
Pilgrimage Church of Wies (Germany) No 271

1 Basic data

State Party
Germany

Name of property
Pilgrimage Church of Wies

Location
Steingaden town, County of Weilheim-Schongau
District of Upper Bavaria, Free State of Bavaria

Inscription
1983

Brief description
Miraculously preserved in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley, the Church of Wies (1745–54), the work of architect Dominikus Zimmermann, is a masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo – exuberant, colourful and joyful.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
10 March 2011

2. Issues raised

Background

The World Heritage inscribed property is located in an exposed and elevated position in the foothills of the Alps, giving it a long-range visual effect and prominence as a pilgrimage destination. The plan provided with the letter and supplementary information dated 7 January 2009 (#79 in the Inventory) in response to the Retrospective Inventory shows the boundary of the World Heritage property, but did not include a buffer zone to protect the surrounding landscape and views towards the church from adverse visual impacts. The information on the property boundary was acknowledged by the World Heritage Committee in Decision 33 COM 8D (Seville, 2009) regarding clarification of property boundaries and sizes. The State Party was requested by the World Heritage Centre in a letter dated 20 January 2010 to provide a map with a bar scale and further documentation concerning the buffer zone.

Modification

The State Party has now provided a plan (12 February 2010) showing an enlarged protected area around the property, which encloses the surrounding hamlet and fields, together with an extensive buffer zone designed to protect the property from visual and other interference which would threaten its World Heritage status. The State Party has also provided an amendment to the

Management Plan (as of March 2009) which outlines the protective measures to be applied to the areas within the boundaries shown on the plan. The church itself (the World Heritage property) is shown in blue, the surrounding protected area is hatched in red, and the buffer zone is shown in a green line. The buffer zone extends to the north and south of the property. The map includes a scale and gives the areas in hectares:

World Heritage Property: 0.10ha
Protected Area: 1.60ha
Buffer Zone: 6.80ha

The World Heritage property and surrounding protected area is covered by provisions of §35 in the BauGB building code in terms of land use planning, so that competing uses or disturbing projects will be rejected. The property and the buffer zone are further protected by the provisions of the Regional Plan, which assures that the specialist authorities in charge of protection of the World Heritage property will be included in the participation process, not only for the designated areas but also at greater distances. This will ensure that undesirable developments such as zones for wind turbines, broadcast or reception towers, industry and infrastructure facilities, as well as buildings which by their size or form interfere with or damage the effect and view of the Church of Wies, will be avoided.

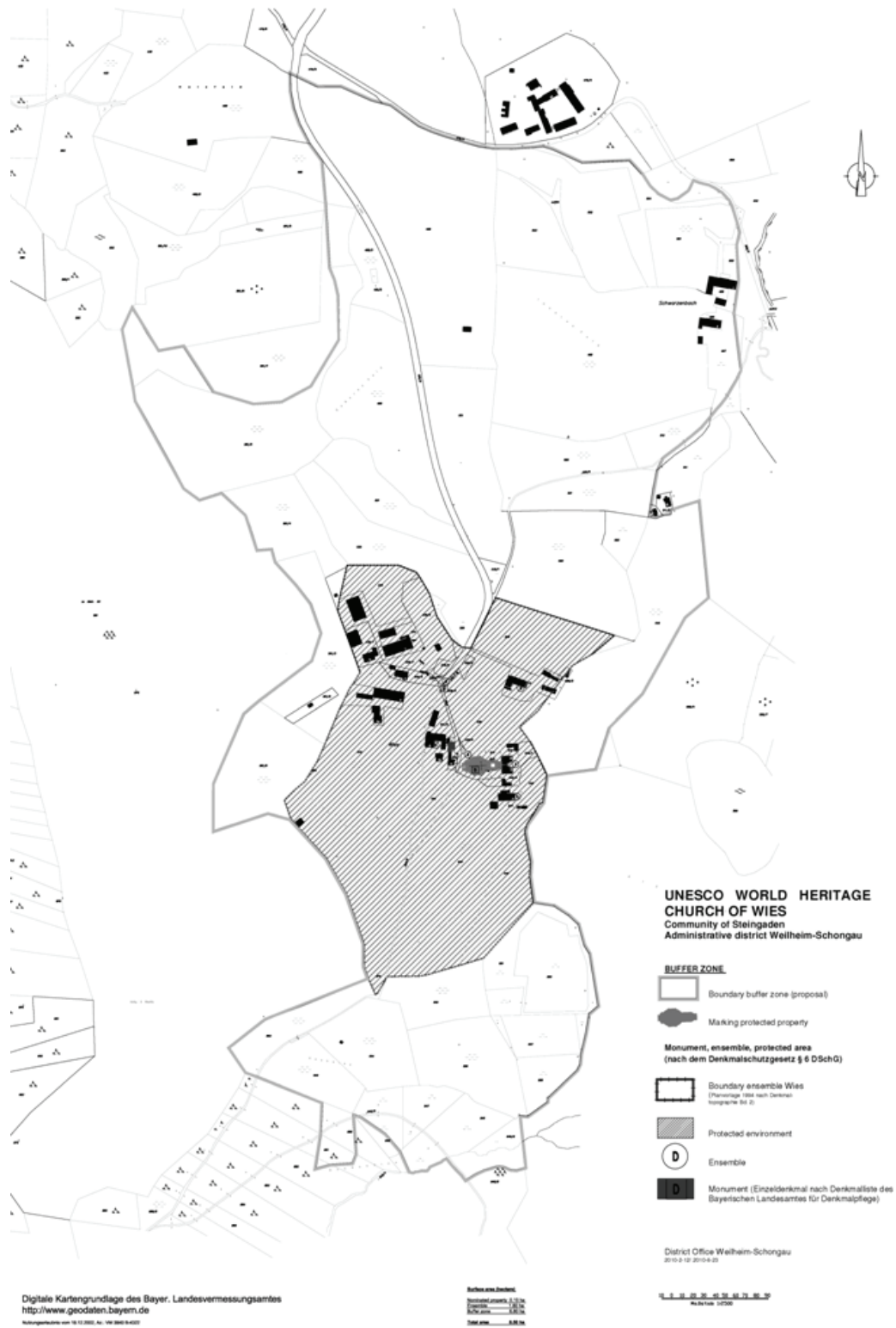
ICOMOS considers that the Regional Plan for the Oberland region is a very good basis for preserving the visual integrity of the World Heritage property.

ICOMOS therefore considers that the enlarged protected area around the property and designated buffer zone as protected by the Regional Plan are satisfactory.

3. ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Pilgrimage Church of Wies, Germany, be **approved**.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone