillars and were square in plan. The

cathedral of Vladimir was much larger in size (27.5 × 17.6 m), it had six pillars, three apses and a single dome. According to the archaeological reconstruction the main body of the Cathedral had narthexes from all the three sides and a system of passages connected the cathedral with the bishop's palace. The facades of the cathedral were decorated with stone carvings, the fringe of columns was plated with gilded copper. Between the columns figures of saints were painted fresco.

In 1185 the cathedral suffered from a severe fire. Prince Vsevolod the Big Nest started its large-scale reconstruction: the altar part was dismantled and enlarged, and full-height side galleries were added on the western, southern and northern parts. For better illumination four more domes were added to the old central one. The cathedral became five-domed, solemn, monumental, "truly metropolitan", which further consolidated its central role not only in the architectural ensemble, but also in the life of the city in general.

The modern looks of the cathedral has not changed much since the 1185-1189 reconstruction: it lost some of its harmony but acquired great monumentality. Its carved decor is extremely modest and consists of the column fringe and several stone-carvings transferred from the original cathedral of Andrei Bogolyubsky.

Originally in 1160s the cathedral was painted with frescoes, updated after the fire of 1185. Now only fragments of the original paintings remain – several figures of saints and floral pattern. Numerous fires and destructions during the Mongol conquest regularly needed renovation of the cathedral. One of the first known restorations was carried out in 1408. Then the Moscow Prince Vasily Dmitrievich sent to Vladimir the most gifted Russian icon painters of the Middle Ages – Daniil Chorny and Andrei Rublev.

Some fragments were lost completely, some were updated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But nowhere else but Vladimir Cathedral you can find that much Rublev's brilliant painting – over 300 square meters. The most significant part of the paintings are scenes of the Last Judgment. Daniil Chorny and Andrey Rublev followed the traditional iconography, changed the accents in the perception of this scene. Instead of prosecution of sinners they develop the idea of forgiveness and mercy. The compositional structure of the murals is characterized by freedom and at the same time by an amazing harmonic completeness. The frescoes are in good condition.



Some frescoes in much worse condition were found during the restorations of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries in different parts of the temple. Two scenes with John the Baptist were revealed in the altar, and five more compositions from the life of Christ and the Mother of God were unveiled in the upper part under the ceiling.

The iconostasis created by the same painters did not survive. It was moved to one of the rural churches and later some icons entered the collections of the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. Now a Baroque style iconostasis of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century stands in its place.

The cathedral keeps the old Russian necropolis – more than 40 burials of the Vladimir Grand Princely family and Vladimir bishops. Princes Andrei Bogolyubsky, Vsevolod the Big Nest, his son Georgy Vsevolodovich, Bishop Mitrofan, Metropolitan Maxim and others were buried here. A particle of Alexander Nevsky relics is proudly kept in the cathedral.

*Table 6*  
*Attributes and components of the outstanding universal value component 633-001*  
*"Assumption Cathedral"*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- silhouette of the ensemble and height balance of individual buildings</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facade carvings</li> <li>- interior (murals, burial constructions, illumination, floor plating, cast iron spiral staircase)</li> <li>- decoration items (iconostasis, canopies, royal place, bishop's place)</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> </ul>

Urban planning	4. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/historical visual prospective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
Intangible	5. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- artistic perfection</li> <li>- functional use</li> </ul>

## The Golden Gate

The Golden Gate of the city of Vladimir is a unique fortification that survived the Tatar-Mongol conquest. It serves part of a large cultural and political agenda of the Vladimir princes. The name likened the building to the main gates of Kiev, Constantinople and Jerusalem and emphasized the continuity of the Christian capitals.

The Gate Church is consecrated to the Deposition of the Virgin's Robe. This was Prince Andrey Bogolyubsky's choice for the church consecration, as well the consecration of the Vladimir land with a special, subtly and comprehensively meaningful veneration of the Mother of God. The holidays and the churches dedicated to the Virgin – the Assumption, the Nativity, the Deposition of the Robe, the Intercession consistently developed the idea of the divine patronage, the special protection of the Mother of God for the Prince of Vladimir and his principality. The holiday of the Deposition of the Robe of the Virgin seems especially appropriate for a fortress church, since it was in the Byzantine tradition that the Robe of the Virgin was carried out on the city wall of Constantinople, and a miracle of salvation from enemies occurs in a moment of hazard– the Mother of God covers the city with her Holy Veil – the Robe. The Virgin's Robe seems to be inseparably with the defenders of Vladimir and invisibly overshadows the main tower and the fortress. In this sense the gate church of the Deposition of the Robe becomes the main and most reliable weapon and shield of the fortress in the capital city of Andrei Bogolyubsky. It is

no coincidence that one of the first miracles of the Virgin was the rescue of twelve Vladimir citizen who got in trouble during the construction of the Golden Gate. Andrei Bogolyubsky prayed with the icon of the Vladimir Mother of God in his hands and the Virgin saved them from death and injury. Thus, the idea of patronage of the Mother of God to the new capital was symbolically approved.

The construction of the Gate began simultaneously with the construction of the whole Vladimir fortress in 1158, and they were completed no later than 1164, when, according to the chronicle, the gate church was consecrated.

The Golden Gate was part of a powerful city defensive system which consisted of five outer gates, high earthen ramparts and deep moats that reliably protected the city from enemies. The gate architecture harmoniously combines several meanings: a triumphal arch, a battle tower with two battle platforms, and a gate church.

Now the Golden Gate looks like a severe mighty tower of rectangular shape, embedded in the ground by 1.5 m according to archaeological data.

Through the passed centuries the Gate was rebuilt several times and now is far from its original image. The white stone tower is the authentic part. It is of rectangular shape with a central passage 14 meters high and 5.3 meters wide. The exterior decoration of the gate is quite ascetic, laconic.

Inside the gate passage one can still find the upper hinges of the Gate doors and deep cuttings in the stone for the huge Gate bolt, as well as cuttings for scaffolding. Below the main arch, at mid-height a thin stone arch has survived. It served as a support for the flooring of the lower combat platform, towering directly above the Gate doors. There is a stone staircase inside the southern wall leading to the lower and upper combat platforms. On top the gate a small church was placed surrounded by a battlemented wall.

The real damage caused by the Mongol siege of Vladimir in 1238 is not known. Already in the XV century the gate church was "renovated" by the famous builder and contractor Vassily Ermolin. Obviously the building required serious repair work. The fact that Grand Prince Ivan III took care of the Golden Gate and sent Ermolin to restore it shows that it was treated as an important part of the all-Russian heritage.

The next known restoration took place in 1691-1695: then the roof was replaced and the dome was rebuilt, giving the church the appearance of a low tent, and the open-air gallery turned into a closed one, remaining the same now.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the gate church was rebuilt completely. We still have an idea of its original looks thanks to several surviving drawings. Today the gate church is a tiny temple built in typical forms of the Vladimir-Suzdal architectural school. In general the church repeated the appearance of the Cathedral in Pereslavl-Zalessky and the church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha. Religious service was not regular, it was held occasionally, for important reasons only.

After the strong fire in 1778 the Golden Gate changed its appearance. The ramparts were removed, the gate arch gave crack and the building was reinforced with buttresses hidden in the round towers.

In 1864 they wanted to use the Golden Gate as a water tower for the city water supply. A water tank was to be placed inside the gate church. The project was not implemented for the reason of an accident – one of the workers was injured to death. Probably this accident accelerated the repair of the Golden Gate.

In 1866 they started the arrangement and decoration of the church, a new 320 kilograms bell was bought, the iconostasis was renovated, the icons were painted by a famous artist Safonov from Palekh, although they did not fully correspond to the ancient looks of the building.

The Golden Gate in different periods housed living quarters, police station, warehouse, shops and an archive. Currently, the Golden Gate is in use of the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve. The gate church contains a military-historical museum dedicated to the virile defenders of ancient Vladimir and of the Russian state.

In the middle of the stone staircase inside the southern wall one can find a graffiti dated late 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1988 Vladimir restorers found fragments of paintings on the arch of the gateway. In order to preserve them, they were covered with lime whitewash.

*Table 7*  
*Attributes and components of the outstanding universal value component 633-002*  
*"Golden Gate"*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- silhouette and height balance of the building</li> <li>- communication within the structure levels</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- interior (murals, illumination)</li> <li>- traditional color solutions - композиция и оформление фасадов</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> </ul>
Urban planning	4. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/historical visual perspective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
Intangible	5. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- functional use</li> </ul>

### **The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo (Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)**

Both - the lower parts of the walls of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the staircase tower with the passage adjacent to it are the remains of the residence of Prince

Andrei Bogolyubsky. Prince Andrei gave special importance to his residence and the luxury of its decoration.

Ancient Bogolyubovo was a city surrounded by a white stone wall placed on top the earthen rampart. The construction of the princely residence probably began in 1158 and lasted until 1174, when Andrei Bogolyubsky was killed. The exact date of the church's construction is unknown and, most likely, can be limited to 1158 – 1160.

The Prince's palace stretched from north to south for 80 meters. Its central part was occupied the church of the Nativity of the Virgin luxuriously decorated. On both sides of the church stood staircase towers with two-tiered passages. The northern gallery led to the residential princely palace. Both wings were completed with combat towers built into the Bogolyubovo-city defensive system, forming a single architectural complex. In front of the entrance to the church there was a white stone holy water bowl under a ciborium. Sacred pillar with four Virgin's images on the facets was installed in the middle of the square. The square was plated with white stone slabs with gutters.

A chronicle reports that the temple was the most beautiful of churches built by Andrei Bogolyubsky – it was compared to the temple of King Solomon in Jerusalem. The entrance doors, the dome and part of the walls were plated with gilded copper, and the floors were made of copper polished slabs. Fragments of enameled majolica floors and the original carved decoration were also found inside the church.

Late 17<sup>th</sup> century ignorant reconstruction of the church resulted into its almost complete destruction. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a much simpler church was built on the same site. Only the remaining basements of the wall and the existing similar constructions in Europe allow us to imagine the original architectural forms of an ancient architectural masterpiece.

It is known from the chronicle that Andrei Bogolyubsky invited Western European architects to build his white-stone residence in Bogolyubovo. Probably these masters were sent to Russia by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa from Germany or Northern Italy.

The church like some other buildings of Andrei Bogolyubsky includes different Romanesque elements. The church basement has a fine attic profile plinth with claws on



the bases of numerous semi-columns. These half-columns were placed on the flat wall, the corners of the building have three-quarter columns. The building was decorated with carvings, some reliefs were obviously inserted into the masonry. Probably this church was the first building to be decorated with a fringe of columns later quite typical of the Vladimir-Suzdal architecture.

These Romanesque architectural elements and the origin of the masters gave birth to a definition of "Russian Romanesque style" became characteristic of the buildings of Andrei Bogolyubsky. However this architecture lacks severity so popular in Romanesque. Its artistic structure is determined by the Byzantine architectural type which has already become traditional for Russia, and by an unusual material – lime stone, as well. Instead of massive cross-shape columns the arches rested on round columns. As the researchers suggest, the church in its proportions was one of the highest buildings of the white-stone Vladimir-Suzdal architectural heritage. It became more dynamical losing the severity of the traditional cubic volume. The upward orientation of the building was emphasized by the abundance of vertical lines formed by the elongated thin semi-columns and pilasters. The facades were divided by the pilasters in three parts, receiving "prospective" plastic depth.

The church that was the center of the architectural ensemble. From the north and south, at about middle height the arched passages adjoined it. By means of passages one could get to the inner choir-gallery of the church. The southern non-preserved passage led to the white-stone wall of the fortifications. The northern passage together with the staircase tower are the most preserved part of the old construction. In the place their junction the ancient church wall is preserved to its maximum height.

Inside the tower there is a spiral staircase winding around a central round pillar. The round pillar has a diameter of 1 m, the width of the staircase is 1.1 m. The staircase has 2.5 rotations around the pillar, in its upper it has a straight section of 6 steps. According to researchers' calculations there were 35 steps in the old staircase with the average width of the step 31.5 cm. There is an arched niche under the stairs where in 1174 the murder of Prince Andrei took place as a result of a political conspiracy. It was possible to climb the stairs to the second tier of the tower, and then either go through the preserved arched

passage to the choir-gallery of the cathedral, or in the opposite direction – to the prince's chambers. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the tower was built over with a tent-shaped bell tower.

The corners of the staircase tower are decorated by protruding three-quarter columns like the corners of the church. In the upper part of the first tier you can see the column fringe, the second tier ends with semicircles of zakomaras.

The smooth northern zakomara originally had a doorway leading to the non-preserved arched passage; now it is closed with masonry.

On the eastern facade there is a triple semicircular window with two massive columns with capitals and bases in the form of "claws" (similar to the bases of the columns of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin). This is a good example of Romanesque architecture, which testifies to the European influence on Vladimir-Suzdal architecture.

On the southern facade, in the upper tier, an column fringe is repeated continuing the column fringe of the arched passage.

"The Prince's Palace in Bogolyubovo" ("The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky") is part of the cultural heritage site of federal significance "The Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Monastery", located on the territory of the present Bogolyubovo Convent.

*Table 8*  
*Attributes and components of the outstanding universal value component 633-003*  
*"The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo"*  
*("The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky")*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition of ensembles and separate buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensemble and separate buildings plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- silhouette of the ensemble and height balance of individual buildings</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facade and interior carvings</li> <li>- interior murals</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> <li>- original constructive decisions (rampant vault, round pillars, stone spiral staircase)</li> </ul>
Urban planning	4. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/ historical visual perspective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
Intangible	5. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- artistic perfection</li> <li>- functional use</li> </ul>

### Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'

The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is called the diamond of ancient Russian white stone architecture, a monument to the formation and flourishing of the Vladimir Principality under Andrei Bogolyubsky. Its significance lies not only in the architectural genius of the architects, but also in their ability to fit a new building into a unique natural environment. The church was originally planned as the dominant of the natural landscape without any other development. The church was built at a distance of a mile from the Castle in Bogolyubovo, at the confluence of two rivers – the Nerl' and the Klyazma. The mouth of the Nerl' River is a kind of river gate of the Vladimir land on the vivid trade route Nerl'-Klyazma-Oka-Volga. The place for the construction of the church was indicated by the prince personally. From here opened a panorama of the princely possessions: a church on a meadow with a pier, a little further on an elevated shore – Bogolyubovo - a city with a princely residence and finally the capital over steep hills – Vladimir. The prince wanted to demonstrate the power of his new capital.

It seemed an impossible task to build a church in a low-lying plain which is overflowed in spring by 3.5 meters. But the masters did not refuse the risky princely order. They laid a powerful foundation: the underground part of the temple is 5.3 meters.

The church was erected on an artificial hill raised above the floods mark. The hill was plated with white stone slabs, with stone stairs going down to the pier. Over the time the riverbeds changed and the hill with the church remained.

Spacious meadows around the church, trees and bushes along the banks of the river Nerl', the old bed of the Klyazma River, a winding path leading to the church, distant forests – all together make up an integral part of the monument. Due to the fact that the church was erected on top a small hill, during the floods of the rivers Nerl' and Klyazma it turns to be on an island in the middle of the cold spring water. This produces a colossal aesthetic effect.

The exact time of the church construction is not mentioned in the chronicles. A later evidence of the 18<sup>th</sup> century links the construction with the death of Izyaslav – son of Andrei Bogolyubsky.

The church was consecrated to a new holiday in Russia, which was introduced by Andrei Bogolyubsky – the Intercession (Protection) of the Mother of God, who patronized the Vladimir land and its prince.

The Church of the Intercession is a four-pillar, three-apse, single-domed church built of white stone of the finest quality (the masonry is very homogeneous, does not have yellowish colour, the porosity of the stone is very low – no other Old Russian white stone church has such a high quality of masonry). More porous stone (like tuff) is used in the upper parts of the building. It is composed of carefully processed cubes of limestone in the stone-faced rubble masonry technique. In the Church of the Intercession its architecture acquires sculptural expressiveness and the temple is perceived not built up but as if carved from stone, slender, light, aspiring upwards. This impression is achieved due to the relatively small size of the temple, the closeness of its volume and the emphasized height.

To raise the church above the flood meadows the architects placed it on an artificial hill. The basement is hidden in its depth with a total height of 5.3 meters. The hill was plated with white stone slabs, which likened the church to a sculptural monument and at the same time served as additional protection from floods and visually made it even higher. The engineering and constructive solution of its foundation has no precedent in ancient Russian architecture.

From its three sides the church was originally surrounded by a gallery, later dismantled. Even without it the building seems to be a complete work. Each facade is divided by pilasters with semi-columns into three parts. The fringe of columns passes in the middle of the facade. The corners of the building, like in Bogolyubovo, are marked by extended three-quarter columns. The prevailing element here is an elongated narrow arch: it is repeated in the windows, doorways, zakomaras, column fringe of the facades and another one of the dome.

The sculptural decor on the facades is quite modest. At the top of the central parts of the western, southern and northern facades we find the figure of King David surrounded by lions and birds. Below them there are maiden faces, in the marginal zakomaras there are griffins carrying lambs. Their figurative meaning is not intimidation, but together with the central images they express the idea of protection and patronage. Archivolts of all portals and capitals of semi-columns are decorated with floral carvings. The consoles in the column fringe are also carved.

The idea of striving upward dominates in the interior the same like in the exterior. Relief images of lions are placed the imposts of the arches.

Up to the 19<sup>th</sup> century the paintings with the image of Christ Pantocrator surrounded by heavenly powers with images of the apostles could be seen in the dome of the church, but there is no reliable information about the age of these frescoes.

Most likely the church was built by the same architects who built the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir and Bogolyubovo Princely residence. Their Western European origin is no longer in doubt. It is important that these Romanesque masters when building a traditional cross-domed church create an absolutely new architectural image. Moreover this church perfectly fits the natural environment.

*Table 9*  
*Attributes and components of the outstanding universal value component 633-004*  
*"The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl"*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution (height enhancing)</li> <li>- internal space of buildings (height enhancing)</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- height enhancing interior</li> <li>- stone carvings</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> <li>- original constructive decisions (artificial hill, profound basements)</li> </ul>
Urban planning	4. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/historical visual perspective</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
Intangible	5. Sound background as an element of cultural landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- silence, wild nature sounds, wild herbs smell</li> </ul>
	6. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- artistic perfection</li> <li>- lyrical natural environment</li> <li>- dominant of the natural landscape</li> </ul>

## St Demetrius Cathedral

St Demetrius Cathedral is a monument of mature Vladimir–Suzdal white stone architecture. It was built in the time of the highest power and heyday of the great Vladimir Principality by Prince Vsevolod the Big Nest consecrated to his patron saint Demetrius of Thessalonica (Prince Vsevolod in baptism was named Demetrius).

St Demetrius Cathedral was conceived as a temple-reliquary for storing great shrines: a "tomb icon" (Byzantine icon) with the image of St Demetrius of Thessalonica, the



heavenly patron of Prince Vsevolod, and a silver reliquary with a "shirt" – a fragment of the saint's clothes with traces of his blood. These relics were brought from the tomb of the saint in the Basilica of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica. Thessalonica was the second most important city in Byzantium after Constantinople, where St Demetrius veneration was very much developed. He was revered as the patron saint of the army and of the state, of the imperial family as well. He was also revered in Russia. So Vladimir turned into the "Second Thessalonica", and the church of Demetrius of Thessalonica became a precious reliquary. All this was emphasized not only by the internal sacred space, but also by the richest carved decoration outside.

Some forty years separate the construction of the cathedral from the first buildings of Yuri Dolgoruky and Andrei Bogolyubsky. This was enough time for complete change of the generation of masters, at the same time, a period sufficient to realize the artistic possibilities of the new architectural language developed in a short period by brilliant predecessors. The cathedral was erected on the edge of a high hill, fitting with the neighboring Assumption Cathedral and forming the second most important architectural dominant of the city. It was conceived as a home church of the Prince of Vladimir, connected by galleries with the princely chambers (not preserved).

The building in general belongs to the type most common in ancient Russian white-stone church construction: cross-domed, four-pillar, three-apse, single-domed. The architects borrowed some ideas from the masters of the time of Andrei Bogolyubsky: the finest wall masonry, pilasters decorated with half columns, three-quarter columns are placed on the corners of the building, the elongated narrow arch is repeated many times. The carved decoration now has a different understanding, very different from the European Romanesque tradition. Numerous carvings are perceived as a weightless lace veil thrown over the volume of the cathedral and the column fringe here serves a kind of border of this veil.

Of all the white-stone Vladimir-Suzdal churches, the St Demetrius Cathedral is distinguished by the greatest splendor of its appearance. According to the calculations of modern researchers (Magdalena Gladkaya) there are more than 1,500 stones decorated with the finest carvings.

The reliefs depict plants, animals, including fabulous ones, plots on mythological and biblical themes. Among the images recognized – David and Solomon – the Old Testament kings and prophets as examples of righteous government, the ideal of the ruler; the first Russian saints – princes Boris and Gleb – assistants to the princes in their political affairs, galloping horsemen – the "holy army", among which there are St Demetrius of Thessalonica and St. George. The southern facade is decorated with the composition "The Ascension of Alexander the Great to Heaven", the northern one probably depicts the church builder – Prince Vsevolod, surrounded by his sons, with his youngest son Demetrius on his knees. On the western facade you can find labors of Hercules. The columns in the fringe are richly covered with ornament with carved capitals and consoles, figures of saints are placed inside the arches.

The ceremonial, monumental appearance of the cathedral embodies the idea of power of the Vladimir land and princely power – there are many symbols of power among the carvings: lions, eagles, leopards... The carving of the St Demetrius Cathedral glorified the prince and proved Christianity.

For more than 8 centuries the looks of the St Demetrius Cathedral has changed significantly. The reasons were different – numerous fires and reconstructions. Originally the church from three sides was surrounded with stone galleries. On the northern and southern facades stair towers were arranged for the prince to get to the choir gallery, where he was present during the liturgy. The Emperor Nicholas I after visiting Vladimir in 1834 ordered to dismantle the ancient galleries considering them to be more recent. The church then lost its most interesting parts – staircase towers and galleries. At the same time some carvings were transferred to the walls of the galleries on the facades of the cathedral. Some carvings were made anew instead of the damaged ones (about 50 carvings).

In the western part of the cathedral unique paintings have been preserved in the 12<sup>th</sup> century performed by a nameless Byzantine master. This is a fragment of the scene of the "Last Judgment". On the slopes of the central vault there are twelve apostles backed with angels. On the northern arch there is a scene of the Procession of the righteous to Paradise and two figures of trumpeting angels, and next to it is the image of the Mother of God in Paradise and the Bosom of Abraham.

*Table 10*  
*Attributes and components of the world universal value component 633-005*  
*"St Demetrius Cathedral"*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- silhouette of the building</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facade and interior carvings</li> <li>- interior (murals, burial constructions, illumination)</li> <li>- artistic façade design</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> </ul>
Urban planning	4. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/historical visual perspective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
Intangible	5. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- artistic perfection</li> <li>- functional use</li> </ul>

### **The ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace (Suzdal Kremlin and the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin)**

The history of the Suzdal Kremlin is closely linked with the history of Suzdal. It was first mentioned in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. In 2024 we will celebrate its 1000th anniversary of Suzdal.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Yuri Dolgoruky Suzdal became the capital of the principality. At this time new earthen rampart was made with wooden towers and walls

over it. Up to 1719 the wooden fortifications were periodically improved, but now only the earthen ramparts have survived.

The white-stone Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin (1222-1225) stands in the center of the Kremlin.

The Nativity Cathedral according to the chronicle was erected in 1222 by Prince Yuri II on the site of the Assumption Cathedral of the late 11<sup>th</sup> century built by Vladimir Monomakh. The old brick building was dismantled and a new one of limestone was built in its place within three years, remaining up to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. According to the preserved lower parts of this cathedral, we can state that it was three-nave, six-pillar, three-apse, three-domed with vestibules at the side facades.

In 1445 a strong fire caused the collapse of the roof. During the restoration of the cathedral in 1528-1530 the upper parts of the walls were disassembled and folded again in red brick, instead of three domes the renewed cathedral got five. Later, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the ancient choir gallery was removed and the windows were significantly enlarged. Very little has survived from the ancient carved decoration of the cathedral, so typical for the Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architecture: fringe of columns, female images on the pilasters and prospective doorways of ancient vestibules.

An essential feature of the cathedral's architecture is its connection with the surrounding area. The location of the building was determined by the first cathedral built by Monomakh. It was placed quite close to the northern rampart of the fortress its southern and eastern side were facing the city square. In this regard, the architects paid special attention to the southern facade and southern entrance: here the best carvers were engaged, the ornamentation here was is richer and exquisite, the carved portal turns into a giant white stone cave with the gilded copper doors glimmering inside. The helmet-shaped *zakomara* crowned the facade of the narthex, it was decorated with carved images (probably with the figure of the Archangel Michael in the middle which) of birds and plants. The common citizen entered the cathedral through this richly decorated southern entrance.

The second important was the western side of the cathedral. It may seem interesting that decorative details make the large portal visibly light: the semi-columns and pilaster

steps are thin and elongated, the arch of the archivolt is flattened as if unable to bear the weight of the masonry above. The portal apparently had no doors and the vestibule was open. Behind it there was the second portal with copper gilded doors, as well. The narthex was two-storeyed, a staircase to the upper room is hidden in its northern wall.

The northern facade looked much simpler and even poorer. Flat pilasters, monotonously carved blind arcading, made probably by the less experienced masters.

Very little remains of the original painting of the 13<sup>th</sup> century – the figures of two saints in the altar part. The main part of the murals belongs to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Of course, the most valuable item of the original decoration are two pairs of Golden Gates. These are massive double doors decorated in gold fusion technique with images of Christian holidays and scenes of the Archangel acts. The golden patterns were applied to copper plates using mercury amalgam. The gate is undoubtedly made by one of the most prominent artists of pre-Mongol Russia, probably of the Greek origin. However exact dating of the doors is currently discussed. According to one of the most convincing versions, they were made at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century for the previous building of the cathedral. The tombs of Suzdal princes and bishops (the sons of Prince Yuri Dolgoruky, the princes of the Shujsky dynasty, St. Arseny of Elasson, the Suzdal saints Theodore and John, etc.) are kept inside the cathedral.

Next to the 13<sup>th</sup> century Nativity Cathedral Suzdal Metropolitan Ilarion erected a big palace - bishop's residence. In 1635 a bell-tower was built, later joined by means of a passage to the palace. The oldest part of the palace dates back to the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Over the centuries it has been overgrown with passages, galleries and secret staircases, now forming a single ensemble of buildings of different times of 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The building combines the ancient Russian traditions of residential mansions.

The architecture of the Bishops' Palace is an excellent example of ancient Russian residential architecture: asymmetric arrangement of windows, vertical partitioning of windows with vertical pilasters, different heights of composite parts of the building. There are several porches, which expressively emphasize the residential character of the palace with their small size and special elegance (ceramic tiled tent) soften the big size of the structure. The most interesting is the architecture of the western wing of the building,

where elements typical of the Russian wooden architecture are used. The northern building is of later origin, it looks more severe, more ceremonial. It may be regarded more "palacial" type chambers than "mansion" ones.

The main ceremonial hall was the Cross Chamber. It was intended for solemn meals and lavish ceremonies, diocesan meetings, receptions of noble persons, the announcement of royal orders. The Cross Chamber was lost as a result of the 19<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction when the Suzdal Theological School was located in the Bishops' Palace. The chamber was revived in the 1960s and 1970s by the restorers following the design by Aleksey Varganov. The huge size of the Cross Chamber is amazing, its area is over 300 sq. m., it does not have a single pillar.

The highest structure of the Kremlin is the bell tower erected in 1635. It is located 10-15 m south of the Cathedral. It is octagonal at the base, with pilasters along its 8 corners. At mid-height there is an open arcade designed for the bells. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century a carillon was installed striking hours and quarters. Instead of Latin numerals, Cyrillic letters were used in the clock face. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century a minute hand was introduced.

Inside the bell tower on the second tier there was a church of the Annunciation of the Virgin. From the west, a porch with the entrance to the church adjoined the pillar of the bell tower. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century under Metropolitan Ilarion a passage was added leading from the palace to the bell tower.

In 1960 the wooden 1766 St. Nicholas Church was moved to the Kremlin from the village of Glotovo, Yuryevsky district. It was placed on the original site of a wooden church that existed here till the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

*Table 11*  
*Attributes and components of the world universal value component 633-006*  
*"Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace"*  
*(Suzdal Kremlin and the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin)*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition of ensembles and separate buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensemble and separate buildings plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- memorial and burial structures</li> <li>- silhouette of the ensemble and individual buildings</li> </ul>



	<b>2. Decoration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facade and interior carvings</li> <li>- interior (murals, burial constructions, floor plating,)</li> <li>- decoration items (iconostasis, canopies, golden gates)</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> <li>- artistic façade design</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Materials, structures and construction technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> </ul>
<b>Urban planning</b>	<b>4. Historical landscape and urban environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/ historical visual prospective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
<b>Intangible</b>	<b>5. Sound background as an element of cultural landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- silence, wild nature sounds</li> </ul>
	<b>6. Intangible value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- artistic perfection</li> </ul>

## The Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius

The Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius is located in the northern part of Suzdal on the high left bank of the Kamenka River. The monastery was founded in 1352 by Prince Boris Konstantinovich as an outpost of the Suzdal-Nizhny Novgorod Principality. The first abbot of the monastery was monk Euthymius. Initially the monastery was consecrated to the Transfiguration of Our Savior, the same consecration as the monastery cathedral. In 1507 the incorruptible relics of Saint Euthymius were found and soon his local and then all-Russian veneration was established (since 1549). The monastery then became known as the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius.

The original wooden buildings of the monastery have not been preserved, the current architectural ensemble was formed in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the monastery was rebuilt and enlarged.

Initially the monastery was surrounded by wooden walls, in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century brick Holy gate with the gate church of Annunciation was added.

The mighty brick wall and towers were built in 1660-1664, when the monastery had already lost its defensive significance. The new brick fortress had twelve towers and had a total perimeter about 1.2 km. The walls are about 8.5 m high and have the shape of an irregular quadrangle. In the southern most representative wall there is a huge 22 m high brick gate tower with a wooden roof.

The main building of the monastery is the Cathedral of Transfiguration, built on the site of the wooden one in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This is a four-pillar, three-apse, five-domed church decorated with blind arcading. One of the lateral chapels consecrated to St. Sergius of Radonezh belongs to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The other chapel of St Euthymius is the oldest part of the building dating back to the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1689 the cathedral was painted fresco by craftsmen under the direction of Guriy Nikitin and Sila Savin. The painting is arranged in several tiers. Extremely rich with details and figures the painting of walls and pillars occupies all the cathedral visible surfaces.

The Assumption Church with adjacent premises belongs to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The pillar-shaped building of the church follows the traditional Russian design: the lower part is square, the middle octagonal part is covered with a tent-shape roof. The intermediate part between the octagonal part and the tent-shaped roof is decorated with two tiers of kokoshniks, similar kokoshniks are arranged at the base of a small dome. Another dome rises above the chapel adjacent to the church from the southern side. A two-storey refectory building adjoins the Assumption church from the west. Next to the church there's the Abbot's residence with is an open gallery.

The monastery belfry is located south of the cathedral. The first building was erected in 1530 – the nonagonal column-shaped church of St. John the Baptist. Later a thruple-arched belfry was joined to it. Above the belfry later they added a small clock tower.

East from the Cathedral of Transfiguration there's St. Nicholas Church built in 1669, mostly used as a hospital. The walls of the church are decorated with figured pediments and kokoshniks.

A long building of the monks' cells was built along the northern wall of the monastery in the 17<sup>th</sup> century later rebuilt several times.

Among the principal donators of the monastery were the Tsars Vasily III, Ivan IV, Princes Pozharsky and others.

In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the monastery became one of the largest and richest in Russia.

Since 1766 and up to 1905 the monastery served as a prison. Closed in 1923, the monastery was turned into a political prison.

In 1940-1941 it changed the camp for prisoners of war 1943-1946. After the war it was still used as prison for juvenile delinquents.

Since 1958 the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius has been part of the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve.

*Table 12*  
*Attributes and components of the world universal value component 633-007*  
*"Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius"*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
<b>Architectural</b>	<b>1. Spatial composition of ensembles and separate buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensemble and separate buildings plan</li> <li>- facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- memorial and burial structures</li> <li>- silhouette of the ensemble and individual buildings</li> </ul>
	<b>2. Decoration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- interior (murals, burial constructions, floor mosaics)</li> <li>- decoration items (iconostasis, canopy)</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> <li>- artistic façade design</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Materials, structures and construction technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (brick, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> </ul>

Urban planning	4. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/ historical visual prospective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>
	5. Sound background as an element of cultural landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- silence, wild nature sounds, wild herbs smell</li> </ul>
Intangible	6. Intangible value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- functional use</li> </ul>

## The Church Sts Boris and Gleb

The Church Sts of Boris and Gleb is one of the most ancient monuments of Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architecture. It is located on the right bank of the Nerl' River in the village of Kideksha 5 km east of Suzdal. The church was built close to the confluence of rivers Nerl' and Kamenka, on the border of two important natural zones: Opol'e – a fertile plain on the right bank of the Nerl', and a forestall area on the opposite river bank.

The exact date of the church construction is 1152. The choice of the place and the consecration to Princes Boris and Gleb, revered later as the first Russian saints, a legend explains as the place of their meeting here.

The church belongs to the traditional Vladimir-Suzdal structure: it is cross-domed, four-pillar, three-apse and single-domed. Meanwhile, its place among the Vladimir-Suzdal buildings is really significant – it represents the formation of the Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architectural school.

In the church of Sts Boris and Gleb the column fringe is not developed yet – no columns, just a simple arcature with primitive consoles. This arcature supplemented in subsequent monuments by columns will become one of the main distinguishing features of the entire Vladimir-Suzdal architecture. Pilasters, in comparison with earlier buildings, are now perceived as a decoration but not as constructive element.

Like other early Vladimir-Suzdal churches it is built of large carefully treated cubes on lime mortar and not in the traditional Kievan plinth technique. The walls are built in the classic stone-faced rubble masonry technique. The basement is made of cobblestones on lime mortar. It has an extremely solid platform, its safety margin exceeds the constructive necessity.

According to recent studies (Oleg Ioannisyan), the masters engaged in this construction by order of Yuri Dolgoruky worked in Galich before.

The Church of Boris and Gleb in Kideksha has survived significant changes. After the 17<sup>th</sup> century collapse the original vaults and arches, as well as the dome supported were ruined completely, only the western vaults of the choir gallery remained. The apses and the eastern walls were dismantled up to mid-height, the eastern pillars were moved from their original place. Instead of ancient roofing over *zacomaras*, the church was covered with a simple four-sided roof. The original slender windows, except one, were currently blocked, and ugly window have been cut instead. On its western side the church adjoins the narthex built in 1780.

Originally the church was decorated with frescoes. Only some small fragments have survived from the painting of the 12<sup>th</sup> century: part of the scene Holy Christmas in the center of the southern wall, the figure of the weeping Apostle Peter from the scene of the Assumption in the northern wall, a fragment of paradise trees and birds in the southwestern part of the vault under the choir gallery, a painting depicting holy women in the *arcosolium* of the north wall. The remains of ancient original frescoes were found on the western pillars and on the inner slope of the northern portal during archaeological excavations in 2011. The rest of the painting belongs to a later time.

The 2011-2012 archaeological expedition of Vladimir Sedov revealed previously unknown details of the interior of the ancient temple. They found the foundations of the late iconostasis and the earlier altar barrier under it, the original lower part of the white-stone throne and a round white-stone *omphalium* – a bishop's place in the center of the church under the dome. A white stone detail with a star pattern was found under the late floor, presumably the base of the altar cross, the decor of which certainly does not belong

to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It may belong to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although a later dating is not excluded – 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In the western part of the temple in special arched niches – arcosolias stone sarcophagi are placed. Prince Boris Yurievich – the son of Yuri Dolgoruky, with his wife Maria were buried here.

*Table 13*  
*Attributes and components of the world universal value component 633-008*  
*"The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb"*

Value category	No. and name of attribute	Attribute components
Architectural	1. Spatial composition of ensembles and separate buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building plan</li> <li>- ancient facade and exterior solution</li> <li>- internal space of buildings</li> <li>- memorial and burial structures</li> </ul>
	2. Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- stone carvings</li> <li>- interior (murals, burial constructions, omphalion, altar cross base)</li> <li>- traditional color solutions</li> <li>- artistic façade design</li> </ul>
	3. Materials, structures and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- materials (white stone, metal, wood, etc.)</li> <li>- authenticity of construction, painting materials and methods of their processing</li> <li>- construction technique (stone-faced rubble masonry)</li> <li>- technologies of monumental art (carving, fresco, etc.)</li> <li>- constructive solutions</li> <li>- traces of instrumental processing</li> </ul>
	4. Archaeological objects and items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ancient graffiti and personal marks of craftsmen, etc.</li> <li>- items of decoration discovered during excavations (omphalion, altar cross base)</li> </ul>
Urban planning	5. Historical landscape and urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape fitting location</li> <li>- the existing town-planning around the monument</li> <li>- historically-fixed height of the surrounding buildings</li> <li>- panoramas and view openings to and from the monument/ historical visual prospective</li> <li>- aesthetic fitting of the surrounding buildings to the monument</li> <li>- color scheme of surrounding buildings and historical buildings</li> <li>- historically formed natural landscape</li> <li>- traffic pattern around the monument</li> </ul>



<b>Intangible</b>	<b>6. Sound background as an element of cultural landscape</b>	- silence, wild nature sounds
	<b>7. Intangible value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connection with historical events, personalities, traditions</li> <li>- artistic perfection</li> <li>- functional use</li> </ul>

## **2. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT STATE AND USE OF THE PROPERTY**

### **2.1. JURIDICAL REGULATION**

The principles of preservation of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" and its management system are based on the provisions of international law and current Russian (federal and regional) legislation.

#### **2.1.1. INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION**

In accordance with part 4 of Article 15 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, generally recognized principles and norms of international legislation and international treaties of the Russian Federation are an integral part of its juridical system. If an international treaty establishes different rules for the Russian Federation than those provided by law, the rules of the international treaty shall be applied.

The provisions of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 11/16/1972) and the Guidelines for its Implementation (adopted by the World Heritage Committee and regularly updated during the sessions of the Committee, the current version is 2016) apply primarily to the WHP. The norms of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention are obligatory for all the States parties of the Convention. The sections of the Manual devoted to monitoring and reporting procedure are the most popular for objects inscribed into the World Heritage List.

Along with the 1972 Convention, other international acts should also be applied to the property:

#### **International treaties**

- ☐ Convention for the Protection of Cultural Properties in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 14.05.1954);
- ☐ European Cultural Convention (Paris, 19.12.1954);
- ☐ European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (London, 06.05.1965), revised in Valletta on 16.01.1992);
- ☐ Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 03.10.1985);

## **Declarations and recommendations**

- Recommendation defining the principles of international regulation of archaeological excavations (adopted on December 5, 1956);
- Recommendation on preserving the beauty and character of Landscapes and localities (adopted on December 11, 1962);
- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Places of Interest (Venice Charter) (Venice, 1964);
- Declaration of Principles of International Cultural Cooperation (proclaimed on November 04, 1966);
- Recommendation on the Protection of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works (adopted on November 19, 1968);
- Recommendation on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage in the national plan (adopted on November 16, 1972);
- Charter on Cultural Tourism (Brussels, 1974);
- Recommendation on the preservation and modern role of historical ensembles (adopted on November 26, 1976);
- International Charter for the Protection of Historic Cities (Washington Charter) (Washington, 1987);
- Nara Document of Authenticity (Nara, 1994);
- Principles of registration of monuments, groups of buildings and places of interest (Sofia, 1996);
- Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (November 2, 2001);
- Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (Budapest, 2002);
- Declaration on the Preservation of Historic Urban Landscapes (Vienna Declaration) (Vienna, 2005);
- Recommendation on Historical urban landscapes (November 10, 2011);
- Valletta Principles for the Preservation and Management of Historic Cities and Urbanized Territories (La Valletta, 2011);
- Guidelines for the Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessments for World Cultural Heritage Sites (2011);

- Preparation of nominations for WHP (Second Edition, 2011);
- Management of World Cultural Heritage Sites. World Heritage. Information Guide (2013);
- Guide to the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2017);
- Guide to the Preparation and Revision of Preliminary Lists of WHP (2020).

### **2.1.2. RUSSIAN LEGISLATION**

The 1972 Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was ratified by the USSR in 1988 (Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR No. 8595-XI dated March 09, 1988). The Russian Federation is a State party to the Convention and, therefore, is obliged to fulfill international obligations in order to ensure the preservation of WHP.

The legislative system of the Russian Federation includes federal laws and laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the laws of the subjects develop and specify the provisions of federal legislation.

The basic law defining the relations arising in the field of preservation, use and popularization of OCH (historical and cultural monuments) The Federal Law of June 25, 2002 No. 73-FZ "About the Objects of Cultural Heritage (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation" defines the general principles of state protection of OCH, features of ownership, use and disposal of cultural heritage objects as a special type of immovable property.

In accordance with this federal law, the Law of the Vladimir Region No. 21-OZ "About the OCH (historical and cultural monuments) of the Vladimir Region" was adopted at the regional level on April 6, 2004.

There are no regulatory legal acts in the current Russian legislation directly regulating relations related to the legal status of WHP, and these relations are detailed in numerous domestic regulatory legal acts.

The norms of various laws and other legal acts, both specialized and sectoral, are applied to cultural heritage properties and the territories on which they are located (see Table 14).

