Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register Nomination Form

1 Title of Documentary Heritage Item or Collection (max 10 words)

The title will be used for such activities as publicity and certificates of inscription.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives

2 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Include the type of document heritage such as manuscripts, papers, film etc. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

The ancient Huizhou consisted of the present-day Huangshan City and its surrounding regions. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives focus on the genealogy origin, lineage, living environment, clan regulations, family rules, biographies of famous people, property rights, folk literature and other aspects of Huizhou folk society, spanning over 2,700 years from the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (770-221 BC) to the Republic of China period (1912-1949). The nominated archives consist of 427 volumes (totaling 2,235 books), covering the genealogy archives of the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, as well as the Republic of China period. They not only give shape to the genealogy culture of countries and regions in the Confucian culture circle, but also are valuable archives for the studies on composition and development of ethnic groups all over the world. Based on the genealogy culture, a grassroots governance system of government, clans and gentries in traditional society was constructed. The archives historically bear witness to the close ties among bloodline continuation, spiritual inheritance, material creation and cultural creation.

3 Nominator/s Contact details

3.1 Name of nominator/s (person/s or organisation/s)

Huangshan City Archives

3.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Huangshan City Archives is the owner and safekeeper of the nominated archives.

3.3 Contact person/s

Wang Zhaohui

3.4 Contact details

Name	Address
Wang Zhaohui	No. 1-1, Shewuqian Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan City, Anhui Province, P.R. China (Postcode: 245000)

Telephone	Email
86-559-2676400	543878834@qq.com

4 Declaration of Authority

I certify that I/we have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register. All nominators must sign here. (A signed support letter from the nominators' National Commissions is required when the nomination is from two or more Member States. See Section J in the Process document for more details)

Name	Position
Wang Zhaohui	Director of Huangshan City Archives
Address No. 1-1, Shewuqian Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan City, Anhui Province, P.R. China (Postcode: 245000)	Email 543878834@qq.com

Year 2024	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

Signature/s of nominator/s……

……

5 Legal Information

5.1 Owner/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different from the nominator/s)

Name Huangshan City Archives	Address No. 1-1, Shewuqian Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan City, Anhui Province, P.R. China (Postcode: 245000)
Telephone 86-559-2676400	Email hssdagbgs@163.com

5.2 Custodian/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner/s)

Name	Address
Telephone	Email

Please note: Written permission for nomination of this item from the Owners and/or Custodian/s if different from the nominator **must be attached** to this Nomination Form.

5.3 Legal status

Provide details of the legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage.

According to *Archives Law of the People's Republic of China*, the Huizhou Genealogy Archives is owned by the People's Republic of China and shall be protected pursuant to *Archives Law of the People's Republic of China, Cultural Relics Protection Law of the People's Republic of China, Archives Regulations of Anhui Province, Regulations on Protection of Huizhou Documents and Archives of Huangshan City* and *Measures for Protection of Huizhou Documents and Archives*.

5.4 Accessibility

Describe how the documentary heritage may be accessed

Any access restrictions should be explicitly stated below (for instance if advance permission is required, or if general access is not permitted by tradition or custom of the originating community).

Huangshan City Archives can provide file-level catalog data of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives, and this documentary heritage can be accessed on the site at Huangshan City Archives through telephone or online reservations. Due to the long history of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives, the use of the original copies is restricted in order to better preserve and extend their service life to the utmost extent. Replicas, photographs, publications and digitized discs are publicly available for use.

5.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection, if known.

The answer to this question is not taken into account when determining whether the nominated documentary heritage meets the criteria for inscription.

Huangshan City Archives has the copyright of the documentary heritage.

6 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

6.1 Exact title of the documentary heritage

Give the exact title of the nominated documentary heritage and the exact name of the nominating institution/s.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives

Huangshan City Archives

6.2 Type of documentary heritage

Describe the type/s of documentary heritage. Examples include papers, photos, digital, maps, manuscripts, film etc.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives are all paper documents, including books, manuscripts, handwritten copies, portraits, etc.

6.3 Catalogue or registration details

Give the catalogue or registration details for the item or collection.

A nominated collection or archival fonds must be finite, with clear beginning and end dates. If the catalogue or registration details are too long, provide a description of the contents with sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers. **Or** you can add the catalogue/registration details as an appendix, or provide a link to an online inventory.

This collection of archives contains 427 volumes (totaling 2,235 books), spanning from the 16th Year of Chunxi Period of the Southern Song Dynasty (1189) to 1949. Please refer to the annex Ⅰ for a complete catalog.

6.4 Images of the documentary heritage.

Three to six digital images of the documentary heritage should be provided as attachments to this form. By providing the images you are agreeing that they can be used by MOWCAP for the purpose of promoting Memory of the World e.g. newsletters, website etc. Please clearly note on this form if you do not wish MOWCAP to use the images for publicity or promotional purposes (for instance if not permitted by tradition or custom of the originating community).

Seven digital photos of the archives are shown in the annex Ⅱ. Huangshan City Archives agrees to grant permission for these photos to be used in promotional materials for the Memory of the World Programme, such as news articles, websites, etc.

6.5 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

Set out the history of the item or collection - its 'life story' or provenance - from the time when it was created to its place in your institution. This is critical to the item or

collection's authenticity. You may not know all the details, but give as comprehensive an account of the item or collection's provenance as you can.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives focus on the genealogy origin, lineage, living environment, clan regulations, family rules, biographies of famous people, property rights, folk literature and other aspects of Huizhou folk society, spanning over 2,700 years from the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (770-221 BC) to the Republic of China period (1912-1949). The nominated archives consist of 427 volumes, covering the genealogy archives of the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, as well as the Republic of China period. They are original records for a grassroots governance system of government, clans and gentries in traditional society based on genealogy culture in Huizhou (Huangshan). They not only authentically mirror genealogy culture patterns of countries and regions in the Confucian culture circle, but also are valuable archives for the studies on composition and development of ethnic groups all over the world.

