

GERMANY

Maulbronn Monastery Complex

Brief description

Founded in 1147, the Cistercian Maulbronn Monastery is considered the most complete and best-preserved medieval monastic complex north of the Alps. Surrounded by fortified walls, the main buildings were constructed between the 12th and 16th centuries. The monastery's church, mainly in Transitional Gothic style, had a major influence in the spread of Gothic architecture over much of northern and central Europe. The water-management system at Maulbronn, with its elaborate network of drains, irrigation canals and reservoirs, is of exceptional interest.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription **1993**

Agency responsible for site management

- Land Baden-Württemberg
Innenministerium
Dorotheenstr. 6
D - 70173 Stuttgart
- Land Property and Construction Authority
(Landesbetrieb Vermögen und Bau)
70044 Stuttgart
- Land Office for the Conservation of Monuments
(Landesamt für Denkmalpflege) in the Stuttgart
Regional Commissioner's Office
(Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart)
Berliner Str. 12
D - 73728 Esslingen

2. Statement of Significance

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

Justification provided by the State Party

The area surrounding Maulbronn monastery complex still impressively bears essential characteristics imperative for an understanding of the medieval monastery complex and of the Cistercians' way of life. The addition of the system of lakes and ditches, which is a vital element of the site, to the application, strengthens the grounds, described in detail in the expert's report in the main part of this application, which justify the inclusion of

Maulbronn monastery complex in the World Heritage List.

It is well known that the medieval monastic foundations were generally of considerable economic and socio-historical - perhaps even of political - importance to the region. Testimonies of greatly varying nature confirm that this was the case in Maulbronn. The principle of self-sufficiency and autonomy, in particular, led to major achievements in agriculture and fishery, as is demonstrated by the cultivation of the land around the monastery. Today's expansive arrangement of agricultural land around Maulbronn, with its meadows, fields and vineyards, is largely the result of the monks' labour. The extensive system of lakes and canals, in particular, still bears impressive witness to the monks' highly developed skills in agriculture and hydraulic engineering. Maulbronn is thus an exemplary illustration of an area which was shaped by the typical Cistercian culture through the work of the monks who lived here.

The location in a secluded woodland area, the abundance of water, and the mild climate, which was reflected in the cultivation of vines and mulberry trees, were qualities which made it an ideal spot for the order to establish its monastery. These characteristics remain typical of large areas around Maulbronn. To that extent, Maulbronn must be considered exemplary.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation:

At its 14th Meeting in 1990 the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, on the basis of the ICOMOS evaluation, recommended the deferral of this nomination to allow the authorities of the State Party to amend their proposal so as to include those parts outside the enclosure representative of activities on the estate, and in particular the fisheries and hydraulic works. ICOMOS is satisfied that the Federal Republic of Germany has amended the nomination so as to bring the missing elements into the nomination.

The area defined by the German authorities as containing the water-management system is very large and it is may be considered to be unrealistic to include the whole of this in the World Heritage Monument. In the light of the comprehensive legal protection existing in this area, the most practical solution might be to inscribe the monastery complex alone on the List, protection of the water-management system being ensured by its inclusion within the buffer zone.

That this property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria ii and iv:

Criterion ii: The construction of the transitional Romanesque-Gothic church at Maulbronn was of fundamental importance in the dissemination of Gothic architecture over much of northern and central Europe.

Criterion iv: The Maulbronn complex is the most complete survival of a Cistercian monastic establishment in Europe, in particular because of the survival of its extensive water-management system of reservoirs and channels.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1990): the Bureau recommended that examination of this nomination be deferred until the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany have included in the present nomination all the parts outside the enclosure that are representative of the activities engaged in on the estate and, in particular, the fisheries and hydraulic works.

The Bureau also expressed the wish that a global study highlight the most significant monuments of Cistercian architecture.

Session (1993): the Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criteria (ii) and (iv).

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required
- Status of boundaries of the site: not adequate
- The boundaries of the walled Monastery Complex are clearly defined with the ringed fortifications surrounding the former Monastery workshops and utility rooms, church and enclosure
- The historic water-management system: The protection of the historic water-management system is currently restricted to the ponds but does not include the network of drains and channels. The inclusion of the water systems as part of an analysis of the cultural landscape has been continued but not yet completed
- Buffer zone: adequate
- Once it has been registered as a cultural monument of particular importance, the historic water-management system is to be included in the list of monuments pursuant to section 12 of the Baden-Württemberg Law on the Protection of Monuments

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- The Aalkistensee which is an important component of the water-management system

has been partly changed in terms of substance and visual image

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- No special legislation or administrative arrangements
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Demarcation of the surrounding area of the Walled Monastery Complex: The recently carried out demarcation of the surrounding area to be protected pursuant to the Baden-Württemberg Law on the Protection of Monuments will improve the protective mechanisms in the buffer zone;
- Protection Status of the historic water-management system: once the inventory of the historic water-management system has been completed, the protection status will be updated pursuant to the Baden-Württemberg Law on the Protection of Monuments.

