
Abbey Church of Saint-Savin (France) No 230ter

1 Basic data

State Party

France

Name of property

Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe

Location

Department of Vienne
Poitou-Charentes Region
France

Inscription

1983

Brief description

The Abbey-Church of Saint-Savin consists of a nave with nine bays and side aisles which is crossed by a transept with a chapel on each side and has a choir surrounded by an ambulatory and five radiating chapels. The construction of the church was initially begun in 1023. Because of its many beautiful 11th and 12th century murals which are still in a remarkable state of preservation is often referred to as the 'Romanesque Sistine Chapel'.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

The property was inscribed in 1983 with an area of 0.16 hectares and without any buffer zone, which was officially approved by means of a first minor boundary modification in 2007 (decision 31 COM 8B.66). The present boundaries of the property correspond exactly to the outer walls of the abbey church and encompass exclusively its architectural structure.

Modification

The property modification suggested in this minor boundary modification request proposes to extend the boundaries to encompass not only the architectural structure of Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe but the extent of the ancient abbey's property, which comprises parts of the convent structures and its gardens which have not yet been urbanized. Within an area of 1.61 hectares the modification adds most notably a strip of garden between the abbey and the river and the southern remains of the former abbey buildings including the

location of its cloister. Recent archaeological excavations undertaken in this area have illustrated the presence of medieval fortification structures which belonged to the abbey and contribute to the understanding of its Outstanding Universal Value. These allow recognizing the former location and arrangement of those parts of the abbey which are no longer preserved in their architectural remains.

In legal terms, three of the additional six parcels added are listed as historic monuments. These are the parcels (no. 368, 369 and 370) covering the remaining architectural structures of the convent.

The other three parcels (no. 365, 366 and 367) cover the surrounding gardens which also belonged to the original property of the abbey. They are protected as an urban and landscape protection zone at the municipal level (ZPPAUP approved in 1995), which in ICOMOS' view is sufficient given the absence of specific historical structures. These latter parcels predominantly ensure preservation of the spatial relations between the abbey church and the river which are sufficiently protected through the construction prohibition derived from this legal status. These properties are pre-empted and will be acquired by the municipality only once the owners have consented to the sale.

The extension also includes the small road ruelle de l'église and well as parts of public spaces attached to road corridors. These likewise are included to allow for comprehensive spatial management approaches but as roads do not carry heritage designations. However, like the gardens these areas are protected as urban protection zones at the municipal level.

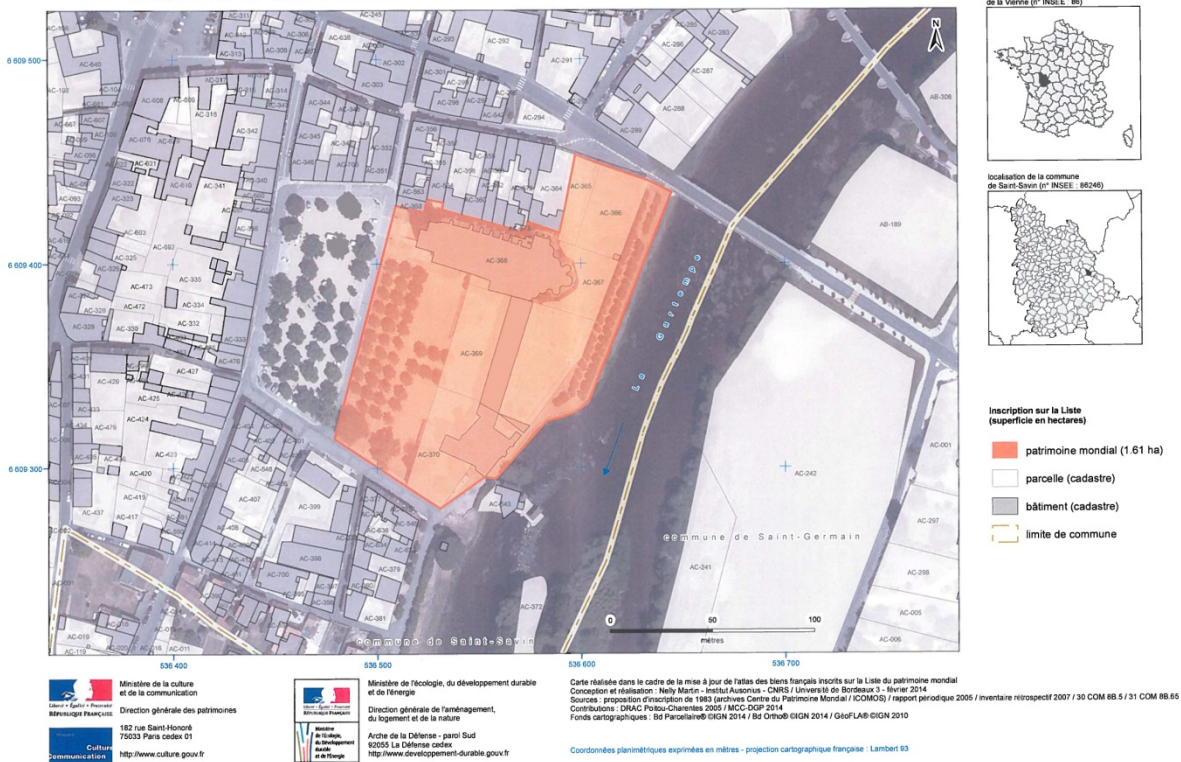
ICOMOS considers that the proposed extension is useful and will reinforce the integrity of the Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe, France, be **approved**.

230bis - Abbatale de Saint-Savin sur Gartempe : modification mineure des limites du bien inscrit sur la Liste en 1983



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property