The collection of Huizhou genealogies held by Huangshan City Archives was legally acquired and collected in accordance with the *Archives Law of the People's Republic of China* and the *Huangshan City Regulations on Protection of Huizhou Document and Archives*, among other legal statutes. These documents were directly purchased from the people in Huizhou, with clear and well-documented provenance and ownership. The earliest batch of 31 volumes, discovered in the Huizhou region during the 1950s, was acquired under the supervision and encouragement of Zeng Xisheng, then Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee, by an official collecting organization formed in Tunxi (the location of Huangshan City) - the Tunxi Ancient Bookstore. These were later handed over to Huangshan City Archives for preservation in 1989. The remaining 396 Huizhou genealogies were legally collected by Huangshan City Archives during the 1980s and 1990s from various areas in the Huizhou region including Shexian, Xiuning, Yixian, Jixi, and Qimen. During the collection process, an appraisal team composed of experts and scholars from departments of cultural relics, library, archives, as well as from higher education institutions, and research organizations was established. This team conducted thorough and professional appraisals to authenticate and evaluate the significance of these documents.

6.6 Bibliography

Provide a list of at least 3 published sources that have been produced using the nominated documentary heritage.

A bibliography provides evidence that the documentary heritage has been used by scholars, and knowledge of its impact and influence is in the public domain. It is a good idea to cite the works of scholars from outside your own country, as well as local scholars, to demonstrate this influence.

Publications:

(1) Taga Akigoro, *A Study of Chinese Genealogies*, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), 1981, 1982.

(2) Ts'ui-jung Liu, *Lineage Population and Socio-economic Changes in the Ming-Qing Periods*. Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica, 1992.

（3）Michela Bussotti, *Gravures de Hui : étude du livre illustré chinois : de la fin du XVIe siècle à la première moitié du XVIIe siècle*. Paris: Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, 2001；

(4) Park Won-Ho, *Research on the Clan History of Huizhou in the Ming and Qing Dynasties*, Seoul Intellectual Property Society, 2002.

(5) Oki Yasushi, *The Publishing Culture of Jiangnan in the Late Ming Dynasty*, Tokyo Kenbun Publishing House, 2004.

(6) Chang Jianhua. *Research on the Clan in the Ming Dynasty*. Shanghai People's Publishing House, February 2005.

(7) Nakajima Gakusho, *Disputes and Order in Rural Society during the Ming Period: An Analysis Based on Huizhou Documents*, Jiangsu People's Publishing House, 2010.

(8) Zhao Huafu, *Collection of Huizhou Clan Studies*. People's Publishing House, 2011.

(9) Feng Erkang, *Chinese Clan System and Genealogy Compilation*. Tianjin Ancient Books Publishing House, 2011.

(10) Xu Bin, *Study on the Construction of Rural Gentry Power and Social Identity in the Ming and Qing Dynasties Based on the Compilation of Genealogy Records*. China Social Sciences Press, 2021.

（11）Joseph P. McDermott，*The Making of a New Rural Order in South China ——I. Village, Land, and Lineage in Huizhou, 900–1600.* Cambridge University Press,2014；

（12）Joseph P. McDermott，*The Making of a New Rural Order in South China—— Volume 2.Merchants, Markets, and Lineages, 1500–1700*. Cambridge University Press, 2020；

（13）Zurndorfer, H. T. *Change and Continuity in Chinese Local History: The Development of Hui-Chou Prefecture , 800 to 1800*. Brill Academic Pub，1997；

（14）Guo, Q. Huizhou, *Local Identity and Mercantile Lineage Culture in Ming China. Oakland*: University of California Press, 2022；

（15）Qitao Guo, *Ritual Opera and Mercantile Lineage: The Confucian Transformation of Popular Culture in Late Imperial Huizhou*. Stanford University Press,2005；

（16）Qitao Guo, *Exorcism and Money: The Symbolic World of the Five-Fury Spirits in Late Imperial China.* Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California；

（17）T'ien, Ju-k'ang. *Male Anxiety and Female Chastity: A Comparative Study of Chinese Ethical Values in Ming-Ch'ing Times*. E. J. Brill,1997；

（18）Susan L .Mann, *Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteen Century*. Stanford University Press, 1997；

(19) Xiong Yuanbao, *Research on the Social History of the Huizhou Area in the Qing Dynasty: Boundaries, Groups, Networks and Social Order*. Kyuko-Shoin (Japan), 2003;

(20) Usui Sachiko, *Research on Huizhou Merchants*. Kyuko-Shoin (Japan), 2005.

Essays:

(1) Mi Chu Wiens [US], "Research on Anhui Local Chronicles, Genealogies and Other Local Materials". *Chinese Studies*, Volume 3, No. 2, 1985.

(2) Zhang Haiying, "A Brief Introduction to the Genealogy Studies in the Ming Dynasty", *Genealogy Research*, Edition 3. Bibliographic Literature Publishing House, 1992.

(3) Zhai Tunjian, "A Brief Discussion on the Evolution of Genealogical Content and Format", *China Genealogy Research*, Shanghai Classics Publishing House, 1999.

(4) Chen Rui, "Compilation, Content, and Format Development of Huizhou Genealogies in the Ming and Qing Dynasties", *Historical Research in Anhui*, No. 4, 2000.

(5) Sachiko Usui, "The Compilation of Huizhou Clan Genealogy in the Ming Dynasty: The Form of Clan Expansion Organization", *Journal of Hui Studies*, No. 1, 2004.