*Table 14*  
*List of the main normative acts of the Russian Federation applicable to the World Heritage Property*

Normative act / law	Action / Regulation	World Heritage Property concern
<b>FEDERAL LAWS</b>		
Constitution of the Russian Federation	Guaranteed preservation of cultural heritage	Defines the obligation to take care of the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, to protect historical and cultural monuments
The Civil Code of the Russian Federation	Establishes recognition of equality of participants in the relations regulated by it, inviolability of property, freedom of contract, inadmissibility of arbitrary interference of anyone in private affairs, the need for unhindered exercise of civil rights, ensuring the restoration of violated rights, their judicial protection	Defines the relationship of participants in civil society in the Russian Federation. With regard to World Heritage Properties, the Code defines, among other things, the rights of the Museum as a subject of operational management law, and the rights to means of individualization, stating that "state registration as trademarks of designations identical or confusingly similar to official names and images of World Heritage properties is not allowed without the consent of the owner" – of the Russian Federation Federation
Land Code of the Russian Federation	Regulates land relations in the Russian Federation with the application of the principle of differentiation between the norms of civil legislation and the norms of land legislation in terms of regulating relations on the use of land, as well as the principle of state regulation of land privatization	Defines the interaction of participants in land relations, including in the buffer zone of the World Heritage site, introduces a special legal regime on lands from the category of specially protected territories and objects. Lands occupied by particularly valuable objects of cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation, properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, cannot be granted private ownership
Housing Code of the Russian Federation	It is based on the need for state authorities and local self-government bodies to provide conditions for citizens to exercise their right to housing, its security,	Defines the legal relations of the owners of residential premises, including within the boundaries of the buffer zone of the World

	inviolability and inadmissibility of arbitrary deprivation of housing, on the need for unhindered exercise of rights arising from relations regulated by housing legislation, as well as on recognition of equality of participants in relations regulated by housing legislation on ownership, use and disposal residential premises, on the need to ensure the restoration of violated housing rights, their judicial protection, ensuring the safety of the housing stock and the use of residential premises for their intended purpose	Heritage Property
Urban Planning Code of the Russian Federation	Regulates relations on territorial planning, urban zoning, territory planning, architectural and construction design, relations on the construction of capital construction facilities, their reconstruction, major repairs, as well as on the operation of buildings, structures	Defines the legal relations of construction subjects within the boundaries of settlements in the buffer zone. It provides for the need to take into account and design the main characteristics of zones with special conditions for the use of territories
The Criminal Code of the Russian Federation	Protects the rights and freedoms of men and citizen, property, public order and public safety, the environment, the constitutional system of the Russian Federation from criminal encroachments, ensuring peace and security of mankind, as well as the prevention of crimes. Establishes the basis and principles of criminal liability, determines which acts dangerous to the individual, society or the state are recognized as crimes, and establishes types of punishments and other measures of a criminal nature for committing crimes	Establishes a measure of responsibility for culpable actions aimed at destroying or damaging a World Heritage Property
The Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation	Carries out the protection of the individual, the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms, the protection of citizens' health, sanitary and epidemiological welfare of the population, the protection of public morality, environmental protection, the established procedure for the exercise of state power, public order and public safety, property, the protection of legitimate economic interests of individuals and legal entities, society and the state from	Establishes the measure of responsibility for culpable actions aimed at destroying or damaging the World Heritage Property, as well as for the actions and inaction of subjects with authority

	administrative offenses, as well as the prevention of administrative offenses	
Fundamentals of the legislation of the Russian Federation on culture FZ №3612-I	Ensuring and protecting the constitutional right of citizens of the Russian Federation to cultural activities. Creation of legal guarantees for the free cultural activity of associations of citizens, peoples and other ethnic communities of the Russian Federation. Definition of principles and legal norms of relations of subjects of cultural activity. Definition of the principles of state cultural policy, legal norms of state support of culture and guarantees of non-interference of the state in creative processes	Defines the legal basis for the preservation and development of culture in the Russian Federation
Federal Law "On Objects of Cultural Heritage (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation" FZ 73	Regulates relations in the field of preservation, use, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects (monuments of history and culture) of the peoples of the Russian Federation and is aimed at realizing the constitutional right of everyone to access cultural values and the constitutional duty of everyone to take care of the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, to protect historical and cultural monuments, as well as the realization of rights peoples and other ethnic communities in the Russian Federation for the preservation and development of their cultural and national identity, protection, restoration and preservation of the historical and cultural habitat, protection and preservation of sources of information about the origin and development of culture	Defines: - powers of state authorities of the Russian Federation, state authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation, municipal authorities of the Russian Federation; - financing of measures for the preservation, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects; - formation and maintenance of the unified state register of cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation; -the procedure and grounds for including a cultural heritage object in the World Heritage List and the procedure for submitting relevant documentation; - appointment and implementation of the state historical and cultural expertise of cultural heritage objects; - purposes and types of state protection of cultural heritage objects; - types of preservation of cultural heritage objects;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- peculiarities of ownership, use and disposal of cultural heritage objects included in the register;</li> <li>- the grounds for the right to use cultural heritage objects included in the register</li> </ul>
Federal Law "On the Museum Fund of the Russian Federation and Museums in the Russian Federation" FZ 54	Defines the specifics of the legal status of the Museum Fund of the Russian Federation, as well as the specifics of the creation and legal status of museums in the Russian Federation	Defines the legal status of the museum: the museum-reserve; the objectives of the creation of museums-reserves, one of which is to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage objects transferred to them and access to them by citizens, preservation, study and popularization of these objects
"Budget Code of the Russian Federation" FZ 145	Establishes the general principles of the budget legislation of the Russian Federation, the organization and functioning of the budget system of the Russian Federation, the legal status of the subjects of budgetary legal relations, defines the foundations of the budget process and inter-budgetary relations in the Russian Federation, the procedure for the execution of judicial acts on the foreclosure of the budgets of the budget system of the Russian Federation, the grounds and types of liability for violation of the budget legislation of the Russian Federation	Defines the legal regime for budget financing
Tax Code of the Russian Federation	Defines the system of all tax transactions and fees in the state	Defines the taxation system in the field of cultural heritage preservation
Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 808 dated December 24, 2014 "On approval of the Foundations of the State Cultural Policy"	Defines the goals and strategic objectives of the cultural development of the country.	It defines the preservation of the heritage of Russian culture and the cultures of all peoples of Russia as a universal value that determines the identity and viability of the Russian people
Federal Law No. 390-FZ dated 06.12.2021 "On the Federal Budget for 2022 and for the Planning Period of 2023 and 2024"	Defines the main characteristics of the federal budget for 2022 and for the planning period of 2023 and 2024	Determines the procedure for financing works in the field of state protection, preservation and popularization of cultural heritage objects

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of September 12, 2015 No. 972 "On Approval of the Regulations on the Zones of Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation and on Invalidation of Certain Provisions of Regulatory Legal Acts of the Government of the Russian Federation"	Establishes the procedure for the development of projects for the protection of cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation	Defines the requirements for land use regimes and urban planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones
Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1178 dated 10.09.2019 "On Approval of the Rules for the Installation of Information Inscriptions and Designations on Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, the Content of these Information Inscriptions and Designations, as well as Requirements for the composition of Installation projects and the content of information inscriptions and Designations on the basis of which such installation is carried out"	Defines the procedure for installing information inscriptions and designations on cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation; the content of information inscriptions and designations on cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation; requirements for the composition of installation projects and the content of information inscriptions and designations on the basis of which such installation is carried out	Defines the procedure for installing information labels, their content, requirements for the composition of information label projects, including on UNESCO World Heritage Properties
Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 759-r dated 01.7.2009 "On Approval of Lists of Cultural Heritage objects of Federal Significance, the powers of state protection of which are carried out by the Ministry of Culture of Russia"	Defines the list of individual objects of cultural heritage of federal significance, the powers of state protection of which are carried out by the Ministry of Culture of Russia	Assigns UNESCO World Heritage Properties to the authority of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation
Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1745 dated	Defines the requirements for the design of the boundaries of the territory of the cultural heritage object	Defines the requirements for the draft boundaries of the territory, including UNESCO World

04.06.2015 "On Approval of Requirements for Drafting Boundaries of territories of cultural heritage objects"		Heritage Properties
Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1749 dated 05.06.2015 "On Approval of the Procedure for Preparing and Approving Project Documentation for the Preservation of an Object of Cultural Heritage Included in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, or an Identified Object of Cultural Heritage".	Defines the procedure for the preparation and approval of project documentation for the work on the preservation of cultural heritage	Defines the procedure for the preparation and approval of project documentation for the preservation of cultural heritage, including the UNESCO World Heritage Property
Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 25.06.2015 No. 1840 "On Approval of the Composition and Procedure for Approval of the Accounting documentation on the Performance of works on the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage Object Included in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, or the Identified Cultural Heritage Object and the Procedure for Preparing the Act of Acceptance of the performed works on the preservation of the cultural Heritage object, included in the unified state register of cultural heritage objects	Determines the composition and procedure for approving the reporting documentation on the performance of works on the preservation of the cultural heritage object and the procedure for preparing the act of acceptance of the completed works	Determines the composition and procedure for approving the reporting documentation on the implementation of works on the preservation of the cultural heritage object and the procedure for preparing the act of acceptance of completed works, including on the UNESCO World Heritage Property

(historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation, or the identified object of cultural heritage and its form."		
Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2625 dated 21.10.2015 "On Approval of the Procedure for Issuing a Permit for the Preservation of an Object of Cultural Heritage Included in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, or an Identified Object of Cultural Heritage" (as amended by Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated May 4, 2017 No. 695).	Defines the procedure for issuing a permit to carry out works on the preservation of the object of cultural heritage	Determines the procedure for issuing a permit for carrying out works on the preservation of a cultural heritage object, including a UNESCO World Heritage Property
Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 28 dated 13.01.2016 "On Approval of the Procedure for Determining the Subject of Protection of an Object of Cultural Heritage Included in the Unified State Register of Objects of Cultural Heritage (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation in Accordance with Article 64 of Federal Law No. 73-FZ dated June 25, 2002 "On Objects of Cultural Heritage (Historical Monuments and culture) of the peoples of the Russian Federation"	Defines the procedure for the development of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage included in the Unified State Register of SCH	Defines the procedure for the development of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage included in the Unified State Register of SCH, including UNESCO World Heritage Properties

Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1278 dated 08.06.2016 "On Approval of the Procedure for Issuing a Task for the Preservation of an Object of Cultural Heritage Included in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, or an Identified Object of Cultural heritage".	Determines the procedure for issuing a task for carrying out works on the preservation of a cultural heritage object	Determines the procedure for issuing a task for carrying out works on the preservation of a cultural heritage object, including a UNESCO World Heritage Property
<b>REGIONAL LEGISLATION</b>		
The Law of the Vladimir region No. 21-OZ of 06.04.2004 "About the objects of cultural heritage (historical and cultural monuments) of the Vladimir region"	Regulates relations in the field of preservation, use, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation on the territory of the Vladimir Region, attributed to the powers of the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and relations on the execution by the regional state authorities of the transferred individual powers of the Russian Federation in the field of preservation, use, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects	Defines the powers of the state authorities of the Vladimir Region in the field of preservation, use, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation
Resolution of the Governor of the Vladimir Region dated October 17, 2007 No. 774 "On Approval of the Regulations on the State Inspection for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Vladimir Region"	Approves the regulations on the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Vladimir Region, including its tasks and powers.	Defines the powers and structure of the state authority in the field of protection of cultural heritage objects

## **2.2. DOCUMENTATION SUPPORT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE UNESCO WHP**

The components of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" within the Russian legislation have a comprehensive system of state protection.

During 2014-2021 the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation took active measures to provide monuments as part of the UNESCO WHP with the documents necessary for effective state protection, ordered the development and approved by orders:

- borders for the territories of the OCH;
- the boundaries of the OCH protection zones, special use regimes for territories and requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones;
- OCH security items.

Information about the approved documentation for the components of the Property is given in Table 15.

Taking into account the absence of the concept "buffer zone" in Russian legislation for SCH included in the World Heritage List, protection zones are being developed, consisting of a protected zone, a zone for regulating development and economic activity, and a zone of protected natural landscape. When developing a project of protection zones, all the three zones can be present or various zone combination.

Table 15  
Information about the developed documentation for the Property components

Component No	Property component name	Information about Property component boundaries	Information about the protection zones and the buffer zone of the Property component	Information about the subject of protection of the Property component	Information about the Property component managing organization	Notes
633-001	Assumption cathedral	In development at the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation	<p>The protection zones have been approved (<i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1254 dated 27.07.2017</i> "About the approval of the boundaries of the zones of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance" "Assumption Cathedral with bell tower, 1158-1194, 1810"</p> <p>The security zones of the Assumption Cathedral are adjacent to the security zones of two Property components – the St Demetrius Cathedral and the Golden Gate</p> <p>There is no buffer zone</p>	<p>The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 977 dated 06/16/2021</i> "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance" "Assumption Cathedral"</p>	<p>The State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical, Architectural and Arts Museum-Reserve (hereinafter – the Museum)</p> <p>There is an agreement on the common use of the Cathedral with the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church No.1 dated 29.08.2006</p>	<p>The Assumption Cathedral is located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within the boundaries of the SCH territory - a place of interest "The Historical center of the city of Vladimir", 990</li> <li>- within the boundaries of the territory of the "Cultural layer of ancient Vladimir", 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries.</li> <li>- within the boundaries of the SCH security zone "The Historical center of the city of Vladimir"</li> </ul>
633-002	Golden Gate	The boundaries of the territory have been approved ( <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2229 dated 17.12.2018</i>	<p>The protection zones have been approved (<i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 231 dated 01.03.2017</i> "On approval of the boundaries of the protection zones of the object of cultural heritage of</p>	<p>The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 05.11.2014 No. 1854</i> "On</p>	Museum	<p>The Golden Gate is located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within the boundaries of the SCH territory - a place of interest "The Historical center of the city of Vladimir", 990</li> <li>- within the boundaries of the territory of the "Cultural</li> </ul>



		<i>"On the approval of the borders and the regime of use of the territory of the cultural heritage object of federal significance "Golden Gate", 1164</i>	<i>federal significance "Golden Gate, 1164»</i> The security zones of the Golden Gate are adjacent to the security zone of Property component – the Assumption Cathedral  There is no buffer zone	<i>approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Golden Gate"</i>		layer of ancient Vladimir", 12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries. - within the boundaries of the SCH security zone "The Historical center of the city of Vladimir"
<b>633-003</b>	Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky	The boundaries of the territory have been approved <i>Order of the State Inspection for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Administration of the Vladimir Region No. 440-01-05 dated 16.12.2014 "On approval of the boundary of the territory of the Cultural Heritage Object of Federal Significance "Bogolyubovo Monastery Ensemble"</i>	The protection zones have been approved ( <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 562 dated 17.04.2017 "On approval of the boundaries of the protection zones of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Monastery" (Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, 1158, Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, 1158)</i> )  There is no buffer zone	The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 378 dated 03.04.2019 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin" Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 393 dated 08.04.2019 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky"</i>	Museum  There is an <i>agreement on the common use of the Cathedral with the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church No.3 dated 29.08.2006</i>	Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky are located in the SCH developing regulation zone "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl"

<b>633-004</b>	Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'	The boundaries of the territory have been approved <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1116 dated 23.04.2015 "On approval of the border and the regime of use of the territory of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl', 1165"</i>	The protection zones have been approved <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2125 dated December 18, 2017 "On Approval of the boundaries of the protection zones of the Object of Cultural Heritage of Federal Significance "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'", 1165"</i>  There is no buffer zone	The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2180 dated 22.12.2017 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'"</i>	Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church	The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is located: - within the boundaries of the territory of the historical and landscape complex "Bogolyubovsky Meadow - Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'" <i>Resolution of the Governor of the Vladimir region dated 23.06.2003 No. 318 "On the formation of the state historical and landscape complex of regional significance "Bogolyubovsky Meadow – Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'" and approval of the regulations on it"</i>
<b>633-005</b>	St Demetrius Cathedral	The boundaries of the territory have been approved <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 358 dated March 29, 2019 "On Approval of the Boundaries and Regime of Use of the Territory of the Cultural Heritage Object of Federal Significance "St Demetrius Cathedral", 1197"</i>	The protection zones were approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 73 dated 30.01.2017 "On approval of the boundaries of the zones of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "St Demetrius Cathedral, 1197"</i>  The security zones of the St Demetrius Cathedral are adjacent to the security zones of the Property component – the Assumption	The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 05.11.2014 No. 1856 "On approval of the subject of protection of the cultural heritage object of Federal significance "St Demetrius Cathedral"</i>	Museum	St Demetrius Cathedral is located: - within the boundaries of the SCH territory - a place of interest "The Historical center of the city of Vladimir", 990 - within the boundaries of the territory of the "Cultural layer of ancient Vladimir", 12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries. - within the boundaries of the SCH security zone "The Historical center of the city of Vladimir"

			Cathedral			
			There is no buffer zone			
<b>633-006</b>	Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and Bishop's Palace	The boundaries of the territory have been approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 06.11.2018 No. 1909 "On approval of the boundaries and mode of use of the territory of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and Bishop's House", 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries"</i>	The protection zones were approved in 1968. <i>Decision of the Executive Committee of the Vladimir Regional Council of Workers' Deputies No. 1114 dated 03.10.1968 "On the approval of security zones and zones regulating the development of architectural monuments of national importance"</i>  There is no buffer zone.	The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 323 dated 03/16/2021 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and Bishop's House", 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries"</i>	Museum  There is an <i>agreement on the common use of the Cathedral with the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church No.2 dated 29.08.2006</i>	Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and Bishop's Palace is located: - within the boundaries of the SCH protection zones "Ancient Suzdal" - within the boundaries of the territory of the historical settlement of the city of Suzdal - within the boundaries of the territory of the SCH "Cultural layer, ramparts, moats of Suzdal", 10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries.
<b>633-007</b>	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius	The boundaries of the territory have been approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation dated 05.10.2018 No. 1731 "On the inclusion of Identified Cultural Heritage Objects in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Objects (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the</i>	The protection zones were approved in 1968. <i>Decision of the Executive Committee of the Vladimir Regional Council of Workers' Deputies No. 1114 dated 03.10.1968 "On the approval of security zones and zones regulating the development of architectural monuments of national importance"</i>  There is no buffer zone	The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 767 dated 03.12.2021 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St</i>	Museum	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius is located: - within the boundaries of the SCH protection zones "Ancient Suzdal" - within the boundaries of the territory of the historical settlement of the city of Suzdal - within the boundaries of the territory of the SCH "Cultural layer, ramparts, moats of Suzdal", 10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries.

		<i>Russian Federation as Objects of Cultural Heritage of Federal Significance as Part of the cultural heritage object of Federal Significance</i> <i>"Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", XVI - early XX centuries"</i>		<i>Euthymius"</i>		
<b>633-008</b>	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	The boundaries of the territory have been approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 158 dated 15.02.2019 "On approval of the boundaries and regime of use of the territory of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Complex of churches of Boris and Gleb in Kideksha", 1152 – 17<sup>th</sup> century"</i>	The protection zones were approved <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 1092 dated 06/28/2017 "On approval of the boundaries of the zones of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "The complex of churches of Boris and Gleb in Kideksha", 1152 - XVII century. ("The Church of Boris and Gleb", 1152"</i>  There is no buffer zone	The subject of protection is approved. <i>Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation No. 2181 dated 22.12.2017 "On approval of the subject of protection of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb"</i>	Museum	

Within the boundaries of the protected zones of some of the components of the Property (in Vladimir and Suzdal) there are 4 more large OCH, including:

- 2 places of interest of regional significance:

№п/п	Name	Cultural and historical significance	Location of the monument	Основания отнесения объектов недвижимости к ОКН
1.	"Historical center of Vladimir", 990	Regional	Vladimir: the area from the Golden Gate, along Letne-Perevozinskaya Street to Kozlov dead end, Nikolo-Galeiskaya Street, at the base of the Ascension Church, 110 m west of Novo-Goncharnaya Street, 75 m south of Gogol Street, Dvoryanskaya Street, Uritsky Street, Karl Marx Street, Zheleznodorozhnaya Street, along the Klyazma River, to Frunze Square, on the brow of the Lybedi River, on Nikitskaya St.	The Law of the Vladimir Region "On the declaration of real estate objects as monuments of history and culture of regional significance" dated October 8, 1998 No. 44-OZ
2.	"Old Suzdal - historical and urban planning, architectural and landscape complex – an ensemble of the historical part of the city within the boundaries of the XVII <sup>th</sup> - beginning XX <sup>th</sup> centuries", XII <sup>th</sup> - beginning XX <sup>th</sup> centuries	Regional	Suzdal: south-western border: from Lenin Street to Shchipachikha Street, western: from the gate from Shchipachikha Street – Dmitrovskaya street – Pokrovskaya Street – Krasnoarmeyskaya Street to Hotel and Tourist Complex "Suzdal" – Korovniki Street, northern – from Korovniki Street to Gogol Street – parallel to Spasskaya Street, east – from Gogol Street to Vasilevskaya Street and Vladimir–Ivanovo highway, south-east – from Vladimir–Ivanovo highway, Mikhailovskaya – Kolkhoznaya Street to Lenin Street – Pushkarskaya Stree	The Law of the Vladimir Region "On the declaration of real estate objects as monuments of history and culture of regional significance" dated October 8, 1998 No. 44-OZ

- 2 objects of cultural heritage of federal significance (archaeological monuments):

№п/п	Name	Cultural and historical significance	Location of the monument	Document characterizing the monument as a cultural heritage object
1.	"Cultural layer of ancient Vladimir", 12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Federal	City of Vladimir. The northern border of the archaeological monument, starting from Frunze Square, goes along the right bank of the former Lybed riverbed. The western border runs along Oktyabrsky Avenue, Gogol St., Novogoncharny Lane, Novo-Goncharnaya St. and Staro-Goncharnaya St. The southeastern border of the monument, starting from Staro-Goncharnaya St., goes further on Nikolo-Galeiskaya Street and Vakzalnaya St. to Frunze Square	The Law of the Vladimir Region "On the declaration of real estate objects as monuments of history and culture of regional significance" dated October 8, 1998 No. 44-OZ
2.	"Cultural layer, ramparts, moats of Suzdal", 10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Federal	The northern border of the archaeological monument (from left to the right) along Korovniki Street from the bend of the Kamenka River, then along Gogol Street to Vspolye Boulevard. The eastern border goes along Vspolye Boulevard, Sadovaya Street, includes Vasilievsky Monastery, runs along the eastern border of the garden part of Mikhailovskaya Street to Kolkhoznaya Street. The southern border of the monument from Mikhailovskaya Street goes along the northern garden parts of	The Law of the Vladimir Region "On the declaration of real estate objects as monuments of history and culture of regional significance" dated October 8, 1998 No. 44-OZ

			Kolkhoznaya Street, crosses the Mzhara River, then along Vladimirskaya Street. The western border from Vladimirskaya Street runs along Shirokaya Street, Nekrasov Street, the western border of Ilyinsky Meadow, along ul. Stromynka, includes the western and northern borders of the Seltso district.	
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In accordance with the order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation dated 29.07.2010 No. 418/339 "About approval of the list of historical settlements", the cities of Vladimir and Suzdal have the status of a historical settlement of federal significance.

The Order of the Ministry of Culture of Russia dated 05.10.2016 No. 2246 approved the subject of protection, the boundaries of the territory and the requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of the territory of the historical settlement of federal significance of the city of Suzdal.

Regarding the historical settlement of federal significance the city of Vladimir the subject of protection, the boundaries of the territory and the requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of the territory of the historical settlement are currently under development.

The following regulations concern the territory of OCH that are components of a UNESCO WHP:

№	Legislative acts	Legislative act subject
1	Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation dated 29.07.2010 No. 418/339	"On approval of the list of historical settlements"
2	Order of the Ministry of Culture of Russia dated 05.10.2016 No. 2246	"On the approval of the subject of protection, the boundaries of the territory and the requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of the territory of the historical settlement of federal



		significance of Suzdal, Vladimir region"
3	Resolution of the Governor of the Vladimir region dated 12.04.2010 No. 433	"On the approval of the boundaries of the protection zones of a landmark of regional significance "Ancient Suzdal – historical and urban architectural and landscape complex - an ensemble of the historical part of the city within the boundaries of the 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries", land use regimes and town-planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones"
4	Resolution of the Governor of the Vladimir region dated 31.12.2010 No. 1407	"On the approval of the boundaries of the protection zones of the landmark of regional significance "The Historical Center of the City of Vladimir", land use regimes and town-planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones"
5	Order of the Head of the State Inspection for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Administration of the Vladimir Region dated 26.08.2014 No. 257-01-05	"On the approval of the boundaries of the territory of the archaeological heritage site of regional significance "Cultural layer of ancient Vladimir", 12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries."
6	Order of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Administration of the Vladimir Region dated 17.05.2012 No. 134-01-05	"On the approval of the boundaries of the territory of the archaeological monument "Cultural layer, ramparts, ditches of the city of Suzdal", 10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries."

Federal Law No. 73-FZ of 25.06.2002 "About Cultural Heritage objects (historical and Cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation" provided the preservation of OCH. Article 34.1 deals with restricting zones to be established before the establishment of zones for the protection of OCH. Such zones as well as zones for the protection of OCH are a kind of zones with special regulation for the use of territories provided for in clause 4 of Article 1 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation.

Now it is necessary to develop security zones for components 633-006 "Kremlin Ensemble" ("Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace"), and 633-007 "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius". In relation to these objects, there are protection zones developed in 1968 and approved by the Decision of the Executive Committee of the Vladimir Regional Council of Workers' Deputies No. 1114 dated 03.10.1968 "About the protection zones and zones for regulating the development of architectural monuments of national importance in the Vladimir region".

In accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 01.06.2009 No. 759-r "About the list of individual OCH of federal significance, the powers of state protection of which are carried out by the Ministry of Culture of Russia" state protection of all components of the WHP is carried out by the Ministry of Culture of Russia. The regional body for the protection of monuments – the State Inspection for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Vladimir region is responsible for the protection of two archaeological monuments "Cultural layer of ancient Vladimir", 12th-17th centuries, "Cultural layer, ramparts, moats of the city of Suzdal", 10th-13th, 14th-17th centuries, as well as two places of interest – "The Historical Center of Vladimir" and "Ancient Suzdal".

### **2.3. THE PROBLEM OF TRANSFERRING MONUMENTS TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS FOR USE**

In accordance with the Decree of the Russian President dated 15.01.1998 No. 30 "About the inclusion of the State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical, Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve in the State Code of Especially Valuable objects of Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation", the property of the Museum including immovable monuments and movable collections are particularly valuable OCH and cannot be alienated from the state property.

The Regulation on especially valuable objects of Cultural heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation (approved by the Decree of the Russian President No. 1487 dated 30.11.1992) establishes that the objects included in the state code of especially valuable objects are exclusively federal property. Changes in the form of ownership of these objects or their conversion are not allowed.

At the same time, taking into account the fact that most of the monuments protected by UNESCO are religious objects, the Russian Orthodox Church regularly applies to state structures with applications for the transfer of these buildings for free use in accordance with Federal Law No. 327-FZ of 30.11.2010 "About transfer of religious property to religious organization owned by the state or municipal property".

Since 2012, the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church has repeatedly sent requests to the Federal Property Management Agency for the transfer for free use of OCH of a religious origin that are under the operational management of the Museum.

In 2017, a similar appeal was sent in relation to two components of the WHP – the Transfiguration Cathedral of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius in Suzdal and the Golden Gate in Vladimir.

On March 28, 2019 a conciliation commission discussed the questions of property relations of the State Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve with the Vladimir Metropolis of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). Metropolitan Tikhon of Vladimir and Suzdal and representatives of the Interregional Administration of the Federal Property Management Agency in Vladimir took part in it.

This conciliation commission discussed the possibility of the transfer to the free use of the Church OCH, which are components of the UNESCO WHP:

- Assumption Cathedral (Vladimir);
- St Demetrius Cathedral (Vladimir);
- Golden Gate (Vladimir);
- objects in the "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius": Transfiguration Cathedral, Belfry, Abbot's Palace, Assumption Refectory Church (Suzdal);
- The Nativity Cathedral as part of the "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace" (Suzdal).

The protocol of the conciliation commission signed by the participating parties states that the Church withdraws its request. At the same time the Church and Museum together use the OCH: the Assumption and St Demetrius Cathedrals in Vladimir, the Transfiguration Cathedral, the Assumption Refectory Church (the groundfloor rooms), the Nativity Cathedral in Suzdal. All the mentioned objects remain in the Museum management, all the conditions are specified in the relevant agreements concluded between the Museum and the Church.

Since 2006 to the present the following agreements have been in force between the Museum and the Church:

- No. 1 of 29.08.2006 "About the common use of the monument of history and culture by a religious organization and cultural institution "Assumption Cathedral of the 12th century", Vladimir";
- No. 2 of 29.08.2006 "About the common use of the monument of history and culture by a religious organization and cultural institution "Nativity Cathedral, 13th -18th centuries, Suzdal";
- No. 3 of 29.08.2006 "About the common use of the historical and cultural monument by a religious organization and cultural institution "Nativity Cathedral, Bogolyubovo village".

Additionally the Museum and the Church signed an agreement No. 1 dated 02/25/2022 about holding common events in 2022 in the expositions "Nativity Cathedral"

and "Cathedral of Transfiguration" (Suzdal), which agreed on the list of liturgical services in these objects, as well as agreed on the schedule of liturgical services in the Assumption Cathedral for 2022-2023 years. Currently, liturgical services in religious objects are held regularly in accordance with the approved schedules.

Currently, the request of the Church about the possibility of transferring the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir to the religious organization for free use is being considered by the Federal Property Management Agency.

As an argument in favor of the transfer of religious monuments to the Church we can single out the partial restoration of the historical function of the objects, which may cause a positive reaction from the local community, which regards these objects primarily in a religious way.

As disadvantages of such a process the following can be marked:

- an increase in state costs for maintaining the condition of monuments, since the Museum finances part of the work on the preservation of OCH from its own budget, and in the case of the transfer of monuments to the church, all work will have to be financed from the federal budget;

- loss of the status of a particularly valuable OCH, since this status is given not to individual monuments but to the Museum as a cultural institution;

- violation of the continuity of use fixed in the UNESCO-approved formulation of OUV in the section "Protection and Management" of which reads: since 1958, the white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal have been part of the Museum... The Museum together with the state protection bodies carry out effective protection of objects by legal, financial and organizational measures."

The most balanced solution seems to be the common use of objects by the Museum and the Church with their preservation in the Museum management, following the example of such OCH as the Assumption, Annunciation and Archangel Cathedrals of the Moscow Kremlin, the Ensemble of the Ferapontovo Monastery and the Intercession Cathedral (St. Basil's Cathedral).

## 2.4. THE STATE OF PRESERVATION OF THE PROPERTY COMPONENTS AND THEIR TERRITORY

Table 16  
Information about the area of the building and the land plot of the Property component  
"White stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" /real estate (m2)

№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
<b>VLADIMIR</b>						
1.	«Assumption cathedral», 1158-1160, 1186-1189	600000, Russia Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 56	712,8	33:22:032027:152	№ 33-33-01/049/2010-130 dated 21.06.2010	№ 33-33-01/049/2010-131 dated 21.06.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot («Assumption cathedral»)	600000, Russia Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 56	7 512,0	33:22:032027:14	№ 33-33-01/016/2012-282 dated 19.03.2012	№ 33-01/22-31/2002-14 dated 29.04.2002. Museum permanent indefinite use
2.	«St Demetrius Cathedral», 1197 г.	600000, Russia Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 60	210,0	33:22:032027:55	№ 33-33-01/049/2010-066 dated 17.06.2010	№ 33-33-01/049/2010-067 dated 17.06.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot («St Demetrius Cathedral»)	600000, Russia Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 60	2 124,0	33:22:032027:16	№ 33-33-01/012/2006-151 dated 11.07.2006	№ 33-01/22-30/2002-27 dated 29.04.2002. Museum permanent indefinite use

№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
3.	«Golden Gate», 1164 г.	600000, Russia Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 1-A	310,8	33:22:011001:125	№ 33-33-01/035/2010-731 dated 15.06.2010	№ 33-33-01/035/2010-732 от 15.06.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot («Golden Gate»)	600000, Russia Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 1-A	809,0	33:22:011001:2	№ 33-33-01/012/2006-118 dated 04.07.2006	№ 33-01/22-31/2002-19 dated 29.04.2002. Museum permanent indefinite use
<b>SUZDAL DISTRICT, BOGOLYUBOVO VILLAGE</b>						
4.	«Church of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1158	601270, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Str., 51v, building 1, 2	190,4	33:05:010103:618	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-541 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-542 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky», 1158г.,	601270, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Str., 51v, building 1, 2	36,1	33:05:010102:425 9	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-539 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-540 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot («Church of the Nativity of the Virgin», «Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky»)	601270, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Str., 51v, building 1, 2	760,0	33:05:010103:81	№ 33-33-17/005/2008-683 dated 07.10.2008	№ 33-33-17/005/2005-118 dated 19.04.2005. Museum permanent indefinite use



№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
<b>SUZDAL DISTRICT, KIDEKSHA VILLAGE</b>						
5.	«Church of Sts Boris and Gleb», 1152	601261, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2a	220,9	33:05:050401:190	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-545 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-546 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot (Church of Sts Boris and Gleb)	601261, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2a	2 969,0	33:05:050401:12	№ 33-33-17/005/2007-35 dated 20.02.2007	№ 33-33-17/005/2005-121 dated 19.04.2005. Museum permanent indefinite use
<b>SUZDAL</b>						
6.	«Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace», 13 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> centuries	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20				
	«Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1222 - 1225, 1528 – 1530s	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20	445,7	33:19:010602:22	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-535 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-536 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management

№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
	«Archbishop's Palace with the Annunciation refectory church», 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> centuries	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20	2 953,7	33:19:010602:18	№ 33-33-17/005/2010-105 dated 02.11.2010	№ 33-01/17-13/2003-297 dated 05.12.2003. Museum operational management
	«Bell tower with domestic church», 1636, 1680-s	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20	346,4	33:19:010602:19	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-543 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-544 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Fence with gates», 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> centuries	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20	210,3	33:19:010602:20	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-533 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-534 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«St. Nicholas Church (wooden)», 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> centuries from Glotovo village	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20	83,2	33:19:010602:21	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-537 dated 07.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-538 dated 07.07.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot («Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace»)	601293, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, kremlin Str., 20	39 849,0	33:19:010602:1	№ 33-33-17/005/2007-15 dated 13.02.2007	№ 33-33-17/005/2005-123 dated 19.04.2005. Museum permanent indefinite use
7.	«Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> –	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G				

№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
	early 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries					
	«Cathedral of Transfiguration», late 16 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	627,9	33:19:010710:83	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-606 dated 12.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-607 dated 12.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Assumption refectory church», 1525	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	790,1	33:19:010710:114	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-674 dated 14.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-675 dated 14.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Belfry», 1530, 1599, 1691	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	112,2	33:19:010710:122	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-608 dated 12.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-609 dated 12.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Canopy», 18 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	14,8	33:19:010710:115	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-610 dated 12.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-611 dated 12.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«St. Nicholas Church», 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> centuries	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	768,9	33:19:010710:119	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-612 dated 12.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-613 dated 12.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Abbot's residence», 17 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	765,4	33:19:010710:112	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-602 dated 12.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-603 dated 12.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Prison building»,	601260, Russia, Vladimir	703,8	33:19:010710:88	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-673

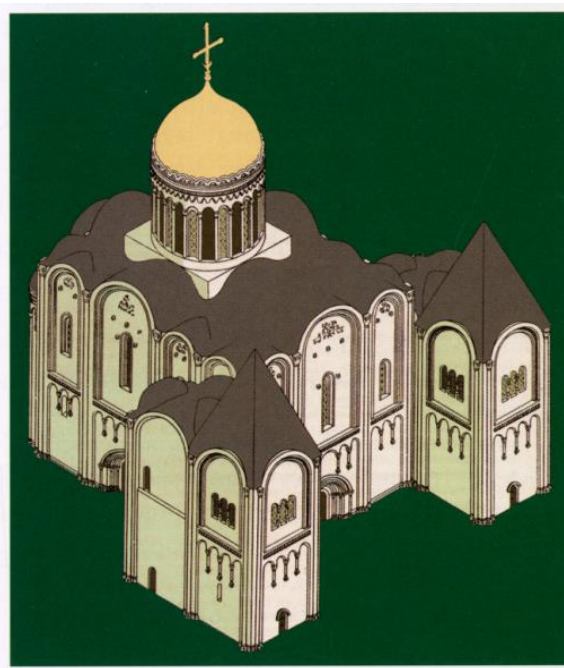
№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
	19 <sup>th</sup> century	region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G			672 dated 14.07.2010	dated 14.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Block of of monks' cells», late 17 <sup>th</sup> -mid-19 <sup>th</sup> centuries	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	1 352,9	33:19:010710:87	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-676 dated 14.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-677 dated 14.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Wall and towers», 17 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	3433,6	33:19:010205:87	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-721 dated 16.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-722 dated 16.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Entrance tower (Holy Gate)», late 17 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	307,0	33:19:010710:113	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-723 dated 16.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-724 dated 16.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Annunciation Gate Church», 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> centuries	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	235,2	33:19:010710:110	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-604 dated 12.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-605 dated 12.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Auxiliary building», early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	291,3	33:19:010710:81	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-678 dated 14.07.2010	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-679 dated 14.07.2010. Museum operational management
	«Gatekeeper 's house», 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str.,	81,9	33:19:010710:111	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-670	№ 33-33-17/011/2010-671 dated 14.07.2010.

№	Property component name	Address	Territory area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cadastral number of the building / land plot	Details of the certificate of state registration of property rights of the Russian Federation	Details of the certificate of state registration of the right of operational management/ permanent indefinite use
	1	2	3	4	6	7
	centuries	133G			dated 14.07.2010	Museum operational management
	«The Gatehouse», early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	22,6	33:19:010710:109	№ 33-33-17/018/2010-177 dated 18.10.2010	№ 33-33-17/018/2010-178 dated 18.10.2010. Museum operational management
	Land plot («Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius»)	601260, Russia, Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133G	89255	33:19:000000:3	№ 33-01/17-13/2003-396 dated 23.01.2004	№ 33-33-17/005/2005-363 dated 06.05.2005. Museum permanent indefinite use
8.	«Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'», 1165	Russia. Vladimir region. Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village	93,2	33:05:010102:348 2	№33-33-01/056/2014-441 dated 04.07.2014	Vladimir Diocese Russian Orthodox Church permanent indefinite use
	Land plot («Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'»)	Russia. Vladimir region. Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village	4 444,0	33:05:114101:544	№33-33/001-22/001/014/2015-1954/1 dated 30.09.2015	Contract No. 11 dated 20.04.2016 for the gratuitous use of a land plot owned by the Russian Federation

## 2.4.1. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

### General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration

The cathedral was originally built by order of the great Prince of Vladimir Andrey Bogolyubsky by the princely team of masters in 1158-1160. Initially, the cathedral was most likely single-domed. After the fire of 1185 the cathedral was rebuilt and received a five-domed structure, which corresponded as much as possible, like the material – white stone – to the political ambitions of Andrei Bogolyubsky, who turned Vladimir into a capital city. In 1161, the



cathedral was painted with frescoes, not only inside, but outside as well.

The cathedral suffered from numerous fires and lootings during the Mongol-Tatar invasion.

In 1408, the cathedral was re-painted by the team of outstanding masters headed by Daniil Cherny and Andrei Rublev; the same masters created a new high iconostasis.

By the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and especially after the early 17<sup>th</sup> century Polish invasion, the cathedral was in a dilapidated state and desolation. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century according to the church documents of 1683 the cathedral had tent-shaped porches at three portals; onion-shaped domes: the middle one was covered with copper, the small ones with tin. Perhaps the porches, the heads and the roof were built under Patriarch Joseph, i.e. around 1645. At the same time they renovated the frescoes. In 1692 inside the southern gallery a warm St Panteleimon chapel of was built of brick; perhaps some repair and strengthening work took place.

In 1708 the cathedral was repaired at the expense of Grigory Plemnyannikov: brick buttresses were added, in the altar they made windows, the cathedral interior was updated.

*Assumption Cathedral  
of the time of Andrei Bogolyubsky.  
1158-1160.  
Reconstruction of N. Voronin*



As a result the building did not become stronger but when examined in 1725 it turned out to have many cracks in vaults and walls and a leakage in the wooden roof.

In 1725-1734 the cathedral was repaired again: a four-sided tin roof was arranged; the outer and inner walls were also repaired with brick, from inside they were coated with alabaster and lime. Outside the cathedral was whitewashed.

After the visit of Empress Catherine II to Vladimir serious changes took place in the interior of the cathedral in 1768-1774. The Empress ordered the College of economy to release 14 thousand rubles "for the renewal of the Vladimir Assumption Cathedral ... to preserve and maintain the antiquity of this building in the best possible way." With this money a new tin roof was made and painted with green paint, new downpipes were installed. The walls and vaults were repaired and whitewashed. Six iron bars were inserted into the windows. Instead of the old iconostasis with icons of Rublev's work a new one was built. The carvings gilding and painting was performed by Semyon Zolotov. The icons were painted



*Assumption Cathedral.  
The iconostasis of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century*

by local painters: Mikhail Matveev, Yakov Seregin, Mikhail Strokin. In the altar and under the choir gallery the frescoes were newly painted with oil paints, and the rest of the old paintings were whitewashed. At the same time a cast-iron floor appeared in the cathedral, manufactured in the Batashovsky plant near Murom. Many tombs were lowered under the floor, rearranged, damaged or destroyed, and the burials that were in them were rearranged.



In 1810 a new bell tower one was built instead of the old one destroyed by lightning. In 1862 a new church of St. George was built between the cathedral and the bell tower according to the project of the architect Nicholas Artleben.

In 1844 Academician Fyodor Solntsev discovered Rublev's frescoes on the arches of the small nave of the cathedral, and in 1859 he made watercolor drawings from them. In 1880-1884 the interior of the cathedral was renovated. At this time fragments of old paintings were discovered and in 1882-1884 they covered with new paintings by the team of Nicholas Safonov from Palekh. In the same year, the air heating was arranged in the Cathedral.

In 1888-1891 the first professional large-scale restoration of the Assumption Cathedral took place. The general management was carried out by members of the Moscow Archaeological Society Nicholas Zabelin and Nicholas Nikitin. The practical work was conducted by the provincial engineer Ivan Karabutov. The following was done: the brick superstructures over the zakomaras were dismantled, the iron roof was removed, the pedestals under the domes were restored, the

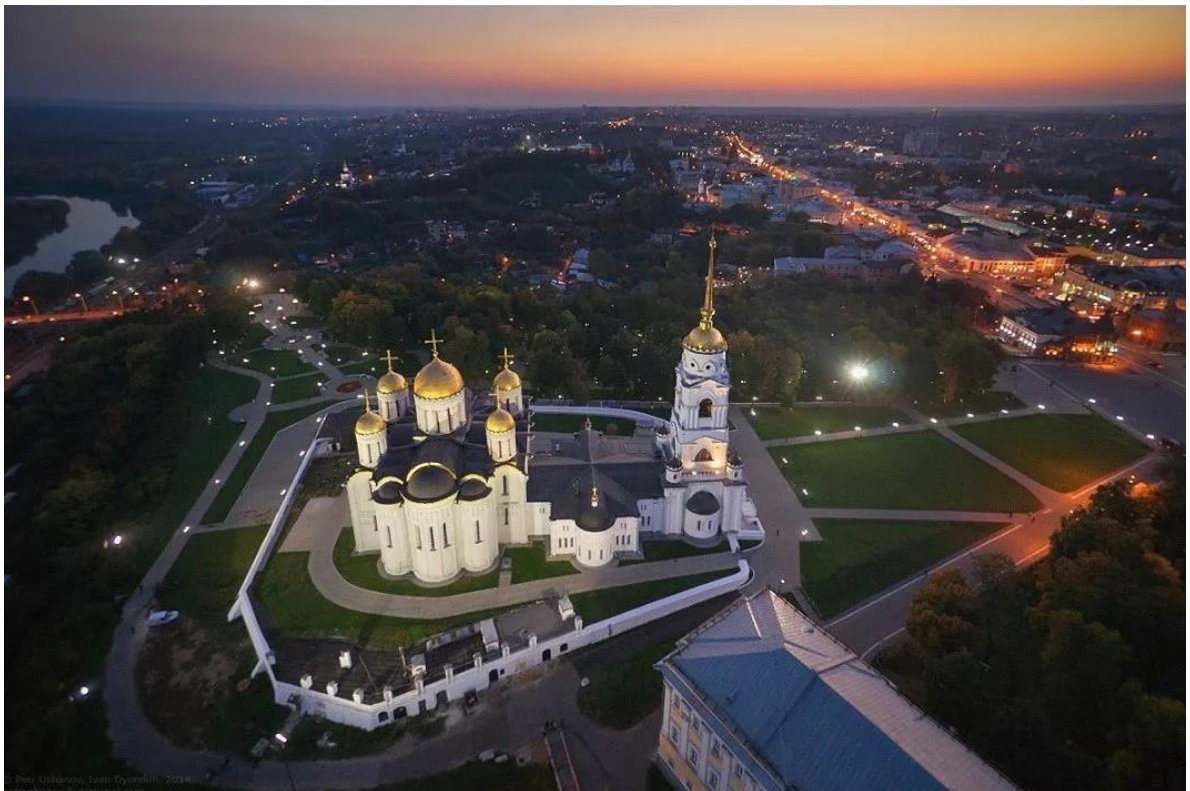


*Assumption Cathedral  
(before the restoration of 1888-1891)  
Unknown artist. Engraving. 1884*

cathedral was covered with an iron roof, the original helmet-like shape of the domes was returned, the dilapidated facing and carved stones on the facades and domes were replaced with new ones, the middle dome was gilded, the previously expanded windows were narrowed, metal links were arranged to strengthen the walls, of ground level around the cathedral was lowered for 1,5 meter. In the course of the work the remains of pediments were discovered which caused a dispute not completed yet. The dispute concerned the shape of roof of the white-stone cathedrals. On the west side a white-stone porch was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century style. After this restoration of 1888-1891 the appearance of the cathedral did not change.

After the revolution the cathedral remained functioning, liturgical services finally ceased in 1927 and the cathedral was used by the Vladimir Museum. Inside the cathedral and in the neighboring St. George's church an atheistic exhibition was arranged. In 1944, the cathedral was returned to the diocese, in 1945 the regional Department for Architecture became responsible for it. In 1951-1953 the Vladimir Restoration Workshop carried out some repair-works: the gilding of the central dome and of all crosses was updated, small domes were painted with oil paint, the white stone of all the domes was cleaned and covered with antiseptic lime mortar, old window frames were replaced, roof repair, heating and ventilation are arranged. The exterior walls and reliefs were cleared, the plaster was replaced. The deformed arches of the southern and northern naves (8 arches in total) and the vault under the choir-gallery in the northern nave were improved according to the project of Alexander Stoletov. Several stones in the south-eastern wall were replaced, heating and ventilation systems were improved. In the course of the works old oak links were found in the walls.

