



Reflections on official patrimonialization in the Northern oasis of Mendoza, Argentina (1930-2001)

Reflexiones sobre la patrimonialización oficial en el oasis Norte de Mendoza, Argentina (1930-2001)

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ABSTRACT As a polysemic and intricate concept, heritage can be studied from different perspectives. This translates into different ways of approaching and analyzing it, which have varied over time in accordance with changes in its meaning and scope. It is inferred that the elements that achieve the status of, or are officially declared as, heritage still present a vision restricted to the monumental and of particular beauty, linked to the outdated nature of the documents governing legitimization. Thus, the objective of this research article is to analyze the distribution and typology of heritage assets in the northern oasis of Mendoza, Argentina. For this purpose, a mixed methodological scheme is used, combining qualitative and quantitative aspects. Among the main results and reflections, the understanding of heritage associated with the monumental and singular is highlighted, as well as its approach as a decontextualized element. In addition, the concentration of heritage assets in the urban areas of the departments that make up the northern oasis is highlighted.

RESUMEN Como concepto polisémico e intrincado, el patrimonio puede ser estudiado desde disímiles perspectivas. Esto se traduce en diversos modos de abordaje y análisis, que han variado a lo largo del tiempo conforme los cambios en su significado y alcances. Se infiere que los elementos que alcanzan el grado o declaratoria oficial como patrimonio aún presentan una visión restringida a lo monumental y de particular belleza, vinculado con la falta de actualización de los documentos que rigen las legitimaciones. Así, el objetivo del presente es analizar la distribución y tipología de bienes patrimoniales en el oasis norte de Mendoza, Argentina. Para ello se emplea un esquema metodológico mixto, en el que se combinan aspectos cualitativos y cuantitativos. Entre los principales resultados y reflexiones se destaca la comprensión del patrimonio asociada a lo monumental y singular, así como también su abordaje como elemento descontextualizado. Además, se resalta la concentración de bienes patrimoniales en las zonas urbanas de los departamentos que componen el oasis Norte.

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1. Introduction

The study of heritage can be approached from a variety of perspectives. This translates into different methods of addressing and analyzing it, which have changed over time in line with shifts in its meaning and scope. Today, heritage is understood as a dynamic social construct that connects different temporalities, geographical scales, and social actors. Therefore, it is conceived in its territorial dimension and consists of tangible and intangible aspects whose significance dates to the past but is managed and valued in the present for future enjoyment.

As part of a doctoral thesis[■], this work aims to broaden the perspective on one of the central concepts that shaped the research and its correlation with organizations related to heritage. It is inferred that the elements that achieve the status or official declaration as heritage still present a vision limited to the monumental and particularly beautiful, linked to the lack of updating of the documents that govern legitimations. Thus, the objective of this study is to analyse the distribution and typology of heritage assets in the northern oasis of Mendoza. This study area constitutes one of the irrigated zones of the province of Mendoza, Argentina. The province is predominantly dry, and through the utilization of water resources and the systematization of irrigation, oases have been created, including the northern oasis, which is the largest and most populated.

The assets legitimized as heritage in this area correspond to declarations made by national and provincial organizations between 1930 and 2001. For its analysis, a distinction is made between two time periods: 1930 to 1976, and 1977 to 2001, in line with political variables that marked milestones in national history and spatiality. Regarding the first period, the international crisis of 1929 caused a breakdown and reorientation of economic activity across different geographical scales, making it a turning point. For this reason, the period from 1930 to 1976 is defined, with 1976 being the year in which Argentina experienced the onset of a military dictatorship, leading to profound changes of various kinds at both national and provincial levels. Consequently, 1977 marks the beginning of another period, which ends in 2001, when another international crisis once again caused a rupture and reorientation in national and international history.

On this basis, the theoretical and methodological aspects that support the work are first presented, followed by a description of the study area. Next, the results related to the analysis of heritage in the Northern Oasis of Mendoza are discussed. Finally, reflections are offered on the positioning of the province of Mendoza concerning its heritage.

2. Theoretical and methodological aspects

The approach to the concept of heritage is characterized by its multidisciplinary nature. Therefore, it is studied from different perspectives of conceptualization and analysis, which translate into various methods of approach and management. These heritage perspectives can be classified as: etymological, critical, and integral (Pinassi, 2018).

In summary, it can be highlighted that the first, the etymological approach, corresponds to the traditional view, understanding heritage as an inheritance or legacy from the past. Under this approach, heritage is the object or monument itself, which possesses characteristics or particularities worthy of preservation. In contrast, the critical perspective views heritage as a dynamic social construction (Prats, 1998, 2003; Troncoso and Almirón, 2005; Bertonecello, 2018; Smith, 2011; Zusman and Pérez Winter, 2018; Pinassi, 2018), focusing on the processes or mechanisms that are socially developed around these objects.

In this regard, Pinassi (2018) notes:

From a critical perspective, cultural heritage is understood as a social construction, the result of processes or mechanisms through which a historical-cultural (and/or natural) asset is sanctified, being considered as something representative of a particular society and that must be preserved as such (p. 91).

In other words, heritage is gradually developed and instituted over time through the involvement of various social actors, which is why it is referred to as a process of heritage-making. As a complement, Smith (2011) points out that:

Heritage is not a thing, a place, or an intangible event; rather, it is a representation, or a cultural process concerned with negotiating, creating, and recreating memories, values, and cultural meanings. This process is obscured by the authorized heritage discourse (p. 39).