(6) Wang Heming, "A Tentative Analysis of the 'Body' and 'Spirit' of Huizhou Genealogy", *Journal of Fudan University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, No. 1, 2006.

(7) Xu Bin, "The Influence of Historical Consciousness and Theories of Compilation on Huizhou Genealogy", *Historical Research in Anhui*, No. 3, 2010.

(8) Chang Jianhua, "Genealogy Studies and Hui Studies Cannot Be Separated from Huizhou Clan Genealogies", *Journal of Anhui University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, No. 6, 2015.

(9) Zhou Xiaoguang, "On the Value of Huizhou Family Genealogy: A Case Study of the Genealogy of the Wu Clan Ancestral Hall in Shangshan of Xin'an", *Journal of Anhui University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, No. 6, 2015.

(10) Bian Li, "The Construction and Strengthening of Identity Based on Blood Ties in

Huizhou since the Song and Ming Dynasties". *Journal of Anhui University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, No. 2, 2019.

（11）Li, B. (2016). One thousand years of historical relics: The Huizhou documents. *Journal of Modern Chinese History*, 10(2)；

（12）Harriet Thelma Zurndorfer, Local Lineages and Local Development: A Case Study of the Fan Lineage, Hsiu-ning Hsien, Hui-chou 800 - 1500,*T'oung Pao*, Vol. LXX,1984；

（13）Qitao Guo, Family Status and Folk Worship: Cheng Minzheng and Huizhou Clan Politics in the Middle Min, *late Imperial China*, 2010.1；

（14）Yongtao Du，Cross-regional Clans and Hometown Feelings: A Case Study of Suzhou Pan Shi in Qing Dynasty, *late Imperial China*, 2006.1,31-65；

(15) Shibuya Yuko, On the Ritual Organizations in the Rural Society of Huizhou during the Ming and Qing Dynasties - Introduction to "Ledger of Consecration Ceremony", *History Study* (Japan), Vol. 59, No. 1, 2, 3, 1990;

(16) Nakajima Gakusho, Documents Related to the Lijia System in Huizhou during the Ming Dynasty, *Toyo Bunko* (Japan), 80-2, 1998;

(17) Suzuki Hiroyuki, Clans and Villages in Huizhou Prefecture during the Qing Dynasty: The Case of Jiang Village in She County, *History Study* (Japan), 1992, 101(4);

(18) Kim Seon-hye, Development of the Clan System and Litigation in Huizhou during Ming Dynasty, *Chinese History Study* (Korea), Special Issue on Chinese Clan History, No. 27, pp.129-158, December 2003;

(19) Hong Sung-gu, The Clan System and the Development of the Baojia System in Huizhou during the Qing Dynasty, *Chinese History Study* (Korea), Special Issue on Chinese Clan History, No. 27, December 2003;

(20) Xiong Yuanbao, Formation and Development of Clan Properties - Focused on the Hong Family in Huizhou during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, *Chinese History Study* (Korea), Special Issue on Chinese Clan History, No. 27, December 2003.

6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of experts

Provide the details of two to three independent people with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage who may be contacted by MOWCAP for further information on your nomination. Note that the Register Sub Committee (RSC) may also contact other experts.

The names and contact details of your referees will not be publicly disclosed by MOWCAP nor disclosed without their permission to any third party.

Name	Qualifications	Address
[redacted]	[redacted]China Qin-Han History Research Association [redacted] Institute of History, Research Fellow and Ph.D. Supervisor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [redacted]Research Center for Bamboo and Silk Manuscripts, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Part-time Research Fellow of Korean Society for Bamboo and Silk Manuscripts Study	[redacted]
Name [redacted]	Qualifications [redacted] Center for Hui Studies at Anhui University Professor and Ph.D. Supervisor [redacted] Institute of Hui Studies and Chinese Traditional Culture at Anhui University	[redacted]

	[redacted] Anhui Historical Society Vice President of Hui Studies Society of Anhui Province	
Name [redacted]	Qualifications [redacted] Anhui Provincial Local Chronicles Research Institute [redacted] Anhui Local Chronicles Society Part-time Research Fellow of Center for Hui Studies at Anhui University	[redacted]

I certify that the above named experts have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination to the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

Signature Wang Zhaohui Full name (Please PRINT) Wang Zhaohui

Date : Sep8th, 2023

7 Authenticity and Integrity

7.1 Authenticity and Integrity

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? For example, has its identity and provenance been reliably established; are supplementary parts being kept elsewhere and not included in the nomination; has it been altered or damaged; are sections or pages missing; is part of the documentary heritage lost?

In accordance with laws and regulations, Huangshan City Archives legally collects the Huizhou Genealogy Archives. With confirmed source, these archives are directly purchased from the folk society of Huizhou. They are not altered, but they are either incomplete, worm-eaten and

yellowing, or missing some pages or characters. Huangshan City Archives invites domestic experts to verify and authenticate the origin, paper and content of the collected Huizhou Genealogy Archives in strict accordance with the workflow. It is unanimously agreed that all of these archives are authentic and their authenticity is beyond doubt.

This Huizhou Genealogy Archives contain not only consolidated clan genealogies, branch genealogies and family genealogies, but also sacrificial genealogies, tomb diagrams, birth registers, ancestral registers, family regulations and teachings and epitaphs, which are in the form of unpublished originals and manuscripts, block-printed edition, movable-type print, handwritten copy and lithographic edition in large numbers. The movable-type prints are categorized into prints with both wooden and lead blocks. In terms of surnames, major surnames of Huizhou are covered, such as Cheng, Wang, Wu, Huang, Hu, Wang, Li and Fang, as well as rare minor surnames, such as Guan, Lang, An, Zang and Ouyang.

