

CZECH REPUBLIC

Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape

Brief description

Between the 17th and 20th centuries, the ruling dukes of Liechtenstein transformed their domains in southern Moravia into a striking landscape. It married Baroque architecture (mainly the work of Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach) and the classical and neo-Gothic style of the castles of Lednice and Valtice with countryside fashioned according to English romantic principles of landscape architecture. At 200 sq. km, it is one of the largest artificial landscapes in Europe.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1996

Agency responsible for site management

- The National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites
Valdštejnské náměstí 3
11801 Praha1, Czech Republic
Website: www.npu.cz

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (ii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

The uniqueness of the Lednice - Valtice grounds can be summed up according to the evaluation criteria of UNESCO for the List of World Heritage according to articles 24/a/I - VI:

a/I: The architecture of the château sets in Lednice and Valtice grounds with the preserved constructions of the architects J. B. Fischer of Erlach and D. Martinelli with farms, glasshouse of P. H. Desvignes and a set of hunting lodges and pavilions placed in a cultivated landscape of 185 km², represents an utterly unique artistic set.

a/II: The Lednice - Valtice grounds are among the rarest European examples of continuously - grown cultivated landscape in central Europe comparable only with the similar composed landscape of Anhalt dukedom between Dessau and Wörlitz and with the landscape in the Potsdam surroundings which was however interrupted by the development of Berlin as a large city agglomeration.

a/III: The grounds are one of the last examples of the disappearing Shenston's park arrangement of the agricultural landscape called the 'ferme ornée' which has almost disappeared under the pressure of urbanization and built-up areas of close-to-town agricultural landscape or were changed into recreational and sports grounds.

a/IV: The baroque stables in Lednice and Valtice and the empire cow sheds in the New Farm, the 'Křížový' wine cellar in Valtice and the iron glass house in Lednice are not only magnificent architecture but also primary technical monuments.

a/VI: The preserved state of the grounds represents the largest European evidence of a connection between the landscape and architecture, proceeding out of the ideas of the enlightenment, pantheism and classical romanticism.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

*That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**:*

The Lednice-Valtice cultural landscape is an exceptional example of the designed landscape that evolved in the Enlightenment and after under the care of a single family. It succeeds in bringing together in harmony cultural monuments from successive periods and both indigenous and exotic natural elements to create an outstanding work of human creativity.

Committee Decision

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i),(ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being a cultural landscape which is an exceptional example of the designed landscape that evolved in the Enlightenment and afterwards under the care of a single family. It succeeds in bringing together in harmony cultural monuments from successive periods and both indigenous and exotic natural elements to create an outstanding work of human creativity. The Committee decided to include criterion (i) to the proposed criteria since the ensemble is an outstanding example of human creativity.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Additional change proposed by State Party: in the brief description, the area of the estate should be changed to 14,320 hectares

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: no buffer zone has been defined

- To the north-west the estate neighbours the Protected Landscape Area Pálava, part of the Biospheric Conservation Area of Lower Moravia (declared by the Decree of UNESCO General Manager on September 15, 2003). It is not necessary to declare a buffer zone along this part of the site

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Laws: (1987) on the state monuments care that codifies the care for cultural monuments and protected conservation areas; (1992) on the protection of the nature and the landscape
- The whole territory of the estate was declared a conservation zone by the Ministry of Culture (1992). On declaration of the Lednice-Valtice area in south Moravia the conservation zone, the conditions were provided for ensuring the protection and care for the monuments value (1992). By regulation of the government No. 336/2002 Coll., on the declaration of some cultural monuments national cultural monuments, the chateaux of Lednice and Valtice were declared national cultural monuments (2002).
- Resolution of the government of the Czech Republic of August 17, 2004 No. 769 on the proposal for the creation of the inter-branch working group (steering group) on the coordination of the future development of the territory of the Lednice-Valtice area and ensuring care for its natural and cultural values on the draft regulations of its activity.
- Development plans of Lednice, Valtice Uvaly and Břeclav (1996, 1997, 1998, 1998 respectively)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, rural landscape, agricultural landscape

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: legally constituted (01/2004)
- There is currently no site manager

- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- The national government adopted the proposal for the creation of inter-branch steering group for the coordination of the future development of the territory of the Lednice-Valtice area and ensuring care for its natural and cultural values for the proposal of the rules of its activity (2004)
- The Voluntary Union of the municipalities of the Lednice-Valtice Area was formed for the purpose of better obtaining and utilizing of financial means from different sources (2005)

5. Management Plan

- No management plan is being implemented but one is projected for 12.2007
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: to be decided