In addition to the above, and in relation to the processes of heritage activation, Prats (1998, 2003) shares that these processes are mainly carried out by political power. Scientists and/or experts also play a significant role in this process, as they are capable of proposing interpretations and meanings to establish new heritage repertoires. In other words, it is the dominant actors who intervene in the formation, definition, and argumentation of heritage, and whose heritage discourses acquire the status of being authorized due to the hegemony they represent (Smith, 2011).

Finally, there is the integral perspective of heritage conceptualization and analysis. While it also views heritage as a social construction, it adopts a holistic approach regarding the temporal dimension, the participating social actors, and the space in which cultural and natural components are framed. This perspective focuses on the role and involvement of civil society, which becomes the central actor, as it is the

■ The doctoral thesis in Geography is titled: "The Landscapes of the Northern Oasis of the Province of Mendoza as Heritage and Tourist Attraction. Processes, Practices, and Discourses in Tension," completed at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the National University of Cuyo, and defended in March 2023



Figure 1: Location of the Northern Oasis and the Mendoza Metropolitan Area. Territorial Environmental Information System (2019)

community that appropriates, identifies with, and maintains emotional ties to the heritage. Gutiérrez (2017) shares: "Heritage is defined by the inhabitants; if there are no inhabitants who relate to that heritage, it ceases to be heritage" (p. 13).

This is highly relevant given the changes that have occurred with this concept over time, shifting from a conservationist and exclusive view of monumental elements of singular beauty to those elements that are significant at a local scale, for the communities themselves. Prats (2003) refers to this as local heritage, encompassing those elements or representations that often do not stand out beyond their own community in terms of importance but are significant for the people who interact with them daily.

Based on the above, this research articulates two perspectives. Heritage is approached from the etymological perspective, as it analyses sites or elements that have been legitimized by national and provincial organizations, with reasons for their heritage designation linked to unique, historical, and/or aesthetically relevant aspects. However, contributions and reflections related to the critical perspective are also made.

2.1. Methodological framework

The work employs a mixed methodological framework, combining both qualitative and quantitative aspects, based on a case study: the Northern Oasis of Mendoza Province. Additionally, two time periods are used: 1930-1976 and 1977-2001. This periodization is

justified by what Santos (1996) refers to as regimes and ruptures, meaning certain changes and continuities in space-time. Thus, when a crisis or deficiency begins to emerge, it signals the end of one period (rupture) and the beginning of another.

First, a bibliographic review was conducted using documentary sources and records from public offices on heritage issues at the national and provincial levels, with an emphasis on the Northern Oasis. Subsequently, the information gathered was systematized into summary tables to facilitate data analysis. In turn, the identified assets were grouped into different categories created to more easily distinguish the type or heritage theme. Then, using quantitative methods, they were georeferenced through the open-access software QGIS. This allowed for an understanding of their territorial distribution and helped analyses the relationship between natural and cultural elements, as well as spatially locate them around the urban and rural areas related to the study area.

This methodological process and comparison of information enabled reflections and reinterpretations regarding heritage-making. Finally, through content analysis, both the data obtained from documentary sources and the data that were constructed were integrated, which allowed for discussions and reflections to emerge.

3. Results

3.1. Study area

The Northern Oasis of Mendoza Province is one of the irrigated areas within the vast arid region that characterizes it. Its origin dates to the pre-Columbian period, during which the Huarpes played a key role in the process of water resource management (in this case, the Mendoza and Upper Tunuyán rivers) and irrigation systematization. This early system of ditches and canals continued to expand over time, eventually creating a dense irrigation network that currently extends across twelve departments (Figure 1). Additionally, the oasis contains the Mendoza Metropolitan Area (hereafter AMM), also shown in Figure 1. This area began to take shape in 1930 and has progressively expanded, especially during the 1990s with the boom of gated communities (Furlani de Civit and Gutiérrez, 2004) and more recently in the following years.

N°	Well declared	Category	Year
1	Campo Histórico El Plumerillo	Lugar histórico	1941
2	Capilla El Plumerillo	Monumento histórico	1941
3	Ruinas del Templo de San Francisco	Monumento histórico	1941
4	Solar de San Martín	Lugar histórico	1941
5	Chacra de San Martín	Lugar histórico	1941
6	Sauce (árbol) en el Campo Histórico El Plumerillo	Árbol histórico	1946
7	Cnel. Antonio L. de Berutti	Sepulcro	1946
8	Gral. Gerónimo Espejo	Sepulcro	1946
9	José Vicente Zapata	Sepulcro	1946
10	Juan Gualberto Godoy	Sepulcro	1946
11	Tomas Godoy Cruz	Sepulcro	1946
12	Solar del Cabildo de Mendoza	Lugar histórico	1967
13	Casa de Francisco Civit	Monumento histórico	1970
14	Capilla del Rosario Barrancas	Monumento histórico	1972
15	Combate de Rodeo del Medio	Lugar histórico	1974
16	Iglesia de la Virgen de la Carrodilla	Monumento histórico	1975
17	Posta de Rodeo del Medio	Lugar histórico	1975
18	Casa Natal de Mercedes San Martín	Lugar histórico	1975
19	Maestranza del Ejército de los Andes	Lugar histórico	1975
20	Plaza Pedro del Castillo	Lugar histórico	1975

Table 1: Assets Recognized by the CNMMLH Belonging to the Northern Oasis (Period 1930-1976). National Commission of Museums, Monuments, and Historic Sites (2020)



Figure 2: Entrance to El Plumerillo Field. El Portal de Mendoza (2024)

3.2. National government participation in heritage construction

To begin with, it is important to highlight that between 1938 and 1940, at the national level, the National Commission of Museums, Monuments, and Historic Sites (hereafter CNMMLH) was established, formalized by Law 12,665 in 1940. Its purpose is to unify the administration and control of Argentina's varied and abundant historical-cultural heritage. In this way, the government brought the issue of preservation, recovery, and safeguarding of culturally significant historical landmarks into public consideration, appointing a Commission dedicated to their promotion and care.

