

**State of Conservation Report
of the UNESCO World Heritage Site
«Lviv: Ensemble of the historic center» (Ukraine)
(C 865 bis)**

1. Executive Summary of the report

Since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops, more than 40 major cultural heritage sites in Lviv have been protected, and dozens of smaller valuable exhibits have been dismantled and moved to storage. The monuments are equipped with fire extinguishers and fire alarms. Particularly valuable interior elements were either dismantled and moved to shelters or protected with fireproof fabric. These include stained glass windows, sculptures, monuments, altars, and chapels. Throughout 2024, experts monitored the condition of the cultural heritage monuments that the city protected from possible destruction during the war under the guidance of professional restorers.

As part of the monitoring, together with experts, we checked the condition of the sculptures at 82A Lychakivska Street, Rynok, Katedralna and St. George's Squares, and 5 St. George's Street. At the first three locations, no damage that could have been caused by protective structures was found.

Instead, lichens were found on the sculptures at St. George's Cathedral. So the old cover was dismantled and replaced with a new special hydrobarrier that will protect them from ultraviolet radiation and thus prevent the growth of lichens. In general, all the sculptures in the cathedral need restoration. It was previously agreed that they would be restored by students of the Institute of Architecture at Lviv Polytechnic National University under the supervision of Doctor of Architecture, Associate Professor Oleh Rybchynskyi.

The challenge of annual planning lies in time and financial uncertainty. In 2022, protective work was executed swiftly due to the unpredictability of active hostilities. However, the protection of specific monuments had to be replaced over time (2022–2024), as long-term measures were not initially secured, and certain protection methods did not always prove effective.

Cooperation with European foundations is important at this time. The aggressor country, Russia, does not adhere to international conventions on the protection of cultural property. Analyzing the consequences of damage caused by missile strikes on buildings in Lviv and other Ukrainian cities, it becomes evident that no structures can fully protect monuments from a direct hit. However, the measures implemented in Lviv will safeguard the monuments from blast waves and fire.

European foundations and institutions have also contributed to the protection and preservation of Lviv's historical heritage, including the National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad "Polonika," the Eberhard Schöck Foundation, ALIPH, and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland.

In 2024, it was not possible to continue marking monuments with the Blue Shield sign due to a lack of potential contractors. Such information signs are installed annually on monuments, and as of December 2023, 794 such signs have

already been installed.

Most of the major planned restoration work on cultural heritage sites has been halted due to the hostilities. There is a lack of a sufficient number of restoration masters who are currently fighting in the Armed Forces or have died as a result of the war.

Despite the war, emergency measures were launched in the 400-year-old building of the oldest state archive. In the architectural monument of national significance at 3A Soborna Square, which is rented by the Central State Historical Archive, urgent stabilization actions were conducted. These include reinforcing a part of the wall with special wooden constructions after fragment of which broke off in July last year. The development of scientific project and cost estimates for the building's further restoration is currently in progress.

Restoration work has been completed on landmark national monuments at 21 Virmenska Street (6 Drukarska Street), including the restoration of facades, particularly the reconstruction of stone elements on the first-floor level. Extensive restoration has also been completed on part of the Potocki Palace complex, including the restoration of the entrance gate, fence, outbuildings of gatekeepers, and decorative elements. The western facade of the building at 24 Svobody Avenue has been restored. Work on the restoration of the 1756 wooden Church of the Holy Trinity in the village of Volya Homuletska, Lviv community, continues. The entrance gate to the City Hall at 1 Rynok Square has been restored. Access to the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul at 11 Teatralna Street has been made available. The implementation of co-financing programs continues. No new projects are starting, but the continuation of co-financing programs requiring support from European funds, as well as restoration work on buildings damaged by missile attacks in July 2023, and in January and September 2024, continues.

As part of the Common Heritage project and the Polonika Institute's Strategic Program, the restoration of the almost 300-year-old rotunda over the well, which belongs to the Bernardine Monastery complex, an architectural monument of national importance, was completed. The rotunda's stone was cleaned, the dome's coating was replaced, and the gilding of the sculpture of St. John of Dukla and the paintings inside the dome were restored and refurbished. Landscaping works have also been completed around the rotunda, including the removal of two hazardous trees, which have been replaced with new ones. The oldest part of the Armenian Cathedral saw the restoration of frescoes by Jan Rosen. Restoration works were carried out in the former Benedictine Monastery, in the Latin Cathedral, in the Seminary Chapel of the Barefoot Carmelites Monastery, and in the Garrison Church. The restoration of the facade of the Korniakt Palace (Royal stone house) at 6 Rynok Square was continued. The sculpture on the facade of the building at 7 Krakivska Street was also restored.

Lviv has been bombarded several times by russian missiles. As a result of the first missiles that exploded within the buffer zone in 2023, the initial urgent work on restoring the roofs has been completed, and scientific and design documentation for the restoration of four monuments that suffered the most damage (destruction) has been developed. Urgent emergency work has begun at

the sites that were damaged during the attacks in January and September 2024.

Thanks to the initiative of the Lviv mayor, "Take a House Under Guardianship", many companies have agreed to help restore damaged facilities after Russian shelling.

A number of training seminars were held for building managers, utility companies providing management services for multi-apartment residential buildings, and owners of monuments on the procedure for replacing structural elements of a building (restoring windows, gates, repairing the drainage system, dismantling technical elements).

Efforts were made to popularize cultural heritage sites.