In 1955 the crosses on all the domes were gilded at the expense of the church.



*Assumption Cathedral, 1158-1160, 1186-1189*

The Vladimir Restoration Workshop at the expense of the church held the following works in 1957-1958: general repair and gilding of the central dome, repair of facades plaster, whitewashing of facades, painting the roof, development of the cathedral security zone.

In 1958 the cathedral became part of the newly formed Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve remaining a liturgical building. At present it is still used by the Museum together with the Vladimir Diocese.

In 1975-1982 the Workshop carried out repair and conservation work on the white-stone facades under the supervision of Alexander Skvortsov. They covered the roof and the domes with copper, arranged copper gilded valances, gilded the domes, updated the heating. The work was carried out under the technical supervision of Igor Stoletov.

The main facade restoration works were completed in 2010. Various technologies of preservation of white stone were used depending on the thickness and density of the conservation and protective layer.

The ancient wall paintings have been restored several times: in 1918 (Igor Grabar), 1949-1953 (Nikolay Sychev), 1962-1963 (Viktor Bryagin and Sergey Churakov), 1975-1983 and 1998 (Alexander Nekrasov).

The icons of the iconostasis were "renewed" for the first time in 1882-1884. They filled the damaged paint layer and priming, the faces were rewritten. The icons were restored again in 1950-1954. They fixed paint layers, in some cases the later layers were removed. The third restoration of icons was done in 1974-1982. The paint layer and the priming were strengthened, soot and dirt were removed, the painting damages were restored anew, the minor damages were tinted. The entire front surface of the icons was varnished. During the same time conservation and restoration work was carried out on the monumental sculpture - the white stone was cleaned of dirt and covered with lime mortar.

In the 2000s they made new the roofing of the cathedral, in 2008-2010 the white stone of the facades was covered with a protective film, the late painting was updated. The heating and ventilation system were upgraded.

In 2012-2013 repair and restoration and emergency work was done concerning the monumental painting of the 19th and 20th centuries.

In 2013 large-scale work was done on the installation (modernization) of the climate system (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

The restoration of unique ancient paintings of 1161, 1189, 1237, as well as 1408 by Andrei Rublev in the central part of the cathedral was done in accordance with comprehensive scientific research and methodological recommendations in 2015-2016. Conservation and restoration works were carried out on the ancient painting in the altar, on the two southern pillars behind the iconostasis, in the southern lunette and on the western slope of the southern arch and in the western lunette. The peeling and destructured paint layer was strengthened. Surface dirt, soot, mold have been removed from the surface of the painting, the painting was covered with an antiseptic and protective layer, the damages of the paint layer were "tinted". In the areas with the preserved painting by Rublev, besides the paintings conservation work, they cleaned out white stone masonry fragments for better perceiving. The works were carried out under the strict supervision of the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

In 2019 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" restored doorways and entrance porches.

It is important to regulate liturgical services for the preservation of the cathedral. It is necessary to make a study determining the optimal mode of conducting liturgies in the cathedral. This restriction will contribute to better preservation of the cathedral's interior decoration and wall paintings.

Taking into account the unique historical and architectural components of the property, the mode of conducting liturgies is fixed in the agreement on common use between the Museum and the Church. Currently the Museum and the Church have agreed on a schedule of liturgies in the Assumption Cathedral for 2022-2023.

Working plans for preventive, repair and restoration works are drawn up on the basis of monitoring, which determines trends in the state of the cathedral during the year.

## **Environment**

The Assumption Cathedral and St Demetrius Cathedral are located on the territory of the ancient, most representative part of the city. The ancient ramparts of the Vladimir fortress are now slightly visible, later buildings have replaced the original buildings that

stood on the territory of the kremlin. The largest of them is the former administrative Building – the residence of local government in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, popularly called Palaty. It was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by architect Karl Blank. This extended three-story construction introduces a certain dissonance into the ancient cathedral complex, breaking the original visual connection of the two churches.

Over the time several later buildings appeared on the territory of the Assumption Cathedral. In 1810 a huge four-tiered bell tower was erected, in 1862 an additional chapel was built between the bell tower and the cathedral, which blocked direct access to the northern facade of the Assumption Cathedral – it is closed by half its height by the brick St. George Church.

In 1865-1873 a fence with iron bars was built around the Assumption Cathedral, behind the fence a hospice house was built. When viewing the monument at a remote distance, the fence covers the lower part of the facade.

Opposite the western facade of the Assumption Cathedral in the second half of the 19th century there are two small stone buildings of the same type – Gatehouse and Baptistery.

The later buildings (Bell Tower, St. George Church, Gatehouse and Baptistery) altered the original appearance of the cathedral, transformed its urban environment. But today they are an integral part of the architectural ensemble accepted for state protection as monuments of history and culture of federal significance and exist in inseparable connection with the ancient cathedral, emphasizing its monumentality.

The surrounding landscape is an important part of the cultural and historical environment of the Assumption Cathedral. The peculiar location of Vladimir city caused a special urban planning structure of the historical center connected with the surrounding space. The city «face» was designed to be perceived from long distances and different points of view. The southern facade of the city with its white-stone temples was considered the main, the most ceremonial. The preservation of the historical heritage of the city is closely linked with the problem of preserving the surrounding landscape.

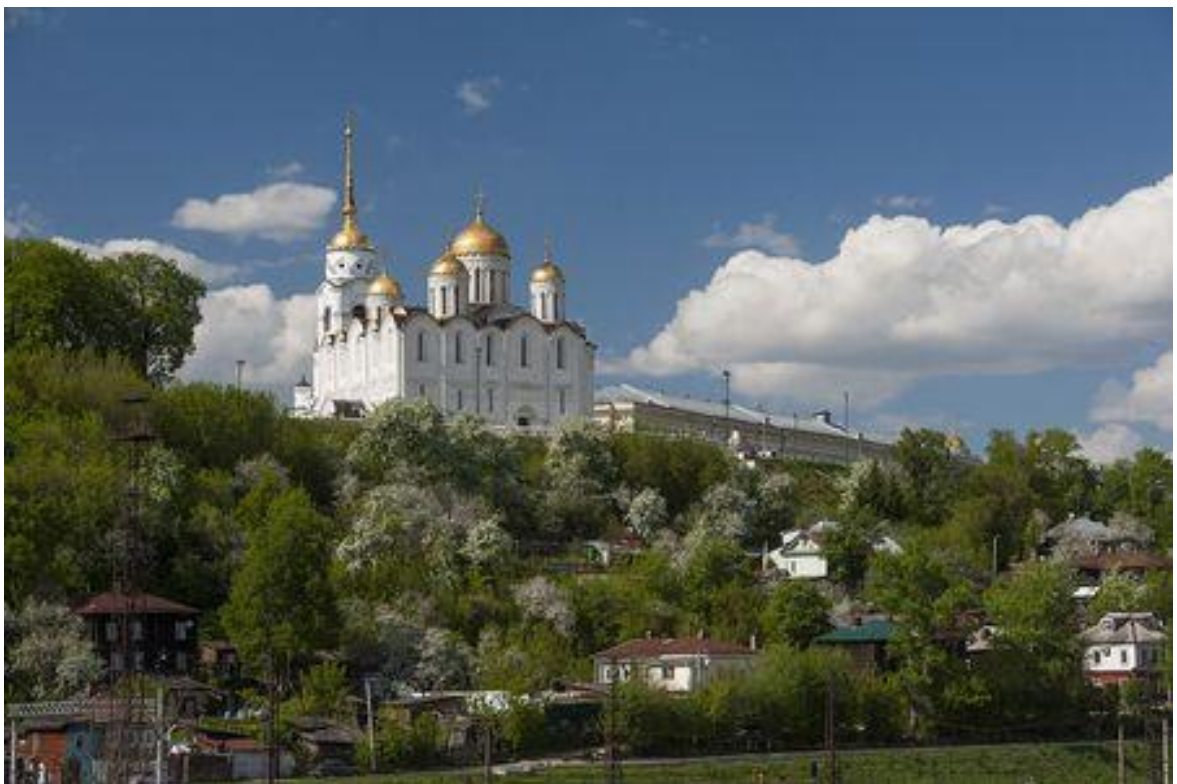
The preservation of the surrounding landscape implies the preservation of the floodplain of the Klyazma River and the woods over the river, as well as the valley of the



Lybed' River and numerous gullies extending northwest from the historical center of the city.

In this regard one of the most controversial topics is the intensive development of the territory on the opposite bank of the Klyazma.

This territory is located on the border of the protected natural landscape zone of UNESCO monuments – the Assumption Cathedral and St Demetrius Cathedral, as well as the landmark "Historical Center of the City of Vladimir". It is also part of the protected landscape of the landmark "Historical Center of the city of Vladimir", is in natural connection with OCH, viewed from the main viewpoints of Vladimir. Special requirements should be imposed on the architectural and planning solution, on the high-rise regulations of the projected buildings in this suburban area. In case of non-compliance with the established town-planning regulations there is a threat to the preservation of visual connections, panoramic views of the ancient cathedrals, it may cause change in the historical landscape.



*Assumption Cathedral. View from the Klyazma River*

The location of the white stone monuments on the high slope of the Klyazma River is at the same time one of the most important sources of hypothetical threats, since the possibility of landslide processes cannot be excluded. The catalyst for landslides and shifts can also be the railway located below the monuments. Currently the impact of vibrations and pollution is insignificant since traffic is located at a relative distance from the cathedrals.



## 2.4.2. GOLDEN GATE

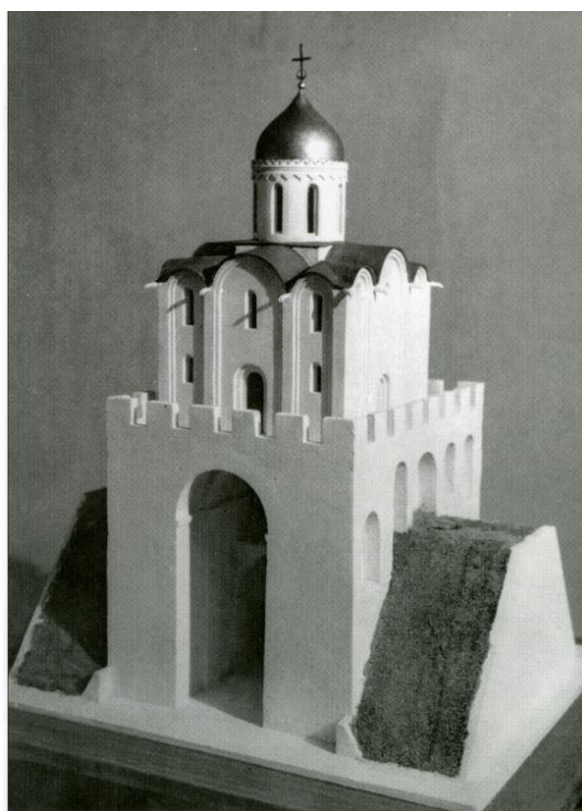
### **General information about the history of the property, researches and restoration**

The Golden Gate was built of white stone in 1158-1164 by Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky. This is the main front gate of the city of Vladimir – the new capital of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality. Their architecture harmoniously combines several meanings: a triumphal arch, a battle tower with two battle platforms, a gate church. The gate is located at the town entrance from the west side to the "New Town" – the western part of ancient Vladimir.

During its existence, the building has undergone big changes and is far from its original appearance. The authentic part is the white stone tower: rectangular in plan with a passage arch almost 14 m high and 5.3 m wide. Its excessive height of the structure and the high passage arch played a representative role of the triumphal entrance to the capital.

On both sides the gate was supported by the earthen rampart, carrying the weight of the gate church. In 1238, the Golden Gate survived the Mongols onslaught; the nomads did not manage to enter the city through the Gate, but through the breaks in the wooden wall on the rampart. It is not known how much the Golden Gate suffered during the siege of Vladimir. In any case in the 15th century the building needed repair. The chronicle mentions a repair work done in 1469 by Vassily Yermolin, another one was probably done after the great city fire of 1536.

In 1641 the famous Moscow architect Antipas Konstantinov made an estimate for the repair of the Golden Gate, but the repair work was done much later. Patriarch Adrian re-consecrated the gate church in 1695. The repair of 1691-1695 consisted, obviously, in the



*Golden Gate.  
The layout of the reconstruction  
of A. Stoletov*

replacement of the roof and of the dome; probably, at the same time, the open-air battlemented parapet was rebuilt and got the roof.

Until 1702 the Gate Church of the Deposition of the Holy Robe of the Virgin over the Golden Gate did not have its own parish and priest. Since 1702 liturgies were held only in summer, because there was no heating in it.

In 1778 the Golden Gate was severely damaged in a city fire.

On September 1, 1779 Vladimir Governor Count Roman Vorontsov made a "Report on the restoration of the Golden Gate and the Church on them". However, the repair – obviously due to lack of money, did not take place. Perhaps the round buttresses were built at that time.

In 1795 the provincial architect I. Chistyakov prepared a new "project ... to strengthen and renew the ancient building ... called the Golden Gate and the church located above it." The repair was organized by the Vladimir merchants. The bricks used in the repair have the brand "AS" of a private factory which belonged to Andrei Somov – a merchants' headman. The round towers are made of this brick. The staircase to the top was arranged in the south middle tower, the ancient staircase was not used until the 1870s.

Most likely the existing church was built a little later, according to the project of another provincial architect A. Vershinsky.

In the inventory of the Golden Gate of 1834 the regimental church is indicated. The premises in the outbuildings-towers were used by the city authorities: for the police, the prison, the fire station and retail shops rented out in favor of the city treasury. For several years the church stood completely closed. Utensils, sacristy and other things were carried to other churches.

In the 1860s city architect N. Artleben performed a measurement of the Golden Gate, later published. In 1866 they began the renovation of the gate church. A bell weighing more than 20 pounds was purchased, new double frames with large glasses were arranged instead of dilapidated frames, two ovens were arranged, a new iconostasis was made according to the drawing of the royal gates in the iconostasis of the Trinity Cathedral Church in Jerusalem. The icons were painted by the famous Palekh icon painter Safonov.

In 1918 the monument was taken over by the museum, in 1924 the chapel was closed. Engineer Korzukhina performed a measurement of the building.

In 1948-1956 the building was completely restored for the second time. The main purpose of the repair works was to preserve the monument from further destruction with its simultaneous adaptation to the exhibition of the Vladimir Regional Museum. The repair works were carried out by Vladimir restoration workshops without a preliminary serious scientific examination of the building, without dimensional drawings and structural strength studies. In 1947 the gatehouse church and gallery were freed from the police archive, and the northern extension was freed from residents.

In 1949 trolley wires were attached to the Golden Gate.

In 1953 the dome, cross, balls and stars were gilded with gold leaf. This work consisted in repairing roofing, plastering walls, whitewashing, windows and doors replacement and did not include the ancient white-stone parts of the monument.

In 1958 the Golden Gate became part of the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve. In 1961 local heating was made. In 1966 architect A. Stoletov drew up a project for the reconstruction of the Golden Gate with analysis of architectural forms of white stone monuments. At the same time a retaining wall was built to support the neighboring ancient rampart. In 1972 the building was connected to the central heating, big repair was done about the interior of the church with the replacement of the floor for limestone one, ventilation device was installed.

In 1986 the roofs were newly covered with black roofing steel, the dome with copper.



*White stone staircase.  
Golden Gate, 1164*

The cross was restored with the replacement of destructed parts. The dome, the cross ball and the cross are gilded with gold leaf. Over the side towers new stars were made and gilded.

In 1987 the Museum asked the experts from "Vladimirrestavratsiya" to examine constructions of the Golden Gate. The research revealed a large increasing deformation due to extensions of the trolleybus line. In 1988-1989 painting restorer Nekrasov revealed fragments of ancient painting in the passage arch.

In 2001 some significant repair and restoration work took place: for the first time the old plaster was cleaned and it became possible to examine the brick masonry. The surface of the white stone in the ancient parts of the Golden Gate was cleaned of whitewash, which, unlike other white stone buildings was used here in Soviet times. After that, a new lime mortar with the addition of white cement was laid on the brick masonry. Works on clearing, strengthening, antisepting, toning and hydrophobization were carried out on the white stone masonry. New oak doors with forged steel nails were installed in the round towers. In the early 2000s trolleybus extensions were removed from the monument.

In 2016 by Museum request the white stone porch of the southern facade was restored. In particular: dismantling of the steps of the south-western porch; bricklaying of the porch; installation of white stone steps; repair of the surfaces of white stone steps; hydrophobization of stone; brickwork plaster; plaster whitewash.

In 2017 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" carried out work on the restoration of white stone masonry in the basement of the eastern facade of the monument on the basis of the documentation "Technological recommendations for the restoration of facades of the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Golden Gate, 1164" in Vladimir".

In 2019 IGIT agency carried out research work on geodetic monitoring of vertical deformations of load-bearing structures of the Golden Gate, as well as research work on engineering and technical inspection of structures and foundations.

In 2020 the Museum signed an agreement with Tectonica agency for the development of scientific and design documentation for the restoration and adaptation in order to preserve the object of cultural heritage of federal significance "Golden Gate with the gate church" ("Golden Gate", 1164). In August 2022, the documentation was approved by the

Department for the Central Federal District of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation (approval No. 64/2022 dated 11.08.2022). The report on the assessment of the impact on the outstanding universal value of the object has been sent for consideration to the National Committee of the International Council for the Protection of Monuments and Places of Interest (NC ICOMOS).

## **Environment**

The Golden Gate was once an integral part of the extensive city fortifications of Vladimir. Due to the gradual loss of their original function and alterations, they turned into a free-standing, independent building, inscribed in a fairly dense urban development of the 18th-19th centuries. The historically justified location of the gate in the center of an important street in our days makes the monument vulnerable in many respects. The Golden Gate experiences constant dynamic loads, humidification and pollution of the lower tier, the white stone is under the aggressive influence of exhaust gases, passing cars are a source of noise, in addition, they significantly complicate the inspection of the monument.

The question of limiting traffic near the white stone monument of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, has been repeatedly raised by the Museum and by the city authorities. The distance from the roadway to the walls of the unique fortification is just over 1 m, and in some areas – 0.7 m, which does not provide conditions for safe entry into the cultural heritage property.

In order to preserve the symbol of the Vladimir city – the Golden Gate – the authorities of the Vladimir region expect to make a decision on changing the traffic pattern in the center of Vladimir. It is planned to redirect the main traffic in the neighboring streets. After that it will be possible to expand pedestrian sidewalks with a simultaneous narrowing of the roadway near the Golden Gate.

In recent years in order to minimize vibration, there has been a restriction on the passage of heavy vehicles near the monument, but the traffic flow near the gate is still very heavy.



*Golden Gate, 1164*

Currently no construction work is being carried out in the immediate vicinity of the Golden Gate. There are no restrictions on the construction of high-rise buildings within the visual visibility of the Golden Gate (outside the protection zones of the architectural monument and the landmark "Historical Center of the City of Vladimir").



### **2.4.3. THE PALACE IN BOGOLYUBOVO (CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN AND THE PALACE OF ANDREI BOGOLYUBSKY)**

#### **General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration**

In 1158-1165 a stone construction started in Bogolyubovo, which resulted in a white stone palace with the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, a fortress with earthen ramparts and stone walls. Bogolyubov-town becomes a suburb of the new capital of the principality – Vladimir.



*The Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, 1158  
Reconstruction of N. Voronin*

The princely castle occupied the southern part of the town, the suburb joined it from the north. After the Tatar invasion Bogolyubov remained a town, later became a village. The Prince's Palace in Bogolyubovo was a chain of buildings stretching from north to south for 80 m. The center of the ensemble was the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin. Two-story galleries-passages with stair towers adjoined it on both sides. The northern gallery turned into a residential princely palace. At the northern wall of the staircase tower the arched opening has preserved which originally connected the tower with the next



passage. Both wings were ending with combat towers built into the Bogolyubov-town defensive system.

Just the lower part of the church walls and the northern gallery with a staircase tower have been preserved from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The chronicle description compared Prince Andrei with biblical King Solomon who built a temple of gold.

Archaeological research of 1934-1939 and items found by N. Voronin proved that the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin was distinguished by a special grace and luxury. Perfectly cut white stone cubes laid in the technique of stone-faced rubble masonry made up the strong and slender body of the church crowned with a gilded dome. The facades were decorated with carved reliefs: lion masks, maiden faces, blind arcading. White stone water collectors with carved figures of animals protruded above the roof. Lion masks were later moved on the walls of the newly built cathedral, fragments of other reliefs were found in the ground.

The dome and arches of the Nativity Church, unlike the other white-stone buildings, were supported not by cross-shaped pillars, but by round columns. Their basements are preserved in the southern part of the church. At the entrance to the church a carved plinth of the outer walls is visible. The round columns were covered with marble frescoes. The columns were crowned with carved capitals. The floor inside was plated with copper, and enameled ceramic tiles floor was made on the choir-gallery. The columns and doors of the arched portals were bound with gilded copper, the walls were covered with frescoes. The altar ciborium and precious utensils shone with gilding. All the details showed greatness and ambition of the customer – Prince Andrei. In front of the entrance to the temple there was a huge holy water white stone bowl under an eight-column stone tent. Perhaps there was a sacred pillar with four female images on its four sides. The square in front of the palace was plated with white stone slabs with gutters.

Here, in his castle Prince Andrew was murdered in July 1174 as a result of a political conspiracy of the boyars. After the murder the townspeople looted the palace and the houses of the princely craftsmen.

In 1177 the princely castle was ravaged and robbed again during the princely strife between Vsevolod the Big Nest and Gleb – Prince of Ryazan; in 1238 it suffered greatly from the Mongols.

After the death of Prince Andrei and perhaps from the very beginning the cathedral became part of a monastery. The monastery was first mentioned in the chronicle in 1214.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, according to the monastic inventories, the cathedral was surrounded brick outbuildings from the west and from the south.

A tent-shaped bell tower was built over the staircase tower in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, rebuilt in 1820.

In the late 17th century large windows were arranged in the cathedral and the choir-gallery was dismantled. This caused the destruction of the church in 1722.

In 1751 on the basement of an ancient building a new church was erected partly of old white stone cubes, partly of brick.

In 1752-1755 oil frescoes were painted together with the construction of iconostasis.

In 1765-1766 the wall painting of the church was renovated.

In 1772 the wooden roof was replaced with a metal one and painted. The cross-ball, the valance and the stars on the dome were gilded with gold leaf, and the dome was copper painted. A new metal gilded cross with stretch marks was installed on top.

In 1804-1809 the floor was plated with white stone slabs.

In 1892 the temple was repainted on the model of the Vladimir Assumption Cathedral by the painter Lev Parilov from Palekh - on alabaster plaster with the addition of Portland cement instead of lime.

At the edge of the 19th-20th centuries the steps in the tower were replaced.

In 1923 the monastery with Nativity Church was closed. The monastery with all its property was transferred to the local museum department.

In the 1920-s the museum had to lease the monastery buildings to various institutions, including an orphanage and a grain warehouse.

In 1927 work was carried out to strengthen the north-eastern corner, which separated from the church because of the pressure of the 17<sup>th</sup> century bell tower.



*Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, 1158  
Painting of the late XIX<sup>th</sup> century by L. Parilov*

In 1934-1938 N. Voronin started archaeological excavations inside and around the Nativity Church, in 1934-1935 he uncovered the white-stone foundations of the southern castle tower, in 1937-1938 the foundations of the northern wing of the passages were unveiled, the foundation of the western facade were opened. In 1939 it was proved the fact of connecting the southern wing of the passages with the southern castle tower. These studies formed the basis for the graphic reconstruction of the cathedral and the entire palace.

In 1937 the authorities took a decision to organize a museum exhibition in the church.

In the 1950s restoration and repair work was carried out in the Nativity Church: 18th century brick masonry was dismantled in the western portal; white stone slabs of the floor, windows and doors were repaired.

In 1953-1955 they started engineering strengthening of the tower and the passage: piercing the walls to its full thickness with metal rods with pouring them with cement mortar, and replacing rotten oak links with armed concrete. The cement plaster was partially removed from the white stone walls.

In 1950-1955 they made a research on the limestone destruction. In Bogolyubovo they used various methods of cleaning the stone: dry cleaning, artificial washing, lime whitewash, coating with plasters of barium chloride.

In 1958, the Nativity Church together with the staircase tower and the passage became part of the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve.

In 1963-1965 repair and restoration work was carried out to remove the later brick constructions under the 12th century passage, repair of the roof, gutters, strengthening of pylons, removal of cement coating from the white stone masonry.

In the 1970s the studies on the church and the passage focused on the temperature and humidity regime. Microbiological direction was added to the study of chemical and technical processes of white stone destruction. The result of the work was a technique for strengthening, cleaning and preserving the white stone surface. However, the work was not completed.

In 1972 under the direction of Nekrasov the strengthening works on painting were carried out in the interior of the passage and of the tower.

Since 1991 the church is in the common use of the Museum and the newly opened monastery, first for men, and since 1997 monastery for women. The exposition in the church was practically dismantled.

In 2005-2006 some works on the white stone of the 12th century masonry were carried out, then a small Museum exhibition was opened in the western porch and in the interior of the church.

In 2010 the Federal Service for Supervision and Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Russian Ministry of Culture approved scientific and technical documentation "Integrated technological research. Development of technology for restoration of monumental paintings of the 19th century in the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin, a staircase tower with a passage in Bogolyubovo, Vladimir region".

In 2010 the total repair of pavements around the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky; strengthening and restoration of the white stone masonry in the vault in the Staircase Tower.

In 2011 the restoration of white stone masonry in the interior of the Staircase tower and the passage was done, as well as restoration of brickwork and white stone facades and roof repair of the Staircase Tower and of the passage.

The restoration of the white stone of the Nativity Cathedral and the Staircase Tower and the passage was done in 2013-2014.

According to the developed and approved documentation (restoration project, working documentation, methods of restoration of white stone) for the object "Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Monastery. Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, 1158, 18th-19th centuries" in 2015 the work was carried out. It concerned the restoration of the roof, windows and doors, restoration of facades.

In 2019 the IGIT agency performed research work on geodetic monitoring of vertical deformations of supporting structures, as well as research work on engineering and technical research of supporting structures of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin.

Currently, the OCH "The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin" and "The Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky" need urgent repair and restoration work and measures to normalize the temperature and humidity regime, which significantly exceeds the permissible norm. The implementation of these measures is possible only after the development of comprehensive project documentation for the conservation of these objects. It is necessary to identify and eliminate the causes of biological destruction of the plaster layer on facades. Fungal colonies and mold are visualized on the walls and floors in interior of the church, wall paintings are being destroyed. A comprehensive monitoring of the technical condition of the monument, maintaining a certain temperature and humidity regime will solve these problems. Plans for preventive, repair and restoration work should be drawn up on the basis of monitoring, which determines trends in the condition of the monument during the year. It is necessary to determine the optimal operating conditions of the monument and maintain its condition in conservation mode.

In August 2022 a contract was signed with Asgard company to carry out work on the development of the scientific and legal documentation for further restoration and usage in order to preserve the object of cultural heritage "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky", 1158,

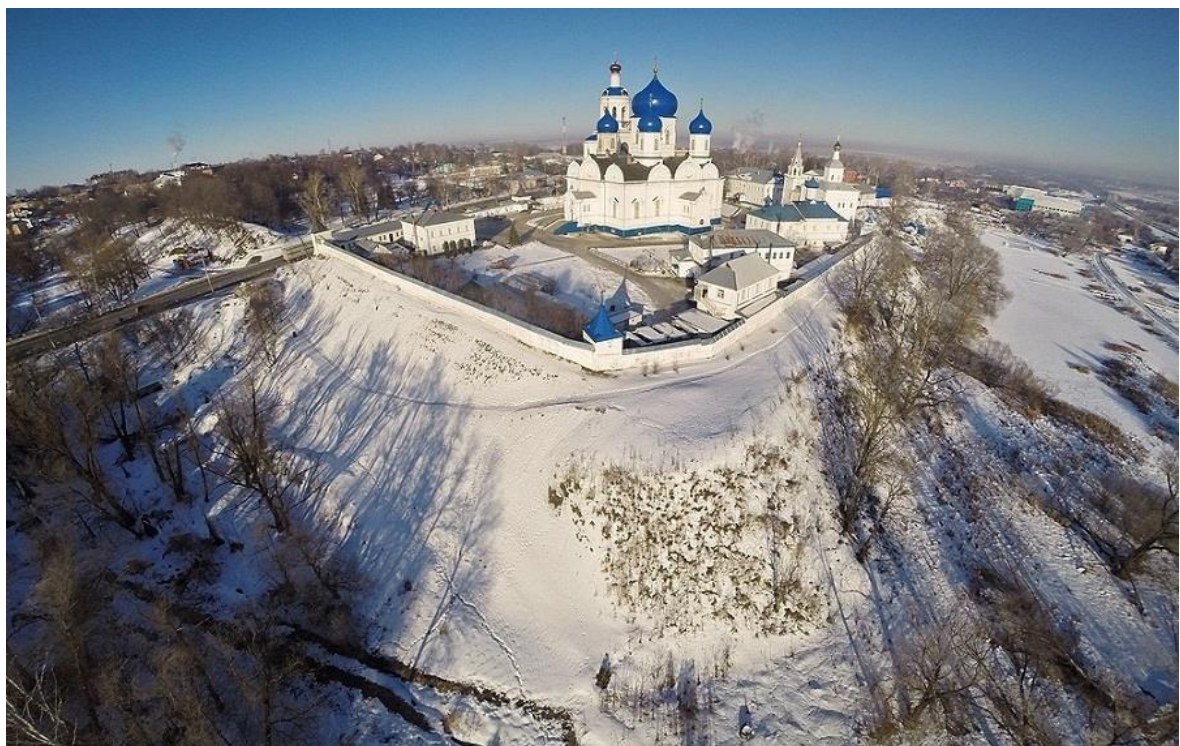


"Church of the Nativity of the Virgin", 1158, which are part of the OCH of the Federal value "Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Monastery".

## **Environment**

The village of Bogolyubovo is located 8 km from Vladimir on the left bank of the Klyazma River. The ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Monastery occupies the eastern part of the village and is located on a high plateau, the southern slope of which descends to the Klyazma (now a small lake – the old bed of the river).

Below the high plateau behind the lake runs the railway Moscow – Nizhny Novgorod. In the village of Bogolyubovo there is a railway station. In 2010 a pedestrian bridge over the rails leading from the village to the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'. On both sides of the bridge there are passenger elevators with a capacity of 450 kg. The width of the elevator is enough for a wheelchair to pass.



*View of the Holy Bogolyubsky Convent*

The architectural ensemble of the Holy Bogolyubovo Monastery includes 13 OCH. The oldest buildings on the territory of the monastery are the "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin" and the "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky" dated 1158.

All the buildings except the ancient Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, were built in 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries and now are occupied by the Bogolyubovo Convent of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The construction and restoration activities of the Convent are often not coordinated with the authorities responsible for protection of cultural heritage objects. This is one of the reasons for the distortion of the cultural and historical environment (for example, painting roofs and other surfaces). The use of the blue color scheme is explained by the widespread idea that the blue color is a symbol of the Mother of God, to whom the convent is consecrated. However such a color association arose at a later time and does not correspond to the traditional design of ancient Russian architecture.

On the territory of the monument, in the vicinity of the southern facade of the church, there is a chapel (the place of the probable murder of Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky). This chapel was arbitrarily erected by the forces of the Bogolyubovo Convent recently. It should be noted that the construction of unauthorized buildings on the territory of the WHP is unacceptable.

No other construction works are carried out in the immediate vicinity of the ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Convent.



#### 2.4.4. CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION ON THE NERL'

##### General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration

One of the chronicles states that the church was built within one season in 1165.

The church was consecrated in honor of a new holiday in Russia, which was introduced by Andrei Bogolyubsky – the Intercession (Protection) of the Mother of God, who patronized the Vladimir land and its prince.

The location of the church is extremely unusual: in the middle of a floodplain meadow, on a high artificial hill on the bank of the old riverbed. In ancient times it was here that the Nerl' flowed into the Klyazma. The mouth of the Nerl' served as the river gate of the Vladimir land on the important trade route Nerl' – Klyazma – Oka – Volga. The place for the construction was apparently indicated personally by Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky. But here in 1165 there was a low-lying floodplain,



*Church of the Intercession on the Nerl', 1165  
Reconstruction of N. Voronin*

over which the spring floods rose by more than three meters. The architects did not refuse the princely order. They laid a powerful foundation: the underground part of the temple is 5.3 meters. The church was erected on an artificial hill raised above the floods mark. The hill was plated with white stone slabs, with stone stairs going down to the pier.

Some time later marginal open-air galleries were attached to the church from three sides. In the south-western corner the gallery had a thicker wall with an internal staircase. This staircase wall explains the asymmetrical position of the windows on the southern facade of the church: in the western corner there was an entrance from the staircase wall to the choir-gallery, lowered below the level of the windows.

With the establishment of the patriarchate, the church passed into the jurisdiction of the patriarch and was called the patriarchal monastery.

In the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the church got a simple four-sided wooden roof; the dilapidated galleries were dismantled.

In 1784 the abbot of the Bogolyubovo Monastery asked for permission to disassemble the Intercession Church into stone for the construction of new holy gate in his monastery. However, the abbot of the monastery did not agree on the price with the contractor, and the demolition of the building did not take place.

In 1803 the church received an iron onion-shaped dome, hiding its ancient helmet-shaped one.

In 1859-1860 the monument was examined by academician Solntsev in connection with the plan of "renewal of ancient churches". At that time, in particular, he discovered the eight figures of the martyrs in the dome of the church which later perished. Excavations works and repairs were also carried out.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a stone holy gate with a gate bell tower was built north of the church. At the same time a small brick church was built east of the Church of the Intercession, the building of which is still preserved.



*The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'  
View of the Pokrovsky Monastery from the north. The 1880s.  
(from the Museum's funds)*

In 1877 the monastic authorities without the architect's permission started repairs: they linked the church walls with iron ties, knocked down the remains of frescoes in the dome, replaced the lost white stone reliefs with plaster placing them according their own fantasy. At the same time the original shape of roof was restored – over zakomaras.

In 1903 the iron dome was gilded.

In 1919 the ancient white stone monuments, including the Intercession Church, were taken under the protection of the Vladimir Provincial Board for Museums. In 1923 the Bogolyubovsky Monastery was closed, and the Intercession Church remained under the jurisdiction of the Vladimir Museum.

In 1954-1955 N. Voronin held archaeological research on the territory of the church, the result of this research became the basis of a scientific reconstruction of the original appearance of the church. During the same period restoration work was carried out on the facades with the reconstruction of perished details. In 1957 the perished parts of the column fringe were restored, a partial repair of the roof was carried out.

In the 1980s some works were done on the dome including its new copper coating.

In 1984-1986 the semispherical roof was dismantled, the dome pedestal was restored, the stone masonry of the zakomaras was partially replaced, white stone water collectors were made, wooden frames were installed in all the windows. All the roof parts were covered with a copper. The white stone was cleared and strengthened, impregnation with lime and other solutions, antisepting and hydrophobization were carried out. The white stone perished parts of the column fringe and of the portals were restored, the interior was cleaned of dust.

Due to the increasing popularity of the church as the pinnacle of ancient Russian architecture, the church has become a popular sightseeing and tourist center.

From 1958 up to 2000, the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' was part of the Museum. Over the years the white stone church was repeatedly examined from an archaeological point of view and restored.

On the basis of the agreement No. 16-07-2000 dated 03.02.2000, the church was transferred to the Vladimir Diocese as a church with a special status. At first the church

was assigned to the Bogolyubovo Monastery, then to the Bogolyubovo parish of Joachim and Anna with subordination to the bishop, and since October 2012 it has been assigned to the Vladimir Monastery of the Nativity of the Virgin. Currently the monument is in gratuitous use of the Church.

During the period 2003-2009 the following restoration works were carried out at the expense of the federal budget for the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl':

- in 2003 exterior metal doors were manufactured and installed;
- new window were installed in 2004;
- in 2005 internal wooden doors were manufactured and installed.

Within the period 2007-2009 the following works were carried out on the monument: clearing, biocidal treatment, strengthening, restoration of the front surface of the stone masonry, tinting and hydrophobization of the surface of the facades, including the dome; a new white stone path was made along the perimeter of the monument walls.

The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is in satisfactory condition, with the exception of the basement, which requires repair work which is planned for 2028.

In 2018 the facades of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' were illuminated.

## **Environment**

The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is located in the most preserved authentic historical and landscape environment. Built originally in the river loop without any surrounding development it remains one of the rarest examples of the unity of architecture and landscape.

An object of cultural heritage of regional significance "The Church of the Three Saints" of the 19th century and a modern wooden gatehouse are located on the territory of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'.

By the decree of the head of the Administration of the Vladimir region dated 23.06.2003 No. 318, the state historical and landscape complex of regional significance "Bogolyubovo Meadow - Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'" with an area of 170.09 hectares was established. The same document regulates the modes of use of the specially protected territory of this complex and its security zone.

However, recently a number of changes have taken place in the territory bordering with the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl’.

In 2010 they developed a landscaping project which included the organization of illumination of the facades of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl’. Taking into account the enormous significance of the architectural monument, its design features and the value of the surrounding landscape, a number of serious requirements were imposed on the developers of the lighting concept. It was necessary to develop the most effective solution for outdoor illumination, which at the same time would not harm the facade of the unique white stone temple. The project ended in December, 2017 when 22 warm yellow LED spotlights were installed.

As a result of the installation of outdoor lighting of the church the visual perception of the historical landscape environment (an object of cultural heritage with a historical landscape) has improved in the evening and at night. This allows to perceive the object from the most interesting viewpoints at far distance as well. The organization of the illumination of the church allows to form special evening tours.



*The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl', 1165*

In the 1950s an electric main was built in the close vicinity of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' (the shortest distance of 60 m from the monument). The power line damaged the fine perception of the white stone church. In 2016 the Federal Electrical Company decided to remove the electric main in order to maintain the visual integrity of the monument. In February 2018 43 power transmission towers with all wires were removed. The works were done in winter on the frozen soil and snow, in order to protect the meadow from the effects of machinery. The removal of power lines allowed to restore a favorable visual appearance of the territory adjacent to the church.

Certain threats were caused by the construction of the high-speed railway Moscow-Kazan-Yekaterinburg highway, which runs in close proximity to the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'. In order to preserve the authenticity of the landscape near the unique building of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the designers made adjustments to the project and moved the railway track 300-500 meters north and northeast away from the monument. This measure has undoubtedly reduced the negative impact on the UNESCO monument and Bogolyubovo Meadow, and experts estimate the techogenic impact as moderate. The construction of the high-speed railway is planned to be completed in 2024.



## 2.4.5. ST DEMETRIUS CATHEDRAL

### General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration

St Demetrius Cathedral in Vladimir was built in the 1190s as the residential church of Vladimir Prince Vsevolod (baptized as Demetrius) the Big Nest in the name of his heavenly patron saint - St. Demetrius of Thessalonica.

St Demetrius Cathedral together with the Prince's palace and the Assumption Cathedral with the bishop's residence, was part of the Vladimir kremlin in 1194-1196. In 1238 the cathedral suffered from the Mongols.

During the severe fire of 1536 the roof of the cathedral burned down. The repair took place only after Ivan the Terrible's march on Kazan in 1552, when the tsar visited Vladimir on the way.

After a number of fires in 1788 the icons for the iconostasis were painted, the floor was raised in the altar. Still the church needed roof repair.

In 1805 the cathedral received 8 thousand rubles for repairs. With this money the iconostasis was completed: it was gilded, painted and varnished, and new carved royal gate were installed. In 1806-1807 two stone porches were built, on one of which (the western one) there was a pediment with 8 columns; the northern bell tower was rebuilt into a spire-shaped one, the second bell tower from the south was built in symmetry to it. The roof was renewed, the façade carvings were cleared and painted. It was noted that the cathedral continued to deteriorate and collapse.

Emperor Nicholas I during a visit to Vladimir in 1834 noticed the extreme



*Dmitrievsky Cathedral.  
Engraving by F.D. Dmitriev. 1834*



dilapidation and poverty of the ancient church. The emperor's wish to bring the St Demetrius Cathedral into the "original shape" turned into the destruction of side galleries and towers. A preliminary research conducted by a special commission on the antiquity of the galleries was not successful, and the stylistic difference between the galleries and the cathedral suggested their appearance in the 16th century – during the repair of the cathedral at the behest of Tsar Ivan the Terrible after the 1536 fire. In 1838-1839 galleries and towers were dismantled, and well-preserved reliefs from them were used for façade repair the facades of the cathedral. Many missing reliefs had to be carved anew according to old patterns. The stone works were carried out by a peasant from the village of Poretskoje Sidor Medvedkin.

Shortly before this renovation, in 1831 Fyodor Solntsev (artist, architect and historian, academician and professor of the Imperial Academy of Arts, specialist in archaeology) made several watercolor sketches of the St Demetrius Cathedral with galleries and towers.

In 1840-1847 after the completion of the exterior works the repairs were carried out inside the building. The late murals and whitewash were removed from the walls, ancient frescoes were found under the choir-gallery. Then the church was painted fresco anew, a new iconostasis was arranged, a spiral staircase to the choir-gallery was made.

From 1847 to 1883 the walls of the St Demetrius Cathedral were painted dark, the reliefs and column fringe were painted light. After 1883 the walls of the cathedral were painted white, and the columns and reliefs were painted dark.



*St Demetrius Cathedral.  
View from the northeast.  
Photo by I. Barshchevsky. 1883*

In 1883 air heating was arranged in the church, a small belfry was built near the southern facade, at the bottom of which the furnace was placed. These works were carried out at the expense of the churchwarden Muravkin.

In 1896 the iconostasis was cleaned, the wall painting was refreshed, the furnaces for heating the cathedral were rebuilt and a new floor of German ceramic tiles was arranged.

After the galleries demolition in 1838 (which played the role of buttresses), the cathedral began to collapse slowly. In 1903 the iron ring at the base of the dome burst. In 1915 cracks were found in the southwest corner of the building.

In 1919 the church was closed for liturgies and became the jurisdiction of the Board for the Protection of Ancient Monuments. It was used as a storehouse of the Vladimir Museum. Heating was not used, wall painting and the white stone suffered from dampness, constructions were destroying.

In 1938 N. Voronin made exploratory excavations near the cathedral in order to find the foundations of palace of Prince Vsevolod The Big Nest. South from the church he found fragments of a square plinth, a fragment of a yellow glazed plate with a floral pattern. In 1945 the basements of galleries near the southern and northern walls were opened.



*St Demetrius Cathedral, 1197  
The arcature-columnar belt of the central spinning wheel*

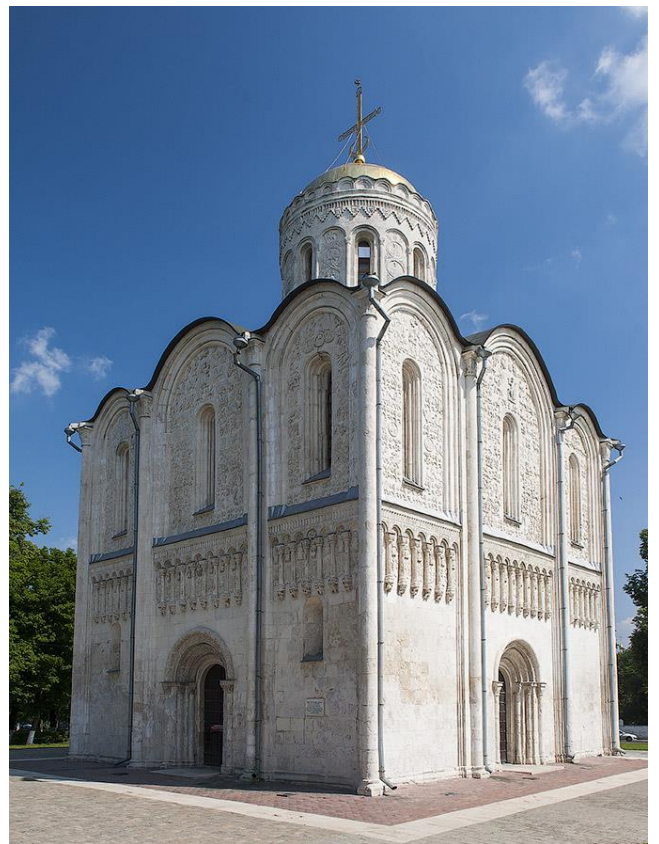
In 1941 the urgent restoration of the cathedral was headed by A. Stoletov, an architect of the Vladimir Design Bureau, who was an experienced expert in designing and engineering work. A. Stoletov came to the conclusion that the reason for the destruction was the pressure from above: the dome pressed on the arches that rested on the walls. Stoletov found out that the reason for this pressure is the complete destruction of ancient oak links connecting the walls. The wooden dust was removed from the walls in order to install instead metalforced concrete links.