Regarding heritage recognition mechanisms, it is observed that Mendoza, between 1940 and 1990, managed to have 45 assets declared national heritage by the CNMMLH (Pérez Winter, 2017). Specifically, between 1930 and 1976, 33 assets were legitimized, of which 20 (60,6%) are in the Northern Oasis (Table 1).

As can be observed, many of the assets declared as heritage during this period are related to the San Martín legacy (assets No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 18, 19, and 29 from Table 1). This refers to the actions taken by General José de San Martín² as a key figure in the independence process. These actions are connected to his role in

governance, the formation and departure of the Army of the Andes, along with memorable subsequent sites, as well as his personal life. Among the notable assets³ are the Historic Site El Plumerillo (Figure 2), the chapel of the same name and the historic willow tree located on the premises, the Army of the Andes' workshop, the birthplace of Mercedes San Martín (the general's daughter), the San Martín Homestead, and San Martín's Ranch (Chacra de Los Barriales). All these places are landmarks and sites where San Martín lived, passed through, and carried out his actions. In addition, other heritage assets related to the San Martín route include Pedro del Castillo Square (the site of the first founding of the City of Mendoza), which also features signage explaining its connection to San Martín (Figure 3).

Religious sites were also recognized as heritage, such as the Church of the Virgin of Carrodilla and the Chapel of Rosario de Las Barrancas. Additionally, the tombs of notable historical figures in the province were included, such as Colonel Antonio L. de Berutti (an Argentine revolutionary who participated in the May Revolution that initiated the Argentine War of Independence), General Gerónimo Espejo (a Mendoza native who participated in General José de San Martín's campaigns in Chile and Peru), and Tomás Godoy Cruz (former governor of Mendoza). The elements mentioned in Table 1 have been spatially geolocalized in Figure 4. It can be observed that, of the 20 heritage assets present in the Northern Oasis, nearly all are concentrated in

² José de San Martín resided in Mendoza between 1814 and 1817. During this time, he served as the governor of the Province of Cuyo, a territory that includes the current provinces of Mendoza, San Juan, and San Luis in west-central Argentina. From this position, he organized the army that liberated the present-day republics of Argentina, Chile, and Peru from colonial rule between 1817 and 1822 (Figuerola Solá, 2014).

³ A recent study conducted by Navarro and Rizzo (2022) states that there are 36 real estate assets that have become San Martinian tourist resources. Available here: <https://ojs.ull.es/index.php/Revista/article/view/3324/1696>



Figure 3: Signage in Pedro del Castillo Square. (2024)

the current urban areas of the departments of Ciudad, Las Heras, and Luján de Cuyo, while fewer and more dispersed assets can be found in Maipú and San Martín. The exception is the Chapel of Rosario Barrancas, located in a rural area of the Maipú department.

Additionally, it is important to note that the Commission regarded the implementation of tourism as a significant way to promote heritage and generate economic resources for its preservation (Pérez Winter, 2017). This highlighted the positive value of such social practices, contributing to a feedback loop between both processes: heritage-making and touristification.

3.3. National historic monuments in the northern oasis

It was previously mentioned that between 1940 and 1990, 45 provincial assets were declared national heritage by the current CNMLBH (Pérez Winter, 2017). These actions position Mendoza among the four provinces (along with Buenos Aires, Córdoba, and Tucumán) with the highest number of heritage assets during this time period. Subsequently, between 1977 and 2001, 11 assets were legitimized in Mendoza, of which 9 are located in the Northern Oasis (CNMLBH, 2020), as shown in Table 2.

Regarding the components activated as heritage, it is noteworthy that the focus expands to include the industrial sector, specifically the wine industry, which was the main economic driver for much of the 20th century (items no. 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 in Table 2). As

expressed in National Decree 339/99, the goal is to “promote the enhancement of the winery heritage, so highly valued economically in the provinces of Cuyo, as its cultural legacy defines its regional identity through customs, landscapes, and the environment, represented by architectural examples related to the production, quality, and prestige of the wines produced”. These words highlight the wine industry’s role as a dynamic element and its importance in the reorganization of the territory as a productive, social, and symbolic space, based on the irrigation system of the northern oasis (Richard-Jorba, 1998; 2001).

Regarding the buildings, the mansions of the Italian winemakers Giol and Gargantini (item no. 5 in Table 2).

Have preserved their exceptional architectural values almost intact and are located within a vast park near the city of Maipú, Mendoza. Both are paradigms of the immigration phenomenon related to wine and agricultural colonization, and therefore, are archetypal constructions that must be preserved (Decree 333/99).

This type of legitimization strongly emphasizes artistic-architectural criteria and interests, as well as those associated with regional history—but not just any history, primarily the one related to wealthy groups that established this type of infrastructure and facilities in rural areas. However, not only is the heritage associated with the wine industry, with its great monumental and aesthetic value, recognized, but some declarations also consider the historical depth of industrial establishments. Such is the case with the *Panquehua* winery (item no. 7 in Table 4), which gradually transformed into a

N°	Well declared	Category	Year	Location
1	Capilla-Oratorio de Alto Salvador	Historical Monument	1986	San Martín
2	Toma de los Españoles	Historical Monument	1989	Luján de Cuyo
3	Colegio Nacional Agustín Álvarez	Historical Monument	1989	Ciudad de Mendoza
4	Casona de Juan de la Cruz Videla	Historical Monument	1994	Maipú
5	Chalets de Giol y Gargantini	Historical Monument	1998	Maipú
6	Estancia de los Molina	Historical Monument	1998	Maipú
7	Bodegas y viñedos Panquehua	Asset of Historical Interest	1999	Las Heras
8	Casco de las Bodegas y viñedos Panquehua (antigua Hacienda de los Potreros)	Historical Monument	1999	Las Heras
9	Casas patronales (y parque adyacente) de Giol y Gargantini	Historical Monument	1999	Maipú

