

GERMANY

Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier

Brief description

Trier, which stands on the Moselle river, was a Roman colony from the 1st century A.D. and then a great trading centre beginning in the next century. It became one of the capitals of the Tetrarchy at the end of the 3rd century, when it was known as the 'second Rome'. The number and quality of the surviving monuments are an outstanding testimony to Roman civilization.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1986

Agency responsible for site management

- Land Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry for Science, Further Training, Research and Culture
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D - 55122 Mainz
- Land Rhineland-Palatinate Office for the Conservation of Monuments
Schillerstrasse 44
D - 55116 Mainz
- Diocesan General Administration, Office for the Conservation of Church Monuments Hinterdem Dom 6
D - 54290 Trier
e-mail: bistum-trier@bistum-trier.de
- Town of Trier, Office for the Conservation of Monuments
Karl-Marx-Strasse 25
D - 54290 Trier
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- Land Office for Property and Construction, Trier branch
Paulinstrasse 58
54292 Trier
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (iii), (iv), (vi)

Justification provided by the State Party

1. -7. Roman Buildings

There is no place north of the Alps where so many important Roman buildings and such a concentration of traces of Roman settlement have been preserved as in Trier, the "Rome of the North". In late classical times, Trier was one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire; it was the seat of the prefects of Gaul, Germania, Britannia and Hispania and after the imperial reforms of the Emperor Diocletian was the seat of the vice-emperor (Caesar) of the Western Empire. While the structures built during the first and second centuries (the Moselle Bridge, the Barbara Baths, the Porta Nigra and the Igel Column) illustrate the richness of the commercial city, from which the garrison towns and fortresses on the Rhine were supplied, the monumental buildings from the reign of Constantine (Imperial Baths, Aula Palatina, Cathedral) are a visible expression of the immensity of imperial power and the claim to world domination made from the West of the Empire for the last time before the eclipse of the classical era (this claim was taken over in the East by the new capital of the Empire, Constantinople, which thereby superseded Trier as well as Rome).

Of the buildings preserved from classical times, at least two of those described above are unparalleled. The Porta Nigra, with its state of preservation and its architectural layout (the combination of a fortification with the features of palace architecture) is a unique construction that is unlike any of the other preserved Roman city gates. Its development during the Middle Ages into a (likewise very unusual) double church also makes it a symbol of western history. The monumental brick structure of the Basilica, with its lapidary form and the vast dimensions of its interior (the largest known interior from classical times) was the embodiment of the seat (*sedes imperii*) and the power of the Roman Empire; it is, in the words of Eberhard Zahn, "the concept of the Empire translated into architecture".

8. Cathedral

One of the oldest church buildings in the western world, the cathedral has been a witness to the Christian faith since Constantine made Christianity the religion of the State. Its architectural design unites elements of all the periods of classical, mediaeval and modern times, but has always been marked by the monumental concept that lies at its origins. The series of archbishop's tombs covers with few interruptions the entire period from the 12th to the late 18th centuries. The Romanesque

parclose, the renaissance pulpit and some of the Baroque marble altars belong to the major works of sculpture of their respective periods.

9. Church of Our Lady

The earliest church building built on French High Gothic lines outside France (a distinction shared with the completely different Church of St. Elizabeth in Marburg). Its purity of style (it was completed in only 30 years) and the undeviating implementation of the architect's plan for a basilica-shaped graduated central area, for which there were partial models, though no entire prototype, in France; it is probably the most perfect example of the centralized construction concept in Gothic style.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

All of the Roman monuments of Trier, which are indissociable from the Christian monuments built successively on their ruins, deserve to be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, III, IV and VI.

Criterion I. The Porta Nigra, which is an enormous fortified gate built of large stones, flanked by two semi-circular four-storey towers, is a unique achievement of 2nd century Roman architecture. The remains of the choir and the cloister of the two-level church built within its walls by Archbishop Poppo between 1034 and 1042 further enhance the monument.