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Budget sources: various sources are accessed. State budgets finance the chateaux of Valtice and Lednice. Municipal budgets, private institutions, and associated agencies (i.e. the Forests of the Czech Republic, agricultural enterprises, recreational groups) also contribute
- Bi-lateral: Hickory Foundation in New York through the Foundation Partnership in Brno; the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank; the Phare Project; the Dutch Foundation
- Sufficient funding for management exists, but not for conservation and protection; possible funding partners are being considered

7. Staffing Levels

- number of staff: 54

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

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

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

- Scientific institutions: The Mendel Agricultural and Forestry University Brno, the Faculty of Gardening in Lednice, the Research Institute of Silva Tarouca for Landscape and Decorative Gardening Průhonice, the Agency of Protection of the Nature and Landscape, the Management of the Protected Landscape Area and Biospheric Conservation Area Pálava in Mikulov, Forests of the Czech Republic in Židlochovice, UNESCO Biospheric Conservation Area Lower Moravia in Břeclav, the Foundation Partnership Brno, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Institute of Biology of Vertebrates in Valtice, the Municipal Museum in Břeclav (archaeology)
- Training on site management: Regular annual professional training for the heads of the management of the chateaux and castles in the region, and regular training of the guides. The study of special professional competence in the field of the monuments care and extramural courses of the monuments care in the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites. Programmes of ecological education are organized by the Management of the Protected Landscape Area Pálava

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 342,805 (entrance tickets to chateau, 2004)
- Trend: growing
- Visitor facilities: chateaux with entrance fee, exhibitions, parks, interpretive panels and walking trails, visitor centre, museum shop, recreational activities

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site, monitoring exercises, condition surveys, town planning studies
- Studies used for: future planning and professional reference point for restoration, etc.

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site

- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- information booklet available on World Heritage prepared in association with UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Events: international seminars, exhibitions
- Web site available: www.lva.cz (region), www.lednice.cz, www.valtice.cz (municipalities), www.pamatkybrno.cz (National Institute for Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites)
- Local participation: The inhabitants influence the estate management by the election of the local governments and they are engaged in the work of the professional commissions. The public also participates in discussing of the development intentions and gives its opinions on the problems of town planning

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Conservation: intensive work on the two chateaux, other major buildings such as the hospital of the Sisters of Mercy and the Church of St. Augustin, natural landscaping projects, various archaeological projects (between 1998-2004)
- Present state of conservation: needs more resources

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressures; environmental pressures
- Specific issues: The possibility of adjacent construction projects presents a threat to the site; a growing European beaver population interferes with the local ecosystem
- Emergency measures taken: restrictions on construction permits; culling of the local beaver population

13. Monitoring

- A formal monitoring programme exists
- Measures taken: Regular monitoring has been performed since the inscription of the estate into the World Heritage List according to the methodology the whole state. Every year

monitoring pages are elaborated and the conclusions are discussed at professional meetings of the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites and submitted for discussion to the authorities of the municipalities participating in the management of the estate. Monitoring is performed within the framework of the care for cultural monuments by the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites, the territorial professional place of work in Brno. Within the framework of the performance of monitoring, the following key indicators are monitored:

- the construction condition of both chateaux, including minor architecture in the park complexes and in the landscape;
- the state of the care for the parks and the landscape, including water areas;
- the condition and changes of the growths and their causes.

Also participating in the monitoring is the Research Institute of Decorative Gardening of Silva Tarouca in Průhonice, Mendel Agricultural and Forestry University Brno, the Faculty of Gardening in Lednice, the Institute of Town Planning in Brno, the Forests of the Czech Republic in Židlochovice, and other subjects.

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social factors, economic factors
- Strengths of management: intensive restoration projects have been completed; social awareness has increased; the quality and extent of services offered on site has increased
- Weaknesses of management: The management of the estate as a whole has not been solved yet and the management plan has not been elaborated yet according to the operational guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005. With regard to the lack of funds given by the possibilities of the state budget, common maintenance of the alleys and both parks is insufficient. It is necessary to devote more systematic care for the conserved growths so that the desired effect might be achieved

Future actions:

- In 2004 a government resolution set the task to the members of the government to support the development of the territory of the estate, ensuring care for its natural and cultural values

and the activity of the inter-branch working group. The main task of the working group is the assessment and coordination of all essential activities oriented at the support of systematic care for the estate, and the fulfillment of the conceptually strategic materials elaborated for the territory of the estate in compliance with the principles of sustainable development

The management plan will be elaborated according to the operational guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 2005