

GERMANY

Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl

Brief description

Set in an idyllic garden landscape, Augustusburg Castle (the sumptuous residence of the prince-archbishops of Cologne) and the Falkenlust hunting lodge (a small rural folly) are among the earliest examples of Rococo architecture in 18th-century Germany.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription

1984

Agency responsible for site management

- Brühl Castles Administration
(Schlossverwaltung Brühl)
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- Ministry for Building and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia
Fürstenwall 25
D - 40219 Düsseldorf

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

C (ii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

The whole site comprising the Castle of Augustusburg, its park and gardens and the Castle of Falkenlust, has preserved its character as a rococo electoral residence and has, in the main, been spared any subsequent transformations. The original overall design is apparent to an exceptional extent. The Castles are unique examples of their kind in terms of artistic creation. They contain paintings, stuccowork, sculptures and wrought-iron work, which rank amongst the most artistic and skilfully crafted works of art of the first half of the 18th century.

The Castle of Augustusburg is renowned for its staircase, described by the famous art historian, Professor Paul Clemen, as "the most impressive, the most successful and the most grandiose work of art of the German Rococo period". The marbled and coloured stuccowork decorating the pillars and

walls, together with the ceiling frescoes by the Lombard artist Carlo Carlone, set off the brilliant design of Balthasar Neumann's staircase, reaching an outstanding level of perfection in colour harmony and creating a unique work of art. The staircase must not be considered as a separate entity, however, but as the magnificent entrance to the Grand New Apartments of the state suite, whose artistic merits are in no way inferior to the staircase itself. The rooms are decorated with stuccowork in the pure Rococo style. The iconology representing its creator in the Grand New Apartments and in the staircase is of great importance. The Yellow Apartment contains the very earliest examples of rococo ornamental decoration in Germany. The walls of the Summer Apartment are decorated with Dutch tiles, a style of decoration which reached perfection under the aegis of the Prince Elector, Clemens August, in his castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust.

The gardens of Castle Augustusburg are among the few in Europe to have been restored to their original plan. They can be said to be the most authentic example of formal gardens in the French style, outside France. They were designed by Dominique Girard - a pupil of Le Nôtre.

The Castle of Falkenlust is characteristic of a certain formal style of country house which is no longer to be found. Its mural decoration, which has been preserved almost intact, makes Falkenlust a fine example of early German rococo.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

The castle of Augustusburg, a bold and successful revamping of the lack-lustre construction of Schlaun and the hunting lodge of Falkenlust, a dazzling creation, *ex nihilo*, are one of the best examples of this international art of unprecedented richness. At Augustusburg, around a piece of creative genius which is the staircase of Balthasar Neumann, -- a rapturous structure which unites a lively movement of marble and stucco, jasper columns and caryatids, culminating in the astonishing frescoed ceiling of Carlo Carlone -- in the central block, the wings of the parade and the private apartments are organized in a hierarchy of effects of outstanding conception. The decor "bon enfant" of the new grand summer apartments with its faience tiles from the Low countries, is readily opposed to the "official" program. [...]

ICOMOS recommends the inclusion of the ensemble of the castles and gardens of Brühl based on criteria II and IV:

- criterion II: Augustusburg and Falkenlust represent the first important creations of the Rococo style in Germany. For more than a century,

they were a model in the majority of the princely courts.

- criterion IV: like the Residence of Würzburg (included on the World Heritage List), the castles and gardens are the eminent example of the large princely residence of the 18th century.

However, ICOMOS would ask that the Federal Republic of Germany study the possibility of a deviation of the network of communications which presently cuts through the zone of the gardens.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1984): the Bureau invited the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany to study ways of reducing the visual impact of the railway line which crosses this area.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No changes required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: inadequate. Due to ownership issues the Castle Chapel has not yet been defined an integral part of the World Heritage site. It is however an architectural and historical component of the overall Castle. The boundaries of the World heritage site need to be redrawn in accordance
- Buffer zone: plan for a buffer zone is under preparation

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Law on the Protection of Monuments; Law on the Protection of Nature; Law on the Protection of Landscape; Land Use Plan/Area Development Plan
- Improvements needed: definition of a buffer zone

Actions taken/proposed:

- Buffer zone is being defined
- Timeframe: 2006
- Activity carried out through regional and local cooperation

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction. Historical gardens: Unpaid visitor attraction

Management/Administrative Body

- Steering group: coordination of appropriate conservation, establishing basic guidelines for dealing with the World Heritage site
- Commenced in January 1949
- Formally constituted
- Management by the State Party; management under protective legislation
- Site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: Regional; Rheinisch Office for the Conservation of Monuments (Rheinisches Amt für Denkmalpflege)
- The current management system is highly effective

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: January 1986, revised plan completed July 2005
- Effective/ insufficiently effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Ministry for Building and Transport of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia; Brühl Castles Administration

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Budget of Land North Rhine-Westphalia
- Adequate

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 42

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management, interpretation
- Good: education and visitor management
- Average: promotion

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Numerous training and study courses in restoration, urban planning, archaeology, the protection of monuments and gardens, construction research, art history and other specialist fields. The Rheinisch Office for the Conservation of Monuments also has its own

workshop for research and restoration. Therefore public and private services can be commissioned for a large number of specialist tasks in the sphere of research. Scientific institutions

9. Visitor Management

- Estimated number of annual visitors: 500,000, visitors: castles: 75,000, historical gardens: 500,000
- Visitor facilities: visitor centre, media room, rooms for school groups, 2 restaurants, 2 museum shops, 1 exhibition room
- Adequate

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site, condition surveys, archaeological surveys
- The scientific studies are part of the restoration works and research being done at the site

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Inadequate number of signs referring to World Heritage
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among visitors
- Measures needed: Stepping up public awareness and public relations work
- Education strategy for site: themed tours, special tours for children and young people
- Concert marking the 20th anniversary of the inscription on the World Heritage List
- The Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust were part of the teaching and research project "UNESCO World Heritage sites as a way of communicating culture" in the Fine Arts Faculty of Paderborn University. As a result classroom materials were made available to teachers for use in lessons
- No involvement of local people in site management

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Restoration and conservation works carried out at Augustusburg Castle, Falkenlust Castle, the gardens and for visitor facilities

- Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure
- Gravel extraction, threat to visual integrity posed by the construction of radio masts and wind turbines
- Not related to World Heritage status
- Action required: definition of buffer zone to be completed in 2006

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Regular examination and touring of the buildings and gardens, regular maintenance of fire and lightning protection and alarm systems

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic and tourism
- Strengths: the authenticity of the Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust and their treasures has been entirely protected. The general level of conservation has further improved. Research has yielded new results. Visitor facilities have been created or upgraded. Business and tourism have benefited from the positive image
- Weaknesses of management: the buffer zone required lies in part on municipal property. Given the town's planning rights, threats cannot be entirely excluded

Future actions

- Awareness building: increase awareness among local authorities