

GERMANY

Speyer Cathedral

Brief description

Speyer Cathedral, a basilica with four towers and two domes, was founded by Conrad II in 1030 and remodelled at the end of the 11th century. It is one of the most important Romanesque monuments from the time of the Holy Roman Empire. The cathedral was the burial place of the German emperors for almost 300 years.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1981

Agency responsible for site management

- Land Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry for Science, Further Training, Research and Culture
Wallstrasse 3
D - 55022 Mainz
- Speyer Cathedral Chapter (Domkapitel)
Große Pfaffengasse 13
D - 67343 Speyer
e-mail: Dombauamt.speyer@t-online.de
- Land Rhineland-Palatinate Office for the Conservation of Monuments (Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Rheinland-Pfalz)
Schillerstraße 44
D - 55116 Mainz
e-mail: lad@landesdenkmalamt.rlp.de
website: www.landesdenkmalamt.rlp.de

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii)

Justification provided by the State Party

The Speyer cathedral is historically, artistically and architecturally one of the most significant examples of Romanesque architecture in Europe. Begun by Konrad II about 1030, probably soon after his imperial coronation, as a flat-ceiling basilica, it was rebuilt by Henry IV, following his reconciliation with the Pope in 1077, as the first and largest consistently vaulted church building in Europe. The Speyer Cathedral is an expression and self-portrayal of the abundance of imperial power during the Salian period and was built in conscious competition to the Abbey of Cluny as the building

representative of the papal opposition. In its size and the richness of its sculptures, some created by Italian sculptors, it stands out among all contemporary and later Romanesque churches in Germany, and it had a profound influence on the pattern of their ground plans and vaulting. The German emperors from Konrad II to Albrecht of Habsburg in 1309 were laid to rest in its vault. In the fateful year of 1689 the Speyer Cathedral, too, became a ruin. The reconstruction at the end of the 18th century, of the west bays of the main building as an almost archeologically exact copy of the original structure can be regarded as one of the first great achievements of monument preservation in Europe during a time in which such activities were not yet state-organized. The westwork, rebuilt 1854-1858 by Heinrich Hübsch on the old foundations, is, by contrast, a testimony to Romanticism's interpretation of the Middle Ages, and, as such, an independent achievement of the 19th century.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Despite, or perhaps even because of, these vicissitudes, the cathedral of Speyer deserves to be included on the World Heritage List, based on criteria II. It has, in fact, exerted a considerable influence not only on the development of Romanesque architecture in the 11th and 12th centuries, but as well on the evolution of the principles of restoration in Germany, in Europe and in the world from the 18th century to the present.

Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- Statement of Significance does not adequately define the outstanding universal value of the site
- Proposal for text has not been made by State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: no buffer zone has been defined
- The cathedral and the surrounding area are protected as a monument zone pursuant to the Law on the Protection of Monuments of Land Rhineland-Palatinate

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Regulations
- The protection arrangements are considered highly effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, religious use, paid visitor attraction applies to the properties administered by the Department for Castles, Palaces

Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group
- Overall management system: management under traditional protective measures or customary law; consensual management
- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional, local
- The current management system is highly effective

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: January 1995
- Very effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Cathedral Chapter; Cathedral Construction Office; Scientific Advisory Council (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat); Land Office for the Conservation of Monuments; Land Rhineland-Palatinate Office for the Conservation of Monuments

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Land Rhineland-Palatinate; Diocese of Speyer; Cathedral Construction Association (Dombauverein); Cathedral Foundation (Stiftung Kaiserdom); Federal Republic of Germany; German Foundation for Monument Conservation
- Adequate funding

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: not provided

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

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

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

- Trier Museum (Landesmuseum Trier); University of Trier; Institute for Stone Conservation

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 491,254 (visitor numbers to sights and ticket sales). Trend: increasing slightly
- Visitor facilities: visitor centres, numerous museums, tours of castles, palaces, antiquities

10. Scientific Studies

- Condition survey, archaeological surveys
- The studies form the basis for maintenance and restoration work

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Status as a World Heritage site is used by the town and the Diocese of Speyer as an education and marketing tool
- Web site available

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Since 1995, conservation works to the Romanesque sculptures, paint-work from the 19th century, the western dome, the vaults etc (see construction work plan)
- Present state of conservation: very good

Threats and Risks to site

- Specific issues if mentioned: vegetation causing problems in the open ruins; various parties advocate increased use of the ruins as a location for events. The decision-makers, first and foremost the Department for Castles, Palaces, antiquities in the Land Rhineland-Palatinate Office for the Conservation of Monuments do however ensure that only a limited number of events are held there. The nature of the events is also taken into account and is always a source of lively discussion
- Emergency measures taken: fire prevention; contingency plans have been developed in the case of fire

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: the Cathedral Construction Office is responsible for the maintenance and conservation of the cathedral. The site is checked regularly

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation; economic
- Strengths of management: conservation works
- Future actions: not provided