Table 2: Assets Recognized by the CNMLBH Belonging to the Northern Oasis (period 1977-2001). CNMLBH (2020)

winemaking establishment and has endured since 1856. It stands as a symbol of both wine-related activities and earlier ones, such as livestock and grain production. This is particularly significant since Mendoza is a seismic zone, which puts the preservation of historical assets at risk, especially when they are built with natural materials like unbaked earth. Through these legitimations, the aim is to identify both the value and vulnerability of these sites, laying the groundwork for the necessary actions to enhance and conserve them.

For their part, other heritage assets are linked to religion (item no. 1 in Table 2), water infrastructure (item no. 2 in Table 2, shown in Figure 5), and buildings (items no. 3 and 4 in Table 2). All the mentioned sites are mapped out in Figure 6, where their distribution across various departments of the oasis can be seen.

Here, a situation like the previous period can be observed: most of the heritage sites are in the current urban area of the oasis, with few exceptions in rural areas. Additionally, heritage status is granted to specific objects, but without considering the surrounding environment in which they are located or to which they belong. In this regard, we can reflect on the absence of the wine landscape in the declarations, as, although wineries and mansions related to the wine industry were legitimized, the landscape they are part of was not. This overlooks the context in which these assets were created and exist, diminishing the relevance of the heritage itself, which holds a territorial dimension that integrates different elements and processes in space.

Based on the above, questions arise considering that the heritage designation of these assets aligns with what Smith (2011) calls the authorized heritage discourse, meaning it is promoted by official institutions (in this case, the CNMLBH), whose arguments primarily focus on the architectural significance, age, and connection to the official regional history. In agreement with Castillo Ruiz (2021), it could be said that heritage designation is carried out by those responsible or professionals tasked with safeguarding heritage (a point emphasized by the critical view of heritage), who identify relevant cultural values or meanings worthy of preservation, which then justify and determine their protection. In this case, it becomes evident that heritage construction is based on cultural components representative of or belonging to certain elite social groups, marginalizing other types of narratives and identities belonging to working-class or popular groups—in other words, the local population—as well as the surrounding environment or landscape of productive activities that frame these assets.

In line with Smith (2011), it must be recognized that this authorized or dominant understanding of heritage is not the only existing discourse, but it is the one that becomes sanctified and activated. There is a tendency toward the recognition of monumental heritage with aesthetic prominence, while other narratives from non-hegemonic social groups are ignored. These groups, whose heritage discourses are not authorized (Giop and Flores, 2017), also hold values and construct and assign cultural meanings to these monuments or sites—meanings that the dominant discourse delegitimizes and makes invisible. Therefore, it is essential to advocate for the role of civil society as a driver, overseer, and knowledgeable participant in the heritage processes carried out by other social groups, without undermining the responsibility of these groups.