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, urban centre, religious use

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: the Stuttgart Regional Commissioner's Office assumes the function of a steering group with legal competences in the sphere of construction planning and regulation as well as the protection of nature and monuments. In addition, a Monastery Advisory Committee (Klosterbeirat) was set up to improve coordination of all the needs of the site. This Committee was formed prior to the inscription on the World Heritage List. Since 1993 it has functioned as an Advisory Committee for the UNESCO World Heritage site. Advisory function with the possibility of influencing decisions on the preservation and development of the Maulbronn Monastery Complex taking into account all the relevant factors including optimum conservation and further development of the site. (setup in 1989)
- Formally constituted
- No site manager
- Overall management system: management by the State Party; regional; local; management under protective legislation; consensual management

- 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*

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: December 1990; revised December 2005
- Management plan is considered adequate

6. *Financial Resources*

Financial situation

- Land Baden-Württemberg; State Assets and Building Administration (Staatliche Vermögens- und Hochbauverwaltung); Budget of the Town of Maulbronn Budget of the Württemberg Protestant Church with the budget for the Seminar Foundation and Maulbronn Protestant Church; Financing through private owners
- No extra funding through World Heritage status: awareness of the responsibility for maintaining the World Heritage site did however mean the financing institutions made more funds available
- Sufficient

7. *Staffing Levels*

- Number of staff: not provided

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

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

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

- Specialists in the Land Office for the Conservation of Monuments and the Land Property and Construction Authority; research institutes at the universities in many different disciplines; land museums; freelance restorers, construction researchers, natural scientists, engineers, historians and art historians

9. *Visitor Management*

- Visitor statistics: 310,000 in 2003 (Sale of tickets to enclosure and events estimate of

visitors in publicly accessible former workshop/utility area) stagnant

- Visitor facilities: visitor information centre, specialist tours, museum workshop, restaurants, bookshop, Information and signposting system, Information and ticket sales office of Maulbronn, Monastery Office with visitor care and Liturgical Days, Protestant Seminary with concert series
- Tourism/visitor management plan
- Visitor needs: it would be desirable to create an integrated information and signposting system on the water-management system and on the neighbouring workshops (Pflegehöfe) and farms (Grangien)

10. *Scientific Studies*

- Archaeological surveys; visitor management; Land Office for the Conservation of Monuments is endeavouring to pursue a long-term research strategy for the complex. The scientific contributions (doctorates, masters theses or other studies from a range of institutions) are to improve the level of knowledge on the complex and its background to enable its conservation needs to be responsibly met
- Research findings are directly reflected in the planning, implementation and documentation of the steps undertaken to maintain the complex and/or are included in visitor information
- The general level of research interest has increased following the inscription on the World Heritage List. Nevertheless it cannot be said that the special values of the site which make it unique has been made a focus of research

11. *Education, Information and Awareness Building*

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Efforts on the part of the public relations and education departments of the State Property and Construction Engineering Authority together with the State Palaces and Gardens Authority and the municipalities to increase awareness of the value of the complex and its unique features
- Education strategy

- Touring exhibition on German World Heritage sites; ceremony and programme of events/lectures in 2003/4 marking the 10th anniversary of the inscription on the World Heritage List; involvement of the Monastery Administration and the municipality in exhibitions and fairs on German World Heritage and/or the presentation of Maulbronn as a World Heritage site (also tourism fairs)
- Web site available (no address provided)
- Local participation: site is integrated into the social and cultural life of the town and the seminar as well as that of the church congregation

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Extensive restoration, stabilisation and conservation works on the Monastery Church, the dormitory buildings, the former Monastery workshops and medieval buildings, the walled fortifications, and other related buildings
- Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, natural disaster(s), visitor/tourism pressure, agricultural/forestry regimes
- Specific issues mentioned: the existing stone quarry can produce conflict due to the extension of the quarry area and demands on its operational efficiency. Due account is taken of the protection of the site and its surrounding area in the pertinent legislation
- Emergency measures planned: alongside the use of existing legal instruments, public relations and awareness work concerning the value of the site and the importance of the surrounding area is to be enhanced. By defining the buffer zone for the walled Monastery Complex, the framework for assessing planning applications and construction work in terms of building planning, building regulations and monument protection has been improved

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: the state-owned parts of the walled Monastery Complex are monitored by

regular inspections by the Land Property and Construction Authority. The permanent presence of a construction supervisor is proof of the efforts to constantly monitor the plant

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic, management, greater attention from the political sphere, advertising effect, increased research interest
- Strengths of management:

Visitor service: - information and signposting system to the different parts of the World Heritage site; - establishment of a visitor information centre; - improvement and extension for the tour system and comprehensive range of specialized tour/special events/museum programme conservation; - comprehensive steps to restore and preserve the material substance

Research: the inscription as a World Heritage site has dramatically increased the interest in researching the site. This can be seen by the growth in the number of publications and the results of academic work which have a determining influence on the conservation work or have been taken up in the education programme. At the same time these results provide a model for further conservation

Awareness: the number of people who are now familiar with the Monastery Complex has increased considerably. The awareness of its needs has become more pronounced

Financing: It has become easier to access financing