The main works on strengthening the structure – arches, vaults, western pillars, the top of the cathedral – were carried out in 1947-1953 also under the leadership of Stoletov. This engineering fortification saved the ancient building.

After the restoration the cathedral was again transferred to the Museum, and in 1955 an exhibition about ancient Vladimir-Suzdal white stone architecture was established inside.

In the 1970s-1980s restorers dealt with the problems of preserving white stone and the arrangement of the appropriate inner climate.

In 1974-1977 besides the works with white-stone, the iron roof was replaced with copper one, the white-stone water collectors were installed, new windows and doors were made, floor was repaired. The final stage of work was carried out in 1999-2004. The white stone was strengthened and covered with a protective mixture of lime plaster and white stone powder. Drainpipes were installed. A copper roof was made, the cross was replaced on the dome. A stable climate was created with insignificant heating and air ventilation (through the 19th century underground heating canals).



*St Demetrius Cathedral, 1197*

In 1991-1992 hydrogeological studies were carried out.

In 2003-2004 in connection with the preparation of the landscaping project around the cathedral, archaeological studies were carried out outside and inside the cathedral (with the participation of archaeologists of the State Hermitage Museum).

In 2011 the emergency fragmentary restoration work on the southern and western facades was made, in 2012 – repair and restoration work on the northern and eastern facades below the column fringe.

In 2013 the experts of "Vladimirrestavratsiya" company carried out research work on the development of methods for the restoration of 12th century paintings.

In 2015 a special research was carried out to generalize the data of thermophysical measurements of the air environment and constructions of the Cathedral (data collected within the period 2004-2014 under various climate control systems) and recommendations were developed for the creation of an effective climate control system.

In 2017 in accordance with the comprehensive scientific research and methodological recommendations for the restoration of paintings the following works were carried out to preserve monumental painting:

- preliminary emergency strengthening followed by repeated strengthening of the paint layer;
- removal of surface contaminants and other late layers;
- removal of late fringing on the edges of ancient plaster;
- removal of cracks and minor damages in the primer layer of wall painting;
- tinting of the colorful layer of paintings in the places of its complete loss.

The facades and interiors have been restored, but the white stone basement has few chips and cracks. The climate control system, which allows to maintain the necessary temperature and humidity regime requires modernization. The optimal operating conditions of the facility must be determined on the basis of continuous comprehensive monitoring of the technical condition of the monument. The plans for preventive, repair and restoration work are also drawn up on the basis of monitoring.

In 2019 the design and estimate documentation for the repair of the Cathedral was developed.

## **Environment**

(See section Environment for the Assumption Cathedral)



## **2.4.6. THE ENSEMBLE OF THE NATIVITY CATHEDRAL AND THE BISHOP'S PALACE (SUZDAL KREMLIN AND THE CATHEDRAL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN)**

### **General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration**

#### **"Nativity Cathedral", 1222 - 1225, 1528 - 1530**

The construction of the first cathedral on the territory of the Suzdal Kremlin dates back to the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, to the time of the reign of Vladimir Monomakh. The building was built of plinth by craftsmen from Kiev.

According to G. Wagner the cathedral was dismantled in 1148, then it was built anew, but not of plinth, but of limestone (white stone). N.Voronin and S.Zagraevsky denied the existence of the 1148 cathedral.

A chronicle says that in 1222 by order of Prince Yuri Vsevolodovich (son of Vsevolod the Big Nest) the dilapidated building was dismantled. A new one was built in its place in three years, this cathedral existed till the 15<sup>th</sup> century. According to the preserved lower parts of this cathedral we can state that it was three-nave, six-pillar, three-apse church. According to Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts Zagraevsky, the construction of this cathedral and other large white-stone temples of the era of Grand Prince Yuri Vsevolodovich was led by the Prince of Yuriev-Polsky Svyatoslav Vsevolodovich (another son of Vsevolod the Big Nest).

In 1233 the cathedral was decorated with frescoes by Rostov or Suzdal masters. Fragments of this painting were discovered in 1938. The image of two oldmen were unveiled in the upper part of the southern apse.



*Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin of the  
time of Yuri Vsevolodovich, 1222-1225.  
Reconstruction of V.M. Anisimov*

In 1445 Suzdal was burned by Kazan Tatars. As a result of the fire the upper part of the cathedral collapsed. In this condition it remained for almost 100 years.

In 1528 the old cathedral walls were dismantled to the level of the column fringe and were replaced with brick ones. Previously the three-domed cathedral now received five domes, the vaults were reinforced on six pillars, the domes and the roof were covered with tin.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the cathedral suffered greatly from Poles and Lithuanians who occupied and destroyed Suzdal. The cathedral remained abandoned for more than six months until the city was liberated of invaders.

In 1635-1636 the cathedral was restored and painted anew.

The painting of the cathedral was "renewed" more than once – in 1775, 1818 and 1850. The painting of the western wall was completely destroyed, several fragments of the painting of the 17<sup>th</sup> century have been preserved in different parts of the cathedral.

In 1682-1708 the most significant changes in the appearance of the cathedral took place. Metropolitan Ilarion restored the cathedral: the tombstones that hampered the cathedral were rearranged, the ancient choir-gallery was disassembled, the ancient windows were enlarged. The interior of the cathedral has acquired the appearance of a spacious well-lit hall. Metropolitan Ilarion enriched the renewed cathedral with church utensils: he arranged large gonfalons, huge processional Crucifixes, icons, lanterns for them and also a copper, large processional lantern in the form of a temple with five gilded domes with crosses. For the Great water blessing on the Epiphany holiday – he made a Jordan Canopy in the form of a five-domed temple carved from wood. A new iconostasis made in old traditions was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1748 the huge onion-shape domes of the cathedral were arranged, and the ancient roof over the zakomaras was replaced by a four-sided roof.

In the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries brick extensions surrounded the temple from the north and west. In 1870 the facades of the cathedral were covered with cement mortar and painted red. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the iconostasis was renewed.

The research of the monument was begun in 1926-1928. The exact measurement of the cathedral was carried out. It is established that the cathedral belongs to the 13<sup>th</sup>



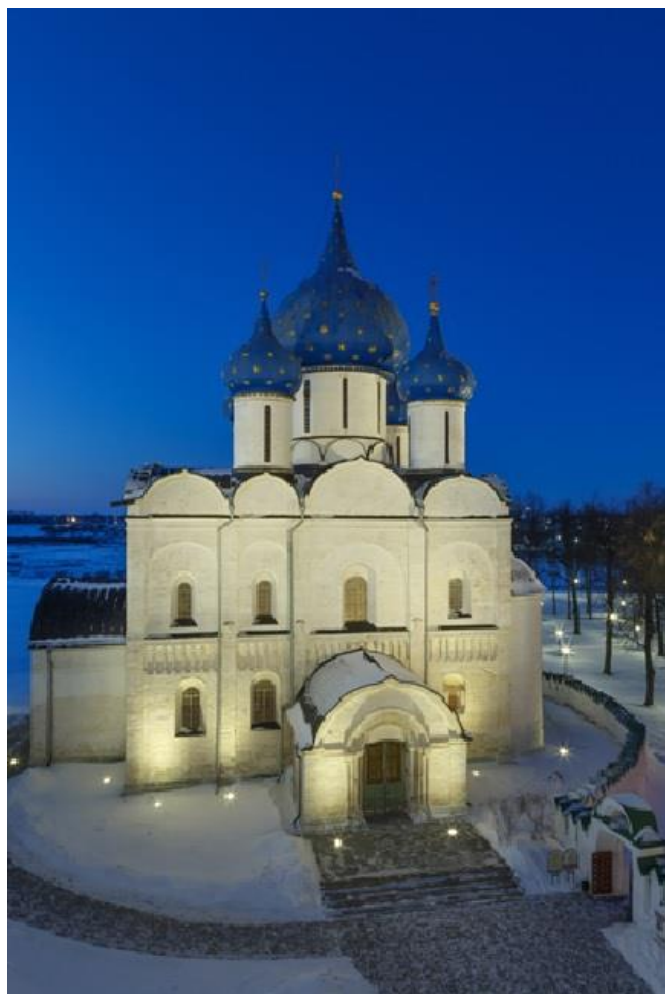
century. Carved reliefs were found: women's masks, corner lion figures, carved ornaments and beads, column bases were cleared out from beneath of plaster.

In the 1930s A. Dubynin and A. Varganov organized archaeological and architectural studies of the monument.

In 1934 A. Varganov discovered a doorway when on the western facade above the western portal, the doorway bricked up in some 17<sup>th</sup> century. This exit led to the choir-gallery, destroyed in the same time. Inside the passage there was a masonry of calcareous tuff and brick-plinths. When clearing the western wall inside the cathedral at the junction of the northern wall of the narthex, an opening was discovered that led to a staircase inside the northern wall of the narthex. After clearing they found a 25 steps staircase leading to the upper floor above the narthex. The Cathedral of 1222-1225 it had huge choir-gallery – up to the main transverse nave: obvious traces were found on both pairs of western pillars.

1937-1939 excavation works were made outside and inside the cathedral. In 1938 excavations were carried out at the southern wall, near the southern apse and at the northern portal. The wall of the Monomakh's cathedral was discovered, it was located some 90 cm south of the white stone wall of the 13th century. The wall included alternating rows of plinths and rubble stone. Fragments of fresco ornament and the remains of a brick floor were found in the southwest corner.

In the 1940s two burial niches were found in the western part of the cathedral with paintings in them: in the southwest - an ornament of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, in the northwest – a 17<sup>th</sup> century pattern.



*Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin,  
1222 - 1225, 1528 – 1530s*

In the 1950s I. Stoletov and A. Varganov started repair and restoration work: over the zakomaras roof was restored, the cathedral was freed from later buildings.

In the 1960s the forms and roofings of the vestibules were restored, the second tier of the western vestibule was restored, the passage from which led to the choir-gallery. The column fringe was reconstructed all around the cathedral; casts of white cement from several columns with the simplest ornament, as well as bases-consols were made. After disassembling the brick apse attached to the south porch they found an ancient window with a part of the base with a carved palmette and a cup for a column to insert.

In 1991 the first solemn liturgy was held in the cathedral.

In 2012-2013 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" company carried out restoration work on painting in the Nativity Cathedral.

The work on the restoration of facades and roofing was completed in 2014. The restoration work on monumental painting in the altar of the cathedral is still performed by "Vladimirrestavratsiya" company in accordance with comprehensive scientific research and methodological recommendations. In the same 2014 highlighting of the territory and architectural monuments located on the territory of the Kremlin was completed.

In 2015 GOSNIIR carried out work to optimize temperature and humidity conditions with the development of appropriate recommendations for the preservation of properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In 2016 the heating system of the Cathedral was updated.

In 2020 research work on monitoring and optimization of temperature and humidity conditions in the cathedral continued.

In 2020 "Tectonica" agency started developing scientific and technical documentation for the restoration work in order to preserve the Cathedral. In October 2021 this project was approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation (No. 31/2021 dated 10/22/2021). The report on the impact assessment on the monument's OUV has been sent for consideration to the National Committee of the International Council for the Protection of Monuments and Places of Interest (NC ICOMOS) (ex. No. 23852-12-02 dated 12/21/2021).

An important aspect of the preservation of the Nativity Cathedral is the establishment of liturgical restrictions. An agreement No. 1 dated 02/25/2022 was signed between the Museum and the Vladimir Metropolia on holding common events in 2022-2023, which provides for a list of liturgies planned in the Nativity Cathedral. The establishment of a liturgical schedule in the monument of architecture of the 13th century will contribute to the optimal preservation of the interior decoration of the cathedral and monumental painting.

Plans for preventive, repair and restoration work should be drawn up on the basis of monitoring, which determines trends in the state of the cathedral during the year.

### **"The building of the Bishop's Palace with the Annunciation Refectory Church", 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries**

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the first brick residential chambers of the Suzdal bishop were built next to the Nativity Cathedral – the Bishops' Palace, which now represents a complex of buildings formed during the 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.



*The building of the Bishop's Palace with the Annunciation Refectory Church,  
16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries*

In 1559 the Church of the Annunciation with a stone refectory was built near the bishop's Palace.

The rooms in the ground floor of the corner part of the palace should be attributed to the most ancient buildings in the bishop's yard. This is one of the early buildings of the palace, hidden inside the 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings. The walls of this room are made of unusually large bricks. It is assumed that it was built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in the bishop's yard there were already the church of Annunciation, the church of St. John the Theologian and the church of Introduction of the Virgin to the Temple. Besides, there were wooden churches: the church of all Saints and the church of Assumption with chapels. At this time the number of buildings in the bishop's courtyard was significantly increasing, a spacious stone Cross Chamber was built, the second floor was wooden – there were the "private chambers" of the bishop. The second floor received a giant vault "without pillars". The church of St. John the Theologian turns into a grand vestibule, the long staircases of which end with an arched porch. It is roofed with a tent made of green tiles and placed against the western doors of the ancient cathedral.

Two floors are arranged on the ancient corner building – "upper and lower chambers". The lower chambers – the first floor – are connected by passages to the home church under the bell tower. The east side of the bell tower gets usual altar semicircles, in its northern part a porch with arches on high pillars with green tiles was attached. A correct, thoughtful, architectural combination various buildings of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries into a beautiful ensemble was created. Different auxiliary outbuildings were built in the bishop's yard: storerooms, cellars, a bathhouse, stalls, carriage sheds, stables.

In this way a huge array of the metropolitan palace turned out to be right in the center of the Kremlin, representing a typical example of a feudal castle-fortress. The construction at the bishop's court lasted 17 years. It started in 1683 and was finished in 1700.

During the 18th century episcopal chambers were repeatedly destructed to fires. A fire of 1719 was that strong that it destroyed the archive kept of the bishop's palace. The residential part suffered so much that it was impossible to live in it. The Suzdal bishop had to move from Suzdal to his patrimonial village of Krasnoe. The most preserved were the Cross Chamber, casemates and the Church of Annunciation under the bell tower.

At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century elegant tiled stoves with chimneys appeared in the living quarters of the Suzdal bishops.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century because of lack of money for the maintenance and use of the entire palace building for a theological school the bishop's administration begins to lease the remaining premises. The premises of the ground floor of the western part were rented for warehouses to the Suzdal merchants. New doors and windows were made in the thick walls of the ancient building, the ancient ones were being walled up or enlarged. New window frames were arranged on the windows of the lower floor.

The northern part of the chambers included the ancient vestibule which until the 1870s was occupied by the Clerical administration and Archive was given completely at the disposal of the cathedral clergy and was turned to apartments. In 1872 the roof of the front porch was repaired, and in 1873 in the northern building there are apartments of the cathedral priest and psalmist.

In 1874 they started big repair in the Cross chamber for the needs of the Theological school.

In order to make the rooms of the chambers bright all the windows that had preserved the old window frames and the semicircular shape were enlarged into rectangular, and the side semi-columns of the window frames were removed.

In 1918 the Theological School was closed. The huge three-storey stone building of the Theological School was transferred to the district Department of Public Education.

In April 1922 in the building of the former Bishops' Palace they established the Suzdal Historical and Art Museum.

In 1929 by order of the Suzdal City Council most of the museum building was to the military training center of the Red Army.

The research and restoration were carried out from 1941 to 1970 under the direction of A. Varganov. The monument was restored in the forms of the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### *Northern Building*

Large and complicated repair works were done in the northern building. This part turned out to be the most disfigured. All three floors were rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the apartments of the clergy. A stairwell with stone stairs and platforms was attached to the

western side of the building. Part of the facade windows were converted into doorways. The research of the building lasted 8 years. As a result of restoration work in the first floor the staircase, large vestibule and adjacent rooms were restored.

In the second floor remaining from the 18<sup>th</sup> century a large hall has been restored occupying the entire northwest corner.

The first floor remained almost unchanged (old windows were restored and new windows were made).

### *The Cross Chamber*

An exceptional structure of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with an area over 300 m<sup>2</sup> with a giant vault 7.5 m high. Information from archival and literary sources, a description of furnaces, placement of portraits and land maps helped much to restore it. The late partitions were dismantled. During the full-scale examination clear traces of 16 arches were found, on which the vault was based. The walls cleared from the later buildings revealed part of the arch curve, the removed latter floors revealed sections of the initial brick floor (made of 18x18 tiles).

### *Western Building*

The original layout of the premises, doorways, window frames were restored in the 1950s according to the project of A. Varganov. They restored the gallery of the western building: the latter extensions closing the northern facade were removed; the 19<sup>th</sup>-century porch extension and the latter bell tower which was built into the wall were dismantled. The northern wall of the refectory which was almost destroyed was now reinforced. The portal on the northern facade furnace and other niches were restored. The gallery “gulbishche” was restored despite its somewhat later origin. Altered arches of the ground floor were opened and reinforced.

The gallery of the western building of the Bishops' Palace was restored in 2012.

The cultural heritage property has been restored, the condition of the facades and interiors is satisfactory. In most part of premises are located the Museum expositions. At the same time in order to maintain the monument in a satisfactory condition, constant monitoring is necessary to draw up plans for preventive, repair and restoration work.



### **"Bell tower with a house church", 1636, 1680-s**

The bell tower is located on the territory of the Suzdal Kremlin, 10-15 m south of the Nativity Cathedral.

It was built by Archbishop Serapion at the behest of Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich. The bell tower was the highest structure of the Kremlin. There was a church of the Annunciation of the Virgin with a chapel inside the pillar of the bell tower in its second tier. A porch with the entrance to the church adjoined the pillar of the bell tower from the west.

At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the built-in church was rebuilt. The Annunciation church was adjusted from the east side, the old church was abolished. A passage was added from the palace to the western facade of the bell tower to connect the metropolitan chambers next to the church.

There was a big fire in Suzdal in 1719, the vault of the bell tower, the passage and the gallery were damaged. For the reason of lack of money the passage was dismantled, a stone wall was erected in its place. The gallery was dismantled in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



*"Bell tower with a house church", 1636, 1680-s*



In the late 17th century a carillon was installed on the bell tower, striking hours and quarters of an hour. Instead of Latin numerals Cyrillic letters were used in the clock face. After a fire in 1719 the clock mechanism was damaged, in 1755 the clock was restored, and in the late 19th century it acquired a minute hand.

In 1929 the Nativity Cathedral was closed, in 1930 the bells were removed from the bell tower, the clock was stopped. Since 1923 the bell tower has been under the jurisdiction of the museum located in the bishops' palace.

In 1953 there was a fire. The extensions to the bell tower and the clock face burned down.

In 1954 some urgent work was carried out: the plaster was removed, the facades were whitewashed and the roof was covered with iron.

In 1956-1959 restoration work was carried out on the facades. In 1961 the porch was restored.

In 1960-1970 the passage to the palace was restored according to the project of the architect-restorer A.Varganov.

In 1967 the clock was restored.

In 1998 the premises were renovated for the Museum exhibitions: the walls and floor were painted; in the passage the walls were whitewashed and the windows were painted.

In 2016 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency completed the development of design and estimate documentation for the restoration of the Bell Tower, and in 2020 completed the adjustment of documentation.

In 2018 a state contract was signed for the restoration of the bell tower. However, the work was not completed.

In 2022 the work on the restoration of the bell tower resumed. In May 2022 an agreement was signed with "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency. The work is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

## **Environment**

The Kremlin Ensemble certainly occupies a leading position in the urban environment of Suzdal which is well preserved.

Suzdal is one of the biggest tourist centers of the Golden Ring of Russia", in 1983 it was awarded the prestigious Golden Apple award from FIGET – the International Federation of journalists writing about tourism. The status of one of the most important tourist places in Russia has ensured a rather careful attitude to the preservation of the urban architectural environment of Suzdal.

The General plan of the city of Suzdal (1966) became one of the first urban planning documents focused on solving the problems of identifying, preserving and restoring cultural heritage properties with using their city-forming potential.

The General Plan of Suzdal (1966) for the first time provided for the following sections of works: historical and architectural reference plan, historical and urban planning justification, spatial dynamic and landscape-visual analysis as the basis of any construction proposals, a protected natural landscape zone and urban planning regulations for specific quarters. A comprehensive historical and urban planning and landscape-visual analysis of the city of Suzdal made it possible to identify the original town planning system, trace its dynamics, identify most valuable elements of town planning, spatial and compositional structure, fragments of urban architecture, traditional viewpoints and panoramas. It was in the General Plan of Suzdal that the historical and cultural heritage, for the first time after the dramatic pre-war and post-war periods, notorious for numerous facts of the destruction of historical buildings (primarily religious), began to be considered as a basis for the development of historical cities.

The following principal documents were developed since 1966 to 2016:

- 1966 – The General plan of Suzdal, the zone of protection of historical and cultural monuments of Suzdal as part of the general plan (approved in 1967).
- 1969 – The project of detailed layout of Suzdal.
- 1974 – Planning project of the northern residential district of Suzdal.
- 1985 – Project of protection zones for historical and cultural monuments of Suzdal.
- 1981 – The General Plan of Suzdal, adjustment of the zones of protection of historical and cultural monuments of Suzdal as part of the general plan.

All projects have been approved in accordance with the established procedure.

- 2007 – The General plan of Suzdal. Approved by the decision of the Council of People's Deputies of Suzdal dated 15.04.2008 No. 28.

- 2008 – Protection zones of the landmark "Ancient Suzdal" – historical and urban architectural and landscape complex - ensemble of the historical part of the city within the boundaries of the 17<sup>th</sup>- early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Approved by the Decree of the Governor of the Vladimir region dated April 12, 2010 No. 433.

- 2009 – Rules of land use and development of Suzdal. Approved by the decision of the Council of People's Deputies of Suzdal dated 30.12.2009 No. 118.

2009 – The scheme of territorial planning of the Suzdal municipality of the Suzdal district – the main provisions of urban development. Approved by the decision of the Council of People's Deputies of the Suzdal district No. 104 of 12/28/2012.

2016 – The subject of protection, the boundaries of the territory and the requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of the territory of the historical settlement of federal significance of Suzdal. Approved by the order of the Ministry of Culture of Russia dated 5.10.2016 No. 2246.

- 2016 – The General plan of the city of Suzdal. Approved by the decision of the Council of People's Deputies of Suzdal No. 11 of 02/16/2021.

- 2017 – the administration of Suzdal carried out work on the preparation of an up-to-date edition of the project "Rules of land use and development of the municipal formation of Suzdal". This project was developed by the Federal Institute of Urban Planning and Investment Development GIPROGOR".

In 2019, the city administration commissioned a Concept for the development of Suzdal. The work was carried out by the architectural bureau "Rozhdestvenka" and provided for extremely careful regeneration of the urban environment for monuments.

Government Fund "DOM.RF" and "Strelka" Design Bureau carried out work on the development of a strategy for the spatial development of Suzdal until 2030.

The component of the WHP "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace" (Kremlin) is located in the loop of the Kamenka River, surrounded by archaeological heritage sites "Cultural layer, ramparts, moats of the city of Suzdal 10<sup>th</sup> -

13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries" and meadows – places of interest of regional significance "St Elijah Meadow" 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and "Kremlin meadow" 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The State Inspection for the Protection of OCH of the Administration of the Vladimir region approved the boundaries of the territory of the SCH "Cultural layer, ramparts, ditches of Suzdal 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries" (dated May 17, 2012 No. 134-01-05), The State Inspectorate approved the boundaries and requirements for the implementation of activities and town-planning regulations within the boundaries of the territories OCH of regional significance – places of interest "Kremlin meadow, 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries", "St Elijah Meadow" 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (dated November 8, 2016 No. 46 and No. 47, respectively).

Beyond the Kamenka River (south-west view) there is a panoramic view of the regional SCH "St Demetrius Meadow", 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and the federal SCH "Museum of Wooden Architecture", 1775, 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

From the suburban side (from the south-eastern, eastern and north-eastern sides) the Kremlin territory is surrounded by a fairly close urban development, including cultural heritage properties, including monuments of religious architecture, shopping malls, a fire tower, etc.

It is advisable to note silence as an attribute of the outstanding universal value of the component of the WHP "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace".

## **2.4.7. ENSEMBLE OF THE MONASTERY OF OUR SAVIOR AND ST EUTHYMIUS**

### **General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration**

The Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius is located on the northern outskirts of Suzdal, on the left, high bank of the Kamenka River. It was founded in 1352 by Prince Boris Konstantinovich as an outpost of the Suzdal-Nizhny Novgorod Principality. The first abbot was Saint Euthymius. Initially the monastery was consecrated to the Transfiguration of the Savior, the same is the name of the monastery cathedral. In 1507 they found the incorruptible relics of Saint Euthymius and then his local and later all-Russian veneration was established (1549). Since then the monastery was called the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius.

The original wooden buildings of the monastery have not been preserved, the current form of the ensemble was formed in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the monastery was rebuilt in stone. Among the major donators of that time were Vasily III, Ivan IV, Princes Pozharsky and others. The Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius suffered greatly as a result of the Polish and Lithuanian devastation. However the monastery quickly recovered and by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the monastery became one of the largest and richest in Russia.

In 1766 by order of Empress Catherine II a "prison for insane" was established in the monastery, which existed until 1905. The monastery was also a prison in Soviet times. Closed in 1923 the monastery was taken over by the OGPU (since 1934 - NKVD) and turned into a political isolator. In 1940-1941 the political isolator changed the camp for prisoners of war 1943-1946. After the war a colony for juvenile delinquents was organized in the monastery – first for men, then for women.

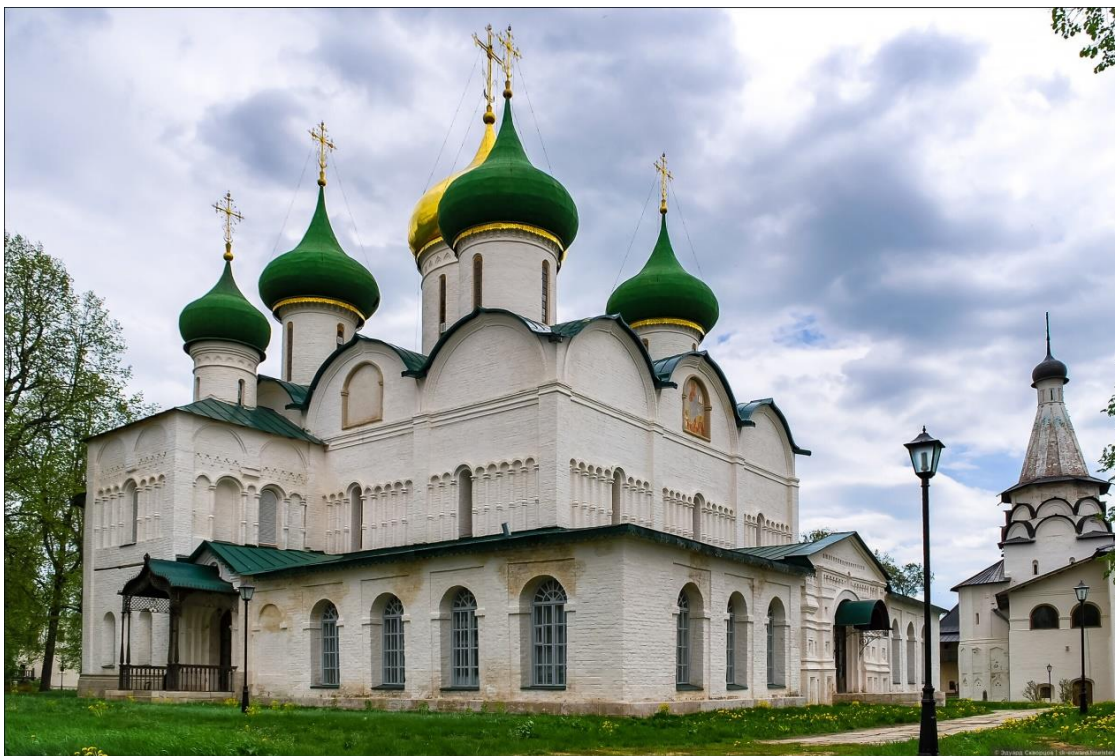
The comprehensive study and development projects for the restoration of architectural monuments of the Monastery began in 1968 in connection with the establishment of the International tourist Center in Suzdal. It was done in accordance with the schedule of research and restoration work approved by the Ministry of Culture of the RSFSR.

The work was carried out under the supervision of architects I. Stoletov and M. Subbotina, by the forces of the Suzdal restoration section (foreman M. Sharonov). The work was paid for at the expense of the VOOPliK.

In 1972 the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR adopted a resolution on the transfer of the monastery complex to the Museum.

### **"Transfiguration Cathedral", late 16th century**

The main church of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius the earliest stone structure of the monastery was erected over the grave of St. Euthymius of Suzdal in 1507-1511 and subsequently it turned into a side chapel of the five-domed Transfiguration Cathedral (1594).



*Transfiguration Cathedral, late 16<sup>th</sup> century*

The cathedral was built in the traditions of ancient white stone architecture of Vladimir and Suzdal. The walls divided into three parts by pilasters with keeled zakomaras are decorated with an column fringe around the perimeter. When just built it resembled the Nativity Cathedral of the Suzdal Kremlin, in the 17th century it was decorated with outdoor paintings. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the walls of the cathedral were surrounded on three

sides by a gallery. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a chapel of St. Sergius of Radonezh was attached to it. The five powerful domes of the cathedral are complemented by two more on the side chapels in honor of St. Euthemius – from the south and St. Sergius of Radonezh – from the north side.

In 1974 a preliminary project for the restoration of the cathedral was developed. In 1981-1984 repair and restoration works were carried out. Metal roofs and rafters, brick pilasters were dismantled, original zakomaras were reconstructed. The over-the-zakomaras roofing, the upper parts of the central zakomaras, cornices and image-case on the western, southern and eastern facades were restored. They also restored windows at the level of the column fringe and on the apses, wooden water collectors with iron coating, domes coating, roofs on the apses. Internal links were restored. Original mosaic floor was repaired.

In the chapel of St Euthymius they reconstructed original zakomaras and roof coating. The stucco column fringe was dismantled, the facade decor and window frames were restored.

The chapel of St. Sergius of Radonezh got new dome coating, new roof and doors.

In 2021 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency performed emergency (conservation and restoration) works on the 17th century painting in the lower part of the Cathedral. The works were accepted by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in April 2022.

The cathedral is in common use (Museum and the Church).

### **"Assumption Refectory Church", 1525**

The church was built in the first quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it is located in front of the Transfiguration Cathedral opposite the belfry.

This is a tent-shaped church of the type "octagon over the square base", topped with a tent with two tiers of kokoshniks. The powerful apse is decorated with pilasters and keel-shaped arches. On its east side there is a chapel of the Martyr Diomedes in the form of a small pillar-shaped church with three tiers of kokoshniks and an elegant dome. On the other side the Assumption Church turns into a two-tiered refectory. The lower floor of the refectory was intended for various household services, the upper floor housed a refectory hall with a complex system of arches supported by a central pillar.



The researches of the Assumption Refectory Church started in 1969. The architectural appearance of the ancient building has been distorted with significant alterations. Until 1968 it housed a cinema hall, a club, study rooms, warehouses, etc.

Restoration works were carried out in 1971-1981: the latter metal roofs and rafters were dismantled. The original roofing of the chamber and of the church were restored; the latter additions and buttress of the refectory church, brick pillars and retaining walls in the bread and refectory chambers were dismantled. The original layout structure was restored. The central brick pillar and reinforced concrete arch of the single-column chamber of the first floor with steel links were restored. The rotted wooden intra-wall links have been replaced with armed concrete ones. The white stone plinths were restored.



*Assumption Refectory Church, 1525*

The St Diomede chapel got its vault strengthened, the facades were restored (three rows of kokoshniks and a dome). The latter apse was dismantled. Fragments of the 16th century paintings were cleared in the refectory chamber - it is a rare case of painting the refectory in the 16th century.

In 2016 "Special Scientific Restoration Design and Production Workshop" agency carried out restoration work to strengthen the arches of the first floor of the Assumption

Refectory Church (injection of cracks, restoration of the plaster layer of walls and arches, whitewashing).

In 2019 IGIT company performed research work on geodetic monitoring of vertical deformations of load-bearing structures of the Assumption Refectory Church and engineering and technical research of aboveground load-bearing structures of the object.

### **"Belfry", 1530, 1599, 1691**

It combines several buildings of different times of the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The oldest part is the pillar-shaped Church of the Nativity of John the Baptist which was built in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of the earliest and very few surviving monuments of this type. It is a nine-sided multi-tiered pillar. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier there was a church, and in the third – the upper tier are the bells. The pillar was completed by keel-shaped zakomaras and a small dome covered with a silver-colour aspen shingles. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the top was changed into a tent-shape.



*Belfry, 1530, 1599, 1691s*

In the late 16<sup>th</sup> century a rectangular extension with an arched span was attached to the pillar in order to hang a large bell donated to the monastery by nobleman Demid Cheremisinov. By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century two more spans were added for new bells. As a result it looks as a wall with an arcade gallery. The largest bell on the belfry in the 17th century weighed 355 kg, in the 18th century – 560 kg. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the belfry was crowned with a two-tent top, later dismantled, and a small clock tower. In the 1930s all the bells were sent to be melted down "for the needs of the state." Now 17 bells are hung on the belfry and the chimes are performed by the bell-ringers of the Museum.

In 1975 a preliminary restoration project was drawn up. The project was preceded by research aimed at identifying the lost original forms. The original zakomaras with two rows of kokoshniks was completely lost by the time of restoration, and the building was covered with a two-sided metal roof. Under it over the vault of the upper tier some fragments of an ancient row of kokoshniks was found. Large fragments of the lower row of kokoshniks – zakomaras – were found on the southern facade of the bell tower, now closed by the 16<sup>th</sup> clock-tower. In the southern part of the second tier there is storage tent, with a vaulted ceiling and with an entrance from the south side. Kokoshniks and the dome were restored. Reinforced concrete links are made. Brick floors were repaired. Some windows and doorways were restored.

The cultural layer has been removed. Archaeological research unveiled that 3 rows of white stone blocks were laid at the base of the bell tower. In front of the middle pilaster they found a pillar belonging to the ancient porch. However, there were not enough data to restore the shape of the porch.

### **"Abbot's Residence", 16<sup>th</sup> century**

Close to the Assumption Church from the side of the St Diomedes chapel there is a monument of civil architecture of the 16<sup>th</sup> century – the Abbot's Residence.

This two-story L-shaped building is decorated with a roofed wooden gallery-gulbishche, supported by stone pillars. It was built as an official building but since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century it served the apartment for the abbot.



In 1971-1981 the belfry, the Assumption Refectory Church and the Abbot's Residence underwent a comprehensive restoration. The original space-planning structure and shape of the monuments were restored, the arches, windows and doors, as well as the facades decoration were recreated.



*Abbot's Residence, 16<sup>th</sup> century*

In 2001-2008 restoration works continued. Now we had to deal with the deformation of the basement and walls which resulted in formation of cracks and threatening the complete destruction of structures. To save the buildings a set of measures for engineering strengthening was applied, including the installation of anchors in the foundation and walls as it was done with the Abbot's Residence and the belfry.

In 2008 the appropriate painting of the belfry was carried out, reflecting the different timing of its components, the carillon was restored. The facades of the Assumption Refectory Church with the St Diomedes chapel were repaired, the roof coverings of the zakomaras and the cupolas were made of copper, bimetal is used in its roof.

## **"Prison building", 19<sup>th</sup> century**

The building was originally built (1730) as a cell building for monks and it was the last large construction of the monastery.

In 1823 it was rebuilt specifically for a monastery prison for persons of spiritual rank (architect Petrov). The room was radically redeveloped: new stone and log inner walls, porches were arranged, windows were enlarged, new ceiling and floor were made. The original building have preserved very few forms, not enough for its reconstruction.

The prison building is an extended one-story barrack-type structure with a walking yard in front of it, located behind a high brick wall in the northern part of the monastery. The gloomy, monotonously dull appearance of the prison fits its internal content: a long corridor and low, dark prison cells.

The restoration project provided for the preservation of the main dimensions of the original building, the restoration of the layout of cells originally rebuilt as a prison. The cells were rebuilt in such a way that secret and simple cells were located in the northern part of the building, along the southern wall of the building there was a corridor.

Restoration work was carried out on the prison building in 1974-1978.



*Prison building, 19<sup>th</sup> century*



n 2022 an agreement was signed with Asgard company to carry out work on the development of scientific and design documentation for the restoration and adaptation in order to preserve the federal OCH "Prison Building", 19<sup>th</sup> century, which is part of the federal OCH "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius" 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**"Block of Monks' Cells", late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

The building was built between 1628 and 1660. It is a two-storey L-shaped building. In the small southern part of it both vaulted floors have been preserved, and in the extended (almost 100-meter long) the northern part of the second floor was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The decoration of the building are the figured window surrounds of different styles, elegant wooden galleries-porches; the building is covered with high wooden roofs.

The building housed the abbot's cell, the cellarer's cell, the storeroom and 7 cells for the monks.



*Block of Monks' Cells, late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*



Studies showed that the 17<sup>th</sup> century building was thoroughly rebuilt in 1839-1940: the ancient vaulted ceilings were dismantled, the layout was laid out, decorative window surrounds were cut off.

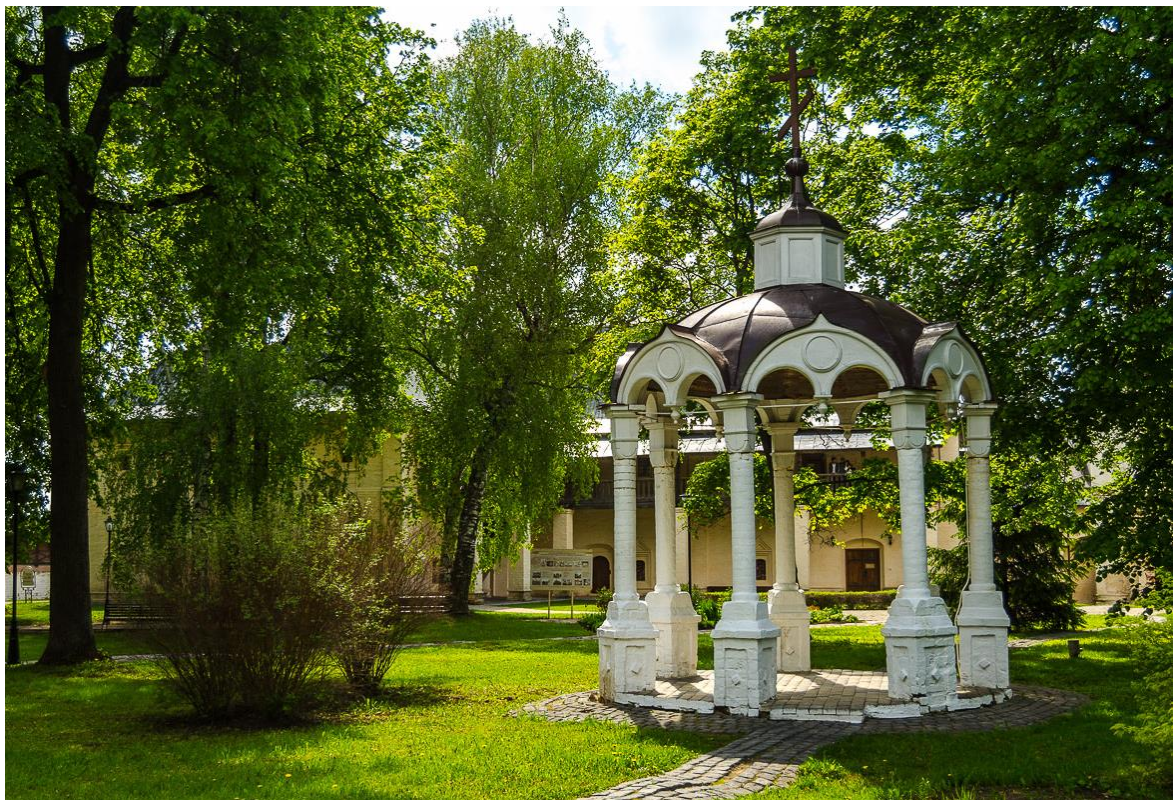
In 1969-1974 restoration works were carried out. It was possible to restore the lower floor and both floors of the southern wing of the building in their original forms: the layout, vaulted ceilings, windows, facade decor were restored. The porches on the western facade which gave the cells autonomy were restored. The cultural layer was removed.

In 2019 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency repaired windows and doors.

### **"Ciborium", 18<sup>th</sup> century**

It is located opposite the Monks' Block on its west side.

The Ciborium is a rotunda made in the Russian Baroque style standing on seven stone columns. The capitals of the columns did not survive as well as the entire upper part which is made of wood already during the last restorations. Granite paving stones are arranged at the base of the ciborium, the iron roof is painted. The structure has no extensions.



*Ciborium, 18<sup>th</sup> century*



n 1971-1981 and in 2001-2008 complex restoration works were carried out on the ciborium.

### **"St. Nicholas Church", 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries**

St. Nicholas Church with adjacent two-tiered hospital wards was erected in the north-eastern part of the monastery in 1669.

It is a pillar-less single-domed temple with decorative kokoshniks on the facades, expressive portals and elegant window surrounds. A two-tiered hospital ward is adjacent to the church. There is a single-column vaulted hall at the bottom and an uninhabited upper room. An internal staircase, rare for ancient Russian architecture, leads up from the ground floor.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the building was rebuilt: the vaulted ceilings were dismantled, the windows were enlarged, the two-story porch and the one-story vestibule at the hospital wards were broken.



*St. Nicholas Church, 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The restoration project was performed in 1968-1972. In 1968-1974 the building was brought in order, the original space-planning structure and architectural form of the building were restored: the two-story porch and the gallery were restored. During the work, the internal staircase to the first floor of the hospital ward was discovered and restored. The double vault of the church, the dome and the facade decor were restored.

In 1999-2006 the wooden roof on the main volume of the church and its altar part was replaced, the brickwork was repaired and the facades were coated with plaster.

In 2019 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency carried out work on the repair of windows and doors in the St. Nicholas Church.

In 2020 LLC "Climate Service" company performed installation and commissioning of the climate system (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) in the rooms of the St. Nicholas Church.

### **"Wall and towers", 17<sup>th</sup> century**

The territory of the monastery is surrounded by a defensive wall with twelve powerful towers with loopholes and embrasures. The stone wall was erected in 1670-1680 instead of the older wooden one, the wall length is 1200 meters.



*Wall and towers, 17<sup>th</sup> century*

All the towers of the monastery, except for the Passage (Entrance) Tower and the Rectangular Tower (western wall) have a circular cross-section. The Entrance four-tiered tower with a height of 22 m is made of red brick, its massive rectangular volume is divided by two arches - passages, above which there are icon cases. The lower part of the tower is distinguished by its severity, but its upper tier is richly decorated with brick window surrounds, cornices, belts – decorative elements of Russian pattern. The towers of the eastern wall facing the city have a simpler decor and are decorated only with crenellated parapet and wide pilasters; the western wall towers' decor is even simpler. Despite its power, the wall of the monastery has never been used for military functions.

In 1974 the Vladimir Specialized Scientific and Restoration Workshop under the leadership of I. Stoletov began measuring and research work on the wall and towers of the monastery.

In 1980-1986 the Vladimir Restoration Workshop carried out restoration work on the Entrance tower, the corner towers adjacent to it, some of the wall sections.

By the 1990s the wall and towers were subjected to destructive processes: the masonry weathered, a large number of cracks appeared, due to the absence of roofs the wall masonry moistened and collapsed, the basement part was affected by lichens. There was a partial collapse of the brickwork. There was a need for large-scale restoration work. Since 1999 active engineering-strengthening and restoration works have been carried out.