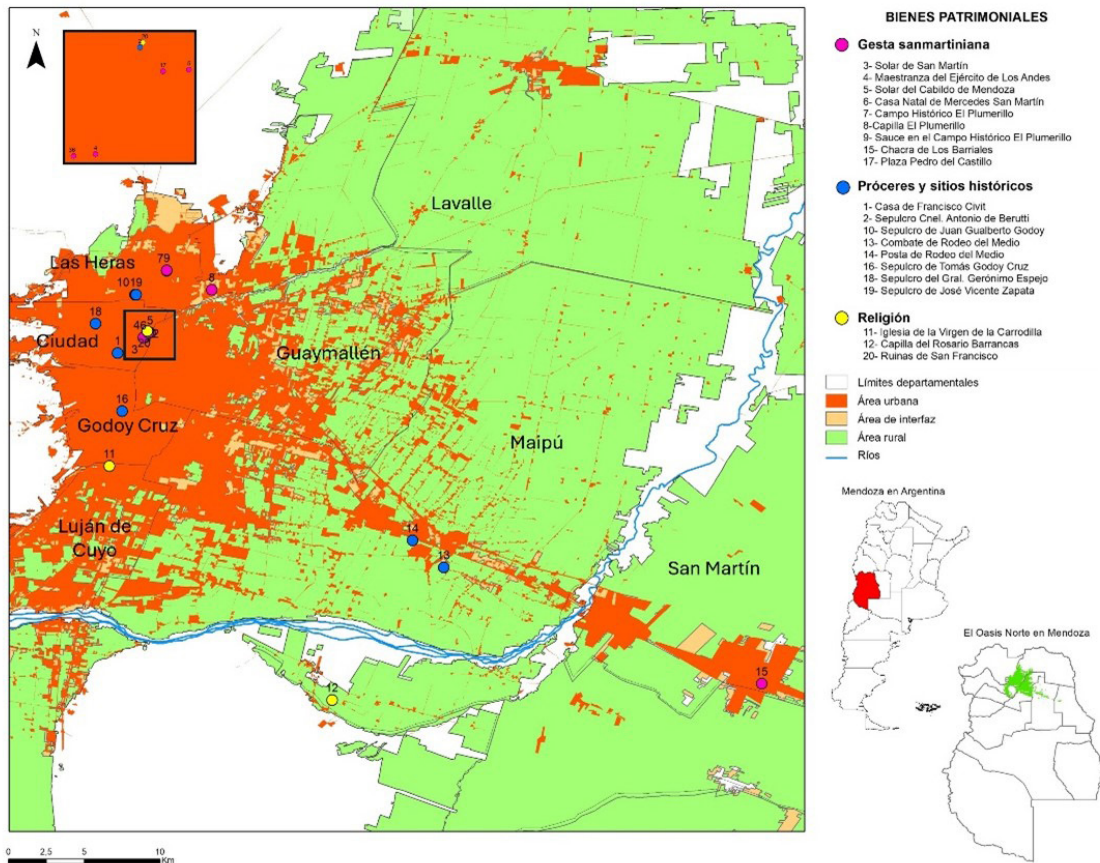


Figure 4: Assets Recognized by the CNMMLH Belonging to the Northern Oasis (Period 1930-1976). CNMMLH (2020) and the Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums of Mendoza (2019), with data from the National Geographic Institute of Argentina and the Environmental Territorial Information System of Mendoza

3.4. Heritage designation at the provincial level

At the provincial level, regarding planning and management instruments, Law 6,034 was enacted in 1993 for the protection of assets that constitute cultural heritage. This law declares the "protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of all assets that make up the Cultural Heritage of the Province of Mendoza" as being of Provincial Interest. It also defines and enumerates which assets are included for registration purposes. Within the framework of this regulation, the Provincial Council of Cultural Heritage was established as an advisory body to the Executive Power, under the Ministry of Culture, Science, and Technology of the province, and serves as the implementing authority for Law 6,034. The main function of the Council is to issue opinions on all requests for the registration of cultural heritage assets in the Province of Mendoza (Law 6,034 of 1993). Subsequently, Law 6,133/93 was implemented, which introduced some modifications regarding the

registration of assets, stating that it would be composed of components that have been declared as such by the implementing authority. Additionally, Decree No. 1,273 regulates the operation of this registration, including timelines and procedures. Since its creation, the Provincial Council of Cultural Heritage has carried out the designation of numerous assets (a total of 40 units) present in various departments of the Northern Oasis, as indicated in Table 3.

It can be recognized that, in some cases, the national and provincial declarations appear as concurrent processes, while in others, the provincial legitimization occurs subsequently. On the other hand, it can be observed that majority of the properties (52%) are located in the department of Ciudad de Mendoza and correspond to buildings of current public institutions (Figure 7), schools, and old houses and mansions linked to important winemaking families. Today, several of them operate as museums and cultural spaces.

In this regard, as mentioned repeatedly in Table 3 (clarified in parentheses), the function or activity of that heritage site has changed. Furthermore, there are others distributed in the departments of Maipú, Luján de Cuyo, Godoy Cruz, Las Heras, and San Martín. As a complement to Table 3, Figure 8 shows the spatial distribution of the heritage properties.

It is clearly visible again that the sites are located in the urban areas of the departments. The core heritage concentration stands out in Ciudad de Mendoza, followed by Maipú and Luján de Cuyo. In general, and as previously anticipated, the majority highlight national heroes and historical sites, as well as the San Martín campaign. However, other categories or typologies also appear at the provincial level, such as buildings of public institutions, cultural spaces, and railway-related heritage. This demonstrates the diversification of heritage in the province, an action that broadens the perspective and enriches the legacy it contains and values.

Moreover, it is worth noting an aspect regarding railway heritage, whose properties and heritage stations have

been repurposed; for example, the property of the San Martín freight station (No. 18 in Figure 5) has become a public green space and is currently the Central Park, located in Ciudad de Mendoza (Figure 9). However, the repurposing has occurred in several sites that, at the time of receiving the declaration, had another function or activity, such as the Casa de Lucila Bombal, located in the Maipú department, which dates to 1912 and was declared heritage in 1999. It currently operates as a cultural center and municipal library. Another example is the Emilio Civit Hospital in Ciudad. It was built in 1897, designated as heritage in 1993, and today houses the Máximo Arias photography space (Figure 10).

On the other hand, the situation leads to reflections on the characteristics of this heritage: why is there little or no heritage in rural areas outside the urban sprawl of the Metropolitan Area? Alongside this, and in relation to the evolving dynamic concept of heritage, it is observed that there is a predominance, from the public sector, of a monumentalist view that highlights the singular beauty of heritage properties. This is evident when looking at the number of buildings or architectural assets listed in the various tables, which stand out from their surroundings due to their stylistic qualities and/or their users or functions/activities linked to historical figures, relevant traditional families, or large landowners. While this has great value, many assets that are significant to other social actors, such as local communities, remain marginalized and have yet to achieve official recognition, which affects their vulnerability. For example, some industrial establishments (such as olive oil producers, canneries, and small wineries) located in rural areas of the oasis (Hugo Zamora Winery in Junín, HorVinDul

Figure 5: Toma de los Españoles. (2024)