The collection of Huizhou genealogies at Huangshan City Archives consists of family and clan archives from the ancient Huizhou prefecture and its six counties. These archives are antique and continuous, forming a unique system, and are not subordinate to genealogies held by other institutions. For instance, the collection at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou encompasses folk genealogies from regions under Guangdong Province, including Chaozhou and Dongguan areas, as well as the Qingshui River documents from Guizhou Province. The Huizhou-related documents they hold, such as contracts, agreements, Yellow Registers, Fish Scale Atlases, litigation documents, business bills, medical books and prescriptions, and daily-use books, are different types of local documents. They record content and have formats that are distinct from the Huizhou genealogies, and thus do not fall within the category of Huizhou genealogies.

8 Primary criteria: Regional Significance

More details on what is required for each criterion are provided in the MOWCAP Register Guidelines document available on the MOWCAP website

You only need to provide information for criteria that are relevant to your nomination

8.1 Historical Significance

What does the documentary heritage tell us in relation to the history of the Asia Pacific region as a whole, or to a sub-region such as Central, South, Southeast, East Asia or Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australasia?

Chinese genealogy archives have a long history. As early as the Yin Dynasty and Shang Dynasty more than 3,000 years, oracle bone archives of this period documented the lineage of the Yin kings, and such unbroken records continued throughout successive dynasties. The core values of Confucianism were prevalent since the Song Dynasty. The Confucian culture circle attached great importance to genealogy archives. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is a typical epitome.

(1) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives typically exemplifies the historic development of private genealogy archives. The genealogy archives were mainly established through the compilation of family genealogies. Historically, genealogies were initially compiled by officials until the Song Dynasty, during which this restriction was lifted and privately compiled genealogies sprang up. The *General Genealogy of the Jiang Clan Branched with Chinese Character "Jin"*, which dates back to the 16th Year of the Chunxi Period of the Southern Song Dynasty (1189), mirrors the changes during this period. The *Family Records of the Wang Clan in Jincheng of Xin'an*, which dates back to the 1st year of Taiding Period of the Yuan Dynasty (1324), proves that genealogies developed significantly on the basis of those genealogies of the Song Dynasty. In the Ming Dynasty, the genealogical forms were relatively well-established. Most of the surviving genealogies of the Ming Dynasty are found in Huizhou, and they are the most typical proofs for the historical development of genealogies in the Ming Dynasty.

(2) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is a physical legacy of the people's application and promotion of wooden movable-type printing in initial stage. Among these archives, some genealogies were printed in the form of wooden movable-type print. Evidently, from the mid-Ming Dynasty onward, wooden movable-type printing technique began to be applied in the production of Huizhou genealogies, making their production more affordable, convenient, fast, and popular. Moreover, this technique also helped popularize and disseminate wooden movable-type print. For instance, the *Common Genealogy of the Hong Clan in Xin'an*, which dates back to the 43rd Year of Jiajing Period of the Ming Dynasty (1564), reveals the historical shift in the production of genealogy from woodblock printing to wooden movable-type printing during this period.

(3) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is an original specimen for inheritance of artistic skills of woodcut portraits on the common people. Among these archives, some genealogies contain ancestor portraits. Evidently, from the mid-Ming Dynasty onward, the art of folk woodcut portraits began to be used in the production of Huizhou genealogies. For instance, the ancestor portraits in the *Common Genealogy of the Huang Clan in Xin'an*, which dates back to the 11th year of Hongzhi Period of the Ming Dynasty (1498), proves the high level of traditional woodcut portraits on common people during this period, enhancing the authoritativeness and solemnity of the genealogies and boosting the popularization and dissemination of the woodcut art.

(4) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is the historical witness to comprehensive grassroots governance in traditional society. The family regulations and teachings in these archives integrate aristocratic limitations, clan management and official governance in one, construct a community culture under the Family-State Unity Mode based on villagers, gentries and clan members. They ever played a significant role in the governance of aristocratic society. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives establishes the common rural cultural identity with the Confucian core values at the core, symbolizing human civilization achievements in collaborative efforts and harmonious coexistence. The archives historically bear witness to the close ties among bloodline continuation, spiritual inheritance, material creation and cultural creation.

8.2 Form and Style Significance

Is the document an outstanding example of its type?

This criterion refers to the physical nature of the documentary heritage. Is the documentary heritage a particularly fine exemplar of its type; does it have outstanding qualities of beauty and craftsmanship; is it a new or unusual type of carrier or is it an example of a type of document that is now obsolete or superseded?

Huizhou used to be one of the four book printing centers in ancient China. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives features block-printed editions, movable-type prints, manuscripts, handwritten copies and other categories, representing the exquisite craft attainments in the field of worldwide traditional handicraft arts.

Firstly, the use of paper and ink demonstrates the sophisticated traditional craft. For instance, the *Genealogy of the Hong Clan in Xin'an*, a product of the Ming Dynasty, is printed on stencil tissue paper. The *Genealogy Kept by the Wang Clan*, a product of the Republic of China period, is printed on rice paper. Both kinds of paper are masterpieces of traditional papermaking. The ink on the paper is also traditionally handmade and represents the advanced skills of traditional ink-making.

Secondly, the printing techniques demonstrate classical traditional levels of proficiency. The woodblock printing masterpiece – *General Genealogy of the Wang Clan* (the Ming Dynasty) and the movable-type printing masterpiece – *Genealogy of the Wang Clan in Jiangzuo* (the Qing Dynasty) give shape to the exquisite crafts of Huizhou's renowned type cutters and the movable-type printing industry. The color-registration printing technique of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives is characterized by unique craft and sophisticated level, pushing forward the development of traditional printing technology.