In 2003 there was a collapse of the northern wall section. The passage tower tilted, a deep crack appeared in it. At the initiative of the Museum, research work on strengthening wall and towers was included in the state Targeted investment Program. The general contractor – "Regional Engineering Center" – carried out works on the engineering strengthening of wall and towers using the modern technologies. To strengthen the foundations, the wall and towers 2,620 wells were drilled, 1,400 tons of mortar were used for injection.



*Wall and towers, 17<sup>th</sup> century*

Restoration of architectural forms of tent-shaped towers, brickwork and wall plastering, waterproofing injecting – all these works were performed by the restoration organization Russian Restoration. The plastering was done manually (an old construction technique) on an area of 30052 sq. m. Engineering strengthening of the foundations was carried out, a section of the destroyed monastery wall was restored, rafters and roofing were replaced, the main Entrance (travel) tower was reconstructed, the combat galleries were restored. The roofs of the towers and of the combat galleries are wooden on a metal base.

In 2015 IGIT company (Engineering Geology of Historical Territories) performed scientific and research work to monitor the vertical deformations of the fortress wall sections between towers B11 and B10, B11 and B12, the Assumption Refectory Church. In the same year "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency developed design and estimate documentation and replaced the entrance gate.



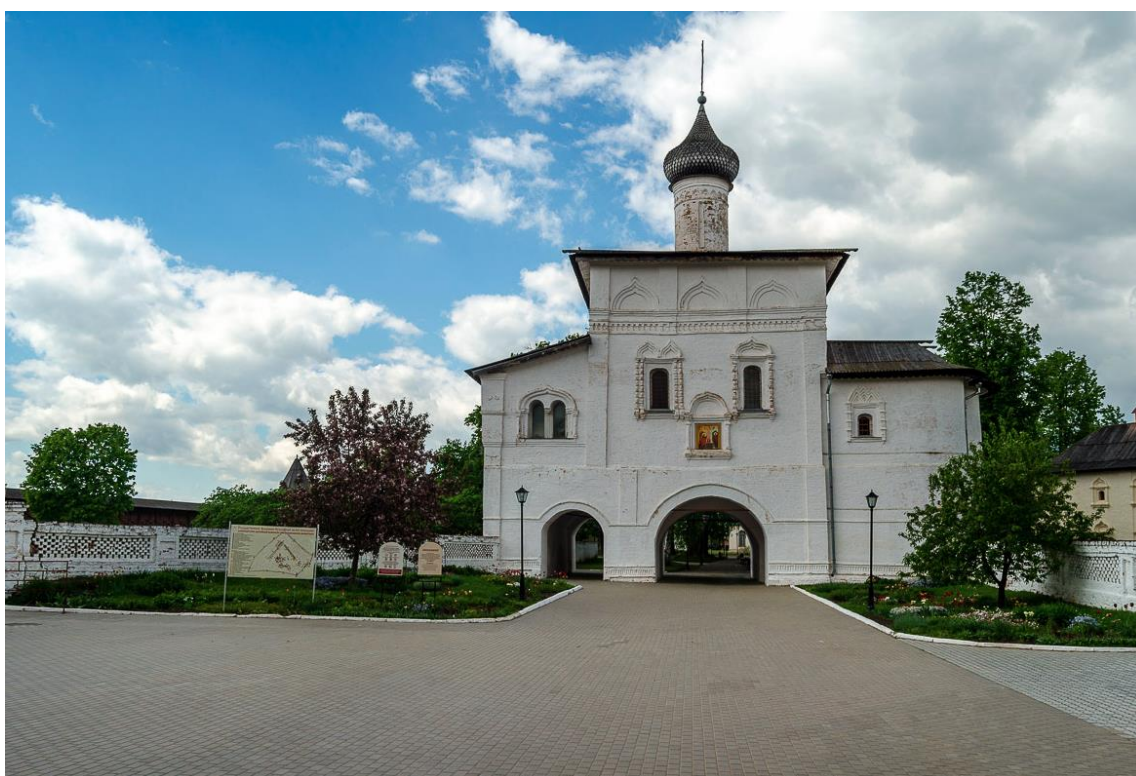
### **"Annunciation gate Church", 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries**

Built as a monastery Holy Gate at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, after the construction of the stone defensive wall it was inside the monastery wall.

In the 1960s, engineering and strengthening works were carried out, which temporarily suspended the destruction process.

In 1974 the preliminary restoration project was worked out.

In 1981-1985 repair and restoration works were carried out. The cultural layer around the building was excavated (the soil was removed to a depth of 80 cm). The engineering strengthening of the western wall basement was carried out. The gallery archway was reinforced. The vaulted ceiling with timbers in the porch, roofs on the rafters (single-pitched on the porch, four-pitched on the main volume), wooden shingles of the dome and the cross of the central chapter were restored. Armed concrete links were made along the perimeter of the walls instead of wooden ones, wooden floors, brickwork damages of the walls were made up.



*Annunciation gate Church", 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries*

Initially the facades and the portal were painted white with lime. Lime painting was done. The interior has been restored with painting and stucco. As a result, the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century appearance of the monument was restored.

The plans of preventive, repair and restoration works at the objects in the ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius are compiled on the basis of monitoring, which determines the trends in the state of the structures that make up the monastery during the year.

### **Apothecary's garden**

There is an Apothecary's garden on the territory of the Monastery.



*Apothecary's garden in the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius*

Russian Monasteries have long been engaged in growing and collecting medicinal plants. In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century the use of medicinal herbs in Russia took on a particularly wide scale, when Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich created an Apothecary Ministry in charge of supplying medicinal herbs not only to the royal court, but also to the army. Apothecary gardens were created – gardens where domestic and other medicinal plants were bred.



Under Peter the Great such vegetable gardens appeared in all major cities at military hospitals and monasteries.

The apothecary garden of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius in the 18<sup>th</sup> century had an extensive garden farm. The monks' obedience included the cultivation of herbs used for the preparation of medicines, kvass and medicinal aromatic teas.

This vegetable garden has been restored and supplemented with new types of medicinal plants by the staff of the Museum.

## Environment

The Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius is located on the northern outskirts of Suzdal, on the high left bank of the Kamenka River. The territory of the monastery is surrounded by defensive wall with loopholes and embrasures and twelve powerful towers. The entire structure was built for the defensive battle: on the river side the wall is lower, on the south side (Lenin Street) – on the contrary, much higher.



*Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, 16<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century*



The best view of the Monastery is from the right bank of the river, which flows at the foot of the hill. This monastery is one of the three main attractions of the city (the other two dominant and main attractions are the Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace (Suzdal Kremlin) and the Intercession Convent). From the western side of the monastery there is a picturesque panoramic view of the Intercession Convent. Along the southern wall of the monastery, along Lenin Street, runs the Vladimir – Ivanovo, Vladimir – Gavrilov Posad highway.

Since the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius is located directly on the high bank of the Kamenka River there is a danger of erosion and collapse of the bank, especially during the spring flood.

In April 1994 a 4 m high landslide occurred on the slope between the western and corner towers of the monastery. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the distance from the slope edge to the towers and wall reduced to 10-12 m. During the monitoring some trends in the growth of the inclination of the walls to the outside were recorded, cracks and deformations of the supporting elements appeared. Complicated shore protection measures were carried out. The length of the shore protection line was 195 m, width – from 18 to 4 m. The shore was reinforced with geotextiles and gabions filled with granite stone (40 railway cars of granite stone from the Arkhangelsk region). Strengthening of the slopes of the coast, reaching a height of 2 m, was carried out with the help of retaining counterbanks, on top of which geogrids were fixed. The cells were filled with local plant soil, sprinkled with sand. Later they were sown with grass seeds.

A case of ground move and the collapse of part of the northern wall of the ensemble was recorded in 2003.

Since 2006 monitoring has been carried out: seasonal fluctuations in the structures of fortifications and soil remain within normal limits.

## 2.4.8. THE CHURCH OF STS BORIS AND GLEB

### General information about the history of the object, its study and restoration

The Church of Boris and Gleb was built in 1152 by Yuri Dolgoruky, who received from his father, the great Kiev Prince Vladimir Monomakh, the Rostov–Suzdal land, which becomes his appanage principality. The reason for choosing the construction site was the legend about the meeting here of the brothers Boris and Gleb – the first Russian saints.



*The church of Sts Boris and Gleb, 1152*

After the Mongol devastation the church was repaired and in 1239 re-consecrated. Before the abolition of the monastery in Kideksha in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the church of Sts Boris and Gleb was (but it is not known from what time) a monastery cathedral . After the abolition of the monastery, the church becomes a parish.

The single-domed, four-pillar, three-apse Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha has survived partially. In the 16<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> century (according to N. Voronin), the dome and part of the vaults collapsed. The version that the top of the church collapsed, but not rebuilt or for any other reason, is confirmed by the fact that at present the walls of the

church of Sts Boris and Gleb have a significant outward slope, i.e. they were strongly "stretched" by a heavy dome drum.

In the 1660s the dome, vaults and eastern pillars of the church were completely dismantled, and the apses and eastern parts of the northern and southern walls were reduced to the level of the blind arcading. Then the eastern pillars were redone again, and the church received a closed vault and a four-sided roof with a small dome. The apses and the eastern part of the side walls were dismantled to the level of the column fringe. The eastern pair of pillars was first disassembled and assembled again, the corresponding eastern pilasters were expanded with a new masonry. The apses got connected with the lowered eastern part of the church, formed an elongated altar part adjacent to the newly built wall of old white stone above the eastern pair of pillars. The ancient windows, as well as the southern portal, were blocked and a number of new window were made. Later the porches were attached to the building from the west and north (the northern one was dismantled in the early 1940s). In this form the church has survived to this day.

In 1780 the "warm" (heated) St Stephen church was built of brick. The tent-shaped bell tower and the fence with the Holy Gate completed the architectural appearance of the ensemble.

The ancient church became the subject of scientific interest in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when in 1851 A. Uvarov conducted here the first archaeological excavations.

In 1869 the church dome was remade. In 1873 the monument was surveyed and photographed by V. Potapov – the publisher of "Christian Antiquities and Archeology".

In 1933 A. Varganov examined the church, in 1936 – N. Voronin worked here with measurements of the building and archaeological excavations. An excavation was made from the northwest in order to establish a system of ancient walls and detecting a staircase tower or a passage.

For the reason of bad condition of the church in the end of 1940, liturgies ceased. Serious research work followed with A. Varganov, N. Sychev and A. Stoletov.

In 1941 A. Varganov started archaeological excavations, he studied Kideksha as an ancient settlement, as well as the church of Sts Boris and Gleb. Excavations were made inside the building in the annex and inside by the western wall. Fragments of frescoes

were found under the floor. In the altar part more frescoes fragments were also found on the wall-surface, conceived by ancient stone bench of a High Place.

In 1946 on the Moscow Architectural Institute request the church measurements were carried out by V. Kazarinova and S. Osmova. A fresco was discovered in the left arcosolium (above the burial of Princess Mary).

In 1947 this 12<sup>th</sup> century fresco was examined by N. Sychev. Academician of architecture U. Savitsky and architect N. Egorov examined the dome drum, vaults and other details.

In 1948 fragments of frescoes were discovered, one of which depicts two horsemen.

In 1955 urgent works on engineering strengthening and restoration were carried out to save the monument. Their result was the restoration of some architectural forms and fragments, as well as the clarification of some data in the architectural history of the church. The 18th century fence was also restored.

These works were preceded by: "A study of the original forms of the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in 1152" compiled by A. Varganov in 1952, and in 1953, the project of engineering strengthening of the monument prepared by A. Stoletov.

In 1968 a comprehensive preliminary study of the monument was carried out. In 1973 – repair of the roof and the dome. In 1985 – repair of the roof.

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the next stage of research and restoration work was begun. In order to find out the causes of the ongoing destructive phenomena, archaeologist V. Glazov examined the church interior in 1994. Restoration began almost simultaneously with the excavations. In 1994-1995 the roofs of the old building, apses and dome were covered with copper, the cross was gilded.

In early August 2004 "Vladspetsrestavratsiya" specialists carried out work in the interior of the Church concerning removing cement plaster from the walls and strengthening the white stone masonry. The result of their activity was the release of cement from the pillars, walls and arches of the western sections of the central and southern naves under the choir-gallery. In the course of their work the restorers discovered previously unknown 12<sup>th</sup> century frescoes, including a large fragment depicting plant

ornaments and birds of paradise. It is located on the western face of the arch under the choir-gallery, between the southern wall and the south-western pillar.

In the autumn of the same year, the specialists of the Geostroy company and the Regional Engineering and Technical Center began large-scale work on the engineering strengthening of the ancient building. With the help of metal links and anchors, they connected with the north-western column, which began to collapse. These works continued in 2005. In 2007 in the church annex "Vladimirrestavratsiya" specialists made a new white stone floor to replace the old one and all the windows were changed for the new ones. The work on the white stone also continued. During the 2008 season the same restoration workshop strengthened the white stone masonry and cleaned it of gray harmful coating on the apses.

Similar works were carried out in 2009 on the southern facade and the southern half of the western one. The same year "Vladspetsrestavratsiya" restored the narthex and the paintings on its ceiling. In 2010 work was carried out on the restoration and strengthening of the white stone walls of the eastern, northern and western (northern half) facades.

In 2011 restoration and archaeological works were carried out in the interior of the church. The restoration of white stone floors was carried out, ventilation canals were laid. An omphalium was found at the 12<sup>th</sup> century floor level as a result of archaeological work. The remains of the 12<sup>th</sup> century paintings were found on pillars and walls below the modern floor level.

In 2012, the State Scientific Research Institute of Restoration (GosNIIR) conducted research work to optimize the temperature and humidity regime with the development of appropriate recommendations for the preservation of cultural heritage sites included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, including the Church of Saints Boris and Gleb. The same year "Climate Service" company carried out work on the installation of a ventilation, air conditioning and heating system of the monument. A water well was arranged to ensure the operation of the climate control unit. "Vladimirrestavratsiya" carried out work on the restoration of stairs and choir-gallery.

In 2013 "Vladimirrestavratsiya" performed restoration work of the white stone, 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries wall paintings, installed a door in the western vestibule and vestibule,

restored metal door panels of the northern façade. A project documentation for the restoration of the bell tower was developed. Despite the white stone restoration work done some areas with bio-reflections were observed.

In 2014 the design and estimate documentation for the restoration of the Entrance Gate (the Holy Gate with a fence) was developed. In 2016 "Special Scientific Restoration Design and Production Workshop" agency carried out work on the restoration of OCH "Bell Tower" and "Entrance Gate" ("Holy Gate with fence"). The bell tower dome construction was repaired, brickwork was restored. The rafter system was repaired and wooden beams were reinforced, new roofing was installed. Restoration of brickwork was carried out along the Holy Gate and the fence.

It is necessary to conduct comprehensive monitoring of the technical condition of the monument "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb", keeping the temperature and humidity regime is recommended, optimal operating conditions of the monument should be observed. Constant monitoring of the condition of the unique painting is required. Plans for preventive, repair and restoration work should be drawn up on the basis of monitoring, which determines trends in the state of the monument during the year.

On the territory of the ensemble "Complex of churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha", 1152 – 17<sup>th</sup> century is also located the church of St. Stephen built in 1780. The user of the church – the Russian Orthodox Church carried out work on replacing the dome and its gilding, plating the basement with modern brick. The material and working methods do not correspond to the historically established appearance of the ensemble and require replacement according to the approved project documentation. It should be noted that any unauthorized work is unacceptable on the territory of the WHP. Local authorities must constantly monitor the activities of users of cultural heritage objects located on the territory of the ensemble and prevent illegal actions.

## **Environment**

The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb is located in a rural area, in the village of Kideksha, 4 km east of Suzdal. Here the Kamenka River joins with the Nerl' River flowing into the Klyazma River.



The white-stone church stands on a high bank (cliff), below which the Nerl River flows. From the observation deck a picturesque panorama of the Russian expanse opens – a field, a quiet river. The church in Kideksha was built, like the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' in Bogolyubovo, with an obvious expectation of viewing from the waterway and from long distances. The monument is a vivid example of a systematic and conscious approach of ancient customers and architects to the aesthetic understanding of the landscape environment.



*The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb, 1152*

By the decision of the Council of People's Deputies of the Suzdal district No. 51 dated 23.04.2008, in order to ensure the comprehensive protection of the architectural monument of federal significance inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb" and the adjacent unique picturesque landscape – floodplain meadows, which forms a single whole with it, a historical and cultural complex of regional significance was organized "Meadow in the floodplain of the Nerl river – the church of Sts Boris and Gleb S. Kideksha" with a total area of 124.5 hectares with a protected environmental regime of use. Information about the boundaries of the land plot and of the

protected area of the specially protected natural territory "Meadow in the floodplain of the Nerl River – the church of Sts Boris and Gleb S. Kideksha" is included in the state real estate cadastre.

On the territory of the ensemble besides the white stone OCH of the 12<sup>th</sup> century – "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb", 1152, there are "Bell Tower", 17<sup>th</sup> century., "Entrance Gate", 17<sup>th</sup> century., "St Stephan Church", 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 2017 thanks to the development and approval of the protection zones of the "Sts Boris and Gleb Churches Complex in Kideksha", 1152 – 17<sup>th</sup> century ("Church of Sts Boris and Gleb", 1152), as well as special land use regimes and requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones, the protection of the opposite bank of the river Nerl received legal registration from economic development. The same concerns the territory around the church – the boundaries of the territory and the mode of use of the OCH territory were approved by the order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in 2019.

## **2.5. POPULARIZATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS CURRENT USE IN THE CONTEXT OF CULTURAL AGGLOMERATION**

"White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" as an object of OUV is the main object of popularization of the cultural heritage of the Vladimir area.

An unambiguous and clear understanding of the significance of the WHP with all its components by all economic entities, stakeholders, and the general public can be achieved only by systematic providing different information about the components of the property, conducting research on the study of white stone monuments and providing research results to a wide audience. In this sense, the direction of popular science, museum, sightseeing, educational, advertising and publishing activities is of great importance.

The components are in use by two organizations that are the managers of the Property (its components):

- 7 architectural monuments are in the operational management of the Museum;
- 1 monument – in use of the Church.

This is the specifics of their involvement in cultural circulation.

Types of use of the Property components:

- sightseeing and tourism (thematic and sightseeing tours, interactive programs);
- presentation and exhibition (exhibitions, festivals and holidays, presentation programs, publishing);
- educational (lectures, seminars);
- scientific (scientific research, scientific conferences);
- advertising (placement of information about the components of the Property on the official websites of regional executive authorities, local self-government bodies, placement of information and advertising products in information centers, including in tourist information centers, booklets, videos, stands, etc.);
- as a religious object (liturgy practicing).

Monuments of white stone architecture are a significant, fundamental part of the Museum, which includes 92 objects of cultural heritage of federal and regional significance, identified objects of cultural heritage. Museum exhibitions and expositions with collections that are diverse in content are located in the architectural monuments.

However, it is the white stone monuments that are the most valuable and most attractive components of the Museum.

Currently the museum is developing a special overall program to popularize the objects of white stone architecture and is already implementing its separate directions: previously suspended tourist routes are being resumed, new tourist products are being developed; regional and All-Russian conferences are being held; articles on the monuments of white stone architecture are being published; publications about the activities of the museum in various federal and regional mass media; booklets for tourists are published (including in foreign languages).

All-Russian and international events are held on the territory of the Property and its components, including: Denis Matsuev's "New Names" festival in the Suzdal Kremlin, All-Russian actions "Night of Museums", "Movie Night".



*Denis Matsuev's "New Names" Festival in the Suzdal Kremlin*

The All-Russian festival of sacred music and bells chimes "The Summer of the Lord" on the territory of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius is of constant interest. Exhibitions and other events are held.



*All-Russian Festival of Sacred Music  
and Bells "The Summer of the Lord"*



*Carnival performance.  
Day of the city of Suzdal*

White stone monuments play one of the key roles in the work on popularization. An understanding of their global significance is being formed in accordance with the status of a UNESCO monument and the current level of scientific knowledge. These monuments despite of being created mainly by foreign craftsmen, represent a unique synthesis of Russian and Western European cultures.

As the main means in popularizing UNESCO monuments within the framework of the activities of the Museum one can designate:

- guided-tour service;
- exposition and exhibition activities;
- museum educational programs for children and teenagers;
- publishing activity: working out and distribution of scientific publications, guidebooks, brochures, booklets, maps, diagrams in different languages;
- organization and participation in conferences;
- maintaining the museum's website and official social media accounts.

Currently the Museum in terms of popularization is most consistently working on the production of guidebooks, brochures, flyers and posters. These materials are distributed in museum souvenir shops located in the same monuments, in all exhibitions on information stands, in places where tourists stay and eat in Vladimir and Suzdal, as well as by city administrations and partner companies of the Museum.



Guidebooks are published both on individual monuments and general on the white-stone architecture of Vladimir-Suzdal Russia, as well as separately on the frescoes of Andrei Rublev. These guidebooks are published in the main European languages (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian), some in Chinese and Japanese. There is a lack of general maps-schemes of Vladimir and Suzdal translated into foreign languages with the information about the white-stone monuments. The information that the properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List is given briefly in the guidebooks, there is no detailed information about the outstanding universal value of the property. At the same time when publishing new booklets, maps, information stands, the brand (logo and emblem) of the World Heritage is used, information about the attribution of monuments to the World Cultural Heritage is indicated in the text.

In 2018-2021 the Museum issued the following thematic publications:

- leaflets on white stone architecture: "Golden Gate", "Assumption Cathedral", "The Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", "White Stone architecture of Vladimir-Suzdal Russia", booklets: "St Demetrius Cathedral", "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha";

- leaflets on the historical cities of "Vladimir", "Suzdal" where UNESCO monuments are located;

- booklet "About the Suzdal Kremlin museums" (for children);

- leaflets dedicated to the princes-builders of white stone monuments: "Yuri Dolgoruky", "Andrey Bogolyubsky", "Vsevolod the Big Nest";

- leaflet on painting "Andrey Rublev", booklet "Scheme of murals of the Transfiguration Cathedral";

- publication of books: author T. Timofeeva "Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir" in 2 volumes and "The Life of Ilarion, Metropolitan of Suzdal and Yuriev" (continuation of the series "Publication of the museum monument"); author A. Zaikova "Two centuries of Suzdal history"; author A. Aksenova "History. Destiny. Museum"; in 2014, the scientific publication "Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin in Suzdal" was published.

- almanacs: "Suzdal. Further to the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary", "Research Materials" (Issue No. 24).



The work on the release of a detailed popular science publication about the white stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal was planned for the 4th quarter of 2019, but has not been implemented so far, including due to the temporary suspension of the museum's work related to the spread of a new coronavirus infection (covid-19), and, as a result, limited financial resources.

Every year the museum organizes exhibitions dedicated to the ancient white stone cathedrals. As a rule these exhibitions take place within the museum and are of a time-limited nature. The World Heritage brand is used irregularly in exhibition activities.

Among the exported exhibitions it is necessary to mention the exhibition project "White Stone masterpieces of the Vladimir-Suzdal land" which was held in 2020 at the Dobrograd Resort in Kovrov.

An important event for the Museum and its visitors was the opening in April 2021 of the tactile exhibition "Animals in the carving of white stone churches of Ancient Russia".



*Tactile exhibition "Animals in the carving of white stone temples of Ancient Russia"*

This exhibition is part of a large project "Touching Story" aimed at attracting people with disabilities to visit cultural sites and increasing the accessibility of museum space. A complex of the most modern museum technologies is used to demonstrate the exhibits.

The exhibition was accessible to people with hearing and visual disabilities: all the exhibits can not only be viewed, but also touched, and the notes are equipped with signs with a description in relief-graphic font. The main exhibits were tactile copies of bas-reliefs with images of animals from the walls of the white-stone St. George Cathedral. The exposition was supplemented by copies of carvings from white-stone cathedrals from the collection of the Museum.

In October 2021 the tactile exhibition "White Stone carving in the cathedrals of ancient Russia" was opened. The project was implemented jointly with the Aura-Tech Association using a grant provided by the Russian Cultural Foundation within the federal project "Creative People" of the national project "Culture". The project partners are the Museum and the ARCHEOLAB Research Laboratory. The exhibition is based on exact tactile copies of white stone bas-reliefs (10 bas-reliefs from the St Demetrius Cathedral in Vladimir, 14 - from St. George's Cathedral in Yuriev-Polsky), as well as models of these cathedrals. This approach made the exhibition accessible to people with visual disabilities, aroused great interest among children, as it broke the established stereotype that you can't touch the exhibits. Thus, the exhibition has formed a new approach to museum activities, offering an alternative to the classical methods of interaction with exhibits and making them more accessible in every sense of this word. For visitors with visual disability, this exhibition has become a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the unique white-stone architecture of North-Eastern Russia.



*Tactile exhibition "White stone carving in the cathedrals of ancient Russia"*

From September 21 to November 2, 2021 the All-Russian Public Organization "Russian Geographical Society" museum in St. Petersburg hosted an exhibition of photographs of architectural monuments from the collection of the Museum "White Stone masterpieces of the Vladimir-Suzdal Land". The exhibition featured 39 works by Vladimir photographers on the theme of architectural monuments of the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> – early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Experience shows that the display of artifacts related to the history of the Vladimir-Suzdal temples generates a surge of interest in the monuments themselves. This was the case with the exhibition "Holy Russia", held at the Louvre and the Tretyakov Gallery (2010-2012), where one of the key exhibits was the pre-Mongolian Golden Gate from the Suzdal Nativity Cathedral.

In 2019 in Berlin (Germany) as part of the project "Russian Seasons in Germany", the Russian House of Science and Culture hosted an exhibition "Icon of the 12<sup>th</sup> century "Our Lady of Bogolyubovo" 100 years of restoration". The exhibition was organized by the Museum together with the All-Russian Art Research and Restoration Center named after Academician Grabar as part of the international cultural project "Russian Seasons" in Germany with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Russia. The exhibition demonstrated the results of many years of work on the restoration of the oldest relic of Russian culture, which united several generations of restorers. The exhibition aroused great interest and a lively response from German visitors.

The Museum has experience in holding significant international conferences, such as, for example, "Praises Worthy... Andrey Bogolyubsky in Russian History and Culture" (2011), as well as conferences dedicated to the restoration of the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha (2015) and many other events.

The Museum conducts extensive educational work with schoolchildren and students, immersing them in the history of the rich cultural heritage of the region. On the basis of the Center for Museum Pedagogy of the Museum, various cultural and educational programs, live lessons and guided tours of white stone monuments, covering all age groups of students (from elementary school students to students), have been developed as part of educational programs. In the course of interactive classes with a creative

orientation, not only acquaintance with UNESCO WCP Properties takes place, but also the artistic response of children to the information received is formed using various types of creative activity, the experience of aesthetic impressions from what they saw is formed.

A lot of educational work among preschool and primary school age children on the topic of white stone architecture is carried out by the staff of the museum studio of artistic and aesthetic education "Podsolnyshek".



*Children's studio of artistic and aesthetic education "Podsolnyshek"*

Among the most popular topics: "Autumn on Cathedral Hill" (drawing the Assumption Cathedral, making engravings), a lesson in decorative and applied art "St Demetrius Cathedral" (making a relief from dough), a lesson "Symbol of the City" (graphic drawing of the Golden Gate), a cycle of summer classes in fine art "Pearls of Russia" ("Prince's Temple" – drawing St Demetrius Cathedral, "Main Cathedral" – drawing with pastels of the Assumption Cathedral, "White Swan" – drawing with charcoal of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl, "Symbol of the city" – gouache drawing of the Golden Gate), interactive classes with creative activities: "Tales of white stones",



"Tree of Life" (plasticine) and "Miracle Tree" (dough modeling) at the tactile exhibition "White Stone carving in the cathedrals of Ancient Russia" and much more.

In 2020 82 children took part in the Podsolnyshek studio on the topic of white stone architecture, in 2020 – 305 children, in 2021 – 534 children.

The educational program "Our Land" during 2016-2021 the following classes were regularly held and are still being held:

- for 1st grade students - interactive lesson "Vladimir – the ancient capital";
- for students of the 2nd grades - "Golden Gate – monument of Russian glory (Golden Gate. Military-historical exposition)";
- for 3rd grade students – "The Legend of the white stones. White-stone cathedrals of the 12th century.";
- for 4th grade students – cultural and educational program "Shrines of Vladimir Rus’”.

As part of the educational program "The History of the Vladimir Land" for secondary school age students – the cultural and educational program "Vladimir Rus’” (St Demetrius and Assumption Cathedrals, Golden Gate).



*Walking quest through the historical center of the city of Vladimir*

As part of the general education program for high school students and University students there is a cultural and educational program "UNESCO Properties in the Vladimir region".

Historical quests held on the territory of museum complexes have become very popular among high school students: "The Treasure of Ilarion of Suzdal", "Treasures of the Suzdal Kremlin", "Treasure Island" in the Suzdal Kremlin, the quest "Prince Pozharsky – Hero of Russia" in the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius – the foot quest "In the heart of the old city". In the city of Vladimir, a quest is held for elementary school students "Through the streets of their hometown", which includes tasks related to white stone monuments (Golden Gate, Assumption and St Demetrius Cathedrals).



*Quest through the Kremlin museums "Treasure Island" in the city of Suzdal*

There is currently no lecture hall on white stone architecture for an adult audience.

The Vladimir-Suzdal white stone monuments are studied at a high level by an extensive scientific community: new articles and generalizing monographs are constantly appearing; restoration and archaeological reports are regularly published in leading



professional journals; international conferences are held. However, they are mostly available and known only among the specialists. Museum souvenir kiosks distribute such books in limited quantities.

In order to popularize UNESCO WHP the Museum publishes editions about these objects in federal and regional media, together with Russian Railways, promotional videos have been created for viewing on high-speed trains of the Sapsan type (St. Petersburg-Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod).

Currently the Museum has developed a variety of tourist sightseeing routes covering all white stone monuments. You can choose from combined excursions ("Excursion to the historical center of Vladimir", "Bus tour of Suzdal and Kideksha", "Walking tour of Suzdal (with a visit to the Suzdal Kremlin and the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius)", "Walking tour of Suzdal (with a visit to the Suzdal Kremlin and the Museum of Wooden Architecture)", "The author's excursion "Belfry of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius)", as well as individual excursions and tours (including: tour "Riddles of white stone architecture", tour "Vladimir-Suzdal Rus'", tour "Secret Suzdal and fabulous Muromtsevo", etc.).

In 2017 a new guided tour "Ten Centuries of the Suzdal Kremlin" was organized in Suzdal.

In 2018 the Suzdal Cinematographic guided tour (weekends) was opened, which also includes monuments of the white stone architecture of the city of Suzdal, which often served as decorations for Russian and foreign films and movies.

Since 2021 the Museum resumed a guided tour by minibus through all the monuments of the city, including the inaccessible Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha. For the tourists' convenience, the excursion service is provided with the opportunity to independently set the route of your excursion in almost any combination, based on your time, interests and desires.

A new bus guided tour "White Stone masterpieces of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus'" (Vladimir – Bogolyubovo – Suzdal – Yuriev-Polsky) is being developed. It will allow you to see all the monuments of white stone architecture within one day, trace their

development, see the variety of purposes of these masterpieces (fortification, temple and secular buildings).

In order to ensure the availability of unique monuments from 2017 to 2018 there was a seasonal promotion for residents and guests of the city of Vladimir: on Sundays from 15 to 17 hours, access to museum objects was provided free of charge. Currently, this action is not valid, including due to the anthropogenic load on the monuments during the action.

The tourist flow when visiting the monuments of white stone architecture has a sinusoidal character. In 2017 only the white stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List were visited by 440,447 people, in 2018 – 500,418 people, in 2019 – 734,717 people, in 2020 - 354,840 people, in 2021 - 773,442 people.

In recent years the attendance of all museum objects was at least 1.2 million people per year. In the period before the pandemic associated with coronavirus infection, in 2018-2019, it reached the level of 1.4 million tourists per year (taking into account all expositions, exhibitions, classes, master classes and other events). At the same time, more than half of the visits (53-54%) accounted for visits to monuments that are part of the UNESCO WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal". Due to the pandemic, from March to July 2020, all museum facilities were closed, and then worked under strict restrictions.

In 2021, taking into account the absence of foreign guests, due to the development of domestic tourism, attendance approximately reached slightly above the level of 2019.

The description of permanent expositions in the monuments-components of the WHP is given in Table 17.

*Table 17*  
*Location of Museum exhibitions*

№	Property component name	Museum Exhibition Name
633-01	Assumption Cathedral	«Interior of the Assumption Cathedral»
633-02	Golden Gate	«Military history exhibition»
633-03	Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky (Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	«History of Bogolyubovo town» (inside the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin)
633-04	Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'	No Museum exhibition. Practicing Orthodox church. Visit hours are available on website of the Nativity Monastery of Vladimir.
633-05	St Demetrius Cathedral	«St Demetrius Cathedral – a masterpiece of ancient Russian»
633-06	«Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace»	«The interior of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin»; «History of Suzdal»; «Ancient Russian icon-painting»; «Rural school»; «Suzdal Fair»; «The 18 <sup>th</sup> century interior of the Cross Chamber»; «17 <sup>th</sup> century Jordan Canopy»
633-07	«Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius»	«The interior of Transfiguration Cathedral»; «Suzdal prison»; «The fates interwoven»; «Russian icons in 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> centuries»; «600 year of Russian book history»; «Golden Treasury. Russian Decorative Art of 11 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> centuries»; «Russian National Hero – Dmitry Pozharsky»; «Orthodox Monasteries of Suzdal». (located in different buildings)
633-08	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	«The interior of the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb»

Temporary exhibitions of various subjects are also held in the Suzdal Kremlin.

Architectural museum expositions were created at the highest level: in the interior of the St Demetrius Cathedral, in the churches of Bogolyubov and Kideksha, in the expositions of the Suzdal Kremlin (the Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace) and the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius in Suzdal. Detailed and clear explications and archaeological fragments exposed and copies of some reliefs are so thoughtfully included in the interiors that they do not destroy the holistic perception of space. Such expositions, representing monuments in their maximum authenticity, judging

by surveys of visitors, are the most effective way to realize the artistic perfection and intangible value of white stone buildings.

In September 2019 the brand book and the new logo of the Museum were presented. This is certainly a positive change in the museum's image. The brand book is based on elements reminiscent of the ancient architectural elements of Vladimir and Suzdal. The new logo of the museum is based on the motifs of white stone carving – the logo and brand book will be easily recognizable and show the priority of the ancient Vladimir-Suzdal architecture for the Museum.

In 2021 the project "Russia is My History" with the support of the Foundation for Humanitarian Projects presented the Museum with several multimedia touchpads for children's expositions. Young visitors of the new interactive exhibition of the museum now study the heyday of medieval Vladimir with the help of 2 horizontal touchpads, a vertical touchpad and a unique projection "live" book. Interactive equipment was installed in the new hall of the Children's Museum Center – "Vladimirsky Azbukovnik". Russian-made touchscreens allow children to study an interactive map of ancient Vladimir, get acquainted with the elements of everyday life of ancient Russia, white stone architecture, crafts, trade, military history of the city. Modern technologies make it possible to speak the same language with children and maintain interest in the cultural heritage of their native land.

The official website of the museum-reserve is constantly updated. Currently it has clear navigation and a number of user-friendly functions. On the current website you can find a lot of information about white stone monuments. The information on the website is presented both in Russian and in English. The design of the site uses motifs of white stone carvings, the UNESCO logo and the World Heritage emblem are indicated, as well as a link to the website of the World Heritage Center, a partner of the Museum. A mode of viewing information for people with visual impairments has been created.

Since 2017, regular work has been carried out to update the pages of the Museum in social networks (Vkontakte, Facebook, Twitter, Odnoklassniki), in 2019 accounts appeared in Yandex. Zen" and "Youtube", in 2022 – "Rutube". The style of presenting information has been changed, new formats of working with the audience have been added

– "Ask a question" (answers to questions in real time), "Leave a review", the "Poster" section (information about current exhibitions and other museum events is provided), the "Photo Albums" section is regularly updated, in which photo reports about the ongoing events. Information and events of the children's museum center, competitions, guided tours is presented. The "Discussion" section has been added, which allows users to express their opinions and receive feedback from the museum-reserve.

The VKontakte group regularly holds ticket draws for Museum events, including on the territory of monuments included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List, as well as on-line broadcasts. Added reference data about the Museum.

With regard to the "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'" which is in use by the Church, the programs of popularization of the monument are presented both in the form of guided tours offered by the Museum for visitors as part of organized tourist groups, and visits to the monument by individual tourists, pilgrimage groups. The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is used for liturgical purposes, as well as a tourist attraction. Services in the church are held on Saturdays at 8 am. In winter the church is open from 10 to 16 o'clock, in summer from 10 to 18 o'clock (except for the period of spring floods). At this time, there is a duty officer in the church who monitors the observance of order in the church.

In Vladimir and in the Suzdal district local government authorities installed signs of tourist navigation in Russian and English on individual components of the Property (Assumption Cathedral, Suzdal Kremlin).

In order to develop the tourist attractiveness of the WHP, in order to facilitate tourists' access to tourist and recreational infrastructure, the Museum and the Church need to develop information signs of the navigation system in the field of tourism in accordance with international norms and requirements (the color of the navigation sign, the display of symbols).

The navigation signs planned for installation are indicated in Table 18.

*Table 18*  
*Navigation signs to be installed*

<b>№</b>	<b>Property component name</b>	<b>Navigation signs number</b>	<b>Approximate location of navigation signs</b>	<b>Sign type</b>	<b>Sign size</b>
<b>1</b>	Assumption Cathedral	5	Vladimir, Lenin Avenue, 79 (straight ahead); Vladimir, Studenaya Gora Street, 7 (to the right); Vladimir, Dobroselskaya Street, 217 (straight ahead); Vladimir, Suzdalsky Prospekt in the area of the house at 173 Dobroselskaya str. (to the right); Vladimir, Bolshaya Nizhegorodskaya Street, 63 (to the left)	Road sign  -\\-  -\\-  -\\-  -\\-	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts
<b>2</b>	Golden Gate	5	Vladimir, Lenin Avenue, 79 (straight ahead); Vladimir, Lenin Avenue, 35 (straight ahead); Vladimir, Dobroselskaya Street, 217 (straight ahead) Vladimir, Suzdalsky Prospekt in the area of the house at the address: 173 Dobroselskaya str. (to the right); Vladimir, Bolshaya Nizhegorodskaya Street, 77 (straight ahead)	Road sign  -//-  -//-  -//-  -//-	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts
<b>3</b>	Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky (Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	2	Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Street – at the entrance to the village. Bogolyubovo from the side of Vladimir (straight ahead); Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Street – at the entrance to the village. Bogolyubovo from the side of Lemeshky (straight ahead)	Road sign    -//-	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts

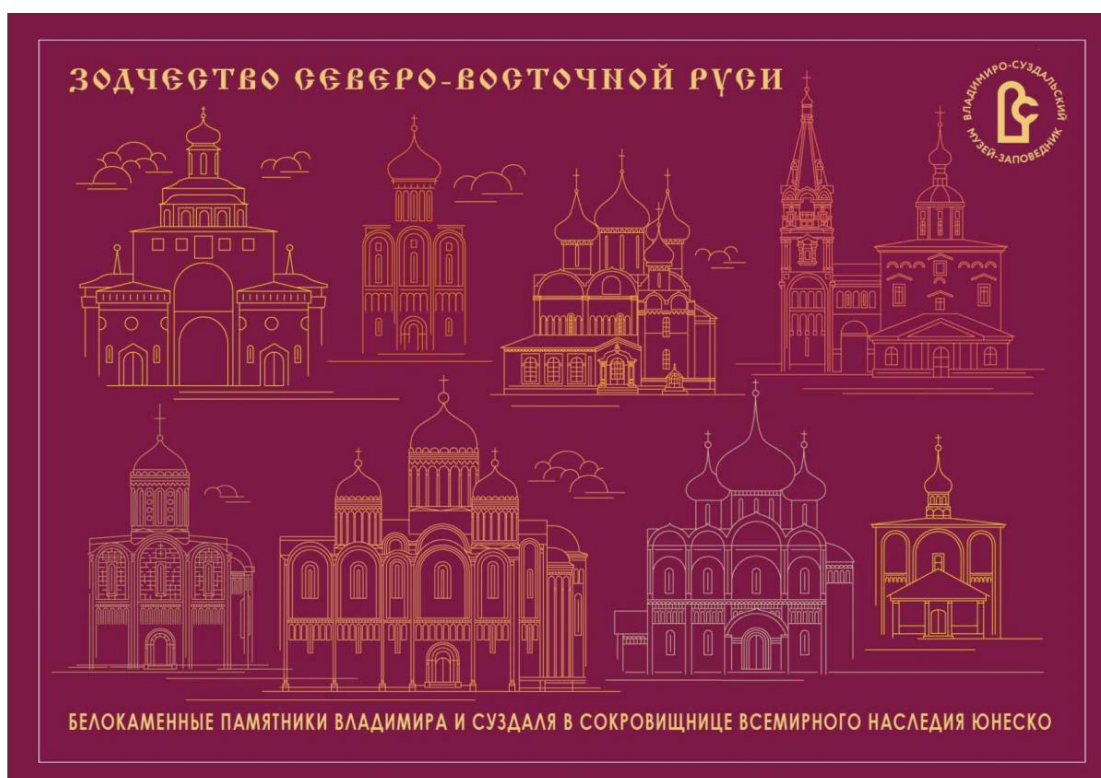


4	Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'	3	Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Street (to the right); Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin St. (left); A pictogram with a QR code on Vokzalnaya Street	Road sign  Road sign  Pictogram	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts
5	St Demetrius Cathedral	3	Vladimir, Lenin Avenue, 35 (straight ahead); Vladimir, Studenaya Gora str., 7 (to the right); Vladimir, Bolshaya Nizhegorodskaya str., 77 (straight ahead)	Road sign  -//-  -//-	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts
6	«Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace»	2	Suzdal, Lenin Street – at the entrance to the city from Vladimir (to the left);  Suzdal, Lenin Street – at the entrance to the city from Ivanovo (to the right)	Road sign  -//-	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts
7	«Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius»	2	Suzdal, Lenin Street – at the entrance to the city from Vladimir (straight ahead);  Suzdal, Lenin Street – at the entrance to the city from the city of Ivanovo (straight ahead)	Road sign  -//-	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts
8	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	5	Suzdalsky district, highway M-7 entrance to Ivanovo (to the right); Suzdal district (to the left); Suzdal district, Kideksha village, Tsentralnaya str. (right and left) two-way sign; Pictogram next to the Property on Staraya S. Kideksha street	Road sign  Road sign  Road sign (double-sided)  Pictogram	The sign size is defined after the development of their layouts

In order to improve the work on popularization of the monuments of white stone architecture of Vladimir and Suzdal inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage

List, the Museum plans to hold the following events aimed at ensuring the availability of information about the white stone masterpieces of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus’:

- organization of festive events dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscribing of the white stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 16th Session of the World Heritage Committee (1992), the release of commemorative souvenirs (2022);
- regular placement of thematic publications in regional and federal media, monitoring of news agency feeds, participation in press conferences, maintaining a news column on the Museum website, systematic updating of information in social networks;
- creation of a satellite site of the Museum official website dedicated to cultural heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List;
- making a film about the white stone monuments of the 12th century, located on the territory of Vladimir and Suzdal;
- organization and holding of an interactive inclusive mobile exhibition of models of white stone monuments using multimedia tools at one of the major exhibition venues in Moscow;



*Postcard for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Property  
"White Stone Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal"*

- publication of booklets and maps-diagrams for each monument of white stone architecture in Russian, English, German, French and Chinese;
- publication of an updated set of postcards and magnets with monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List;
- conducting a series of open lectures on the white-stone architecture of Vladimir-Suzdal Russia, with the involvement of reputable researchers;
- implementation of a loyalty system for visitors and a flexible pricing policy, monitoring of indicators, adjustment of work;
- participation in specialized annual exhibitions and events in the field of cultural heritage, restoration, museum business – Intermuseum, Denkmal, St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum, etc.
- annual participation in sessions of the World Heritage Committee and thematic forums and seminars under the auspices of UNESCO;
- preparation and holding of a presentation dedicated to the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suzdal and the white-stone architecture of pre-Mongol Russia at the UNESCO site (2024);
- holding a contest for the best scientific research dedicated to the white-stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal;
- conducting an elective course for students of Vladimir State University "Preservation and management of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Properties";
- conducting international courses on the preservation of monuments of white stone architecture on the basis of the Museum under the auspices of the ICCROM (International Research Center for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Values);
- conducting educational events, master classes for all age categories dedicated to white stone architecture;
- development of new tourist products and routes focused on the request;
- installation of information signs of the navigation system in the field of tourism.