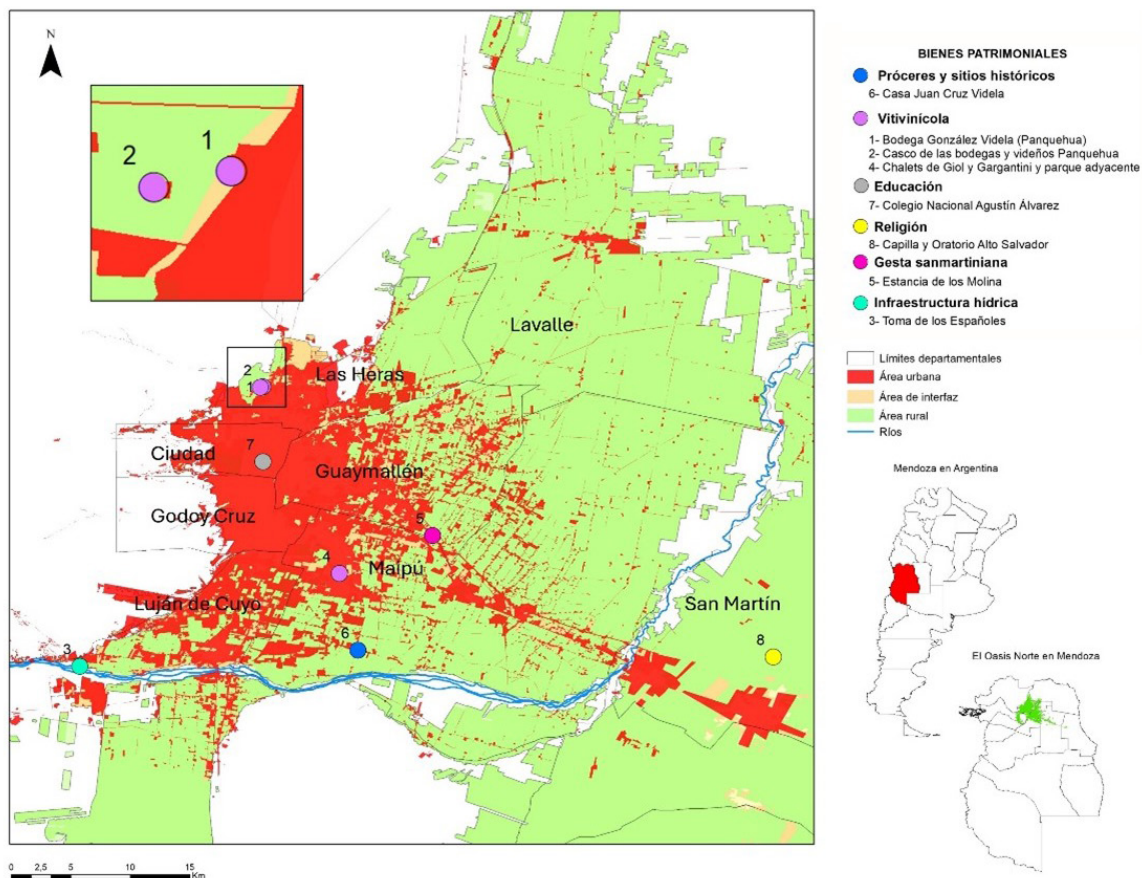


Figure 6: Heritage assets legitimized by the CNMMLH belonging to the Northern Oasis (1977-2001 period). CNMMLH (2020) and data from the National Geographic Institute of the Argentine Republic and the Environmental Territorial Information System of Mendoza

Cannery in San Martín, and Olivícola La Legua also in the Junín department, among others) are run by local producers but have not been officially recognized by the sphere of power. Additionally, identifying heritage outside urban areas remains an outstanding issue, allowing for the recognition of elements, processes, or practices in these territories that are longstanding and/or significant for the residents, who are the true protagonists of heritage.

4. Discussion and conclusions

If we revisit the theoretical postulates regarding the conceptualization of heritage, it is evident that during this research, both the etymological and critical perspectives gain prominence¹⁴. Both at the national level (through the actions of the National Commission of Monuments, Places, and Historical Assets) and at the provincial level (through the Provincial Council of Cultural Heritage), assets present in the northern oasis of Mendoza province were legitimized during the period from 1930 to 2001. These assets are mostly related to old houses and mansions associated with important

winemaking families and the San Martín campaign, as well as cultural spaces and buildings of public and educational institutions, among others. These decisions were made by these hegemonic, official actors with authorized heritage discourses (Smith, 2011). This action prompts us to consider these heritages: Who and by what criteria carried out the heritage designation? What was recognized at that time? The building itself? The function it served. Was the decision consulted with the local population? What knowledge do they have about it? Currently, what happens to that heritage? In relation to these questions, there is an attempt to advocate for the importance of the active role of civil society regarding heritage, as, although it is not a decision-maker, it can (and should) demand, monitor, and pay attention to relevant or significant aspects that will subsequently translate into action lines aimed at preserving these heritages and enhancing social and cultural identity.

Therefore, in subsequent stages of the research, surveys will be conducted with the local community to understand their perceptions and representations of heritage, and to investigate what Behling and Lemos (2019) refer to as affective heritages, where

¹⁴ The comprehensive perspective of analysis and conceptualization of heritage will be addressed in later stages of the research, incorporating the role of civil society in the processes of valuing heritage.