Thirdly, the seal impressions have extremely unique artistic features. For instance, the *Common Genealogy of the Hong Clan in Xin'an*, which dates back to the Ming Dynasty, shows seals in various shapes, such as square, rectangle and perfect circle . Additionally, there are customs seals, cross-page seals and monogram seals. The seals in the Huizhou Genealogy Archives mainly serve as anti-counterfeiting measures, playing a significant role in determining authenticity and preventing forgery.

Fourthly, Chinese calligraphy radiates unique artistic appeal. Some parts of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives of Huizhou are in manuscript form, showcasing the diversity of Chinese characters in seal, official, regular, running, and cursive scripts. This demonstrates the intrinsic diversity of Chinese characters and the unique artistic charm of Chinese calligraphy.

8.3 Social Community or Spiritual Significance

Is the documentary heritage attached to a specific existing community and demonstrably significant? Information should be provided on what the nominated item represents and how this attachment is expressed. If there are any, ensure to mention any relation to Gender, Indigenous and other minority or marginalised groups.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives serves as a crucial repository of ancient civilizations and customs and ceremonial evidence for grassroots society to discern lineage, acknowledge and reconnect to their ancestral roots, strengthen family ties, inherit culture, and stabilize society. This archival collection is comprehensive, systematic, complete and well-organized over a millennium. In particular, due to the wide-ranging flow and global presence of Huizhou merchants, these lineage archives are a resource for Chinese people and overseas Chinese worldwide to trace their origins, offering universal value and playing a significant role in the studies on composition and development of ethnic groups all over the world.

(1) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is an important gene bank for the study of global ethnic composition. Over 90 prominent clans migrated to Huizhou from the Central Plains during the three major population migrations in the Western Jin Dynasty (265-317), the middle period of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and the Northern Song (960-1127) Dynasty. Afterwards, they dispersed everywhere. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, with the rise of Huizhou merchants who dominated the business world for over 300 years, they left trade footprints in Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Siam, other Southeast Asian countries, as well as Britain and Portugal. Therefore, Huizhou immigrants spread around the globe. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives plays a significant role in the studies on the composition of ethnic groups all over the world, which is an important database for the human genetic genealogy science.

(2) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is an important "living fossil" for the studies on global ethnic evolution. This archival collection constitutes an original record of global migration history and migrant culture, and crystalizes the millennium-long global history of interaction, exchange and integration among Huizhou surnames and clans. For instance, *the Genealogy of the Wu Clan in Taihu, Changxi*, which dates back to the Republic of China period, records the journey of the ancestral migration to Huizhou and the evolution of more than 460 fractions over 1,300 years through eight updates of the clan register. The naming conventions in the lineage cover 64 characters and 64 generations, including the Wu clan who successively immigrated from Guangdong and Fujian of China to the United States, Peru, Japan, North Korea, Vietnam and other places since the Qing Dynasty.

(3) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is an important archival repository for the studies on global ethnic virtues. For instance, the *Genealogy of the Hu Clan in Jinzi,* the *Family History of the Dong Clan* (the Qing Dynasty) and the *Epitaph for the Yu Clan* (the Republic of China period) provide detailed historical records of production, commerce, cultural interchange and religious activities. They are vivid records of the transmission and promotion of ethnic traditional virtues

around the world and highlight mutual inclusivity, peaceful exchange, integrated coexistence, and harmonious development. They demonstrate the tremendous integrating, internalizing, enduring and unifying forces of civilization in the development of global ethnicities by emphasizing the blending of locals and immigrants, the alliance of different surnames, religious coexistence, and diversity of beliefs.

(4) The Huizhou Genealogy Archives is an important collection of historical materials for the studies on global ethnic development. For instance, the *Genealogy of the Zhu Clan* (Jiajing Period of the Ming Dynasty) and the *Genealogy of the Zhu Clan in Ziyang* (the Qing Dynasty) both point out that Zhu Xi was the ninth-generation descendant of the Zhu Clan in Xin'an. The *Genealogy of the Jiang Clan in Xinan* (The Ming Dynasty) and *Genealogy of the Hu Clan in Longchuan* (the Republic of China period) trace the origins and evolution of the Jiang Clan and Hu Clan, who had significant impacts on modern global history. The *Genealogy of the Mingjing Hu Clan in Shangchuan* recalls the contributions of Huizhou tea merchants to the establishment of Shanghai commercial port and international trade after China entered the period of five-port trading. Notable individuals, such as Cheng Dawei, the inventor of the abacus, Wang Maoyin, the only Chinese mentioned in Marx's *Das Kapital* and monetary theorist and financial scientist in the Qing Dynasty, philosopher and thinker Dai Zhen of the Qing Dynasty, and modern thinker, literary scholar and philosopher Hu Shi, among others, can also be found in the archives. Valuable historical records of the integrative development of global ethnic groups are available.

9 Regional Significance: Comparative criteria

The item or collection should be compared to similar items or collections, whether on any of the Memory of the World registers or not. The comparison should outline the similarities between the nominated documentary heritage has with others as well as the differences, and the reasons that make the nominated documentary heritage stand out. The comparative analysis should aim to explain the importance of the nominated documentary heritage in its national, regional and even international context (if applicable). Consulting successful inscriptions to both regional and international registers is highly encouraged for this endeavour in order to ascertain and demonstrate uniqueness or intercultural connections.

The purpose of the comparative analysis is to show that the nominator has tried to find any existing duplicates or other similar examples of the item or collection, and to demonstrate that there is room for this item or collection to be included on the MOWCAP Regional Register.

9.1 Uniqueness or Rarity

Provide the results of the comparative analysis. Can the documentary heritage be described as unique (the only one of its kind ever created) or rare (one of a few survivors from a larger number)?