## **2.6. ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY OF FACILITIES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THEM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Museum is taking the necessary measures to create an accessible environment for people with disabilities on the territory of monuments under the operational management of cultural institutions, including on the components of the UNESCO WHP. These actions are conditioned by the need to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 13, 2006 and ratified by the Russian Federation in 2012. (Federal Law No. 46-FZ dated 03.05.2012).

The creation of an accessible environment for people with disabilities at cultural heritage sites is complicated by the need to take into account the design and architectural features of monuments inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and the inadmissibility of making changes to their subject of protection (including in appearance).

In order to create favorable conditions for people with disabilities the Museum adopted a roadmap providing for measures to create an accessible environment in 2017.

The events are held in the following areas.

*- Information support.*

Informing citizens with disabilities about the services provided, first of all, through the official website of the Museum. It is possible to view the site information in the mode for the visually impaired. A special section "Accessible Museum" has been created for visitors with disabilities, which provides information about the developed programs for different categories of people with disabilities, a calendar of events, virtual excursions (for example St Demetrius Cathedral), where you can get acquainted with the expositions using a computer in the mode of high-quality photo panorama with interactive call of exhibits and text explanations to the halls and exhibits.

*- Preferential visit.*

It is possible to visit museum expositions and exhibitions free of charge for disabled people of group I and II; persons accompanying disabled people who are unable to move independently; persons accompanying a disabled child.

- *Special technical tools.*

For people with limited mobility, special technical means have been purchased and installed at cultural heritage sites (including components of the UNESCO WHP):

- on the territory of the ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius (Suzdal):

- audio guides are used in the exposition "Golden Treasury";

- reception devices for staff call buttons;

- vandal-proof buttons for calling for help;

- induction portable system "Istok A2" with a player;

- rolling ramps (Transfiguration Cathedral, Prison building);

- stationary ramps;

- toilet module;

- stationary benches for the disabled (1060\*1200\*360 mm).

- on the territory of the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb (Kideksha village):

- a toilet module adapted for low-mobility groups of citizens has been installed.

- St Demetrius Cathedral (Vladimir):

- a full-color tactile sign "The name of the institution and the mode of operation"

500\*660 mm (on composite) has been installed for the St Demetrius Cathedral.

- *Targeted museum programs and events.*

The museum staff conducts numerous classes for people with disabilities, so that physical or mental limitations do not become an obstacle in the desire of visitors to learn, understand and love their native history and national culture.

Targeted museum programs for disabled children have been developed and implemented:

- For blind and visually impaired children an interactive lesson "The Legend of the White Stone" about St. Demetrius Cathedral of the 12<sup>th</sup> century is held. To understand what the temple is built of, children can hold a white stone in their hands, use tactile models to study the reliefs decorating the residential church of Vsevolod the Big Nest, read the legends about King David, about the labors of Hercules.

- The quest "The Treasure of Ilarion of Suzdal" has been adapted for hearing-impaired children.

- For children with disabilities – adapted cultural and educational event "Historical Game".

In 2021 young artists-pupils of a special (correctional) orphanage from Suzdal and children with health problems from the Art Therapy studio presented their works to the children's drawing contest "Suzdal-Winter Fairy Tale".

In 2021, the Museum joined the All-Russian campaign Total Test "Accessible Environment".

*- Inclusive exhibitions.*

The Museum regularly organizes exhibitions available to persons with disabilities.

Two inclusive exhibitions were held in 2021:

- "Animals' images in the carving of white stone churches of Ancient Russia" is a joint project of the Museum with the "Touching Story" studio with the support of the Cultural Foundation, aimed at attracting people with disabilities to visit cultural sites. A media guide with videos in sign language and typhlokommentaries was available at the exhibition. For visually impaired children of the Delphinok club and Ardi-Svet 5 more educational and interactive classes with modeling "Animals in white stone" for 75 people were held at the exhibition.

- "White stone carving in the cathedrals of ancient Russia" – tactile exhibition for people with disabilities – organized with the participation of the coordinating Council of the "Popular Front" for the disabled, the Association "AURA-Tech" and the Vladimir regional organization of the Society of the Blind. Copies of bas-reliefs from the walls of the St/ Demetrius Cathedral and St. George Cathedral were presented at the exhibition. All 24 exhibits were equipped with a sign and a media player with comments.

In total 44 adapted classes of various subjects were held for 697 visitors with disabilities during 2021.

*- Participation in projects on the topic of inclusion.*

In 2021 within the project "Tourism without a Barrier", with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund, the Museum received a relief and graphic guide "Walk through



Old Vladimir", an audio guide to the museum "Old Vladimir", designed specifically for children with profound visual impairments, a tactile mock-up of a water tower where the museum is located from the "Akme" studio. The guide contains a description of the main attractions of the city, as well as their detailed layouts. Thus, blind people can study Vladimir literally with their fingertips. With the help of these funds, several excursions have already taken place. People with disabilities participate in them with great interest.

In 2021-2022 the Museum has become a participant in the project "A Special Look at the Golden Ring", which is being implemented with the support of the Alisher Usmanov Charitable Foundation "Art, Science and Sport", the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and TASS. The project is aimed at supporting people with visual impairment, creating an accessible environment and developing inclusion in the field of culture. As part of the project street metal tactile models were created in the Tactile Workshop of Mikhail and Olga Shu and installed in the cities of the "Golden Ring" for a number of architectural monuments, some of which are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This makes the architectural objects of the Golden Ring accessible to tourists with visual disabilities.



*Opening of the tactile model "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's House" in Suzdal*

On June 9, 2022 the open-air tactile model of the cultural heritage property "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace" on the territory of the Kremlin Museum Complex in Suzdal.

In September 2022 a tactile model of the Assumption Cathedral with St. George's chapel and Bell Tower was installed in Vladimir on the territory of the Ensemble of the Assumption Cathedral.

*- Professional development of the staff of the Museum.*

Employees of the Museum regularly take advanced training courses on the topic of organizing an accessible environment for people with disabilities. Within the project "Inclusive Museum. Blind and visually impaired visitors" the museum staff took part in two webinars in 2021:

- "Infrastructural accessibility of museums for people with visual disabilities";
- "Features of creating and integrating tactile models into the museum space";
- three Museum specialists have completed full-time training in working with disabled visitors.

## **2.7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM**

The solution of the problem of sustainable development of the Property's territory and the development of tourism in this territory is interconnected with the socio-economic development of municipalities, on the territory of which the components of the Property are located, and which can be considered as zones of influence.

The components of the Property are located on the territory of 4 municipalities:

- the city of Vladimir ("Assumption Cathedral", "St Demetrius Cathedral", "Golden Gate");
- The town of Suzdal of the Suzdal district ("Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace" (Suzdal Kremlin));
- Bogolyubovo rural settlement of the Suzdal district (Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Convent ("Church of the Nativity of the Virgin", "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky", "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'" in the village Bogolyubovo);
- Seltso rural settlement of the Suzdal district ("The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb" in the village of Kideksha).

The two main centers of attraction, of course, are the cities of Vladimir and Suzdal, on their territory most of the components of the WHP are located and which act as the main reference points when visiting other monuments.

The city of Vladimir has a rich tourist potential and is a major tourist center of international level.

The population of the city in 2021 was 352,347 people.

The area of the city is 137.14 sq. km.

One of the main directions of the city's development is the creation of an effective competitive tourist environment. Vladimir has opportunities for the development of all types of tourism: sightseeing, business, event, pilgrimage, etc. The city is an active participant of the "Union of the Golden Ring Cities ".

A fairly large infrastructure of the consumer market and services has been formed in Vladimir, which includes more than 2.8 thousand objects, including: 1,408 stores, 546

catering establishments, 54 shopping centers and complexes. There are 11 international, 38 federal, 3 regional and 61 local retail chains. There are 40 hotels and similar accommodation facilities.

There are 269 historical and cultural monuments located on the territory of the city of Vladimir, including:

- federal significance – 52 (including 3 components of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Property);
- regional significance – 193;
- local (municipal) – 8;
- identified objects – 14.

The popular tourist route "Golden Ring" starts in Vladimir. It includes four more cities of the region: Bogolyubovo, Yuriev-Polskoy, Suzdal, Alexandrov.

In 2016 the city authorities initiated amendments to the general plan of the municipal formation (city district) of the city of Vladimir, approved by the decision of the Council of People's Deputies of the city of Vladimir dated 05.11.2009 No. 223. In 2017 the Russian Institute of Urban Planning and Investment Development "Giprogor" carried out work on the preparation of a new edition of the Vladimir-city General Plan. Currently the Vladimir-city General Plan is valid in the edition of 25.09.2019 No. 123 "On amendments to the General Plan of the Municipal Formation (city district) of the city of Vladimir".

In April 2022 they identified the territory of the tourist center of the Vladimir city in order to create an attractive space and form new tourist routes within the historical center. It is expected to attract additional flows of tourists to the historical center and make their stay in the city longer. It is planned to place small architectural art forms and art objects on the territory of 98 hectares. Create conditions for a comfortable stay of tourists, equip street navigation systems and orientation information in Russian and foreign languages, as well as install signs with QR codes.

The town of Suzdal is located in the central part of the Vladimir region. The proximity to Vladimir, as well as to the Moscow region testifies to the favorable geographical position of Suzdal. The town has a developed transport network, through which freight and passenger transportation are carried out. The territory of the city and the

district is crossed by an important strategic highway of federal significance M-7 "Volga" Moscow - Nizhny Novgorod - Kazan - Ufa.

The population of the town of Suzdal as of 2021 is 9,597 people.

The area of the town is 15 sq. km.

In accordance with the joint order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation dated 29.07.2010 No. 418/339 "On approval of the list of historical settlements", the town of Suzdal is considered a historical settlement of federal significance.

On an area of 9 square kilometers of the historical part of the town there are 313 architectural monuments of history and culture, among which: 5 monastic ensembles (2 ensembles – the Nativity Cathedral with the Bishop's Palace of the Kremlin and the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius – are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List), 30 churches, 14 bell towers, dozens of magnificent examples of civil development.

From 313 objects of cultural heritage:

- 107 are monuments of federal significance (including: 3 components of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Property);
- 180 are of regional significance,
- 14 – local (municipal) significance;
- 12 – identified objects.

In 2024 Suzdal will celebrate its 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The strategic goal of the development of the town of Suzdal till 2024: Suzdal is the center of cultural and historical tourism of Russia, comfortable for living.

There are three main directions of the town's development: implementation of high standards and favorable living conditions of the population; preservation of cultural heritage, development of tourist infrastructure.

Currently there are 4 large hotel and tourist complexes located on the territory of Suzdal: "Nikolaevsky Posad" with 180 rooms, of which there are economy class rooms and 4 multi-bed rooms for pilgrims; "Pushkarskaya Sloboda" with 291 rooms; "Hot Springs" with 185 rooms, "Tour Center" – with a number of rooms - 705.

All the hotel complexes have a developed network of hotels, a network of catering outlets, business centers, conference halls, cinema and concert halls and other entertainment services provided to guests and residents of the city, these are services of spas, tanning salons, gyms, swimming pools, baths, ice pads.

On the territory of Suzdal there are 50 guest houses, municipal camp site, 13 restaurants with 1,429 seats, 10 cafes with 305 seats, 11 bars and other food outlets.

A wide retail network is deployed in the city. The total number of stores is 106. The small retailing is represented by 73 private entrepreneurs engaged in street trade in souvenirs.

*Table 19*  
*Restaurant and hotel service in the cities of Vladimir and Suzdal*

<b>№</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Number of hotels and guest houses</b>	<b>Number of restaurants and cafes</b>
<b>1</b>	Vladimir	44	62
<b>2</b>	Suzdal	54	52

In 2019 the town administration commissioned a Concept for the development of Suzdal. The work was carried out by the architectural bureau "Rozhdestvenka" and provided for careful regeneration of the urban environment for monuments.

This concept reads as follows:

"The historical and cultural potential of Suzdal should become one of the factors of the town's development (the basis of social and economic development, tourist, cultural, sports, educational programs, small business development, and other programs). In accordance with the status of a "historical settlement", funds and conservation measures should be provided not only for individual objects of cultural heritage, but the whole town, as an integral heritage object, which will make it possible to make the town more attractive for Russian and international tourism.

Russian culture, traditional Russian values combined with modern technologies should be the main principle of the development of the town of Suzdal to preserve its historical features, unique features, the atmosphere of the Russian way of life, traditional Russian values."



In the field of cultural heritage, the concept assumes the following steps:

- preservation and development of cultural heritage, folk crafts and crafts;
- creation of a competitive cultural and entertainment complex of services.

The following activities are planned for the implementation of priority areas:

- carrying out works on reconstruction, improvement and landscaping of the territory of the Town Park named after the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suzdal, the park of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War; the territory of the park named after. Pozharsky, the territory of the city garden;

- carrying out general repairs of the building, improving the material and technical base of the municipal budget cultural institution "Center of Culture and Leisure of Suzdal";

- carrying out works on the preservation of the OCH "Tabachnikov's House" and improving the material and technical base of the municipal budget cultural institution "Folk Art Center of Suzdal";

- construction of the cinema museum;

- carrying out works on the preservation of the OCH "The House of the merchant Dubinin with a shop, 19th century" and its adaptation to the Museum of history;

- carrying out works to preserve the OCH "The building built according to the regular plan of 1788 (the house of merchant Voronin), the end of the 18th century" and improving the material and technical base of the municipal budget cultural institution "District centralized Library".

None of these events directly affects the WHP, but in general will contribute to increasing the tourist attractiveness of the city.

Government Fund "DOM.RF" and Strelka Design Bureau carried out work on the development of a Strategy for the spatial development of Suzdal till 2030. In March 2021, the federal organizing committee for the preparation and holding of the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of Suzdal in 2024 approved the developed Strategy for the Spatial Development of the town, design projects for the improvement of public spaces and other documents defining the future appearance of the pearl of the "Golden Ring".

The development of sustainable tourism is strongly linked to the quality of tourist services. At the same time, in many respects, the quality of services is more important than their quantity, since too large volumes of tourism can easily exceed the limits of the load that the relevant region can bear, thereby hampering tourism in general. Sustainability-related tasks can be solved thanks to the quality that the relevant territory can offer tourists and locals: peace and quiet, no traffic jams, clean water and air, untouched nature, authentic environment - all these are "quality labels" for tourist centers and zones, which at the same time are indicators of sustainable development. The high quality of tourism is ensured by the following conditions: the presence of minimum standards, the fullest possible satisfaction of the interests and expectations of tourists, the optimal combination of quality and price of services.

In modern theory the following instruments of sustainable tourism development are distinguished: capacity, indicators and monitoring of sustainable tourism development, demarketing, tourist fees, visitor management, education and training of tourists and local residents, public-private partnership, exchange of information and experience, eco-certification, codes of conduct, etc.

One of the principles of sustainable tourism states that tourism can be sustainable only if the local community is involved in the planning and management of tourism. It is absolutely clear that sustainable tourism cannot be developed by the efforts of state bodies alone and the principle of partnership plays a primary role.

An important role in the transition to the principles of sustainable development should be played by the economic and socio-cultural advantages and benefits of this way of developing the tourism sector. It should be remembered that sustainable tourism is associated with sustainable development in general, including the sustainable development of industries such as agriculture, transport, service sector, etc. Sustainable tourism is a matter of sustainable development of the state in general.

In this regard the main tasks in the field of sustainable tourism development at the regional level are:

- clear coordination and unification of efforts of all interested parties – government agencies, business structures, public associations and associations, research and educational institutions and tourists themselves;

- involvement of local communities in tourism planning and management;

- improvement of the existing legal framework for the development of tourism, determination of the maximum permissible norms of pressure on the environment, the capacity of the territories of cultural heritage properties and the rules of behavior of tourists;

- changing approaches to pricing, taxation, the pace of tourism development and the volume of tourist flows;

- provision of measures to support the development of tourist infrastructure;

- maintaining and improving the quality of urban and rural landscapes, preventing physical and visual deterioration of the surrounding urban and natural environment;

- provision of information promotion of a tourist product and organization of tourist events;

- ensuring the creation of a unified information environment and spatial orientation for tourists;

- ensuring accessibility of the environment for tourists with disabilities;

- creating conditions for introducing young people to the study, preservation of monuments, as well as increasing interest in the history and culture of Ancient Russia.

## 2.8. MAIN THREATS AND RISK FACTORS FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century high results were achieved in the preservation, study and popularization of the components that make up the UNESCO WHP. Thanks to the museification of architectural monuments and the activities of the scientific community, it was realized the importance of white stone churches, were created conditions for their preservation, and their accessibility for a wide range of visitors was ensured. Generations of restorers and Museum staff have developed storage, restoration, and threat prevention regimes; the requirements for highly qualified employees were associated with a real legally defined responsibility for the entrusted values.

Nevertheless at present the components of the UNESCO WHP continue to experience a number of threats and are exposed to risk factors.

**Bio-contamination** remains one of the important environmental risk factors for monuments of white stone architecture. Foci of bio-contamination are noted on all components of the Property.

The knowledge of the functioning of microbial communities is an important step towards understanding the processes of bio-damage of materials. In this regard, monitoring the condition of the white stone and choosing appropriate measures for its treatment and protection is one of the most important tasks in preserving unique architectural monuments.

**Landslide processes** – the problem is relevant for a number of components of the Property, including: the Nativity Cathedral of the Suzdal Kremlin, the wall and towers of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, the Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Convent (the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky), St Demetrius Cathedral and Assumption Cathedral, the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha.

In 2019 IGIT company carried out research on geodetic monitoring of vertical deformations of load-bearing structures for a number of objects (the Golden Gate in Vladimir, the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin in Bogolyubovo, the Assumption Refectory Church as part of the ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St

Euthymius in Suzdal). Monitoring is necessary on all components, because most of the Vladimir and Suzdal monuments stand on high steep slopes.

**Air pollution** caused by vehicles and household services contributes to the formation of a chemically aggressive environment, which leads to the degradation of the state of monuments of white stone architecture (destruction of white stone masonry, painting, plaster, decorative elements (Golden Gate, St Demetrius Cathedral and Assumption Cathedral, the Ensemble of the Bogolyubovo Monastery – the monastery still uses coal for heating its rooms).

**Transport vibration** causes deterioration of a number of monuments (Golden Gate, Bogolyubovo Monastery Ensemble).

The **cultural layer raising** often leads to a violation of the temperature and humidity regime of monuments, distortion of their appearance (the Golden Gate, the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky).

In order to ensure the preservation of architectural monuments, the museum-reserve plans to conduct monitoring – continuous monitoring, measurement and assessment of the condition of components of UNESCO World Heritage Property (Table 20).

*Table 20*  
*Measures to monitor the condition of the components*  
*of the UNESCO World Heritage Property*

№	Property component name	Types of monitoring	Argumentation
1.	Cathedral of the Assumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geodetic monitoring of sediments and planned movements of the surface of the soil massif by soil grades;</li> <li>- slope condition monitoring using at least 2-4 combined inclinometric and extensometric wells;</li> <li>- monitoring of deformations;</li> <li>- monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions</li> </ul>	The object is located on a rather high and steep slope
2.	The Golden Gate	- monitoring of the dynamic characteristics of the object – frequency and amplitude of vibrations	The object is located in an urban area, experiencing a dynamic impact from transport
3.	The Prince Castle at Bogolyubovo (Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Staircase Tower of the Palace of Andrei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- slope survey with assessment of its stability and development of a monitoring program;</li> <li>- conducting a comprehensive engineering and technical survey of the architectural monument to determine the condition of the preserved structures and develop a project for emergency work and monitoring programs</li> </ul>	The object is located on the edge of a steep slope

	Bogolyubsky)		
4.	Church of the Intercession on the River Nerl'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geodetic monitoring of sediments and planned movements of the surface of the soil massif by soil grades;</li> <li>- control using at least 2 combined inclinometric and extensometric wells;</li> <li>- monitoring of deformations;</li> <li>- monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions</li> </ul>	The object is located on a man-made hill, the distance from the building to the water's edge is 19 m
5.	Cathedral of St Demetrius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geodetic monitoring of sediments and planned movements of the surface of the soil massif by soil grades;</li> <li>- monitoring of deformations;</li> <li>- monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions</li> </ul>	The object is located in the immediate vicinity of a high and steep slope
6.	Kremlin of Suzdal and Cathedral of the Nativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geodetic monitoring of sediments and planned movements of the surface of the soil massif by soil grades;</li> <li>- monitoring of deformations;</li> <li>- monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions</li> </ul>	The object is located on moving soils
7.	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geodetic monitoring of sediments and planned movements of the surface of the soil massif by soil grades;</li> <li>- monitoring of deformations (including deformations of walls);</li> <li>- monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions of all objects in the ensemble</li> </ul>	The object is partly located on the edge of a steep slope, partly in an urban environment
8.	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geodetic monitoring of sediments and planned movements of the surface of the soil massif by soil grades;</li> <li>- control using at least 2 combined inclinometric and extensometric wells;</li> <li>- monitoring of deformations;</li> <li>- monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions</li> </ul>	The church and the observation deck are located on the edge of a fairly steep cliff

Threats and risk factors for the World Heritage Property also include:

**Active housing construction** – the destruction of the historical environment occurs primarily in order to obtain new construction sites in prestigious city centers. An example is the construction of multi - storey residential buildings in the village Novy (within the city of Suzdal), which violates the visual perception of the ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace, the construction of a multi-storey building on Gorky Street, which violates the perception of the historical center of Vladimir with a view of the Assumption Cathedral.

**Insufficient understanding of the role of monuments.** After 1991 with the change in the status of religious organizations and the strengthening of the role of the Church in a



significant part of society, a new attitude towards monuments has developed, in which their religious and functional understanding has become dominant. The number of services held at cultural heritage properties is increasing (the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir, the Nativity Cathedral, the Transfiguration Cathedral in Suzdal). In this regard, there was a threat to the preservation of unique frescoes of the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries, paintings by Andrei Rublev and Daniil Chorny in the Assumption Cathedral of Vladimir (1408). Earlier for many years numerous visiting commissions of the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation stated the emergency condition of frescoes due to the use of candles during divine services and excessive anthropogenic loads that lead to sudden changes in temperature and humidity conditions. In 2015-2016 one more complicated emergency work was carried out to strengthen and clean the frescoes from soot. As the commissions monitored their progress, a number of requirements were put forward for the development of strict operating rules. The main components of these measures are: "to exclude the use of candles in the main volume of the cathedral" and "to draw up a schedule providing for the holding of divine services following the example of solemn divine services in the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin." The use of candles in the temple is also the main threat of fires.

Among other commission requirements:

- permanent photofixation of the safety of frescoes;
- Museum control over the cleaning of the cathedral;
- development of a "proposal for the installation of a transparent fence blocking uncontrolled access" of people to monumental paintings, reducing the "impact of soot and dirt on unique paintings."

Currently, the Museum and the Vladimir Metropolia have agreed on a schedule of services in the Assumption Cathedral, the Nativity Cathedral and the Transfiguration Cathedral, which are held, religious holidays not included, every weekend; the number of candlesticks (number of wax candles) is regulated. Work is underway to establish systematic monitoring with photo fixation of paintings; variants of safety fences for monumental painting have not been developed, however, they are provided by the terms of

reference for the development of scientific and design documentation for the preservation of the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir, (for 2022-2023).

**The absence of buffer zones for the OCH components.** The housing construction of the Klyazma River bank by a residential area (Zaklyazmensky district) led to distortion of the visual corridors from the Assumption cathedral and St Demetrius cathedral. Views of the nature behind the river are one of the main aesthetic characteristics of the OUV of these components. This view with its vast natural expanses is unique even for Russia and its loss after dense development of high-rise buildings will become an irreversible loss of the cultural landscape. The impact assessment on the components of the OCH was not carried out, because the development of the Kommunar microdistrict began and was carried out before the introduction of the National Standard of the Russian Federation "Assessment of the impact on the universal value of World Heritage Properties" (GOST R 58203-2018), which establishes the need to assess the impact on the OUV of the WHP.

**The absence of a developed system of regular monitoring of the preservation** of white stone monuments and their reliefs. The best control over the temperature and humidity regime is established inside the St Demetrius Cathedral, in the Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha, in the Assumption Cathedral and Transfiguration Cathedral. Some of the monuments are not equipped with climatic devices (the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, the Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky, the Golden Gate, the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl', the Nativity Cathedral, etc.). The monitoring the safety of reliefs of buildings and monumental paintings is the most acute problem. The absence of regular, at least annual, photo-fixation of reliefs and architectural elements does not allow us to assess the dynamics and severity of the destruction processes, to take appropriate decisions and measures. As with frescoes, establishing the process of constantly photographing reliefs in high resolution is one of the urgent needs.

In the Museum stuff there is **no system of keepers of immovable monuments**. All work on monitoring and drawing up plans for conservation measures was carried out by employees of the Museum Department of Restoration and Preservation of Monuments. The keepers of expositions located in white-stone monuments have been and continue to do their best to monitor the condition of monuments (which is not included in their official

duties). Due to the gradual reduction of the full-time staff of the department, the implementation of regular monitoring was hampered. In December 2020 the UNESCO WHP Management Department was established in the Museum, which carried out, among other things, monitoring of the condition of white stone monuments. The department existed for less than a year, until August 2021, and was disbanded due to optimization of the museum structure.

As for the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl', in 2015 the Monastery the Nativity of the Virgin in Vladimir opened its courtyard for the maintenance of the church and its territory and to conduct of divine services. The position of diocesan antiquity keeper has been introduced in the Vladimir Diocese, whose duties include monitoring compliance with the requirements for the preservation of cultural heritage objects owned (used) by the diocese. The diocesan Antiquity Keeper reports to the diocesan bishop and the Patriarchal Council for Culture.

Another threat is **the obsolescence and disorder of archival project documentation** (cases of force majeure, when OCH operational information may be required, loss or risk of damage to archival documentation concerning a OCH, etc.). All project documentation related to white stone architecture should be systematized, digitized and duplicated. It is highly desirable to carry out modern accurate measurement works on monuments (3D scanning, etc.). Measurements and research of monuments of Vladimir-Suzdal architecture with using modern equipment, as well as digitization of old drawings, can open up new horizons for research work, and attract the attention of the general public, as well as scientific personnel.

A number of components are characterized by the simultaneous manifestation of many risk factors, which often mutually reinforce each other. Often, monument protection authorities interpret such a situation as a widespread disregard for spiritual values.

As a potential threat, it is possible to designate **attempts to fragment the Museum property complex** by alienating a number of main monuments, including those that are components of a WHP (Assumption Cathedral, Golden Gate, St Demetrius Cathedral, the ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, the Kremlin's Nativity Cathedral), in favor of the Church. It should be noted that by Decree of the President of

the Russian Federation No. 30 dated 15.01.1998, the Museum is included in the State Code of Especially Valuable Objects of Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the Regulations on Especially Valuable objects of Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation, "the property, buildings and structures of organizations classified as especially valuable objects must remain under their operational management," accordingly, the issue of transferring monuments to another organization should be considered in the context of this norm.

In 2019 a meeting of the Conciliation Commission for the settlement of property relations between the Museum and the Church was held. Following the meeting, an agreement was reached: 2 components were decided to transfer the religious purpose to the use of the Church, for the rest of the cultural heritage objects (including the components of the UNESCO WHP), the Church withdraws its applications from the Federal Property Management Agency. Objects: the Assumption Cathedral and St Demetrius Cathedral in Vladimir, the Transfiguration Cathedral, the Assumption Refectory Church, the Nativity Cathedral in Suzdal, being under the operational management of the Museum, will be used jointly with the Church.

Possible illegal acts such as **vandalism and terrorism** can be indicated as potential risks. In order to minimize these risks, in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1629-r dated 02.11.2009 "On the list of objects subject to mandatory police protection" and Federal Law No. 226-FZ dated 03.07.2016 "On National Guard Troops", Museum concluded an agreement with the Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Protection" of the Federal Service of National Guard Troops of the Russian Federation (Rosgvardiya) on the protection of museum objects.

### ***General conclusion about the sources of exposure***

Among the main external sources of impact on the WHP, in accordance with the results of the second cycle of periodic reporting, the following were identified:

- nature;
- the human factor;
- climate change;
- socio-cultural use;

- management.

The periodic reporting provides a description of the sources of impact in terms of their frequency, degree of impact, and management response.

At the same time the data of the periodic reporting are of an average nature and do not fully take into account the specifics of a particular WHP, and for that period of time, the definition of the attributes of the OUV of the property was not carried out. In this regard, a new categorization of the factors influencing the preservation of the OUV was prepared for the Management Plan of the property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal", presented below.

The factors influencing the preservation of the OUV of the objects can be divided into several main groups.

**Natural and climatic factors:**

1. **Climatic**, related to possible natural factors of physical destruction of the property:

- significant seasonal temperature changes affecting the destruction of white stone reliefs;

- wind (erosion, weathering);
- precipitation (rain, snow, icing);
- humidity;
- storms (storm, hail, lightning).

**2. Biological:**

- fungal and mold foci that destroy white stone masonry and frescoes;
- plants and mosses sprouting on the facades of monuments;
- seeds and pollen of plants;
- contamination by bird droppings;
- pollution by dust of organic origin.

**3. Hydrological:**

- the impact of groundwater, leading to increased humidity inside the premises and the formation of efflorescence on stone surfaces and frescoes;
- erosion of the shores;

- floods (flooding by flood waters).

#### **4. Geological:**

- landslide processes;
- earthquakes.

#### **Anthropogenic factors**

##### **1. Created by the construction and development of territories:**

- destruction of the natural landscape, authentic views from the monument, visibility corridors;
- destruction of silhouettes of monuments that are lost against the background of modern, including high-rise, buildings;
- violation of the traditional architectural environment by inappropriate disharmonious buildings;
- new construction in the immediate (visual) proximity;
- use of inorganic or inauthentic materials;
- unauthorized construction of temporary buildings;
- placement of uncoordinated means of outdoor advertising and information;

##### **2. Related to anthropogenic load:**

- the use of an unlimited number of candles, incense burning during divine services, which leads to the formation of soot, harmful to frescoes;
- insufficient protection of frescoes and monumental paintings from contact (hands, clothes, things and objects);
- sudden changes in temperature and humidity conditions from the uncontrolled flow of tourists and religious communities during precipitation;
- noise pollution (use of machinery, loud listening to music, sounds of transport, etc.);
- transport vibration.

##### **3. Household and industrial pollution:**

- littering of adjacent territories;
- industrial pollution;
- air pollution by vehicle exhaust and economic services.



#### **4. Imperfection of legislation on OCH and legal documentation concerning OCH:**

- absence of approved protection zones, as well as special land use regimes and requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones for a number of WHP components;
- absence of legally defined and approved buffer zones;
- legislative and bureaucratic barriers in the operational conduct of work requiring immediate intervention (emergency response);
- mandatory use of the tender system for the OCH preservation (restoration work);
- absence of additional legal restrictions on the permissible noise level (loud music, etc.) in the security zones of objects.

#### **5. Emergency situations:**

- arson or fire;
- vandalism;
- thefts;
- terrorist acts.

#### **6. Incorrect operation mode:**

- non-compliance with the regime of exploitation of monuments by a Museum or a religious organization.

#### **7. Unskilled personnel and or lack of personnel:**

- the presence of unskilled service personnel;
- lack of professional keepers of cultural heritage objects, architects-restorers, painting restorers and researchers with specialized education and competencies.

#### **8. Factors of management administration:**

- lack of an established system for monitoring the condition of cultural heritage objects (regulations and official duties assigned to employees);
- blurred areas of responsibility or there is no specific person monitoring the dynamics of the preservation of the monument at all;
- lack of a system of regular photofixation and other accurate measurements (with the exception of temperature and humidity indicators);

- lack of a system for storing archival documentation concerning the OCH.

**9. Lack of funding:**

- lack of funding for the development of scientific and design documentation for the SCH preservation;

- lack of funding for ongoing, emergency and major restoration work.

**10. Imperfection of the design and research base:**

- outdated SCH documentation;
- lack of documentation (measurement drawings) for a number of OCH;
- lack of measurement results and documentation using modern measurement systems (3D scanning, measurement models, etc.).

**11. Socio-cultural factors:**

- insufficient awareness of the general public about the OCH OUV.

For the successful management of the WHP, it seems appropriate to prepare a Risk Management Plan in accordance with the UNESCO Guidelines for the Development of Disaster Risk Management Plans.

### **3. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.1. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The management of an OCH is a complex activity (structure or several structures) aimed at the preservation and use of the monument and/or territory, coordination and interaction with all surrounding state, municipal, economic, technological and public organizations, as well as with the scientific and professional community.

The concept of "heritage property management" has a wide range and a wide range of special characteristics and conditions.

The property management system for analysis is understood as a set of interrelated components: subject-object, institutional-subject, regulatory and ideological.

The subject-object component as the name implies, is what constitutes the subject of regulation of the management system, namely: relations for the protection, preservation, use and popularization of WHP, as well as property relations.

The institutional and subject component includes all interested parties - public authorities of various levels, users of WHP, expert and public organizations.

The ideological component is the doctrines, concepts and approaches that guide the stakeholders.

The regulatory component of the control system consists of two main blocks:

- regulatory legal acts: international and domestic;
- acts of an administrative nature.

The management system of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" includes several levels:

- international;
- federal;
- regional;
- municipal.

*Table 21*  
*Levels of Property management system*

<b>Institutional-subject component</b>	<b>Subject-object component</b>	<b>Regulatory component</b>	<b>Ideological component</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL LEVEL</b>			
<b>World Heritage Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- control and supervision through monitoring mechanisms (periodic and reactive);</li> <li>- making a decision on the inscription of an object on the World Heritage List under threat/exclusion of an object from the World Heritage List; on changing the boundaries and configuration of the object, adjusting the outstanding universal value, etc.</li> </ul>	World Heritage Convention, 1972; Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention; Regulations of the World Heritage Committee, etc. Implements its functionality by making decisions at sessions	General principles of international law
<b>World Heritage Center (secretariat of the World Heritage Committee)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- technical implementation of monitoring mechanisms (periodic and reactive);</li> <li>- preparation of reports and draft decisions for the World Heritage Committee;</li> <li>- transfer of materials on the object from the participating country to advisory bodies</li> </ul>	World Heritage Convention, 1972; Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention; The World Heritage Center regulation, etc.	General principles of international law
<b>UNESCO Advisory Bodies: International Council for the Protection of Monuments and Places of Interest (ICOMOS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- participation in monitoring;</li> <li>- consulting;</li> <li>- expertise</li> </ul>	World Heritage Convention, 1972; Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention; ICOMOS Charter, etc.	General principles of international law

<b>UNESCO Advisory Bodies: International Center for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)</b>	- consulting on restoration and preservation of properties	World Heritage Convention, 1972; Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention; The charter of ICCROM, etc.	General principles of international law
<b>FEDERAL LEVEL</b>			
<b>Russian Government</b>	- fulfillment of the international obligations of the Russian Federation in relation to the World Heritage Properties	World Heritage Convention, 1972; The Constitution of the Russian Federation; Federal Law No. 101-FZ of 15.06.1995 "On International Treaties of the Russian Federation", etc.	Strategy of the State cultural policy
<b>Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation</b>	- fulfillment of the international obligations of the Russian Federation in relation to World Heritage Properties – implementation of the functions of the national coordinator in relation to World Heritage Properties; - state protection of the World Heritage Properties; - state control and supervision of the state of World Heritage Properties	Federal Law "On Objects of Cultural Heritage (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation" dated 25.06.2002 No. 73-FZ; Regulations on the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, etc.	Strategy of the State cultural policy
<b>Russian Foreign Ministry: Permanent Mission of Russia to UNESCO</b>	- direct interaction with UNESCO structures; - representative functions, official correspondence; - promotion of Russian interests in the international arena	Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 865 dated 11.07.2004 "Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation"; Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 1316 of 29.09.1999 "On Approval of the Regulations on the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to an International Organization (in a Foreign State), etc.	The Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (approved by the President of the Russian Federation on November 30, 2016)

<b>Russian Foreign Ministry: Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- interaction with UNESCO and Russian stakeholders;</li> <li>- ensuring timely information of the Russian side on issues related to World Heritage Properties</li> </ul>	Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 865 dated 11.07.2004 "Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation"; Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 598 of 21.08.1992 "On Approval of the Regulations on the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO"	The Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (approved by the President of the Russian Federation on November 30, 2016)
<b>Museum</b>	- direct management of the world heritage property, ensuring its preservation, research, popularization	Museum Regulation	Code of Museum Ethics Museum development concept (under development)
<b>REGIONAL LEVEL</b>			
<b>Administration of the Vladimir region (Inspection of the state protection of cultural heritage objects of the Vladimir region)</b>	- implementation of the state policy in the field of state protection, preservation, use and popularization of cultural heritage objects in the territory of the Vladimir region	Resolution of the Governor of the Vladimir Region dated 17.10.2007 No. 774 "On approval of the Regulations on the Inspection of State Protection of cultural Heritage objects of the Vladimir Region"	Strategy of the State cultural policy
<b>MUNICIPAL LEVEL</b>			
<b>Администрации муниципальных образований</b>	- regulation of land use and development issues in the territories adjacent to the objects, housing and communal services issues	Municipal Regulations	Concepts of the development of a city or rural settlement (if available)



Along with the listed levels of WHP management, the management structure includes stakeholders who, while not directly managing the Property, are nevertheless associated with it.

The main criterion of the management system: it should be sufficient and effective for the heritage site.

In the paradigm for heritage sites created by A. Phillips and supported by UNESCO, from the point of view of management, the following "directions of development are distinguished:

- use of heritage properties not only for visitors and tourists, but also for the local population;

- protected properties and territories are created not only for protection, but also for solving scientific, social and economic problems;

- property management was previously carried out by the central department, currently – by partners with the participation of a number of interested parties;

- previously property management was carried out regardless of the interests and opinions of the local population, currently – with the participation of local residents, in their interests and in some cases by the local population itself;

- previously heritage properties and protected areas developed separately, currently they are planned as part of a regional, national or international system;

- property management was carried out in isolation, at present – they are developing as networks;

- from the point of view of the perception of properties and territories, they were considered mainly as national heritage, at present – as national and local heritage;

- from the point of view of the perception of properties and territories, they were considered only as a national heritage, at present – at the international level;

- from the point of view of methods of management of heritage properties and territories, responsive management, currently adaptive management in the long term;

- financing of heritage properties and protected areas is centralized at the expense of taxpayers, currently – from many sources;

- previously, properties management was carried out by scientists and experts, now – by specialists of a wide profile using local knowledge and traditions."

### **3.2. EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND ITS COMPARISON WITH RUSSIAN ANALOGUES**

UNESCO and its advisory bodies function at the international level, and at the federal level – the Russian Foreign Ministry represented by the Permanent Mission of Russia to UNESCO (Paris), the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO (Moscow) and the Ministry of Culture of Russia (national coordinator).

Regional and municipal administrations operate at the regional and municipal levels, respectively.

The main manager of the Property is the federal state Budgetary cultural Institution – the State Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve (seven of the eight components of the Facility are under operational management), the Vladimir Metropolia of the Russian Orthodox Church is the manager of one component of the Property. At the same time, some of the components of the WHP are in joint use.

The closest analogues from the point of view of the PMS for the Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" are the WHP "Historical Monuments of Novgorod and the surrounding area" (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992) and "Churches of the Pskov Architectural School" (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2019). Both in Novgorod and in In Pskov, at the moment, a significant part of the monuments is under the management of the museums-reserve, and part has been transferred to the use of the Church.

A significant disadvantage of such a PMS is the lack of a single platform for discussing and harmonizing the interests of stakeholders in the format of a coordinating council or other similar body.

Today such a collegial form of discussion on the management of WHP exists in St. Petersburg and the Republic of Karelia.

In St. Petersburg, the Coordinating Council for the Preservation, Management and Popularization of the WHP "Historical Center of St. Petersburg and related Groups of Monuments" was established in 2014 in order to ensure multilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Russia, public authorities of St. Petersburg and public authorities of the Leningrad Region. The functions of the secretariat of the Coordinating

Council are performed by the Committee for State Control, Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments under the Government of St. Petersburg. Despite the fact that the council consists mainly of officials, representatives of other interested parties, public figures and experts are also invited to the meetings.

In the Republic of Karelia the Coordinating Council was established at the Kizhi Museum-Reserve as a tool for achieving public consensus on the conservation, use and sustainable development of the WHP, raising awareness and ensuring consistency in the intentions and activities of all stakeholders in relation to the property.

The Kizhi Coordinating Council includes representatives of all interested parties, as well as all representatives who have the authority to make decisions affecting the interests of the preservation and development of the WHP. The Coordinating Council is an effective communication and information platform, as well as a real mechanism for implementing the management plan and monitoring its implementation.

Authorized representatives of state institutions and departments in the Coordinating Council make decisions in case of conflict of interests of various entities, and private economic entities, organizations and land owners coordinate their activities in relation to the WHP at the planning stage, as well as receive operational and objective information from direct sources regarding the management of the property and its preservation.

To ensure the effective work of the Coordinating Council the museum specialists interact with the local population, state authorities, local self-government, economic entities, non-profit organizations (public relations specialist), scientists and restorers (researchers and restorers), the media (the museum's press service), etc. in their areas of activity.

For the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal", the format of the coordinating council in Kizhi seems preferable, since the main managing organization in both cases are museums-reserve.

### 3.3. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

An interested party is any person or organization that a Property Management Plan (PMP) can influence or that is able to influence the success of such a plan. Other interested parties are those parties who are endowed with certain rights in connection with some obligation or according to the requirements of the law. (Management of World Cultural Heritage properties. Informational guide. UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS/IUCN, 2013).

Among the subjects directly and potentially interested in the preservation and development of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" are the following groups of stakeholders:

- state authorities of federal, regional levels, local self-government bodies;
- users directly responsible for the management and preservation of IOD components: Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve, Vladimir Metropolia of the Russian Orthodox Church;
- representatives of construction companies, investors;
- representatives of the tourism business (travel agencies, hotels, souvenir shops, shops), catering companies, transport companies;
- non-profit and public organizations, foundations;
- creative and professional associations and unions;
- mass media;
- local community.

Local communities are represented, among the others, by the following public organizations:

- Suzdal branch of the All-Russian Public Organization "All-Russian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments" (VOOPIiK);
- Vladimir Regional Branch of the Union of Architects of Russia;
- Vladimir City Local History Society;
- Department of Local History studies of "Central City Library" of the city of Vladimir;
- religious organizations and communities.

The most responsible and creative part of the city's residents shows an active interest in the state of monuments, constantly interacts with state authorities on the preservation of cultural heritage objects and informs them about the state of monuments.

The above-mentioned stakeholders may not be the direct managers of the property, but, nevertheless, are associated with it. The cooperation of all the above-mentioned stakeholders will allow the introduction of mechanisms for monitoring and timely elimination of negative impacts on the components of the Property and will help to minimize risks, promote and develop its components.

When developing the PMP for the White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal Property, the interests of the interested parties were identified and the main strategies of their joint activities aimed at preserving the OUC of the WHP, sustainable development of the territories of its components and the immediate surroundings were outlined.

The sphere of interests of various subjects is determined by the forms of use of the Property (directly or indirectly). The stakeholder analysis is designed to provide a clearer picture of the areas of activity in relation to the conservation and sustainable development of the WHP.