N°	Declared element/site/asset	Provincial decree or law	Department
1	Antigua Jefatura de Policía de Mendoza	Decree No. 600/99 and 877/99	Capital
2	Auditorio Ángel Bustelo	Law No. 6693/99	Capital
3	Banco Hipotecario Nacional (actual Ministerio de Cultura)	Decree No.801/98	Capital
4	Bandera del Ejército de los Andes	Decree No. 3041/92- Law No. 5930/92	Capital
5	Biblioteca Pública General San Martín and Museo Histórico General San Martín	Provision No.04/00	Capital
6	Caja de Jubilaciones y Pensiones- Dirección de Ancianidad e Invalidez	Decree No.2492/00	Capital
7	Casa de Gobierno (Centro Cívico)	Decree No.591/95	Capital
8	Monumento al Ejército de los Andes (Cerro de la Gloria)	Decree No. 552/98-	Capital
9	Escuela Mitre (actual Museo de la Educación de Mendoza)	Decree No.1617/93-Law No. 6034/93	Capital
10	Escuela Patricias Mendocinas (antiguo solar Escuela Sarmiento)	Law No. 4780/83	Capital
11	Estación Terminal de Ferrocarril Trasandino (actual Archivo General de la Provincia)	Decree No.1374/98-Law No.6240/95-	Capital
12	Hospital Emilio Civit (actual Dirección de Patrimonio Cultural)	Law No. 6185/93	Capital
13	Obras Sanitarias Mendoza (Edificio)	Provision No.052/97 and 016/98	Capital
14	Palacio de Justicia (Centro Cívico)	Decree No. 591/95	Capital
15	Pasaje San Martín	Decree No.2190/97- Provision No. 048/97	Capital
16	Playas Serranas (actual Museo de Ciencias Naturales Juan Cornelio Moyano)	Decree No. 1733/98-Provision No. 022/98 and 021/98	Capital
17	Plaza Hotel (actual Park Hyatt)	Decree No. 1203/97	Capital
18	Predio de la Estación de cargas del F.C. San Martín (actual Parque Central de Mendoza)	Law No. 5730/91-Law No.6310/95	Capital
19	Solar Antigua Quinta Agronómica (Enoteca Giol)	Decree No. 591/95	Capital
20	Teatro Frank Romero Day	Decree No. 797/95	Capital
21	Teatro Independencia	Decree No. 1203/97	Capital
22	Bodega Arizuw	Decree No. 1955/98-Provision No.032/98	Godoy Cruz
23	Cine Teatro Plaza	Decree No. 2131/99-Provision No. 004/99	Godoy Cruz
24	Parroquia San Vicente Ferrer	Resolution No. 238/96	Godoy Cruz
25	Casa Draghi Lucero	Decree No. 652/98-Law No. 6593/98	Godoy Cruz
26	Predio Santísima Virgen	Law No.6423/95	Guaymallén
27	Campo Histórico El Plumerillo	Law No. 6923/01	Las Heras
28	Comisaría 16ª	Decree No.1695/98-Provision No. 020/98	Las Heras
29	Casa Cerutti – Mazzolari	Decree No. 2239/99	Luján de Cuyo
30	Casona Santa Rosa, antigua Casa Furlotti (actual Museo Americanista)	Decree No.2243/99-Provision No. 038/98	Luján de Cuyo
31	Museo Provincial de Bellas Artes "Emiliano Guiñazú"- Casa de Fader	Decree No.1697/98-Disp.N° 026/98	Luján de Cuyo
32	Capilla de San Roque	Decree No.2240/99-Provision No. 049/97	Maipú
33	Carril de Los Barriales	Provision No.049/97	Maipú
34	Casa de Lucila Bombal (Centro Cultural Rodeo del Medio)	Decree No. 1528/99-Provision No. 049/97	Maipú
35	Casa Ozamis	Decree No.2129/99-Provision No. 049/97	Maipú
36	Chalets de Giol y Gargantini (actual Museo del Vino y la Vendimia)	Decree No. 4307/91-Law No. 5814/92- Law No. 6085/94	Maipú
37	Comisaría N° 33	Decree No. 2242/99-Provision No. 037/98	Maipú
38	Municipalidad de Maipú	Decree No. 2242/99	Maipú
39	Tonel Artístico de Maipú en Bodega Giol	Decree No 4307/91-Law No. 5814/92 - Law No. 6085/94	Maipú
40	Chacra de Los Barriales - Casa de Las Bóvedas - La Tebaida	Decree No. 1146/98-Provision No. 051/97	San Martín

Table 3. Heritage assets legitimized by the Provincial Council of Cultural Heritage belonging to the Northern Oasis. Cultural Heritage and Museums Directorate (2019)

