Global Heritage Stone Resource (GHSR) designation

http://globalheritagestone.com/
Global Heritage Stone Resource

GHSR is a new IUGS geological standard, developed by the IUGS Heritage Stones Subcommission (HSS) and accepted in 2017.

**Concept:** GHSR is a natural stone, used in the construction of historic buildings and monuments over an extended period of time (sometimes centuries...) that should be recognized with maximum interest for its use in the restoration of those buildings, even if quarries are not active anymore.
Requisites to be a GHSR:

• Cooper et al. 2013 (Episodes): Check-list for Heritage Stone designation
• Portland stone as GHSR, by T. Hughes et al. 2013 (Episodes)
• Brian R. Marker (2015): Procedures and criteria for the definition of GHSR

At least:

• Historic use for a period of at least 50 years.
• Wide-ranging geographic application.
• Utilisation in significant public or industrial projects.
• Common recognition as a cultural icon, potentially including association with national identity or a significant individual contribution to architecture.
• Ongoing availability of material for quarrying.
• Potential benefits (cultural, scientific, architectural, environmental and/or commercial) arising from GHSR designation.
Procedure:

• Submit proposal (by any HSS correspondent, but recommended by HSS board member)
• Coordination of proposal (by any HSS correspondent, but recommended by HSS board member)
• Invitation to two external reviewers:
  • Published paper
  • GHSR template
• Reviews to Board for approval
• HSS SG reports to IUGS EC for final designation

At present, GHSR Project is being developed under the umbrella of an UNESCO IGCP project
Designated GHSRs (at Dec. 2018)

- Portland Stone from UK
- Larvikite from Norway
- Petit granit from Belgium
- Podpêc Limestone from Slovenia
- Carrara Marble, from Italy
- Hallandia Gneiss, from Sweden
- Villamayor Stone from Spain
- Estremoz Marble from Portugal
- Lede Stone from Belgium
- Piedra Mar del Plata from Argentina
- Welsh Slate from UK
- Lioz Limestone from Portugal
- Kolmarden Serpentine Marble from Sweden
- Jacobsville Sandstone from USA
- Maltese Globigerina limestone
An example:

Suggested formal name

Larvikite

Primary literature pertaining to this GHSR nomination

*Global stone heritage: Larvikite, Norway*
Dear Dr. Pereira,

I am pleased to inform you that the IUGS Executive Committee has approved unanimously all six Global Heritage Stone Resources proposals that you submitted. Thus, the proposals for the Carrara, Hallandia gneiss, Larvikite, Petit Granit, Podpec limestone, and Portland stone GHSR are ratified.

Congratulations. These are the first GHSR proposals to be received by and ratified by the IUGS Executive Committee. I commend you and the Heritage Stone Subcommission for outstanding work over many years to bring this new IUGS standard to fruition. The IUGS EC looks forward to receiving more GHSR proposals as they are developed.

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Finney
Secretary General, International Union of Geological Sciences

cc: Björn Schouenborg, Chair - IUGS Commission on GeoHeritage; Chair - Heritage Stone Resource Subcommission
Global Heritage Stone Resource (GHSR) is a concept developed by the Heritage Stones Subcommission (HSS), a working group of the International Union of Geological Science (IUGS). This designation can be achieved after following a strict evaluation procedure. The designation aims to develop internationally accepted standard approaches to the reporting of technical and aesthetic characteristics of natural stones used for repair and maintenance of historic buildings, monuments and structures as well as for new construction.

The GHSR standard helps to increase awareness of the potential uses of various important stones and provide important information for those engaged in using stone for repair and maintenance. Stones that have been used in heritage construction and sculptural masterpieces, as well as in utilitarian (yet culturally important) applications are obvious candidates for GHSR status.

To deserve the status of GHSR, the stone has to meet, at least, the following requirements:

• Wide-ranging geographic application and/or historic use for a period of at least 50 years, but preferable centuries.
• The potential candidate dimension stone should also have been utilized in significant public or industrial projects
• There should be wide recognition of the stone for its cultural importance, including association with identity or a significant contribution to architecture at international, national, regional or local level.
• It is beneficial that stone remains available in quarries, even if these quarries are not active anymore.

Clearly, Villamayor sandstone accomplishes all the requirements.

Villamayor sandstone is one of the first natural stones recognized as Global Heritage Stone Resource, achieving its designation in 2017 after the approval of the IUGS Executive Committee (www.globalheritagestone.com)

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• The interest of this geological standard is related to the preservation of Cultural and Architectonic Heritage.

• This will contribute to the sustainable development of cities and sites.