

An aerial photograph of the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu, showing the stone ruins and terraced fields built on a steep mountain ridge. The surrounding landscape is lush green with dense vegetation and a river visible in the valley below. The sky is blue with some clouds.

ANALYSIS OF THE UNESCO AND CANADIAN CRITERIA FOR HISTORIC SITE COMMEMORATIONS

ANALYSIS OF THE UNESCO AND CANADIAN CRITERIA FOR HISTORIC SITE COMMEMORATIONS

SITUATION BRIEF #3

Contributor: C. Cameron, M. Segger

Nominations for the inscription of UNESCO World Heritage Sites are reviewed and adjudicated at the national level by Parks Canada and Provincial Heritage agencies in concert.



As such they must meet two sets of terms of reference as articulated in the following documents:

- Preparing World Heritage Nominations (2nd Ed. UNESCO 2011) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/preparing-world-heritage-nominations/>
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage

Convention (UNESCO 2019) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

- Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites System Plan Parks Canada (2019) https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/plan/cadre-framework#section_2

Based on the recommendation of Dr. Christina Cameron (former DG National Historic Sites Canada and Chair, UNESCO World Heritage Commission) that we consider a nomination of Victoria under the UNESCO Cultural Landscape category we have extracted the following criteria to define the mission of our Victoria World Heritage Project:

Cultural Landscapes

The Operational Guidelines define cultural landscapes as cultural properties which represent the 'combined works of nature and of man' as designated in Article 1 of the Convention (Paragraph 47). There is no single World Heritage criterion for cultural landscapes and it is conceivable that any of the cultural criteria might be used in justifying the Outstanding Universal Value of Victoria's cultural landscape. https://www.icomos.org/centre_documentation/bib/2011_Cultural_landscapes_complete.pdf

There are three main types of cultural landscape:

- landscapes designed and created intentionally by people;
- organically evolved landscapes; and
- associative landscapes (see Operational Guidelines, Annex 3)

Many properties exhibit more than one of these types and they may be overlapping. This is a dynamic aspect of the Convention, and the concepts are being increasingly elaborated, as are the management approaches, etc.

ICOMOS has produced a thematic bibliography on World Heritage Cultural Landscapes which is available at http://www.international.icomos.org/centre_documentation/bib/index.html.



Furthermore, in articulating “outstanding universal value”, that is representing of global patterns of natural/human intersection – all or any of the following may apply:

Universal Value

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; (Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention 26)

Adjudication at the both Provincial and National levels now requires adherence to the new Parks Canada Framework for History and Commemoration

(2019) where the following “Strategic Priorities” apply https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/plan/cadre-framework#section_2 :

New Framework for History and Commemoration

...The growing field of environmental history and the desire to understand the history of Indigenous peoples have broadened understandings of history in Canada. Moreover, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has increased public awareness about the legacy of residential schools and colonialism in Canada. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Call to Action #79 calls for “a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration.” This new plan supports addressing this call to action through greater inclusion of Indigenous peoples’ history, voices and perspectives at Parks Canada’s places.

History of Indigenous Peoples

The history of Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) is a priority for Parks Canada, and includes the totality of Indigenous experiences since time



immemorial. It also comprises Indigenous peoples' interactions and histories. Confronting the legacy of colonialism and its impact on Indigenous peoples is a necessary and important part of reconciliation. Further, it is also important to consider all aspects of Indigenous peoples' history, rather than just their interactions with the state and settlers. Making the history of Indigenous peoples a priority through active engagement and consultation, and encouraging collaboration and relationship-building, supports reconciliation and a future that we can all forge together.

Environmental History

Environmental history explores how humans affect the environment and how the environment affects us, seeing humans as a part of nature, not separate from it. This history has unfolded across Canada's varied terrestrial regions and its waterways, including under water. Environmental history includes the evolution of urban and rural areas, and the human transformation of these landscapes. As a field of history, it emerged out of the environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s. It is a growing field of scholarship in Canada, as well as internationally. For Parks Canada, many heritage places can relate to this priority as natural resources and cultural landscapes are intrinsic aspects of environmental history. Heritage places offer opportunities to discuss changing historical perspectives Canadians have held about concepts such as ecology, wilderness, cultural and natural resources, conservation, sustainability, development and Indigenous stewardship of the land. Together, these provide opportunities to understand our past and ongoing relationships with the environment. In the current context of dramatic environmental change, this is a timely and relevant priority.

Diversity

Diverse peoples made Canada what it is today, and their contributions to the country's history need greater recognition. This priority expands on the previous plan's priorities for ethnocultural communities' history and women's history. Stories that include diversity provide opportunities for all Canadians to see themselves, whoever and wherever they are, at heritage places. This priority recognizes that diversity existed in the past – diversity of race, class, gender,



sexuality, ability, language and religion, for example – and that heritage places should make space for these histories in all their complexities and intersections. Some heritage places interpret Canada's long history of immigration, a theme which may resonate with the experiences of people arriving in Canada today.

Canada and the World

Canada and the world connect places, people and events in Canadian history with international contexts. This priority examines the parallels and divergences between what has happened here and abroad. It asks the question: are Canadian experiences exceptional, or can they be better understood through reference to global ideas and forces? Canada and the world includes topics like the ebbs

and flows of migration, trade and business patterns, participation in military operations, imperialism and colonialism, international relations and how Indigenous territories challenge borders. Historical scholarship is increasingly transnational in focus, and audiences are interested in learning about historical global connections, and the movement of ideas and beliefs across borders. Understanding Canada's place in the world can reframe how we see the country's past.



Observations

- Should Victoria move forward towards compiling a nomination for listing, these criteria will form the basis for development of the proposal by the community nominating committee.
- The category and criteria for “Cultural Landscape” are a relatively new and evolving area for consideration by the World Heritage Committee. Attention will need to be paid to up-coming additions to list over the next seven years in order to track refinements in the adjudication criteria.
- As the first level of screening for Canadian nominations is undertaken by at the federal and provincial government levels, criteria articulated in the new Parks Canada Framework for Commemoration essentially sets the goal posts for Victoria's proposal.