

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
WORLD HERITAGE INITIATIVE**



**U. S. Civil Rights Sites World Heritage Nomination:
The Process**

1. Identify sites.

Develop a list of U.S. Civil Rights sites to be considered for inclusion in a serial World Heritage nomination. Using a period of significance of 1950-1969, which may be refined as process unfolds. Sources for sites include: National Park Services three thematic studies on Civil Rights (<https://www.nps.gov/nhl/learn/civilrights.htm>); National Register of Historic Places listings of Civil Rights sites; Civil Rights scholars and experts, State Historic Preservation Office staff, National Park Service staff, and preservation professionals.

2. Develop Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

At the World Heritage U. S. Civil Rights Symposium in Atlanta on April 20-22, 2017, the Committee of Scholars discusses and develops a preliminary Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. Their focus is history, not the sites, meaning that they consider the global impact of the American Civil Rights Movement as a whole and which places can best illustrate its effect outside of the US. The Scholars suggests which sites best represent this global impact, but these suggestions will be done without regard to a site's designation level, condition, or interest in the project.

After the Symposium, the GSU World Heritage Team uses the Scholars' comments to develop a draft OUV, to be reviewed by the entire Committee of Scholars, NPS OIA, and others. This working OUV includes the World Heritage criteria to be applied and the significant attributes that sites must have.

3. Revise the list of potential sites based on the OUV.

The World Heritage team develops a list of sites that best fit the OUV, considering all of the sites on the working list and those mentioned by the Scholars. This list will consist of sites that best fit the OUV *thematically*. It is reviewed by the Committee of Scholars, NPS OIA, and others. The World Heritage team also seeks advice from the international secretariat of ICOMOS.

4. Research the sites.

The GSU World Heritage Team researches the potential sites, working with property owners and aided by the Committee of Preservationists. This process is two sided, as researchers learn more about the sites while property owners learn more about the requirements of World Heritage status.

Documentation is collected and discussions ensue about each site's:

- Authenticity – a site's cultural values are truthfully and credibly expressed
- Integrity – the wholeness and intactness of the site's cultural heritage
- Threats – factors affecting the property adversely
- Protection - legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection
- Management Plan – individual sites will need to have management plans that focus on preserving their attributes that support the OUV.

Property owner consent is a *requirement* for U. S. sites seeking World Heritage designation, and property owners need to be deeply involved in the nomination process. In addition, properties in the U.S. are required to be considered “nationally significant,” that is a National Historic Landmark, a National Monument, or an area that Congress has established as nationally significant (for example a National Historic Site or National Historic Park).

5. Further develop the nomination dossier and inform the community.

As the process continues and the list of sites narrows, the property owners and World Heritage team need to develop and finalize:

- Site boundaries - boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property, as well as those areas which in the light of future research possibilities offer potential to contribute to and enhance such undertakings.
- Buffer zones - an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. Such a zone should include the immediate setting, important views, and other areas that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection.
- Protection mechanisms for site and buffer zone properties – the protection needed for a site is different than that for buffer zone properties. The goal for the site is to safeguard the attributes that contribute to its OUV; the goal for buffer zone properties is to protect the context of the site.
- Management plans – besides each site’s individual management plan, there needs to be a coordinated, active management plan, linked to the OUV, for the entire group, in which all properties participate.

In addition to above, an extensive comparative analysis is done of other places around the world with similar values related to human rights movements.

Community education and input are critical components of the nomination process. The community needs to understand the project and its implication, and should have opportunities to make suggestions and comment.

6. Go through the nomination process.

- Add the other proposed sites to the U.S. World Heritage “Tentative List,” to join the Sixteenth Street and Bethel Baptist Churches in Birmingham, AL, and Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL that are now on the Tentative List related to the Civil Rights Movement.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Interior may, with the advice of the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage, consider formally authorizing preparation of a World Heritage nomination.
- The Federal Interagency Panel meets again to consider the draft and make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary as to whether to submit the nomination.
- If the Assistant Secretary decides to submit the nomination, it is sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, which refers the document to the international secretariat of ICOMOS to conduct a detailed review, including site visits to all the properties. ICOMOS will then make a recommendation to the World Heritage Committee as to whether to approve the nomination.