Criterion III. Trier bears exceptional testimony to Roman civilisation due to the density and the quality of the monuments preserved: the bridge, the remains of the fortified wall, thermae, amphitheatre, storehouses, etc. Funeral art, as demonstrated by the nomination of the Igel Column, and the craftsmanship of potters, glassworkers and minters flourished particularly.

Criterion IV. Trier, along with Istanbul, is the example of a large Roman capital after the division of the Empire. The remains of the imperial palace, in addition to the Aula Palatina and the imperial thermae (the largest of the Roman Empire after those of Diocletian and Caracalla in Rome) are impressive in their enormity. Under the north basilica (now the Cathedral), the decoration of a painted ceiling, where members of the imperial family (Helena and Fausta ?) appear to be identifiable, also bears testimony to the Aulic character of the architecture.

Criterion VI. Trier is directly and tangibly associated with one of the major events of human history, Constantine's march against Maxence in 312, which was a prelude to the Edict of Milan (313) and

which meant the recognition of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Committee Decision

1985: The Committee made no statement

Session (1986): The Committee was informed of plans to use the amphitheater in Trier for entertainment purposes and it requested the Chairman to write to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany to express its reservations on the plans as at present conceived which risked to prejudice the authenticity and integrity of the monument.

Session (1999): VIII.3 Concerning the request from Germany, that "Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen-Church in Trier" is changed to "Roman Monuments, Cathedral Saint Peter and St. Mary's Church in Trier", the Chairperson suggested consultations between the Centre and the State Party to define the correct English version.

- Statement of Significance does not adequately defines 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 protection of the properties with World Heritage status is secured through protection of the surrounding area as stipulated in the law on the conservation of monuments

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- No laws mentioned
- 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, Antiquities in the Land Rhineland-Palatinate Office for the Conservation of

Monuments: Porta Nigra, Imperial thermae, amphitheatre

Management /Administrative Body

- No steering group
- The task of a steering group is performed by the Trier Archaeological Trier Commission (set up 1926, advisory function, public relations, scientifically support and monitor the Roman heritage in Trier); other institutions with monitoring functions include the Land Advisory Council for the Conservation of Monuments (Landesbeirat für Denkmalpflege) and the Town Monuments Commission (Städtische Denkmalkommission)
- Management system: management by the State Party; management under protective legislation
- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- No management plan

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Federal State budget (Land Rhineland-Palatinate); Town of Trier; Church tax; resources from the German Foundation for the Conservation of Monuments; grants from the Federal Government; revenue from the Department for Castles, palaces, Antiquities in the Land Rhineland-Palatinate Office for the Conservation of Monuments; donations
- Sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: not provided

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

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

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

- Trier Museum (Landesmuseum Trier); University of Trier; Institute for Stone Conservation; specialized firms with well-trained staff are also always available

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 490,000 (ticket sales). Porta Nigra: increasing slightly Amphitheatre: increasing slightly Imperial thermae: fluctuating
- Numerous museums and visitor centres; shops
- Tourism/visitor management plan for site

10. Scientific Studies

- Condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management
- Construction research, restoration research and studies
- Studies form basis for restoration work to be performed

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications;
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- The status as a World Heritage site is on the one hand used as an education tool, on the other hand it is employed as a marketing instrument by the town

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 22nd (1998); 23rd (1999)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 23rd (1999); 24th (2000); 25th (2001)

Conservation interventions

- Maintenance and conservation works at individual properties of World Heritage site;

Photogram metric stock-taking and damage assessment

- Present state of conservation: adequate

Threats and Risks to site

- Vegetation is currently causing problems in the case of the open ruins but this will be resolved in the course of the forthcoming restoration work
- Specific issues: increased use of the ruins as a location for events
- Emergency measures taken: limitation of events

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: ongoing monitoring by the Trier Archaeological Commission, the Land Office for the Conservation of Monuments and the Town of Trier Office for the Conservation of Monuments ensures the values of the site are maintained

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic
- Strengths of management: The site has been suitably maintained; Awareness of the value and importance of the properties has increased amongst the public and the political decision-makers