*Table 22*  
*Stakeholder analysis*

<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Activities on the Property territory</b>	<b>Goals and interests</b>
<b>State authorities (property, cadastral, law enforcement, environmental, etc.)</b>	Performing administrative functions, including: registration, accounting, suppression of offenses, financing, ensuring the protection of the World Heritage Property, prevention of emergency situations, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Russian Federation and administrative regulations in relation to the World Heritage Property;</li> <li>- prevention and prevention, as well as suppression of offenses against the World Heritage Property</li> </ul>
<b>Local self -government bodies (administrations of the cities of Suzdal, Vladimir, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo rural settlement, Seltso rural settlement (responsible for Kideksha)</b>	Solving local problems of the municipal and administrative sphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving the quality of housing and communal services;</li> <li>- development of the territory</li> </ul>



<b>Museum</b>	Ensuring the preservation of the windows transferred to the museum-reserve, preservation, study, popularization of historical and cultural heritage, ensuring the maintenance regime of the SCH territory (including ensembles), preservation of the historically developed landscape and historically established activities within the boundaries of the museum-reserve territory, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- study, conservation and sustainable development of the World Heritage Property;</li> <li>- reduction of risks and threats in relation to the World Heritage Property;</li> <li>- popularization of the World Heritage Property;</li> <li>- socio-economic development of the territory as a basis for the sustainable development of the World Heritage Property and the development of the museum itself;</li> <li>- improving the quality of visitor service (sightseeing, educational, event and other museum services);</li> <li>- professional development of employees, introduction of innovations in the areas of preservation and use of the World Heritage Property;</li> <li>- attraction of additional financing</li> </ul>
<b>Local population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work in the museum, in state and municipal bodies, living on the territory of the object and its buffer zone (protection zones);</li> <li>- employment in the service sector (guest service, transport and sightseeing services, parking lots, shops, handicraft and other production);</li> <li>- development of farms (food and animal husbandry)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving the standard of living of the population, improving infrastructure (roads, communications, electricity, shops, security, etc.) and housing conditions;</li> <li>- preservation and development of educational and cultural institutions;</li> <li>- the emergence of new jobs;</li> <li>- preservation of the ecological situation;</li> <li>- implementation of business activities, increasing the competitiveness of local services;</li> <li>- guaranteed access to cultural heritage and cultural values; raising awareness about the World Heritage Property</li> </ul>
<b>Museum visitors, tourists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- excursion and educational programs;</li> <li>- active cognitive forms of leisure, recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability of the World Heritage Property (transport, price, etc.);</li> <li>- availability of information about the World Heritage Property and the work of the museum in open sources (Internet, etc.);</li> <li>- availability of high-quality tourist services and programs (museum-educational, service, recreational);</li> <li>- availability of infrastructure for a</li> </ul>

		comfortable stay (both short-term and long-term; - realization of cultural and religious needs
<b>Travel agencies, tour operators</b>	- organization of new tourist routes and programs and development of existing ones	- creating a competitive product; - sales growth due to the emergence of new routes, increasing the length of stay, the number and diversification of services; - increasing the tourist attractiveness of the territory in general
<b>Institutions of science and education of general competence</b>	- research and educational activities	- carrying out research on historical and cultural heritage; - development of concepts, strategies and other documents; - organization of scientific conferences and seminars; - implementation of educational programs on the territory (practical internships, volunteer camps, etc.); - education of young people (schoolchildren and students); - training of personnel in the field of culture, art, history and heritage
<b>Organizations engaged in the protection of monuments (public) – VOOPiK, etc.</b>	- preservation of historical and cultural heritage; - assistance to the state protection and preservation, use and popularization of SCH;	- assistance to public authorities in the implementation of a unified state cultural policy, in improving legislation, in state protection, in control, in supervision, in the implementation of state programs, in the development of public-private partnership in the field of protection, conservation, use and popularization of the SCH; - participation in the implementation of public control over compliance with the law; - monitoring of the state of monuments; - participation in programs on the World Heritage Property inventory, preservation, popularization, etc.
<b>The Russian Orthodox Church</b>	- implementation of religious activities in cultural heritage sites; - pilgrimage activities	- World Heritage Property availability for parishioners and pilgrims; - the use of World Heritage Property for religious purposes, provision of conditions for holding liturgies and rituals;

		- increase in the number of parishioners, development of pilgrimage tourism
<b>Investors</b>	- implementation of investment projects	- effective use of the World Heritage Property status to increase the profitability of projects
<b>Restoration organizations</b>	- carrying out works on the preservation of cultural heritage objects	- execution of state contracts for restoration work

### **3.4. THE DEGREE OF COORDINATION OF THE PROCESS PARTICIPANTS AND MONITORING OF THE PMS**

The degree of coordination between stakeholders can be traced by the following indicators:

- direct administrative communication;
- availability of contracts and cooperation agreements;
- participation in coordination councils, working groups on a regular basis;
- participation in joint events/promotions (including one-time ones);
- availability of mechanisms for taking into account opinions.

In general, the interaction between stakeholders can be assessed as poorly established, there is no coordinated targeted activity in relation to WHP management. Currently, contacts exist mainly within the framework of administrative subordination.

The Museum keeps partnerships with the Suzdal branch of the VOOPIK and a number of specialized educational institutions (Vladimir State University, the Suzdal branch of the St. Petersburg State Institute of Culture), interacts with the Church in the format of consultations, the staff of the Museum participates in the work of the Scientific Expert Council (NES) on the preservation of cultural heritage at the Inspection for the State Protection of OCH of the Vladimir region. However, this work is not formalized. The Coordinating Council for the management of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal", working groups have not been established on a regular basis at the Museum.

Management in the most general sense is reduced to a set of rules, a decision-making process, the availability of information and the presence of bodies exercising control and monitoring. The task of such management is to ensure the choice of the necessary strategic direction, to ensure that the set goals are achievable, that risks are predicted and controlled, and resources are used responsibly. The management system organized in this way unites and includes all stakeholders (public authorities, citizens, private partners, etc.), ensuring that their points of view, approaches and needs have been taken into account. The task of forming a coordinated World Heritage PMS should be put into a long-term plan.

### **3.5. STAFFING IN THE FIELD OF WHP CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

In the Museum, which is the manager of most of the components of the OCH "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal", the work on the preservation and restoration of UNESCO WHP is carried out by employees of the Department for the restoration and repair of immovable Museum objects. The department is subordinate to the Deputy General Director of the Museum for restoration, construction and operation. The department employs 9 specialists, all with higher education: architectural, construction, technical, historical. In the structure of the department there is one position of the chief Specialist of the UNESCO WHP management, whose job responsibilities include, inter alia, the study and analysis of the activities of international organizations in order to develop proposals and measures to fulfill Russia's obligations arising from the international obligations of the Russian Federation regarding the preservation of WHP, and the introduction of the experience of international organizations in domestic practice; coordinating the interaction of the museum-reserve with the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS, the Church, local governments and other institutions and organizations on the conservation and management of the WHP; developing proposals for planning joint activities of the Museum and other institutions and organizations for the preservation, use and popularization of WHP; monitoring (monitoring) the state of WHP components in the Museum, providing them with accounting documentation, etc.

Subordinate to the Deputy Director General of the Museum for scientific work there is one employee professionally engaged in the study of the white stone architecture of Suzdal, who is the responsible custodians of expositions placed in UNESCO monuments. The employee has a historical education and has all the competencies to prepare the necessary museum guides, historical research, references for restoration reports.

The heads and employees of the Museum annually take part in organizational and methodological events held under the auspices of UNESCO in Russia and abroad.

There are Scientific and Methodological Councils in the museum-reserve.

The Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' is in gratuitous use of the Church. In the Vladimir Diocese there are no positions of researchers responsible for the preservation of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl', however, the post of diocesan antiquity keeper has been introduced, whose duties include monitoring compliance with the requirements for the preservation of cultural heritage objects, including the WHP component "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'", owned (used) by the diocese. The diocesan Antiquity Keeper reports to the diocesan bishop and the Patriarchal Council for Culture.



### **3.6. FINANCING (FUNDING)**

All components of the nomination "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" are objects of cultural heritage of federal significance and are in federal ownership.

In accordance with the norms of the current legislation, the sources of financing for the preservation, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects are: the federal budget, the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation, the budgets of municipalities and extra-budgetary revenues.

Taking into account the fact that the state protection of the components of the nomination is mainly carried out by the Ministry of Culture of Russia, the Ministry of Culture of Russia provides funding for conservation and state protection from the federal budget:

- within subsidy for the performance of a state task;
- within a target subsidy for financing measures for the overhaul of buildings and the preservation of OCHs in use by institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation (paragraph 612th target subsidy for financing measures for the overhaul and OCHs preservation).

Also financing is carried out from the Museum's own funds.

If the applications are approved, the financing of works on the OCHs preservation is carried out within the state program "Development of Culture". At the same time, the federal budget funds are sent by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation to the contractor of the works, and not to the account of the Museum.

The Museum's income includes government subsidies, as well as income from the museum's own activities, including the provision of various paid services.

Along with the mentioned above Museum income may include income from philanthropists, international organizations and foundations.

According to the decision of the Board of the Ministry of Culture of Russia No. 1 dated 27.02.2019, the Development Fund of the Museum was established in 2020 (registered 20.04.2020). The only founder of the Foundation is the Museum.

In 2020 the amount of donations amounted to 1,587,320 rubles, in 2021 – 626,287 rubles. Part of the funds was spent on the purchase of professional display equipment, furniture and museum items for the updated exposition "The Interwoven Destinies" in the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius.

The expenses include the following blocks:

- personnel expenses (salaries of full-time employees and social benefits, training and internships, payment for the services of freelance tour guides, invited lecturers, etc.);
- landscaping;
- restoration and repair of cultural heritage sites;
- utility costs;
- expenses related to ensuring the safety and security of the property (security post, fire and vandal-proof systems);
- restoration of museum objects;
- transportation services;
- cleaning of premises and territory.

The financial resources associated with the individual components of the WHP include variable financial resources, including those allocated from the federal budget specifically for certain types of work on the monument, the museum's income (including from the provision of paid services) and the costs of maintaining the property.

### **3.7 TRAINING (PERSONNEL MASTERING)**

In recent years employees of the specialized departments of the Museum have taken a number of advanced training courses related to the preservation and popularization of objects of cultural significance.

In 2019 within the UNESCO World Heritage Committee 43rd session (Azerbaijan, Baku), the III International Forum of Managers of WHP was held, in which 1 Museum employee took part. The Forum was designed to promote international cooperation between managers of World Cultural heritage properties, to assist in the management of their properties and the use of the potential of World heritage to ensure its sustainable development.

The restorers of the Museum closely cooperate with the leading restoration centers of the Russian Federation – The Grabar' Art Conservation Center, The State Research Institute for Restoration (GOSNIIR) of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, systematically undergo training, attend practical seminars, and receive individual consultations.

In addition, within the cooperation and professional experience exchange of in 2020, the Museum:

- concluded an agreement with the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics on joint marketing research to evaluate the museum's brand, analyze the current marketing strategy; attractiveness and accessibility of permanent and temporary expositions for tourists; museum souvenir;

- a cooperation agreement was signed with the Moscow State Academic Arts Institute named after Surikov. One of the first joint projects was the creation of the mosaic "The Savior on the Throne" for the monument-chapel of Dmitry Pozharsky in the Monastery of Our savior and St Euthymius in Suzdal.

- held a meeting with colleagues from the Arsenyev Museum of the History of the Far East, who learned from the staff of the Museum and got acquainted with architectural and exposition objects in Vladimir, Suzdal, Gus-Khrustalny.

In 2020 Museum researchers, curators of museum collections:

- made presentations at the 44<sup>th</sup> Dobrolyubov Readings in Nizhny Novgorod; took part in the 11<sup>th</sup> All-Russian festival – conference "Kremlin for Children" (2 reports, "The Beautiful Middle Ages", held an interactive lesson at a temporary exhibition "We study, teach, entertain! Studying the objects of ancient Suzdal in museum and educational practice"); spoke at the 13<sup>th</sup> All-Russian scientific and local history readings "Suzdal in the history of Russia" (5 reports);

- participated in the scientific and practical seminar "Modern equipment for the study of cultural heritage objects" (State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg);

- participated in an online dialogue between the World Heritage Center, World Heritage City managers and focal points in the regions of Europe and North America", organized by the World Heritage Committee;

- participated in the work of the 19<sup>th</sup> All-Russian Congress of Historical and Cultural Monuments Protection Bodies (Plenary session, round table "Issues of protection of UNESCO WHP");

- participated in the round table seminar "Creation and promotion of the territory brand" (Vladimir).

In 2021 the Museum:

- concluded an indefinite cooperation agreement with the St. Petersburg State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture named after Repin at the Russian Academy of Arts;

- within the cooperation agreement with the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, the following works were carried out: a study of the youth segment of the museum audience; a study of the perception of the museum-reserve website and its accounts in social networks; an analysis of marketing tools used by foreign museums, as well as their assortment of museum souvenirs, based on the results of marketing research, recommendations for further activities of the Museum are given;

- together with the association "Shrines of Undivided Christianity" presented a route for certification in the Council of Europe: a project of a special program for tourists to stay in Vladimir, Bogolyubovo, combining unique ancient Christian shrines associated with the veneration of the Holy Virgin.

The Museum staff does not only strive to improve their own education and professionalism level, but also develops interesting, informative lessons (classes) designed for different age categories.

On the basis of the Museum Pedagogy section they develop various cultural and educational programs, live lessons and guided tours of white stone monuments addressed to all age groups of students (from elementary school students to students).

Within the educational program "Our Motherland" during 2016-2021 the following classes are regularly held:

- for 1st year students - interactive lesson "Vladimir – the ancient capital";
- for students of the 2nd year - "Golden Gate – monument of Russian glory (Golden Gate. Military-historical exposition)";
- for 3rd year students – "The Legend of the white stones. White stone cathedrals of the 12th century.";
- for 4<sup>th</sup> year students - cultural and educational program "Shrines of Vladimir Rus'" (Assumption Cathedral and St Demetrius Cathedral);

As part of the educational program "The History of the Vladimir land" for secondary school students they offer the following cultural and educational programs "Vladimir-Suzdal Principality", "What is architecture", "Architectural appearance of ancient Russia" (St Demetrius Cathedral and Assumption Cathedral, Golden Gate").

As part of the general education program for high school students and university students – cultural and educational program "UNESCO property components in the Vladimir region. Cultural travels". The program includes the following blocks:

1. Legal travel: The role of UNESCO in the preservation of monuments of the cultural heritage of mankind. WHP on the territory of the Russian Federation. Young people are the heirs and keepers of natural and cultural wealth. Who is Patrimonto. (school class).

2. Historical and technological journey: UNESCO monuments in the Vladimir region. Russian building traditions. What is the white-stone architecture of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality. Secrets of technology and beauty.

3. Following Yuri Dolgoruky: The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha and architectural ensembles of Suzdal (bus tour).

4. Following Andrei Bogolyubsky: The Architectural ensemble of Bogolyubovo and the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' (bus tour).

5. Military journey: The Golden Gate is a monument of defense architecture of Ancient Russia. Pages of history related (excursion).

6. The pilgrim's journey: The House of God on earth (the church as an architectural and religious structure). Church construction and decor. Icons and frescoes (excursion to the St Demetrius Cathedral and a lesson in the Art Gallery).

7. Journey to the Grand Prince of Vladimir: St Demetrius Cathedral with its unique carved decor. The patron saint church of Vsevolod the Big Nest (excursion).

8. Journey to the ancient capital: Assumption Cathedral – the main cathedral of North-Eastern Russia. The historical and cultural significance of the cathedral. Unique murals, paintings by Andrey Rublev (excursion).

9. Summing up: a travel report in the form of creative works.

Historical quests held on the territory of Museum complexes have become very popular among high school students: "The Treasure of Ilarion of Suzdal", "Treasures of the Suzdal Kremlin", "Treasure Island", the quest "Prince Pozharsky – Hero of Russia", the foot quest "In the heart of the old city".

### *Volunteer School*

In 2020 within the national project "Culture" on the basis of the Museum a volunteer project of the VOOPIIK Central Council – "School of Heritage Volunteers" was launched. 300 volunteers took part in its implementation, who within a month received skills and completed a course of theoretical and practical training on the preservation of ancient monuments. In 2021 115 people participated in the Volunteer School. These were students of universities and secondary specialized educational institutions, representatives of public organizations, employees of municipal and private museums, cultural volunteers, youth and the older generation. The training program included lectures of the movement for the study and protection of cultural heritage in society, the development of the volunteer movement in the field of preservation of cultural heritage, as well as master classes on the



formation of skills of restoration work with objects made of three main materials: wood, stone and metal.

The Volunteer School has become one of the largest educational projects in the field of volunteerism.

### **3.8. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM FIELD (BASED ON THE RESULTS OF ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION)**

The analysis of the PMS revealed the following main problems:

1) In the field of state protection and preservation of the Property:

- not for all the components of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" a full range of legal measures has been implemented within state protection: for one monument (component No. 633-001 "Assumption Cathedral", 1158-1160, 1186-1189), the boundaries of the territory have not been approved, for two ensembles, protection zones have not been approved (components No. 633-006 "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace", 13th – 19th centuries, No. 633-007 "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", 16th - early 20th centuries);

- the work on the preservation of monuments requires long-term planning, as well as systematic monitoring. Despite the considerable experience of restoration work and long-term research of monuments, a unified information database on the work carried out has not been formed, a number of common problems have been identified for all monuments that are part of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal": violation of temperature and humidity conditions, lack of constant monitoring of technical condition;

- there is no risk management plan and a comprehensive monitoring program, the restoration program of monuments is in the process of formation;

2) In the field of promoting sustainable development of the territory:

- conditional inaccessibility of some monuments and increased anthropogenic load on the others;

- insufficient number of equipped recreation areas and toilets, the need for further development of the tourist navigation system;

- it is necessary to improve the activities for the popularization of the object, including with the help of Internet sources;

3) In the field of management:

- insufficient coordination between stakeholders;

- lack of a single world heritage property management body;

4) In the field of increasing the socio-cultural significance of the property:

- the local community thanks to the new Museum programs for schoolchildren and students gets the opportunity to learn more about the status of the property, it is advisable to extend this work to an adult audience.

## **4. SWOT ANALYSIS**

### **Strengths**

- Convenient geographical location of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal": proximity to Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod contributes to attracting a large number of visitors.
- Good transport accessibility of the Property components (rail and road connections with major centers of Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, etc.).
- The Museum has formed a unique unified intermuseum space that unites the territories of several municipalities.
- Preservation and restoration of the Museum fund ensures the attractiveness of the Vladimir region as a historical region.
- Unique objects of display – white-stone pre-Mongol monuments of Ancient Russia, known all over the world, having the status of a UNESCO WHP.
- High-quality Museum expositions have been created in some monuments.
- Long-term Museum traditions, the presence of highly qualified researchers and guides.
- The possibility of year-round visits to the components of the WHP.
- Active involvement of children's audience.
- Measures to improve accessibility of facilities for people with disabilities.
- Availability of the TicketNet ticket program (introduced in 2017), which allows you to keep detailed statistics necessary for marketing analysis.
- New Museum website with easy navigation.
- Active development of the hospitality infrastructure in Suzdal on the eve of the 1000th anniversary of the town in 2024.
- The presence in Vladimir and Suzdal of a large number of hotels, cafes and restaurants, distribution points of souvenir products.

### **Weaknesses**

- The proximity of Moscow helps to reduce the time spent by tourists in Vladimir and Suzdal, most of the visitors do not stay overnight.

– Unequal transport accessibility of the components of the Property – the monuments in Vladimir and Suzdal are constantly accessible to visitors. Otherwise, the monuments in Bogolyubovo and especially in are relatively inaccessible.

– Insufficient promotion of Property components, a narrow range of services offered for recreation and entertainment of tourists.

– Lack of a risk management plan.

– Insufficient staffing of specialists involved in the field of the Property management.

– Lack of monitoring of the state of monuments on a regular basis.

– Lack of a comprehensive program of restoration of monuments.

– Insufficient number of equipped recreation areas and toilets, the need for further development of the tourist navigation system.

– Insufficient level of coordination between the users of the Property and other stakeholders.

– Insufficient pace of introduction of information technologies into the activities of cultural institutions.

– Insufficient level of development of road transport and engineering infrastructure and the development of a modern system (systems) for training middle and junior service personnel.

– Insufficient number of places for short-term parking and parking of vehicles.

### **Opportunities**

– Ensuring the high quality of Museum services.

– Development of a long stay of tourists on the territory (multi-day) using various excursion programs.

– Creation of a special Internet portal for guests of the Vladimir region, which will allow you to design and immediately purchase excursion services for individual visitors.

- The possibility of creating a key exhibition telling about white stone architecture as a phenomenon in the history of Russian architecture.

– Attracting additional funding through the introduction of various tools – loyalty programs, discount systems, expanding the network of ticket distribution points, attracting new partners, grant support.

- Entry into federal programs in the field of culture, which opens up funding opportunities.

- Using the World Heritage brand to promote the Property components and attract foreign tourists.

- The creation of a tourist cluster within the Golden Ring, which will contribute to the preservation of historical and cultural objects, the development of new tourist routes, the revival of Russian traditions, as well as the support and development of Russian Orthodox culture.

- Development of interactive programs for tourists with elements of reconstruction, theatricalization, museum interpretation.

- Diversification of the tourist flow through the introduction of new museum spaces.

- The possibility of introducing new forms and methods of providing services in the field of culture (using the communication capabilities of the Internet, creating websites, creating and providing access to electronic catalogs, virtual exhibitions and expositions, a unified electronic ticket sales system).

- Creation on the basis of the Museum together with the Vladimir State University of a basic department "Preservation of the cultural heritage of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus'" in order to train future specialists in the field of cultural heritage.

### **Threats\***

- A possible slowdown in the pace of socio-economic development due to the effects of economic sanctions and competition from neighboring regions.

- Reduction of funding.

- Low level of investment activity.

- Outflow of the able-bodied population.

- Deepening of the demographic crisis.

- Slow staff rejuvenation, shortage of qualified personnel.

- The continuing aging of the population.

- Environmental degradation and negative natural phenomena.

- Disharmonious buildings near the objects.

- Low quality restoration work.



- Violation of the temperature and humidity regime.
- Noise pollution.
- Excessive number of visitors (exceeding the maximum anthropogenic load) on the territory of the Property.
- Excessive concentration of tourist flows in certain areas of the exposition or landscape (uneven distribution of anthropogenic load).
- Value disorientation of the population, low level of general culture of citizens, low mobility and economic activity of citizens.

In case of a negative scenario, threats may have the following impact on the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal":

- weak reflection of the tasks related to the preservation and development of the Property in the strategy of socio-economic development of cities (settlements);
- insufficient consideration of the potential of the Property and its components as one of the main resources of socio-economic development of territories and, as a result, the absence of the Property components in municipal programs for the development and improvement of territories, gradual degradation of the improvement of territories;
- slowing down (reducing) the volume of work of the Property preservation;
- the growing burden on the infrastructure and ecological system of the cities of Vladimir, Suzdal and, as a result, the growth of threats to the safety (including environmental) of the Property;
- lack of personnel in the field of OCH preservation and management;
- decrease in tourist flow;
- violation of the norms for the preservation of OCH, including in the implementation of infrastructure and investment projects, and, as a result, construction in the OCH protection zones.

In order to reduce risks, it is necessary to adjust the Strategy of socio-economic development of the Vladimir region till 2030.

\* for more information about threats and risks see section 2.8.

## 5. PMP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Table 23  
Strategic objectives of the PMP

№	Objective	Objective description
1	Preservation of the Property (its components) and its outstanding universal value	This goal includes ensuring the physical preservation of monuments, providing them with the necessary documentation within the framework of state protection, fulfilling international obligations with respect to the Property, monitoring the quality of restoration work, improving the documentation of information about the research of the Property, forming a risk management and monitoring system
2	Promotion of sustainable development of the territory	This goal involves the active inclusion of the Property in the tourist circulation, cooperation with regional, city and local authorities in the implementation of programs of socio-economic development of the territory, popularization of the Property
3	Effective management	This goal is aimed at increasing the level of coordination between stakeholders and the quality of management, optimizing human and financial resources, training and advanced training of employees, creating additional structures in the format of councils and working groups.
4	Increasing socio-cultural significance	This goal includes the use of the World Heritage brand to form a positive external and internal image of the Museum as a key organization managing UNESCO monuments

### 5.1. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS IN THE FIELD OF CONSERVATION

The analysis of the current situation in the field of preservation of the components of the Property and its OUV revealed the need to improve the existing system of work with monuments in the following areas.

#### 5.1.1. IMPROVING THE PROPERTY LEGAL PROTECTION

The analysis revealed that not all OCH – components of the WHP, have implemented a full range of legal measures within the state protection – for some objects the subjects of protection and protection zones are not approved.

Therefore, the short-term and long-term programs of measures for the implementation of the Management Plan include:

- development and approval of the boundaries of the territory of component No. 633-001 "Assumption Cathedral", 1158-1160, 1186-1189;

- development and approval of the protection zones of components No. 633-006 "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and Bishop's Palace", 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, No. 633-007 "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius", 16<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries;

- development buffer zones for the Property components.

### **5.1.2. IMPROVING THE WORK ON THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS**

The existing work on the preservation of monuments is characterized by the absence of long-term planning (this work is just begun), as well as systematic monitoring (due to insufficient number of employees). Despite the considerable experience of restoration work and many years of research of monuments, a unified systematized digitized information restoration database is not formed.

In order to improve the efficiency of the monuments' preservation, it is proposed to form a conservation system that includes the following blocks:

- 1) Comprehensive monitoring of the state of monuments;
- 2) Preventive maintenance of monuments;
- 3) Restoration of monuments;
- 4) Conservation (preventive, emergency);
- 5) Collection and storage of information about monuments, formation of a unified information database.

**Comprehensive monitoring** of the state of monuments should be carried out regularly on the basis of an appropriate monitoring program, which should be developed for all components of the WHP.

The purpose of monitoring is the timely detection of both existing damage to monuments and the prerequisites for their appearance, as well as the development of recommendations for their elimination. Monitoring data should be described and photographed. A prerequisite should be monitoring the results of previously performed conservation measures to assess their effectiveness.

The monitoring program should include the following areas of monitoring:

- monitoring of damage caused by water and wind erosion, mechanical impacts and other causes;
- monitoring of biodegradation, which allows timely identification of foci and causes of biological damage;
- monitoring of deformations of monuments;
- monitoring of the technical condition, which allows to identify existing or possible damage to elements and structures of objects;
- monitoring the condition of the painting, where it has been preserved.

Monitoring should be carried out using scientifically proved methods and modern high-tech equipment.

Along with technologically complex monitoring, which should be carried out by specialized specialists, an important component of monitoring is the control of temperature and humidity conditions, visual inspection of monuments and their regular photofixation, which will allow identifying possible problems at an early stage.

**Preventive maintenance** of monuments includes repair and maintenance works of a wide range, which include prompt elimination of possible negative impacts and timely prevention of damage, adjustment of the Property operating mode depending on weather and other external factors.

**The restoration of monuments** should be carried out on the basis of the conducted research, comply with international principles and norms, Russian legislation. Taking into account the importance of the monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal for the history and culture of Russia, restoration work should be carried out under the supervision of the expert community, in particular the Scientific and Methodological Council under the Ministry of Culture of Russia.

**Preservation of the monument.** The purpose of conservation is to create such conditions under which the possibility of destruction of structures and decorative design of the monument will be excluded by protecting the property from the effects of destructive factors.

It should be understood that conservation is not an alternative to restoration, it is designed only to prevent or reduce the need for restoration intervention. The emphasis

should be on getting the maximum effect and performing the largest amount of work at the lowest cost.

Conservation can be divided into two levels:

- emergency conservation;
- preventive conservation, or preventive maintenance.

Emergency conservation is aimed at preventing the continuation of the destruction that has already begun. It is carried out, as a rule, at the initial stage of work with the monument.

Preventive conservation, or prevention, is aimed at eliminating the causes of possible destruction.

**Collection and storage of information about monuments, formation of a unified information database.** Information about all the works carried out and carried out on the monuments should be carefully documented. Taking into account the universal computerization and mass transfer of information to electronic media, it seems appropriate to form in Museum a unified information database about the work carried out on the monuments. Paper documents are subject to digitization. Data for the formation of the database can be provided upon request by restoration organizations that have carried out work on monuments, in particular, "Vladimirrestavratsiya" agency. An important aspect is also the continuation of replenishment of the Museum library with special research literature.

### **5.1.3. IMPROVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF THREAT PREVENTION**

The WHP is subject to numerous threats. For effective risk management, it seems appropriate to develop a risk management plan in accordance with the UNESCO Guidelines for the Development of Disaster Risk Management Plans.

The risk management plan should include four main blocks:

- analysis of potential risks for the Property components;
- measures to reduce risks and their consequences;
- scenarios of actions when a negative scenario occurs;
- a plan for the restoration of monuments after a negative impact.

It is also important to inform the public about the risks and threats:

- for the completeness of activities for the preservation of white stone monuments of the World Heritage, it is necessary to constantly inform the general public about the results of conservation monitoring, acute emergency situations, threats of development and disfigurement of adjacent territories and the surrounding landscape;
- at the same time, it is necessary to widely inform about the success of restoration activities, to clearly demonstrate their results;
- the fulfillment of the above-mentioned goals requires cooperation with federal and local media; the local population (through the website, social networks); monument protection authorities; executive and judicial authorities.

#### **5.1.4. IMPROVEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS IN RELATION TO THE WHP**

The main directions of work in relation to the WHP:

- clarification of the missing boundaries of the territory of one Property component, buffer zones for all the Property components;
- preparation of the 3rd cycle of periodic reporting (2023);
- if necessary, the assessment of the impact on the outstanding universal value of the WHP (its components) during the implementation of major restoration and any construction work on the territory protected under the auspices of UNESCO.

In accordance with article 172 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage Committee calls on States parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intentions to undertake or permit large-scale restoration or new construction works in the territory protected under the Convention that may have an impact on the outstanding universal value of the Property. The notification should be sent as soon as possible (before the preparation of drafts of the main documents for specific projects) and before any decisions that would be difficult to cancel are taken, so that the Committee can assist in finding appropriate solutions that guarantee the complete preservation of the Property OUV.

When planning the implementation of new projects, the following materials should be sent to the Ministry of Culture of Russia:

A. Administrative status of the project:

- preliminary proposals or a ready-made project with a full set of documents;
- the date of sending the project for planning and other approvals;
- planned start date of the project;
- bodies responsible for reviewing the project: municipal, regional or federal level;
- advisory mechanisms.

B. Accompanying documentation:

- project description;
- a map of the area showing the connection with the WHP;
- visualization documents: plans, viewpoints, views of the Property individual, etc.;
- research on this topic;
- a document considering alternative options and the possibility of not carrying out new construction;
- heritage impact assessment to determine the potential impact on outstanding universal value. The Guide for Cultural Heritage Properties prepared by the International Council for the Protection of Monuments and Places of Interest (ICOMOS) is available at:  
[http://icomos.org.ru/images/docs/rukovodstvo\\_po\\_osuwestvleniu\\_ocenok.pdf](http://icomos.org.ru/images/docs/rukovodstvo_po_osuwestvleniu_ocenok.pdf)
- relevant provisions in the PMS.

The Ministry of Culture of Russia reviews the materials and sends them to the UNESCO World Heritage Center.



## 5.2. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS IN THE FIELD OF PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY

### 5.2.1. INVOLVEMENT IN TOURIST CIRCULATION

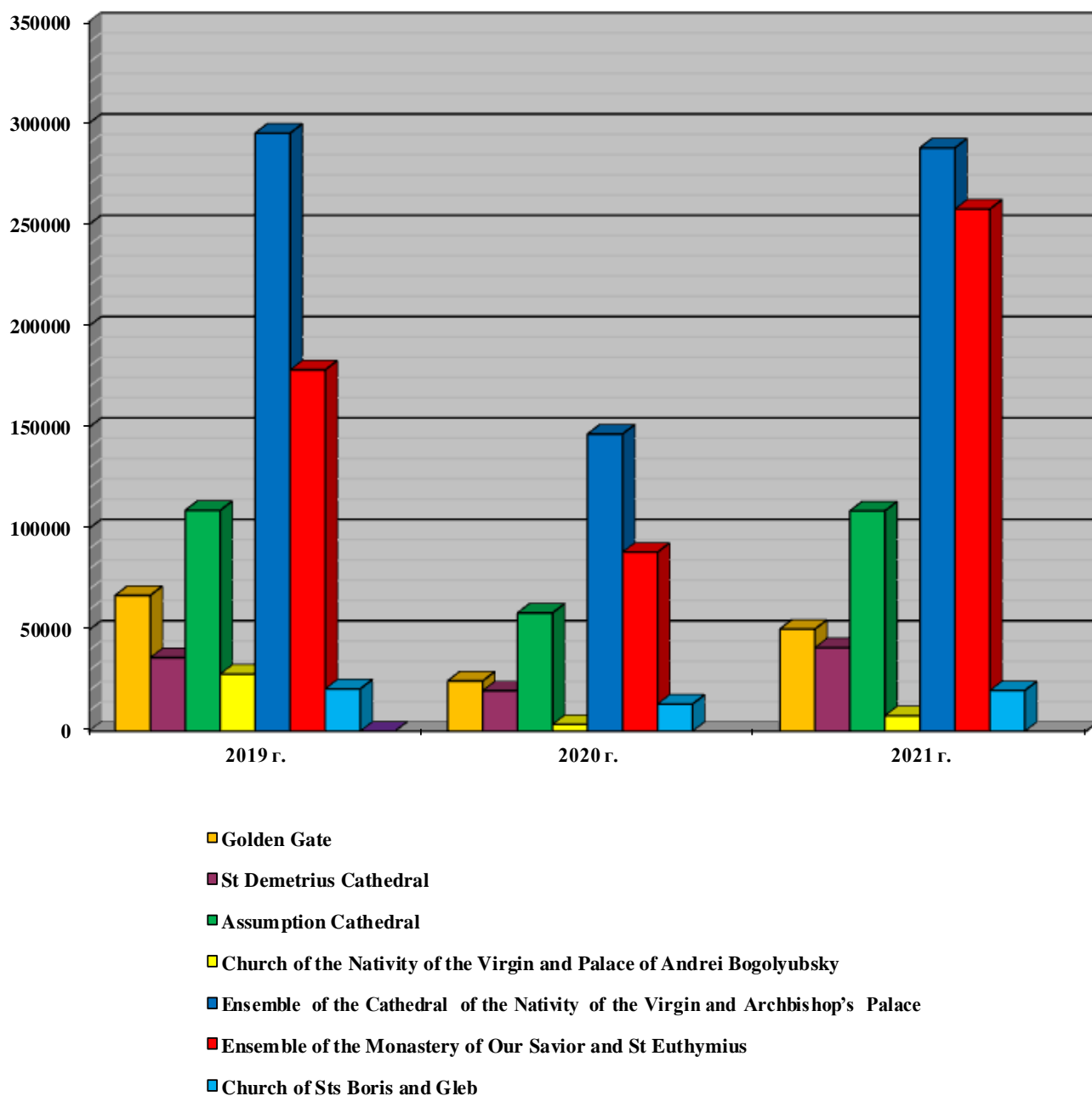
The sustainable development of the territory implies the active involvement of monuments in the tourist circulation turnover on the basis of marketing research and calculations of the maximum permissible anthropogenic load.

According to the 2019-2021 data the tourist flow to the monuments differs significantly in quantitative indicators. Restrictions related to the new coronavirus infection (covid-19) had a big role in the level of attendance.

*Table 24*  
*Attendance of UNESCO World Heritage Property components, 2019-2021*

№	Property component name	Number of visitors		
		2019 г.	2020 г.	2021 г.
1	Golden Gate	67 000	24 779	50 387
2	St Demetrius Cathedral	36 277	19 982	41 236
3	Assumption Cathedral	108 971	58 375	108 677
4	Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky (Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky)	28 213	3 363	7 648
5	Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace	295 084	146 635	287 797
6	Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius	178 280	88 318	257 619
7	Church of Sts Boris and Gleb	20 892	13 388	20 078
<b>Total for the year:</b>		<b>1 224 394</b>	<b>578 826</b>	<b>1 161 803</b>

### Information on the attendance of the components of the WHP, 2019-2021



There is no information about the attendance of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' because the Vladimir Diocese does not keep records of the attendance of this object.

The analysis of the attendance of the Property components allows us to draw the following conclusions:

The fewest visitors are celebrated annually in the "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin", "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky", 1158 in Bogolyubovo and in the "The Church of Sts Boris and Gleb", 1152 in Kideksha. First of all, this is due to their territorial remoteness. Travel companies often do not include these objects or release them from their

routes due to lack of time. It should be noted that the existing classical routes are so saturated with objects to visit that the unique white stone monuments are lost against the background of other objects.

The largest tourist flow is in the "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace" and "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius" in Suzdal. This is comparable to the indicators of such museums managing WHP as the Kizhi Pogost and the Solovetsky Museum-Reserve.

These data indicate the need for:

1. diversification of the tourist flow in order to reduce the anthropogenic load on the most visited sites and draw attention to the rest of the monuments;
2. develop specialized routes dedicated only to the white stone monuments of the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries (using Museum transport).

The creation of the tourist cluster "Suzdalsky" and the implementation of a comprehensive program for the development of the town of Suzdal in connection with its 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 will contribute to increasing the tourist attractiveness of the Property.

Within the Working Committee on the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suzdal, working groups have been created to develop a Concept for the development of Suzdal and the development of tourism in Suzdal.

The Federal Tourism Agency of Russia (abolished in 2022) and the Administration of the Vladimir Region have been instructed to develop tourist routes for visiting Suzdal attractions on working days (Monday-Friday) and to develop a program of evening and night event events (shows) to ensure the loading of the city's hotels and increase the time tourists stay in the city, taking into account overnight stays.

In order to implement the strategy of sustainable tourism development, it is necessary to be guided by the following principles:

- the priority of preserving the outstanding universal value of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal", and, as a result, the exclusion of any possible negative impact on the Property;

- ensuring efficient and optimal use of the Property's potential, including continuous monitoring of the impact of tourist flow on the Property components;
- interaction and cooperation with all interested parties, development of mechanisms for maintaining the stability of the situation, reducing risks for the Property;
- ensuring the high quality of Museum services;
- ensuring the balance of the benefits received in the case of sustainable tourism development and directing part of the funds to preserve the Property, prevent negative impacts on it and improve technologies to ensure its safety.

An important mechanism for working with the tourist flow is the management of visits to the WHP components to ensure the preservation of its OUV. The proposed measures through the distribution (in the short and long term) and the limitation of anthropogenic load on the Property elements will protect it from the possible negative impact of tourism.

The management of visits to Museum display objects includes the following measures:

- establishment of a regime for visiting expositions and Museum objects (regulation of the time of visiting interiors and the maximum number of people inside the object at the same time);
- establishment of a ban on visiting museum expositions in adverse weather conditions, when the interiors of churches may suffer from significant changes in humidity or temperature;
- functioning of the climate control system;
- organization of monitoring and control of the tourist flow by ensuring the work of Museum keepers in the expositions;
- ensuring the installation of security and fire alarm systems;
- provision of security and police control (against unauthorized and illegal actions);
- providing guided support by the staff of the Museum when tourists visit the Museum objects.

A promising direction is also the creation of new Museum objects, in particular, by including new areas in the Museum activity. So at present work is continuing on the

restoration of objects that are part of the ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius – wall and towers. Currently, due to technical conditions, these premises are not used as exhibition areas. However, after the restoration work is completed, the interior spaces of individual towers can be adapted to accommodate expositions and events. It seems appropriate to carry out some work on their adaptation for use for Museum purposes.

It is also a promising direction to include new sites in the tourist routes about the white stone monuments of UNESCO – potential nominees for inscribing on the UNESCO World Heritage List. For example, "St. George Cathedral", 1234, located in Yuriev-Polsky, could become a logical (final) part of the narrative about the architectural history of Vladimir-Suzdal architecture of the 12th - 13th centuries (this is the last white-stone temple of the pre-Mongol period in the region). On the other hand, the inscribing of this object in the tourist route about the monuments included on the UNESCO list would be a significant support for the nominee in the UNESCO list. The inclusion of St. George Cathedral in tourist routes can be a profitable strategic decision, as it will expand the geography of the Museum, bring diversity to tourist routes, increase the tourist flow to the region through the development of new tourist products.

### **5.2.2. IMPROVING THE DIRECTIONS OF POPULARIZATION**

The improvement of the popularization of the Property and its components can be considered in the following main areas:

#### **1. Mastering the Internet space:**

- improvement of the Internet site as a basic, main platform for information on the monuments of white stone architecture of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus'. It should summarize information on history, current scientific research, restoration work and the current state of preservation of monuments. It is on the site that the visitor should be able to find any information, both general and highly specialized. It is recommended to place on the website the schemes of routes for visiting monuments and moving between them, the possibility of obtaining basic tourist services on this route (hotels, food outlets, transport accessibility, etc.);

- popularization of the OUV of monuments on the Museum website (posting information about the educational programs of the Museum, public lectures dedicated to white stone temples, videos about objects of cultural heritage, etc.);

- creation of a virtual museum of white stone reliefs. As the experience of the participation of world museums in the Google Art Project system shows, this significantly increases the tourist flow. The reliefs of the Vladimir-Suzdal churches, with their abundance of fantastic creatures, religious scenes and figures of saints, are one of the most interesting European iconographic collections. Considering the inaccessibility of the reliefs themselves, located at a considerable height, the placement of high-resolution images will arouse undoubted interest among the general public. The creation of such a virtual collection of reliefs can be carried out both on the basis of its own website and in cooperation with portals such as Google Art Project.

#### **2. Educational programs:**

With the increasing importance of the Internet space and other information systems, lecture halls are playing an increasingly important role in the modern world, which are becoming popular cultural venues. In the Museum with its variety of school programs, there are not enough educational lectures for an adult audience. The lectures conducted do

not cover the topic of the white-stone architecture of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus' or touch it superficially, as part of the consideration of other issues related to it.

To attract a wide audience the work of the lecture hall must meet the following criteria:

- the information should correspond to the current level of scientific research;
- monuments of white stone architecture should be revealed in the global context of the pan-European culture to which they rightfully belong;
- it is necessary to involve leading experts in the field of study and preservation of cultural heritage in the work of the lecture hall;
- the activities of the lecture hall should be widely covered in the media, through the website and advertising.

### **3. Publishing and bookselling activities:**

- there is a sufficient number of short guides to individual monuments, there is no in-depth monographic research on the topic of white stone architecture (with the exception of the Nativity Cathedral in Suzdal, the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir). The preparation of such publications, requiring the involvement of a wide range of specialists, or the implementation of existing publications would contribute to understanding the significance of the outstanding universal value of the WHP and would give impetus to further in-depth research;
- the publication and/or realization of research works on the reliefs of the St Demetrius Cathedral, both popular and scientific in nature (catalogues of reliefs, including electronic ones), would also contribute to the popularization of monuments. In 2018 Magdalene Gladkaya published a catalog of white stone carvings of the St Demetrius Cathedral in Vladimir in 2 volumes - this is a fundamental publication in which information about all carved reliefs of the cathedral is provided at a highly professional level, as well as mini-editions of catalog materials devoted to the most interesting subjects of carved stones from the facades of the cathedral. In order to popularize the monument and the white stone carving, it is recommended to publish an additional edition, including one adapted for a wide range of users.;



- there is a lack of general maps-schemes in foreign languages for Vladimir and Suzdal with the indication of monuments.

#### **4. Conducting scientific conferences, seminars, round tables:**

- the Museum can become a platform for holding regular international scientific conferences dedicated to the study and preservation of white stone architecture. The openness of such conferences, the accessibility of its results and materials to the general public can contribute to the dissemination of knowledge about monuments and the Property OUV.

#### **5. Exhibitions:**

- the Museum has every opportunity to initiate major exhibition projects, including inclusive ones, including monuments of white stone architecture in a wide cultural context and covering a wide audience.

#### **6. Program of interaction with the local population:**

- one of the most important means of disseminating information about the significance of monuments is active work with the local population: the work of a lecture hall, interaction with local schools and universities, etc.;

- the organization of archaeological excavations involving schoolchildren and students can serve as an important means of popularizing WHP and serve as a source of additional information occasions;

- the expansion of the volunteer movement will allow forming a circle of interested people involved in its life around the Museum and its monuments.

#### **7. Policy of language openness:**

- the worldwide significance of the monuments of white stone architecture requires constant work on the translation of relevant Museum materials into the main foreign languages. This applies to tourist navigation near and inside monuments, booklets and scientific publications, the website, the schedule of the museum bus route, etc.;

- since the space of the churches is small and the installation of large multilingual explications is sometimes impossible, small racks with printouts of information duplicating the explications in different languages could be the way out.

