

GERMANY

Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square

Brief description

This magnificent Baroque palace – one of the largest and most beautiful in Germany and surrounded by wonderful gardens – was created under the patronage of the prince-bishops Lothar Franz and Friedrich Carl von Schönborn. It was built and decorated in the 18th century by an international team of architects, painters (including Tiepolo), sculptors and stucco-workers, led by Balthasar Neumann.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1981

Agency responsible for site management

- Bavarian Administration for State Palaces, Gardens and Lakes (Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen) Schloss Nymphenburg Entrance 1 D - 80638 München
e-mail: gertraud.perz@bsv.bayer.de
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- Bavarian Administration for State Palaces, Gardens and Lakes (Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen) Schloss Nymphenburg Entrance 4 D - 80638 München
- Würzburg Administration for Palace and Gardens (Leiter der Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Würzburg) Residenzplatz D - 297070 Würzburg
- Bavarian State Ministry for Science, Research and Art Salvatorstr. 2 D - 80327 München

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

1) The Residence is an autonomous work of art in the European Baroque style, i.e.

-the structure, in layout and silhouette, marks the overall appearance of Würzburg,

-it is exceptional in the high quality of the arrangement of its structural elements and its exterior,

-it contains room sequences which are of an artistically impressive progression, and

-its decor includes various kinds of art, from painting (fresco, panel painting) to sculpture (stone and wood) and wall decoration (stucco).

2) The Residence is a document of European culture, i.e.

-the structure is a joint achievement of the most significant European architects, sculptors and painters of the 18th century from France (particularly Paris), Italy (particularly Venice), Austria (particularly Vienna) and Germany.

3) The Residence is an historical monument with relevance to modern times, i.e.

-the structure gives consummate testimony to the imposing courtly and cultural life of the feudalistic era of the 18th century, but at the same time its varied use today is an example of modern utilization and preservation as a monument of an historical structure.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Essentially constructed between 1720 and 1744, decorated on the interior from 1740 to 1770, landscaped with magnificent gardens from 1765 to 1780, the Residence is at once the most homogeneous and the most extraordinary of the Baroque palaces.

It testifies to the ostentation of two Prince Bishops Johann Philipp Franz and Friedrich Karl von Schönborn and, as such, answers perfectly to criterion (iv) by illustrating the historical situation indicative of one of the most brilliant courts of Europe during the 18th century.

It represents a unique artistic realization by virtue of its ambitious program, the originality of creative spirit and the international character of its workshop. The most renowned architects of the period - the Viennese, Lukas von Hildebrandt, the Parisians Robert de Cotte and Germain Boffrand - drew up plans which were supervised by the official architect of the Prince Bishop, Balthasar Neumann, assisted by Maximilian von Welsch, the architect of the Elector of Mayence. Sculptors and stucco-workers came from Italy, Flanders and Munich. The Venetian painter Giovanni Battista

Tiepolo frescoed the staircase and the walls of the Imperial Hall. Perhaps no monument from the same period was able to claim such a concurrence of talent.

Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- No change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: no buffer zone has been defined
- The establishment of a buffer zone is planned for 2006/07. The Bavarian Administration for State Palaces, Gardens and Lakes will launch negotiations with the Town of Würzburg to this end

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Building Code, Bavarian Building Regulations, Bavarian Law on the Protection of Monuments, Bavarian Law on the Protection of Nature, Regulation concerning the Bavarian Administration for State Palaces, Gardens and Lakes
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction; religious use
- Cultural events, social events, housing, etc.

Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group
- No site manager
- Management system: management by the State Party; management under protective legislation; management under traditional protective measures or customary law
- 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
- Management plan foreseen for January 2006

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Budget of the Free State of Bavaria (Bavarian State Ministry of Finance)
- Adequate

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 44

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

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

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

- Numerous institutions, museums, conservation departments

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 323,079 (ticket sales) in 2003
- Visitor facilities: museum shop, visitor information, toilets and cloakroom, lift for the disabled, restaurant
- Visitor facilities adequate

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; monitoring exercises
- Climate measurements to monitor temperature and humidity in some key rooms. Surveys of damage to paint layers and cracks in the ceiling frescoes in the staircase and the Imperial Hall
- Studies used to assess the impact of visitors and events and basis for restoration management of site

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site

- World Heritage Convention Emblem not used on all publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Regular tours for day-trippers, specialist tours on particular topics, lectures
- Designation as a World Heritage site in marketing to indicate the importance of the site

Future actions:

- Re-locating some university institutes, improved visitor guidance, event management

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)**Reactive monitoring reports**

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Numerous conservation and restoration works to facades and buildings, restoration of kitchen garden
- Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, visitor/tourism pressure,
- Specific issues: traffic and events
- Emergency measures taken/planned: traffic calming: future traffic calming and re-routing of through traffic is desirable. Timeframe: 2030
Event management: measures to reduce pressure of use (concerts, events etc.) are necessary and have to be planned and implemented; 2015
Visitor management: visitor guidance is continually being improved. Timeframe: 2020

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: maintenance directories, restoration documentation, climate measurements, parks services

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic
- Strength: awareness of the property amongst the public has been increased
- Weaknesses of management: many events in the historic rooms, concentration of visitors in only a few months (2/3 of visitors come in 5 months), overuse by university institutes in the south wing