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives are incredibly precious. Despite a significant number of similar archives throughout China's history, few of them are preserved to this day due to wars and natural disasters. Particularly, clan archives from the Song and Yuan Dynasties are now extremely scarce. The *General Genealogy of the Jiang Clan Branched with Chinese Character "Jin"* dating back to the 16th Year of the Chunxi Period of the Southern Song Dynasty (1189) and the *Family Records of the Wang Clan in Jincheng of Xin'an* dating back to the 1st year of Taiding Period of the Yuan Dynasty (1324) have been only existing copy at present, respectively. The genealogy archives of the Ming Dynasty are similarly rare. Notably, in the early 1930s, the renowned bibliographer Zhao Wanli wrote an article in *Ta Kung Pao*: "Most of the genealogical records of the Ming Dynasty, which are still extant now, were established by prominent clans in Huizhou. Few genealogical records were made outside Huizhou". Among the Huizhou Genealogy Archives, there are many rare records, such as the *Genealogy of the Chen Clan* from the 10th year of Chenghua Period of the Ming Dynasty (1474), the *Revised Genealogy of the Predigree of the Bao Clan* from Tianqi Period of the Ming Dynasty (1621-1627), the *Common Genealogy of the Huang Clan in Xin'an* from the 11th year of Hongzhi Period of the Ming Dynasty (1498), and the *Genealogy of Wu Clan of Wuyuan Ancestral Hall* from Wanli Period of the Ming Dynasty are extremely rare. Some archives are unpublished handwritten originals. For example, the *Genealogy of the Luo Clan in Chenggkan of She County* from the Yihai Year of

Chongzhen Period in the Ming Dynasty (1635) and the *Ancestor Register of Dunxu Hall for the Zhulin Wang Clan in Nanyuankou* from the 10th year of Daoguang Period of the Qing Dynasty (1830) are unique and hence extremely precious.

10 Gender

Gender equality is one of two global priorities of UNESCO. If there are any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality, please describe them in detail, explaining what the nominated documentary heritage tells us about the lives of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific, and any impacts on women and girls or on gender equality in the region.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives records the living conditions of women, and also reveals the role of women in the economic and social development of Huizhou and the gradual improvement of their status and gender equality. For example, the *Genealogy of the Jiang Clan in Xinan* from the Ming Dynasty mentions the achievements made by a woman surnamed Zheng to assist her husband in business. The *Genealogy of the Wang Family* from the Qing Dynasty includes brief biographies of famous individuals and their grandmothers, mothers and wives. In the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China period, the Genealogy of the Huang Clan in Tandu, Huizhou records the historical fact of special ancestral halls dedicated to women in Huizhou. Women also began to be ranked and include biographies into genealogical records. The Recompiled Genealogy of the Zhu Clan from the Republic of China period includes praises for the women surnamed Zhou and Lu. Compiled in the Republic of China period, Tomb Record, Epitaph and Tomb Notes for Senior Lady Wu gives detailed records of a woman's tomb.

In Huizhou genealogies such as *The Genealogy of the Xiang Clan from Guixi in Shexian*, *The Clan Genealogy of the Huang Family from Xiaoli in Tandu*, *The Main Lineage of the Wang Clan*, *The Comprehensive Genealogy of the Jiang Family from Jiyang*, and *The Clan Genealogy of the Hu Family from Mingjing in Shangchuan*, a large amount of information is recorded about the rewards and actual deeds of chaste women. It shows that Huizhou clans, through family and clan regulations, ancestral hall rituals, erecting commemorative archways, punitive measures, and financial support, infused the concept of chastity into every aspect of women's lives in Huizhou. This promoted the popularization and secularization of the chaste ethos in Huizhou society, forming its unique custom of venerating female chastity. This prominent Huizhou custom is the result of a combined effect of various related systems and measures enacted by the national and local clans, along with women's own factors. However, the one-sided, discriminatory concepts of chastity, moral standards, and

ethical beliefs that it shaped, constrained the physical and mental development of women, undermined their independent personalities, and revealed the historical plight of women under China's feudal ritual system.

11 Statement of Significance

Provide a summary of the points made under the primary and comparative criteria, and the test of authenticity and integrity. Why is the documentary heritage important to the world and what has its impact been beyond the boundaries of a single Asia Pacific state?

The summary should be about 300-600 words

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives not only give shape to the genealogy culture of countries and regions in the Confucian culture circle, but also are valuable archives for the studies on composition and development of ethnic groups all over the world. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives, integrating government laws, clan rules and gentry conventions, used to be a bridge between the "official governance" and "civil governance" of grassroots society in harmony. The archives are a historical witness to the integrated governance of government, clans and gentries in traditional Chinese society at the grassroots level. These archives embody the wisdom of mankind in achieving harmonious coexistence with society and the nature. They historically bear witness to the close ties among bloodline continuation, spiritual inheritance, material creation and cultural creation.

Huizhou genealogies are vital historical materials supporting the study of Huizhou culture and have significantly influenced the formation and development of Huizhou studies. In the 1950s and 1960s, Huizhou genealogies began to be discovered in the Huizhou area. By the 1980s, a large number of Huizhou genealogies were successively uncovered and brought to public attention. As the comprehensive and in-depth publication and research of local Huizhou documents continued, Huizhou studies increasingly thrived. Huizhou studies, focusing on the historical geography of Huizhou, traditional society, historical culture, and their inheritance and innovation, gradually formed as an academic discipline. The study encompasses various aspects of Huizhou, including society, economy, culture, thought, academics, science and technology, art, and crafts, involving multiple disciplines such as history, philosophy, economics, sociology, folklore, literature, linguistics, and architecture. In the 21st century, international academic exchanges in Huizhou studies have expanded in multiple directions and levels. Huizhou studies continue to deepen, yielding numerous research achievements and increasing influence, and have now become one of the three major Chinese regional studies of global significance (Dunhuang studies, Tibet studies, and Huizhou studies). As important historical materials supporting the development of Huizhou studies, Huizhou genealogies have received significant attention and in-depth research from scholars in China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and other countries, playing a crucial role in advancing the comprehensive development of Huizhou studies and expanding its global