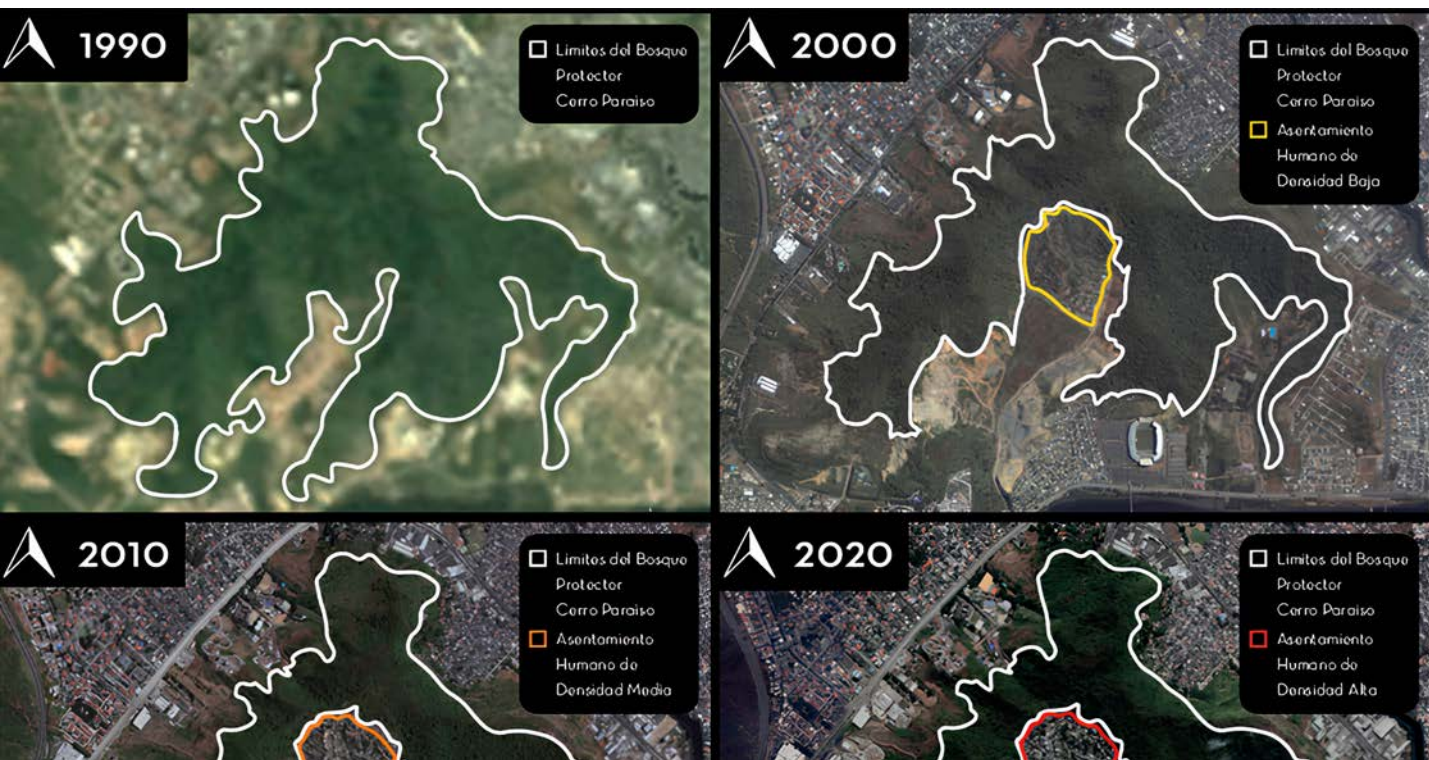


Figure 7: Former National Mortgage Bank. (2024)

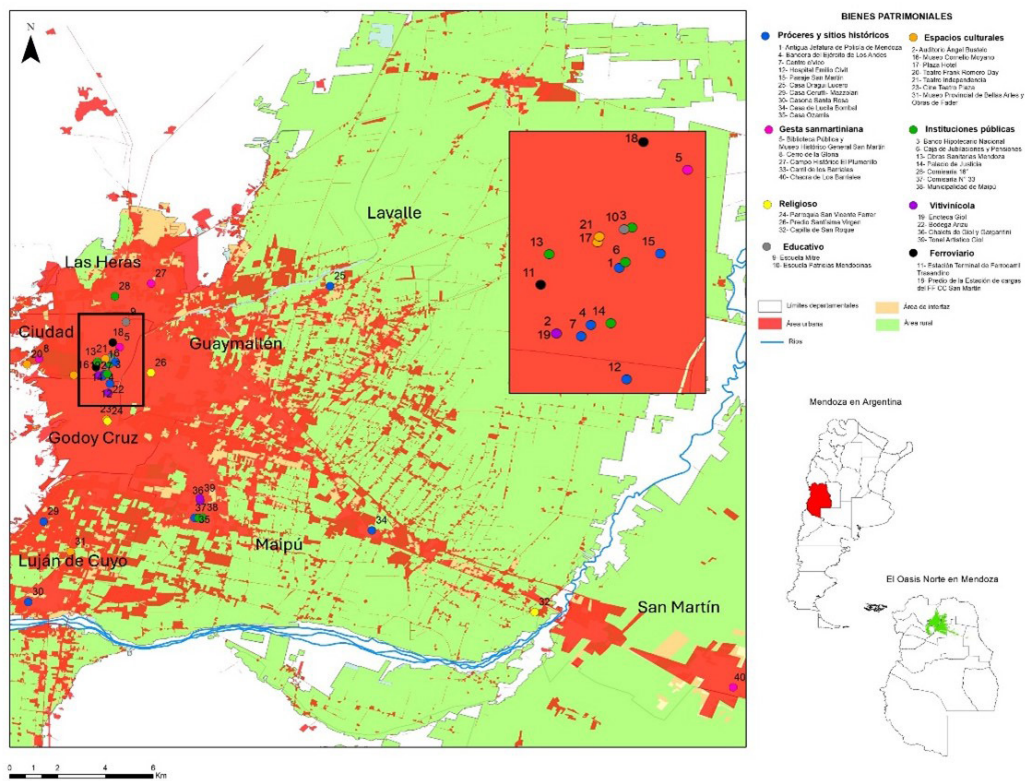


Figure 8: Location of the heritage properties during this period. Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums (2019)



Figure 9: Central Park on the former railway property. (2024)



Figure 10: Former Emilio Civit Hospital. (2024)

the subjectivity linked to people's feelings becomes representative. This would allow for the comparison of viewpoints and an understanding of the positions and roles of the various social actors who, in different ways, participate in the heritage designation process.

On the other hand, in terms of spatial distribution, the mapping presented shows that almost all the legitimized assets are in the Metropolitan Area and/or in urban areas of the departments that make up the oasis. This leads us to consider: why is there little or no officially recognized heritage in rural sectors? For example, although wineries and equipment related to winemaking have been officially recognized, why are many other wineries and industries present in these areas not made visible? What arguments support this? Similarly, regarding railway heritage, old railway stations have been legitimized, some of which have been repurposed, as previously mentioned. However, as a factor of territorial connection, railways exist in rural areas. Therefore, what happens to those stations and the associated infrastructure?

Finally, it is appropriate to question how the environment in which these assets are located—namely, their landscape—is planned and managed. Declaring only the built asset without considering its landscape, that is, analyzing heritage as a discrete, decontextualized, and static object, leads to a loss of meaning and real value because it is not understood within a territorial scale. This would allow for a comprehensive understanding of the importance of that heritage and why it exists. What has been presented is also linked to the need to include the landscape in land-use planning proposals as a category, decision-making tool, and/or as a means of articulating the territory.

Conflict of Interests. The author declare no conflict of interests.

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