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Martinamor granite, revisited

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Martinamor granite was used to build the historical buildings and structures of Salamanca city and surroundings, in Spain. Due to its importance in architectural heritage, this granite has been proposed as candidate for Global Heritage Stone Resource (GHSR) recognition [1]. However, we consider that to get this nomination, the natural stones should be completely characterized to make sure that we, as experts, can advise on its use in case of need either for construction or for restoration, guaranteeing the extraction from a quarry that is abandoned at present but could be considered as historical and therefore preserved for future needs [2]. Martinamor granite is light in colour, with characteristic tourmaline aggregates marking a, sometimes, very strong foliation. These aggregates are responsible for the local naming of “Piedra Pajarilla” (“little bird stone”) [1]. We have obtained samples of this granite both parallel and perpendicular to this foliation and this contribution discusses the technical contrasting results. Martinamor granite was widely used to build the lower parts of historical buildings for its lower capillarity absorption, serving as a waterproof barrier for the other local heritage stone: Villamayor sandstone, which was used for the remaining construction [3]. The new research will help us to advise constructors and restoration professionals in the case that the stone is needed for replacing blocks that are showing the effect of time and weathering in some of the historical buildings of a city that is recognized as World Heritage since 1988.

References:

- [1] Pereira, D. and Cooper, B. (2014) Building stone as part of a World Heritage site: “Piedra Pajarilla” granite and the city of Salamanca (Spain). In: *Stone in Historic Buildings: Characterization and Performance*, Geological Society Special Publications, 391, 7-16.
- [2] Pereira, D., Gimeno, A. and del Barrio, S. (2015) Piedra Pajarilla: a candidacy as a Global Heritage Stone Resource for Martinamor granite. In: *Global Heritage Stone: Towards International Recognition of Building and Ornamental Stones*. Geological Society Special Publications, 407, 93-100.
- [3] Garcia-Talegon, J., Iñigo, A., Vicente-Tavera, S., and Molina-Ballesteros, E. (en prensa) [Silicified Granites \(Bleeding Stone and Ochre Granite\) as Global Heritage Stone Resources from Avila \(Central of Spain\)](#) Geoscience Canada