## **8. All-inclusive ticket**

- a possible additional means of attracting attention to the monuments of white stone architecture could be the development of an all-inclusive ticket for visiting white stone monuments.

## **9. Organization and holding of training courses on restoration and conservation of white stone, restoration of frescoes.**

In the Museum operational management there is a large number of unique cultural heritage sites that need to be preserved for future generations. At the same time, in order to preserve the cultural heritage, it is necessary to organize work on the restoration and conservation of white stone, as well as the restoration of frescoes at a high professional level. The solution of this issue is possible by attracting professionals from Russia and from foreign countries. In this regard, it is proposed to organize on the basis of the Museum a sort of an international course on the restoration and conservation of white stone, as well as the restoration of frescoes with the invitation of Russian and foreign specialists under the auspices of the interstate organization engaged in the preservation of the World Cultural Heritage – ICCROM – the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Values.

Expected result:

- holding such an international course with the involvement of foreign specialists will promote the best international experience in the preservation and restoration of cultural values;

- broadcasting the experience of preserving white stone will allow not only to carry out professional, high-quality monitoring of the condition of white stone architectural monuments inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, but also to carry out timely work on their preservation, as well as to disseminate work experience for other regions for which the topic of preserving white stone architecture is relevant;

- holding international course under the auspices of an authoritative international organization will increase the prestige of the cultural institution (Museum) and the prestige of the country at the world level, will allow popularizing the cultural heritage of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus' at the international level.

### **5.3. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT**

An analysis of the existing PMS revealed some gaps in coordination between stakeholders. To improve management efficiency, the following measures are required:

- formalization of interaction between management organizations, first of all, the Museum and the Church on Property components of common use;
- creation of a management body with the participation of representatives of the main stakeholders;
- strengthening the personnel potential of the Museum;
- organization of monitoring of the management process.

Recommendations for the WHP management scenario

Until recently in Russia for complex WHP managed by several organizations worked mostly the format of coordinating advisory bodies – councils, commissions, working groups (Kizhi Pogost, the Historical Center of St. Petersburg and related groups of monuments, etc.).

The advantages of this format are:

- ensuring the involvement of all major stakeholders in the Property management process;
- the possibility of collective discussion of practical aspects of management and achievement of public consent;
- the possibility of reaching public agreement on the conservation, use and sustainable development of the WHP, raising awareness and ensuring consistency in the intentions and activities of all stakeholders in relation to the WHP;
- the possibility of high-quality collaboration of all major stakeholders responsible for the conservation, use and sustainable development of the WHP and interested in achieving these goals;
- regularity of meetings;
- budgeting (the functioning of the coordinating council practically does not require additional funding).

Disadvantages of this format are:

- lack of independence and a legally established mandate;

- lack of targeted financing, inability to act as a customer of works and services;
- advisory nature of the decisions taken.

Nevertheless, the creation of a coordinating council based on the Museum is the preferred option.

The activities of the coordinating council should be primarily aimed at:

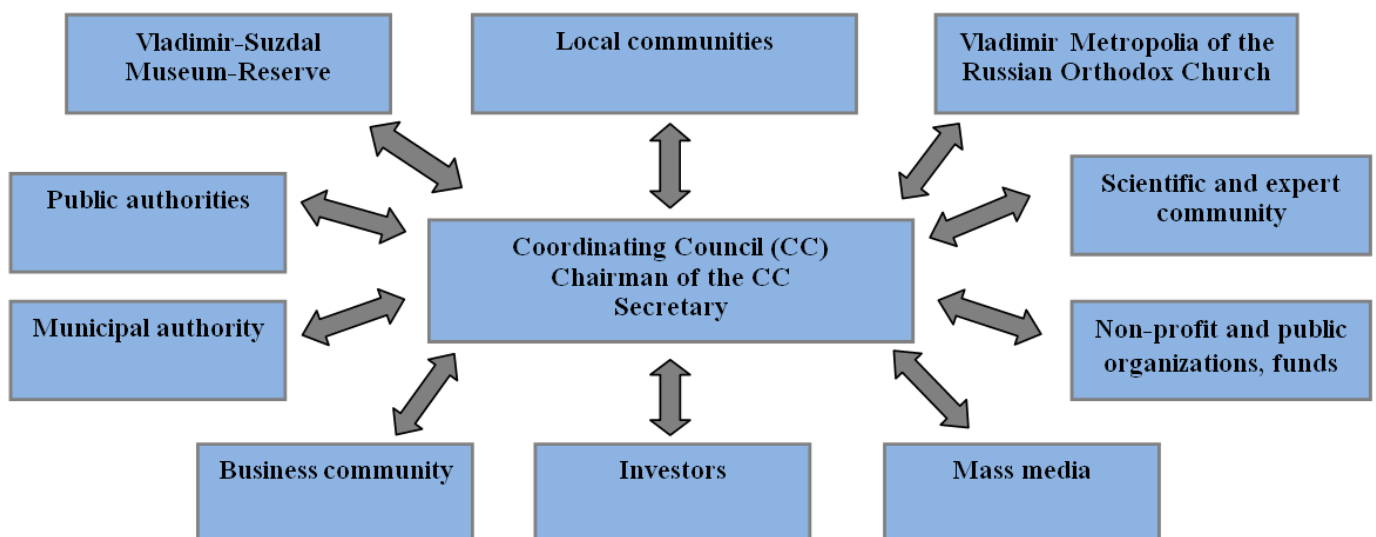
- a) identification of problems related to the preservation of UNESCO monuments and their prompt solution;
- b) promoting the popularization of the WHP, increasing its socio-cultural significance, inclusion in state and non-state programs and partner networks;
- c) coordination and coordination of actions in the preparation and implementation of projects and programs aimed at the preservation, use and development of the WHP;
- d) participation in the adjustment and monitoring of the implementation of the PMP by all the stakeholders;
- e) consideration and discussion of the concepts of documents aimed at the development of the surrounding area of the WHP components, development of recommendations on their implementation;
- f) discussion of draft regulatory legal acts affecting the development of the WHP and the adjacent territory;
- g) development of mechanisms to ensure information exchange on the World Heritage Property conservation, use and development;
- h) preparation of reporting materials for UNESCO and other international organizations;
- i) assistance to the Museum and the Church in the implementation of management functions in relation to the WHP (expert, financial, technical, personnel, information support);
- k) organization of religious activities related to the WHP;
- l) assistance in the implementation of international obligations related to the status of a UNESCO WHP.

The objectives of the coordinating council (by analogy with the Kizhi pogost) can be designated as:

- achieving public consensus on the conservation, use and sustainable development of the WHP;
- raising awareness and ensuring consistency in the intentions and activities of all stakeholders in relation to the WHP;
- ensuring high-quality joint work of all entities responsible for the conservation, use and sustainable development of the WHP and interested in achieving these goals.

The organizational scheme of the coordinating council may look like this:

**Scheme of the Coordinating Council for the management of the UNESCO WHP  
"White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal"  
at the State Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve**



*Recommendations for staff strengthening.*

For a short time (from December 2020 to August 2021) in the structure of the Museum there existed the department for the management of the UNESCO WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal". The reduction of this department and specialists is associated with the optimization of the management system, however, such a personnel decision reduces the focus of attention from the issues of preserving ancient white stone churches. The return of such a department to the structure of the Museum and the presence of department employees with appropriate qualifications is extremely necessary.

Previously each of the Property components had its own responsible keeper from among the employees, who was responsible for monitoring not only the expositions, but also the condition of frescoes, paintings and architecture of monuments. A similar scheme is being successfully implemented now in the State Novgorod Museum-Reserve. Returning to it will allow us to quickly solve current tasks, conduct full-fledged monitoring of the preservation of monuments. Of course, this requires some increase in the staff of the department of restoration and repair of real estate objects, whose powers currently include, among other things, work on the WHP management. At the same time, it is necessary that the employees of the department have the appropriate education and competence.

For the full inclusion of the Museum in the global work on the preservation of world heritage properties, the Museum needs a coordinator for work with UNESCO.

The participation of employees of the Museum in thematic Russian and foreign training programs, in particular under the auspices of ICCROM, will also contribute to improving the quality of management.

#### 5.4. INCREASING THE PROPERTY SOCIO-CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The status of a Property inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List contributes to a special perception of its OUV by a wide audience.

The positive image of the Property and its territory forms their attractiveness and emotional attachment to them, promotes actions aimed at their preservation, improvement, promotes the adoption of favorable economic and political decisions.

Recently the emotional side of consumption has been playing an increasingly important role. A recent trend has been the widespread dissemination of the concept of emotional management, which is closely related to emotional resources. Today, a kind of emotion market is being formed in almost every industry. In Russia, so far, only some echoes of global trends are manifested. It is obvious that the effectiveness of emotional management, included in the organizational and cultural system and constructively directed, has a huge potential. Among the consumers of the cultural sphere, there is a demand for values – intangible, emotional. In this context, the monuments of the white-stone architecture of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus' have a unique potential, since they are genuine relics of pre-Mongol Rus' and important elements of national identity. In order to fully utilize this potential, it is necessary to form a positive internal and external image of the Museum as a museum complex – the keeper of UNESCO monuments.

The elements of the external image are: social image, service image (tourist products), business image and visual image. The elements of the internal image are the corporate image of the museum and the image of the Museum Director.

**The social image of the Museum** is based on the positioning of the Museum in the region, participation in the life of the local community and the authority of the Museum in decision-making at various levels. It should be noted that Museum has been working in this direction for a long time and is an active participant in social processes. At the same time, there is undoubtedly a potential for development in this direction, in particular due to the implementation of the Suzdal Development Concept until 2024.

**The service image (tourist products)** is formed from ideas about their price and quality, their distinctive properties and uniqueness. In this regard, an important evaluation tool is an independent assessment of the quality of services of cultural institutions (link to



the official Internet resource <http://quality.mkrf.ru/mark/?orgid=0328100000003>). At the moment, the current rating of the cultural institution is 96 points out of 100.

In order to increase the rating of the institution, it is necessary to improve the work with visitors aimed at increasing the satisfaction of consumers of services. The expansion of the range of services provided can increase the attractiveness of the tourist product, in particular by organizing festive event: arranging concert venues, holding festivals, film screenings, folklore workshops and other cultural events on the territory of the components of the WHP.

An important image-forming factor for the Museum services is the variability and flexibility of the pricing policy, the provision of discounts to regular visitors and families, persons with disabilities, the formation of a loyalty system, etc.

Information openness contributes to the formation of a positive image: publishing activities (books about heritage, guidebooks, booklets, maps, handouts), interaction with mass media at the federal, regional and local levels, presence and active promotion in the Internet space, cooperation with travel agencies and the local business community.

**The business image** is formed on the basis of positioning the Museum as a social, public and investment-attractive territory for the introduction of new tourist and recreational, cultural, communication and scientific events. For this purpose, it is important for the Museum to participate in specialized exhibitions, such as Denkmal, Intermuseum, St. Petersburg Cultural Forum, etc., attracting sponsors, concluding cooperation and partnership agreements, timely registration of rights to the results of intellectual activity, in particular restoration and research technologies, which are implemented by the Museum staff.

**The visual image** consists of the external attributes of the Museum and corporate design: recognizable corporate identity, logo, corporate colors, souvenir products, the development of the Museum brandbook.

In 2016 the specialists of the Agency of Museum Innovations agency developed a new corporate logo for the Museum, introduced a recognizable corporate identity. However, the public reaction to the new Museum logo was contradictory – it was criticized.

In 2020 Museum employees developed a new Museum brandbook on their own. Historians, designers, art historians, restorers and other Museum specialists participated in the search for fresh forms and meanings.



Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation  
Federal state budgetary institution of culture  
"VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL STATE  
HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL  
AND ART MUSEUM RESERVE"

43, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Street,  
Vladimir, Russian Federation, 600000  
Tel +7 (4922) 32 25 15  
Fax +7 (4922) 32 70 10  
museum@vladmuseum.ru  
www.vladmuseum.ru

Given the high international status of the monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal and due to the need to intensify publishing and souvenir production, advertising and information campaigns, the visual image of the Museum requires further improvement and development. Here we should not forget about the possibility of widespread use of the World Heritage brand – UNESCO and World Heritage logos for the formation of strong positive associations and international positioning of the Museum.



**The internal corporate image** is based on recognition and mutual respect within the staff of the Museum.

The attractiveness of a cultural institution as an employer, the motivation of employees to productive activities depends on the internal image. The internal image is affected by:

- mission of the cultural institution and corporate culture: working conditions, social guarantees, internal corporate traditions;

- management style: methods by which the manager interacts with employees, as well as his personal image;

- the image of the institution's employees: their competencies and professional level, social parameters, internal interaction.

For 6 years the Museum director changed three times, personnel changes were carried out, new specialists appeared. In this regard, it is necessary to strengthen the inner Museum links, strengthen corporate interaction, and hence the internal corporate image.

**The image of the Museum Director** who is a professional with successful experience in managing the Museum team, is also of great importance for the overall positive perception of the Property. In this regard, the Director's active civic position, her participation in professional associations, expert councils, membership in international organizations is important, which contributes to the permanent presence of the Museum in the media space and forms a positive image of the cultural institution managing the Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal".

## **5.5. PROPERTY VISION – THE FUTURE 20 YEARS**

The main conceptual goal is to preserve the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" and its outstanding universal value in the long term for both the international community and Russia, as a signatory country to the Convention on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, the local community and other interested parties.

World Heritage properties are the driving force of the region's development and a unifying element that emphasizes the historical continuity of generations, embodies the present and future of this territory. In this regard, in addition to including measures to preserve the proposed WHP, the planned activities should correspond to the present and future realities of the development of the site and its surroundings.

The definition of the concept (a statement of the Property vision for the next 20 years), strategic goals and objectives, and an action program is based on the results of a SWOT analysis and the qualities inherent in the object itself, the existing PMS, as well as external and internal factors affecting the Property. Due to the fact that the concept is the most general characteristic describing the Property as the interested parties plan to see it in 20 years, it gives a brief idea of the key directions of the conservation of the outstanding universal value of the Property and the sustainable development of its territory for the next two decades.

The concept (vision statement) of the WHP "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" can be formulated as follows.

In the long term the Museum becomes one of the largest centers of cultural life in Russia, an outstanding architectural and historical object.

In the long term the Museum manages the Property and considers it necessary:

- to achieve a public consensus in understanding the historical and cultural significance of the Property, its components and issues of their preservation.
- effective management of the Property and monitoring its components should be the key tools for the implementation of the concept, which involves the stakeholders at the local, regional and federal levels in the process of conservation and sustainable development based on a coordinated and unambiguous understanding of strategic goals.

- to improve the PMS. Create a specialized management organization (structure), endowed with the necessary powers and provided with financial resources and the staff.
- to reach a consensus with the Church. To exclude the uncontrolled use of candles in the main volume of churches which are part of the Property and which are jointly used by the Museum and the Church, to observe the schedule providing for the holding of liturgies (as in the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin).
- to distribute the tourist flow. To work out in detail the modes of use of the Property components, to distribute the visitor flow in order to establish a balanced anthropogenic load on the Property components.
- to develop and approve buffer zones for the Property components, ensuring the protection of components, the preservation of authentic species.
- to carry out regular monitoring of the preservation of white stone monuments and their reliefs, to carry out constant monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions. Conduct regular geotechnical monitoring, including landslide displacements.
- to create a system of keepers of immovable monuments-components of the Property. It is optimal to increase the full-time number of museum employees with appropriate competence. Regularly monitor the condition of OCH.
- to ensure the integrity of the Museum property as a particularly valuable object of cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation, which includes 7 of the 8 components of the Property.
- to systematize and digitalize the archive of project restoration documentation.
- to eliminate legislative and bureaucratic barriers in the operational conduct of emergency and restoration works that require immediate intervention.
- to provide for regular targeted financing in sufficient amounts to carry out repair and restoration work on the Property components.

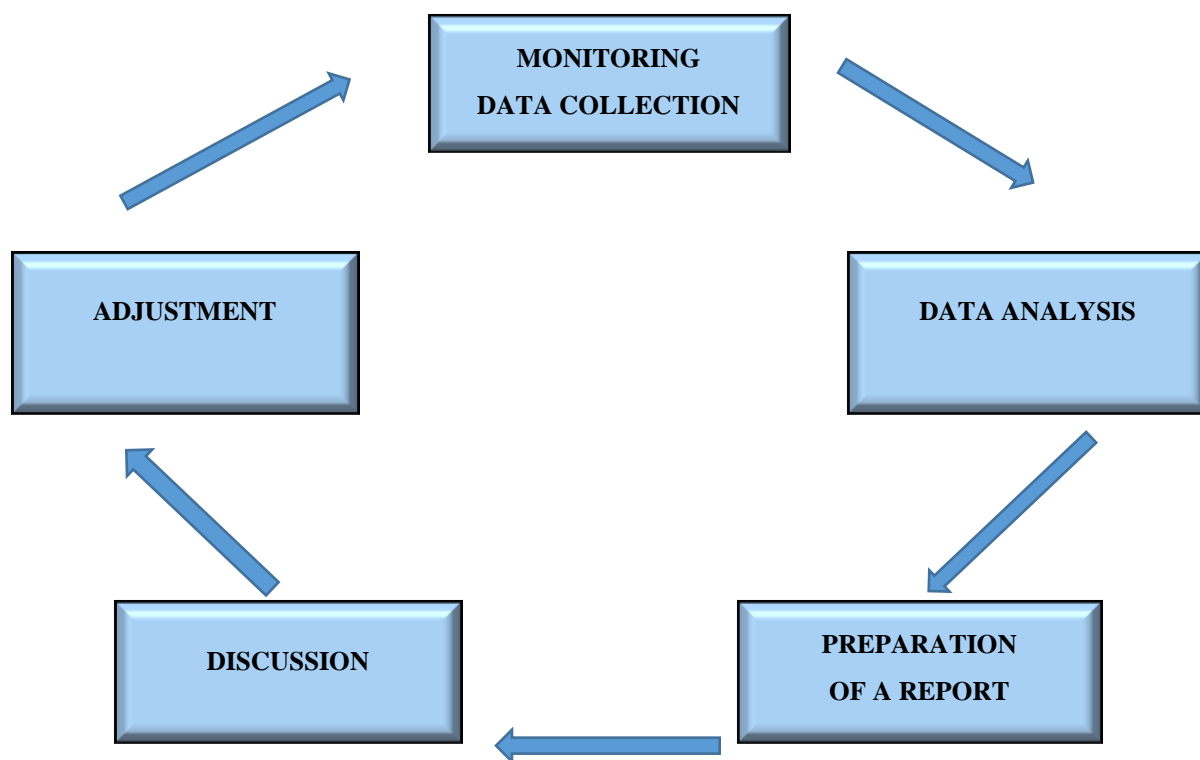
The Property "White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" becomes an inclusive WHP with an active local community – the keeper of the unique culture of local traditions and customs, which draws its inspiration from the unique architectural objects that are the pride and national heritage of Russia. This is a property where the significance of the world heritage is fully recognized, appreciated and understood by the current generation,

which will ensure the continuity of cultural traditions for future generations. Users and managers (Museum and Russian Orthodox Church) strive for the highest standards of preservation, protection and promotion of the Property, an effective balance between the tourist and scientific component in the Property management, as well as sustainable planning of activities and development of the Property.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT OF A MECHANISM FOR EVALUATING THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PMP, AS WELL AS PROPOSALS ON THE TIMING AND FREQUENCY OF THE PMP REVISION AND ADJUSTMENT**

### **6.1. ORGANIZATIONAL SCHEME OF THE PMP IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**

To improve the management process of the WHP, there is an organizational scheme that includes: monitoring (data collection), data analysis, preparation of a report, discussion in a multilateral format, adjustment.



The scheme of the WHP management process (cyclic sequence of actions):

1. Monitoring, data collection. It is carried out by the profile divisions of the Museum.

2. Analytical work. Analysis of the situation – emerging problem areas and new risks in relation to the WHP, conflict situations between stakeholders. Preparation of problematic issues for discussion in a multilateral format.

3. Preparation of a report on the results of monitoring the implementation of the PMP. It is performed by the responsible structural unit of the Museum on a regular basis.



Additional information may be requested from other management entities and stakeholders to prepare the report.

4. Discussion in a multilateral format (for example, at the Coordination Council), decision-making. Problematic issues (causes of events, ways to resolve issues, etc.) that lie outside the competence of the Museum and relate to several subjects of activity on the territory of the Property components are discussed; new projects and initiatives related to the preservation and development of the Property are discussed.

5. Correction of actions. Based on the results of the analysis of the situation and discussion with stakeholders, adjustments are made to the action plan of the PMP.

## **6.2. MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT QUALITY CONTROL**

Monitoring the implementation of the PMP and assessing the quality of its implementation are necessary tools to ensure effective management of the WHP.

With the help of this tool it becomes possible to respond to any changes in relation to the Property and conduct preventive work on its preservation, taking into account possible potential threats. In case of force majeure circumstances regarding the WHP, it is necessary to report on the negative impact that has occurred and its consequences to the World Heritage Committee.

### **Periodic reporting**

Annual reports on the implementation of the PMP are prepared by the Museum with the assistance of the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, which provides the necessary information on the component "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl". Annual reports ensure timely detection of new problems and threats, emerging conflict situations, which means making appropriate adjustments, which guarantees effective management of the Property in the future.

Taking into account the validity period of the PMP it is recommended that the Management Plan be adjusted in 2027 after the expiration of the short-term program.

### **Reactive monitoring**

Reactive monitoring consists in rapid response to short-term changes relative to the Property. In case of an emergency or when carrying out work that may affect the condition of the property and its outstanding universal value, the relevant authorities are informed. The Museum sends special reports and conclusions on the assessment of the impact of these situations on the Property to the UNESCO Commission through the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

### **Preventive control**

Preventive control is an element of monitoring the Property components with increased sensitivity to threats. The main principles of preventive control are: monitoring of changes at the monument and early detection of negative phenomena, early notification

of emergency situations (the possibility of emergency situations), early response actions, complete information about the current situation at the site and forecasting future changes, readiness for necessary actions, close cooperation between all interested parties.

Preventive control is implemented through public and expert discussion. Preventive control is necessary in case of a potentially conflict situation, when planning major restoration work, etc.

### **Assessment of the quality of implementation of the PMP**

Assessment of the PMP implementation quality is based on the analysis of the results obtained, reports of structural units in the areas of implementation of the PMP. This assessment is necessary to build a coordinated work of the Museum with various entities to achieve the goals of the PMP. To assess the quality of management, independent experts may be involved, whose task is to study the situation related to the Property (Property component) and to accurately reflect it in the evaluation documentation. Adjustments are made to the PMP based on the received assessment of the quality of implementation. In fact, the assessment of the PMP implementation quality is carried out in the format of internal and external audit.

Along with the PMP quality assessment, a system should be introduced to raise awareness of the local community about the implementation of the PMP. This system includes both passive forms (holding press conferences, organizing exhibitions, preparing videos about restoration work on the components of the Property and showing them on local TV channels and other events) and active (discussing reports on the implementation of the PMP, participation of representatives of the local community in the work of the Coordinating Council, informing the parties and public discussion new projects and initiatives related to the conservation and use of the Property components, the participation of local residents in the adjustment of the PMP, conducting joint events on cleaning territories, involving the local population in the preparation and holding of holidays, exhibitions, competitions, etc.).

## **7. RESOURCE SUPPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **7.1. STAFFING**

The implementation of the Management Plan implies the formation of the personnel policy of the Museum, which determines the required professional level, as well as the organizational structure and the necessary number of specialists to perform the tasks of conservation, research, promotion and management of the WHP.

At the moment there is no separate structural unit in the Museum, whose duties would include working with white stone monuments as a WHP. The creation of such a unit on the model of the Management and Development Service of the Kizhi Pogost OVN in the Kizhi Museum-Reserves is the preferred format. At the same time, one unit has been introduced into the staff of the Museum – the chief specialist of the UNESCO WHP management as part of the Department of restoration and repair of immovable objects of the Museum, who is the coordinator of work with the World Heritage (on the model of the Bolgar Museum-Reserve and the Solovetsky Museum-Reserve).

The main principle of the personnel policy is the formation of conditions for the continuous education of specialists involved in working with the WHP. Training and advanced training of personnel for this work should include the following areas:

- general training (in the field of history, architecture, management, law);
- special training (internships, exchange programs, conferences, additional education, specialization) in key areas of activity (first of all, World Heritage management, monitoring of the preservation of objects, etc.)

Specialized Russian institutions can act as partners of the Museum in the process of professional development of specialists: the Russian State Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage named after Likhachev (Heritage Institute), the Moscow Architectural Institute (State Academy) – MARKHI, the Russian Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture named after Glazunov.

International courses are also promising in this regard, in particular, conducted under the auspices of the International Research Center for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Values (ICCROM).

The International Research Center for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) is a large research organization established in Italy in 1959 with headquarters in Rome, whose activities are dedicated to the preservation and restoration of cultural property, both movable and immovable. At the moment, 134 States are members of ICCROM.

The main focus of ICCROM's work is the organization of training programs for restorers, museum workers and other persons related to the preservation of cultural heritage.

Training programs under the auspices of ICCROM on world heritage issues are very useful for specialists in the field of cultural heritage, since ICCROM has the status of a UNESCO advisory body and provides the most up-to-date information on the requirements for the management, preservation and restoration of WHP, as well as the opportunity for international exchange of experience in the field of cultural heritage.

Courses under the auspices of ICCROM are usually held on the basis of an institution of an ICCROM member country, and the participants of the courses are established specialists from different countries who want to improve their qualifications. Participation is most often paid, which allows the host party to compensate for expenses.

ICCROM pays special attention to research activities. The organization has a library and archive for researchers, where unique publications and materials on ICCROM projects are stored.

Most of the ICCROM courses are related to the issues of world Heritage conservation. Information letters, announcements and course programs can be found on the ICCROM website: <http://www.iccrom.org/courses/>.

## **7.2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

The implementation of the PMP depends on the state policy in the field of culture and financial support for the fulfillment of the state assignment of the cultural institution.

Financing of the Museum at the expense of the federal budget is carried out through the annual provision of subsidies for the performance of state assignments for the provision of governmental services (carrying out works).

Financing of activities within the framework of the implementation of the PMP through the Museum is carried out at the expense of the federal budget and extra-budgetary funds.

The financing of works on the preservation of cultural heritage objects (restoration) is carried out at the expense of the federal budget, the funds of the State Program "Development of Culture" and the allocation of a targeted subsidy for financing measures for major repairs of buildings and the preservation of OCH which are in use by institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation (the 612th target subsidy for financing measures for the OCH major repairs and preservation).

The financing plan of the State Program is formed on the basis of applications sent by the relevant executive bodies of state power (the Ministry of Culture of Russia). The project financing method is cyclical in nature and involves the extension of financing if the volume of planned work exceeds one project cycle.

The financing of territorial planning works is carried out from the funds of the regional and municipal budgets of the Vladimir region.

In connection with the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suzdal in 2024, the Strategy of Spatial Development of Suzdal until 2030 was presented in Suzdal. The project of large-scale landscaping was developed in the "DOM.RF" together with Suzdal administration and the Strelka Design Bureau. The strategy includes a comprehensive renewal of the town: the preservation of architectural monuments, the development of public spaces, the construction of social and transport infrastructure facilities, as well as the creation of a unified design code. The program will be implemented in two stages: the first – until 2024 (the year of the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Suzdal) and the second - until 2030. According to

"DOM.RF", the estimated cost of implementing the strategy is 23.3 billion rubles: 6.7 billion rubles. private and 16.6 billion rubles of budget funds, 14 billion rubles can be attracted under existing programs. The main funding will be allocated from the federal budget, but public-private partnership mechanisms are also considered as promising sources of financing.



## 8. SHORT-TERM PROGRAM OF EVENTS (until the end of 2027)

<b>Program for the implementation of objective 1. Preservation of the Property (its components) and its outstanding universal value</b>							
<b>№</b>	<b>Property component name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Planned period of works</b>	<b>Work type</b>	<b>Expenses, million rubles</b>	<b>Financing source</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	«Assumption Cathedral», 1158-1160, 1186-1189 component of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of the Assumption Cathedral», 1158-1160 years, 1186-1189 years, 1810 year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	1	2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	32,25	Federal	
			2024	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2025	Work execution	70	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
			2026	Work execution	130	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the

							design and estimate documentation.
2	- «Church of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1158; - «Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky», 1158 components of the Cultural Heritage Property «Ensemble of Bogolyubovo Convent». Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Bogolyubovo village, Lenin Str., 51v, building 1, 2	1	2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	14,01	Federal	
			2024	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2025	Work execution	50	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
			2026	Work execution	100	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
3	«Golden Gate», 1164 Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 1a	1	2023	Work execution	60	Federal	Planned data. The exact cost after passing

							the state examination of the design and estimate documentation
			2024	Work execution	100	Federal	Planned data. The exact cost after passing the state examination of the design and estimate documentation
4	«St Demetrius Cathedral», 1197 Vladimir, Bolshaya Moskovskaya Str., 60	2	2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	7,18	Federal	Advance payment
			2025	Development of design and estimate documentation	16,76	Federal	
			2026	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		

			2027	Work execution	30	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
<b>«Ensemble of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin and Archbishop's Palace», 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20</b>							
5	Bell tower with domestic church, 1636, 1680-s Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20	1	2022	Work execution	7,9	Federal	Advance payment
			2023	Work execution	18,34	Federal	
6	Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin», 1222 - 1225, 1528 - 1530-s years Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20	1	2022	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2023	Work execution	60	Federal	Planned data. The exact cost after passing the state examination of the design and estimate documentation

			2024	Work execution	138,18	Federal	Planned data. The exact cost after passing the state examination of the design and estimate documentation
7	Ограда и ворота ансамбля Кремля адрес: Владимирская область, Суздаль, ул. Кремлевская, 20	1	2022	Obtaining a task for the preservation of a cultural heritage property Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2023	Development of design and estimate documentation. Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	3	Federal	Planned data.
			2024	Work execution on facades, plinth, gate, brick masonry repair.	10	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate

							documentation
8	Territory landscaping works Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20	1	2023	Development of design and estimate documentation on landscaping works	0,5	Museum own funding	Planned data.
			2024	Production of landscaping works	6	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
9	Archbishop's Palace Vladimir region, Suzdal, Kremlyovskaya Str., 20	3	2022	Obtaining a task for the preservation of a cultural heritage property	-		
			2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	7	Federal	Planned data.
			2025	Work execution	15	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense

							according to the design and estimate documentation
<b>«Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g</b>							
10	Prison building, 19 <sup>th</sup> century, included into «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	1	2022	Development of design and estimate documentation	2,95	Federal	When approving the replacement of the financing object. Advance payment
			2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	6,89	Federal	
			2024	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2025	Work execution	50	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation



			2026	Work execution	50	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
11	Transfiguration cathedral, late 16 <sup>th</sup> century, included into «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	1	2022	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	8,45	Federal	Advance payment
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	19,72	Federal	
			2025	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2026	Work execution	30	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation

			2027	Work execution	75	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
12	Annunciation gaye church, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> centuries, included into «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	2	2022	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	5,76	Federal	Advance payment
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	13,44	Federal	
			2025	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2026	Work execution	8	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation

			2027	Work execution	41	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
13	Belfry, 1530, 1599, 1691 «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	2	2022	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	3	Federal	Planned data. The exact cost after the development of the estimate.
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	7	Federal	Planned data. The exact cost after the development of the estimate.
			2025	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2026	Work execution	30	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the

							design and estimate documentation
14	Holy Gate, late 17 <sup>th</sup> century, «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g Wall and towers, 16 <sup>th</sup> century, «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	2	2022	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2023	Development of design and estimate documentation	7,34	Federal	Advance payment
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	17,12	Federal	
			2025	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		
			2026	Work execution	30	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
			2027	Work execution	30	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the

							design and estimate documentation
15	Auxiliary building «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	3	2022	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component		Museum own funding	
			2023	Work execution on roof, facades and plinth	5	Federal	Planned data.
16	St Nicholas church with hospital chambers, «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	2	2022	Obtaining a task for the preservation of a cultural heritage property			
			2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	5	Federal	Planned data.

			2025	Work execution	15	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
17	Block of monks' cells «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	3	2022	Obtaining a task for the preservation of a cultural heritage property			
			2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	5	Federal	Planned data.
			2025	Work execution	15	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
18	Gatekeeper 's hut «Ensemble of the	3	2022	Obtaining a task for the preservation of a cultural			

	Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g			heritage property			
			2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	2,5	Federal	Planned data.
			2025	Work execution	10	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
19	Abbot's residence «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str.,	1	2022	Obtaining a task for the preservation of a cultural heritage property			
			2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			



	133g		2024	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	5	Federal	Planned data.
			2025	Work execution	15	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
20	Assumption refectory church «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	3	2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation. Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	8	Federal	Planned data.
			2025	Work execution	15	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the

							design and estimate documentation
21	Pavement renewal within the territory of «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	1	2022	Development of landscaping design and estimate documentation.		Museum own funding	
			2023	Production of landscaping works (pavement renewal)	15	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
22	Wall and towers «Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius», 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Vladimir region, Suzdal, Lenin Str., 133g	2	2024	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.	-		
			2025	Development of design and estimate documentation	10	Federal	Planned data.
			2026	Development of design and estimate documentation	25	Federal	Planned data.
			2027	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component	-		

			2028	Work execution	25	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
			2029	Work execution	75	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
			2023	Production of landscaping works	8	Museum own funding	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
«Group of Churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha», 1152 – 17th century. Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2g							
23	Bell tower, 17 <sup>th</sup> century, included in the «Group of Churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha», 1152 – 17 <sup>th</sup> century. Vladimir region,	2	2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	5	Federal	Planned data.

	Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2g		2025	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component			
			2026	Work execution	5	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate documentation
24	Holy gate, 17 <sup>th</sup> century, included in the «Group of Churches of Sts Boris and Gleb in Kideksha», 1152 – 17 <sup>th</sup> century. Vladimir region, Suzdal district, Staraya Str., 2g	2	2023	Sending a funding proposal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the development of design and estimate documentation.			
			2024	Development of design and estimate documentation	2,5	Federal	Planned data.
			2025	Sending a proposal on the allocation of a targeted subsidy to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the production of works on the Property component			
			2026	Work execution	10	Federal	Planned data. The exact expense according to the design and estimate

							documentation
<b>Explanation: 1- first priority</b> <b>2- high priority</b> <b>3 - average priority</b>							
<b>Improving the work on the preservation of monuments</b>							
<b>№</b>	<b>Event name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Financing source</b>				
1.	Development and approval of the boundary of the territory of the SCH "Assumption Cathedral" (Vladimir)	2024	Federal budget funds				
2.	Development and approval of protection zones, land use regimes and requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of these zones on the SCH "Ensemble of the Nativity Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace", "Ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius" (Suzdal)	2024	Federal budget funds				
3.	Formation of a unified systematized digitized information database on the SCH repair and restoration work	2024	Museum own funding				
4.	Development of a program for comprehensive monitoring of the state of the Property components	2024	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding				
5.	Development of a disaster risk management plan	2026	Museum own funding				
6.	Calculation of anthropogenic load on the Property components	2026	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding				
7.	Arrangement of a climate control system ("Nativity Cathedral", Suzdal)	2024	Federal budget funds				
8.	Development of a fire alarm and fire warning system, video monitoring system for the territory of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' (Bogolyubovo)	2026	Russian Orthodox Church funding				
9.	Accomplishment of landscaping of the territory of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' on the basis of the project documentation developed and agreed with	2023	Russian Orthodox Church funding				

	the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation		
10.	Installation of information plates: - on the "Church of the Nativity of the Virgin", "Palace of Andrei Bogolyubsky"; - other Property components	2022 till 2027	Museum own funding
11.	Implementation of the Development Concept of Suzdal until 2024, taking into account the need to carry out an impact assessment on projects that could potentially have a negative impact on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Property components	till 2024	Federal budget funds, regional and local funding
12.	Installation of modern equipment for video surveillance on the territory of the Property components	till 2027	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding
<b>Program for the implementation of Objective 2. Promotion of sustainable development of the Territory</b>			
<b>№</b>	<b>Event name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Financing source</b>
1.	Development of additional Museum tourist routes and excursion programs (including specialized routes dedicated to the white stone monuments of the 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> centuries)	2023	Museum own funding
2.	Inclusion of new objects in tourist routes on the UNESCO white stone monuments ("St. George Cathedral", 1234, Yuriev-Polsky)	2023	Museum own funding
3.	Improving the quality and expanding the range of tourist, educational, cultural, educational and other services provided by the Museum	2026 г.	Museum own funding
4.	Development of the infrastructure of the tourist and recreational cluster, development of a network of tourist information centers, monitoring and research of the tourist market	2026	Federal budget funds, regional and local funding
5.	Holding events aimed at promoting tourism resources (exhibitions, fairs, forums, media publications), development and promotion of presentation products	till 2026	Regional and local funding, Museum own funding

Program for the implementation of Objective 3. Effective management			
№	Event name	Period	Financial source
1.	Preparation of the 3rd cycle of periodic reporting	2023	Museum own funding
2.	Creation of a management body (Coordinating Council) with the participation of representatives of the main stakeholders	2026	Museum own funding
3.	Special training of the Museum and Church specialists (internships, exchange programs, conferences, additional education, specialization) in key areas of activity (first of all, World Heritage management, monitoring of the preservation of objects, etc.)	2023-2026	Museum own funding, Russian Orthodox Church funding
4.	Participation in sessions of the World Heritage Committee, thematic forums and seminars under the auspices of UNESCO	Annually, according to the works schedule	Museum own funding
5.	Identification of responsible keepers for the condition of frescoes, paintings and architecture components of the Property	2023	Museum own funding
6.	Development of instructions for the rector of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' on the management of the territory and the Property component "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'"	2023	Russian Orthodox Church funding
7.	Elaboration of the issue of formalization of cooperation in the field of preservation of the outstanding universal value of the property "White Stone Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal" with the authorities of Suzdal, Vladimir, Seltso and Bogolyubovo.	2023	Museum own funding Municipal funding
The program for the implementation of Objective 4. Increasing the socio-cultural significance of the Property			
№	Event name	Period	Financing source
1.	Participation in specialized annual exhibitions and events in the field of cultural heritage, restoration, museum business – Intermuseum, Denkmal, St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum, etc.	Annually, according to the works schedule	Museum own funding



2.	Development and installation of signs for individual design of tourist navigation in Russian and English	till 2026	Museum own funding
3.	Popularization of the Museum activities through regular placement of thematic publications in regional and federal media (monitoring of news agency feeds, participation in press conferences, maintaining a news column on the Museum website, publishing and bookselling activities)	Constantly	Museum own funding, Russian Orthodox Church funding
4.	Development of educational programs for all age groups of visitors, lectures, scientific conferences, seminars, round tables	till 2026	Museum own funding, Russian Orthodox Church funding
5.	Initiation of major exhibition projects, including inclusive ones	till 2026	Museum own funding
6.	Participation in social projects, development of joint projects with educational institutions (preschool institutions, schools, universities)	till 2026	Museum own funding
7.	Expansion of the volunteer movement	2026	Museum own funding
8.	Translation of current museum content in major foreign languages	Constantly	Museum own funding
9.	Preparation of the English-language version of the Museum website using the World Heritage brand	2023	Museum own funding
10.	Preparation of the English-language version of the website of the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church using the World Heritage brand	2026	Russian Orthodox Church funding
11.	Conducting an elective course for students of Vladimir State University "Preservation and management of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Properties"	2024	Museum own funding
12.	Making a film about the white stone monuments of the 12 <sup>th</sup> century, located on the territory of Vladimir and Suzdal	2024.	Museum own funding
13.	Preparation of festive events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the inscribing of the white stone monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 16th Session of the World Heritage Committee (1992), the release of commemorative souvenirs	2022	Museum own funding
14.	Completion and content filling of the Museum website	Till 2023 and further on constantly	Museum own funding

15.	Creation of a satellite site of the Museum official website dedicated to cultural heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List	2024	Museum own funding
16.	Introduction of new technologies to increase the satisfaction index of consumers of services in the rating of independent assessment of the quality of services of cultural institutions	2024	Museum own funding
17.	Creating an online catalog of the Museum library	2024	Museum own funding
18.	Creation of a virtual museum of white stone reliefs for placement on the Museum website	till 2026	Museum own funding

## 9. LONG-TERM PROGRAM (2028-2038)

№	Event name	Implementation period	Financing source
<b>Program for the implementation of Objective 1. Preservation of the Property (its components) and its outstanding universal value</b>			
1.	Development and approval of buffer zones of World Heritage Property components	till 2028	Federal
2.	Carrying out work on the preservation of the components of the Property in accordance with the plan of work on the preservation of the SCH which are under the operational management of the Museum	till 2038	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding
3.	Organizing and conducting training courses on the restoration and conservation of white stone, restoration of murals on the Museum basis	2030	Museum own funding
4.	Preservation and research of archaeological monuments on the territory of the Property components, formation of an information database on archaeological monuments on the territory of the World Heritage Property and its buffer zones	till 2038	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding
5.	Implementation of the Museum development Concept and other Museum planning documents regarding the preservation of the World Heritage Property and its outstanding universal value	till 2038	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding
6.	Implementation of the master plans of Vladimir and Suzdal, taking into account the historical and cultural significance of the objects and their surroundings, taking into account the need to assess the impact on projects that could potentially have a negative impact on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Property components	till 2038	Federal, regional and local funding
<b>Program for the implementation of Objective 2. Promotion of sustainable development of the Territory</b>			
№	Event name	Implementation period	Financing source
1.	Inclusion of new areas in the Museum circulation ("Wall and Towers" of the ensemble of the Monastery of Our Savior and St Euthymius, Suzdal)	2027	Museum own funding

2.	Conducting international courses on the preservation of monuments of white stone architecture on the basis of the Museum under the auspices of ICOM	2027	Museum own funding
3.	Development by the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church together with the Bogolyubovo Meadow - Church of the Intercession on the Nerl' reserve of a general concept for the sustainable development of the territory of the monument and the historical and landscape complex	2028	Russian Orthodox Church funding
4.	Development by the Vladimir Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church of norms and rules for the management of the "Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'" component based on the regimes and regulations of the approved project of the protection zones of the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl'	2028	Russian Orthodox Church funding
5.	Creation of the tourist and recreational cluster "Suzdalsky" taking into account the potential of the monuments of Suzdal, Bogolyubovo and Kideksha: organization of new tourist routes, development of urban agglomeration	2038	Federal budget funds, investor funds

**Program for the implementation of Objective 3. Effective management**

<b>№</b>	<b>Event name</b>	<b>Implementation period</b>	<b>Financing source</b>
1.	Consideration of the establishment of the Coordinating Council for the Preservation of White Stone Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal	2027 г.	Federal budget funds, Museum own funding
2.	Special training of specialists of the Museum, Church (internships, exchange programs, conferences, additional education, specialization) in key areas of activity (first of all, World Heritage management, monitoring of the preservation of properties, etc.)	Constantly	Museum own funding
3.	Participation in sessions of the World Heritage Committee and thematic forums and seminars under the auspices of UNESCO	Annually, according to the works schedule	Museum own funding
4.	Updating as necessary the agreements on the common use of the property components between the Museum and the Church	As needed	Museum own funding, Russian Orthodox Church funding
5.	Conclusion of cooperation agreements with other interested parties to build up the partner network		Museum own funding. Investor funds

Программа реализации цели 4. Повышение социокультурной значимости объекта			
№	Event name	Implementation period	Financing source
1.	Consideration of the issue of installing a UNESCO memorial sign on the territory of a World Heritage Property	2030	Museum own funding, in case of positive decision
2.	Introduction of new technologies to increase the satisfaction index of consumers of services in the rating of independent assessment of the quality of services of cultural institutions	till 2038	Museum own funding
3.	Participation in specialized annual exhibitions and events in the field of cultural heritage, restoration, museum business – Intermuseum, Denkmal, St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum, etc.	Annually	Museum own funding
4.	Initiation of large exhibition projects, including inclusive ones	till 2038	Museum own funding
5.	Participation in social projects, development of joint projects with educational institutions (preschool institutions, schools, universities)	till 2038	Museum own funding
6.	Expansion of the volunteer movement	till 2038	Museum own funding
7.	Popularization of the Museum activities through regular placement of thematic publications in regional and federal media (monitoring of news agency feeds, participation in press conferences, maintaining a news column on the Museum website, publishing and bookselling activities)	Constantly	Museum own funding