influence. For example, Usui Sachiko of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan has long been engaged in Huizhou studies, focusing on the migration and commercial activities of the Wang family from Huizhou. She analyzed 19 Huizhou genealogies, dissected the compilation activities of 17 family and clan genealogies, and explored the relationship between Huizhou clans and commerce, achieving substantial academic outcomes. She said, "Since these materials continue up to the period of the Republic of China, they provide important clues for examining the continuity and changes in Chinese society from pre-modern to modern times." Professor Li Caifu of Anhui University, who has long studied archival document compilation, believes: "The Huizhou genealogies held in Huangshan City Archives, with their diverse categories, rich content, and high value, form an important historical foundation for Huizhou studies and are bound to the in-depth development of Huizhou studies.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Condition

Describe the physical condition of the documentary heritage.

The Huizhou Genealogy Archives were originally kept among the people in Huizhou, where they were poorly preserved and suffered from damage by worms, yellowing and missing characters. After Huangshan City Archives legally purchases and acquires this archival collection, a series of measures are taken to collate, rescue and protect them, effectively ensuring the safety of the physical archives.

12.2 Threat/Risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to the nominated documentary heritage. For example, poor storage, climate, control of access.

Huangshan City Archives is located in the region south of the Yangtze River in China, where there are significant temperature and humidity differences, and paper is easily fading, moldy, damaged by worms and blurry under ink spreading. Huangshan City Archives takes a variety of efficient rescue and protection measures to effectively protect the Huizhou Genealogy Archives and prolongs the service life of the archives to the utmost extent. For instance, a special storage room is equipped for the Huizhou Genealogy Archives, where the temperature and humidity are properly controlled in accordance with national standards. Separate arrangements are also made for preservation, mounting and fortification. Only imitations, photographs and file-level catalogue database are available for reference.

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13 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Management Plan

Are there management plans to preserve and provide access to the nominated documentary heritage?

YES

If YES, describe or attach a summary of the plan or plans.

Protection and Utilization Management Plan:

This plan is hereby developed in view of relevant policies and actual circumstances about the management and preservation of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives in order to effectively rescue and manage them.

(1) Establish a special storage room with a repository in line with standard requirements for "nine kinds of preventions of archives"; install access control system, surveillance system, high-pressure water mist fire protection system and other facilities and equipment, including air conditioning and dehumidifiers; carry out regular ventilation, dehumidification and inspection to ensure that the storage conditions meet all standards, and effectively maintain the safety of the physical Huizhou Genealogy Archives.

(2) Ensure independent sorting and preservation, customize archive boxes according to individual size, appoint dedicated personnel and dedicated cabinet for storage, make regular checks and records, and report on and dispose of faults identified without delay.

(3) Establish a full-text database for accurate retrieval, query and in-depth development.

(4) Publish relevant photocopies to facilitate research by experts and scholars in the field.

(5) Invite experts to conduct specialized research on the Huizhou Genealogy Archives, hold special academic symposiums, and further develop and utilize the archives.

If NO, provide details about any proposed preservation, storage and access strategies and plans.

Is there a disaster risk management plan in place to support the preservation and safeguarding of the nominated documentary heritage?

YES

If YES, describe or attach a summary of the disaster risk management plan or plans (if not included in the management plan).

Huangshan City Archives has formulated a disaster management plan for the Huizhou Genealogy Archives. This plan is applicable to any emergency situations caused by natural

disasters or human-induced disasters in the city, which may result in damage to the Huizhou Genealogy Archives.

Firstly, strengthening prevention as the priority: Huangshan City Archives has set up the corresponding security protection facilities, established a safety forecasting mechanism, and improved the emergency response capabilities for various disasters.

Secondly, defining an emergency command system and responsibilities: Huangshan City Archives has established a leading group to tackle disasters and emergencies, which is headed by Director of Huangshan City Archives and consists of comprehensive coordination group, disaster relief action group, communication liaison group, evacuation guidance group, and safety protection group, etc. Each group assumes clear responsibilities and performs its own duties.

Thirdly, putting security measures into practice: The indispensable safety and protective facilities have been set up in Huangshan City Archives, and an alarm system connected to the network of 110 (the emergency contact telephone number in China) has been implemented. A coordinated mechanism has been established and improved under the support of public security, armed police, fire protection and other professional rescue teams. The municipal finance budget has been granted for disaster relief funds and put them into archival work. Furthermore, detailed emergency response and post-disaster assistance plans have been developed for disaster warning, approval, submission and termination plans, post-disaster archival salvage and protection, etc.

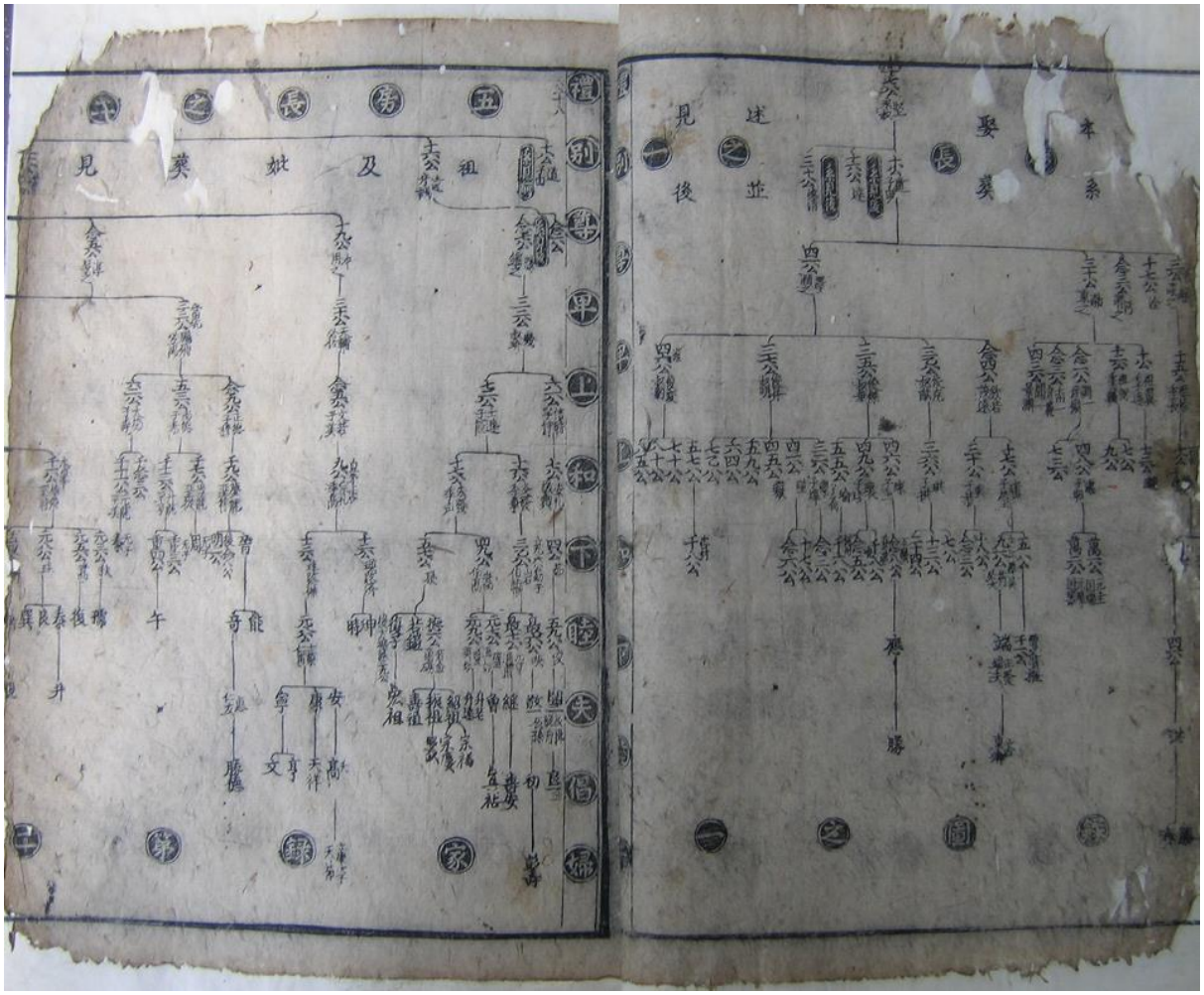
If NO, provide details about any proposed disaster risk management strategies and plans. This is an opportunity to express any needs for technical support/assistance.

14 Consultation with Stakeholders

Provide details of consultation with stakeholders about this nomination. Stakeholders include communities with an involvement in the documentary heritage, owners and custodians of the documentary heritage and scholars who research the documentary heritage

In this regard, please consult with relevant archives safekeepers and experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Anhui University, and Huangshan City Archives for relevant information, including Bu Xianqun, Research Fellow, Ph.D. Supervisor, and Director of the Institute of the History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, at 13910976633; Dr. Zhai Tunjian, Part-time Research Fellow at the Center for Hui Studies of Anhui University at 13805597900; Yang Yongsheng at 13805598985; and Mr. Wang Yang, Deputy Research Archivist of Huangshan City Archives at 13855920841.

15 Other Information to Support the Nomination

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage collection on the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

The CPC Anhui Provincial Committee and Anhui Provincial People's Government highly value the nomination of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives for the Memory of the World Register and establish working leadership group and expert group. Han Jun, Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee, conducted field research in Huangshan (Ancient Huizhou) and the Research Center for Hui Studies in Anhui Province, who examined the Huizhou Genealogy Archives and gave clear directives for the development of Hui Studies and cultural inheritance. Tang Liangzhi, Chairman of the CPPCC Anhui Provincial Committee, made instructions on the application for heritage status of the Huizhou Genealogy Archives, urging greater attentiveness and efforts in related work. Ling Yun, Secretary of the CPC Huangshan Municipal Committee, took the initiative to officially propose to both the National People's Congress and Anhui Provincial People's Congress that the Huizhou Genealogy Archives should be added to the Memory of the World Register. The CPC Huangshan Municipal Committee and Huangshan Municipal People's Government establish a dedicated working group and task force for the heritage application process. The Huizhou Genealogy Archives were successfully included in Register of China's Archival Documentary Heritages in January 2023. Huangshan City and Anhui Province have extensively launched publicity for the Huizhou Genealogy Archives at home and abroad and formulates a communication and dissemination plan for further education and research. These efforts mainly include as follows: (1) Compiling and publishing photocopies for public use; (2) Establishing a full-text database to strengthen means and methods for online utilization; (3) Producing a documentary on the Huizhou Genealogy Archives to diversify publicity and communication channels and paths; (4) Holding exhibitions and displays to help the whole society and the public learn more about the Huizhou Genealogy Archives; (5) Hosting Forum on the Huizhou Genealogy Archives to improve research attainment, innovate research means, and gain insights into the creative transformation and innovative development of Huizhou Genealogy Archives Culture.