

ROMANIA

Monastery of Horezu

Brief description

Founded in 1690 by Prince Constantine Brancovan, the monastery of Horezu, in Walachia, is a masterpiece of the 'Brancovan' style. It is known for its architectural purity and balance, the richness of its sculptural detail, the treatment of its religious compositions, its votive portraits and its painted decorative works. The school of mural and icon painting established at the monastery in the 18th century was famous throughout the Balkan region.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription **1993**

Agency responsible for site management

- Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs
Enachita Vacarescu no 16
40157 Bucharest, Romania
e-mail: tereza.sinigalia@inmi.ro
Website: www.inmi.ro
- Aided by the National Institute for Historical Monuments (no address provided)

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria **C (ii)**

Justification provided by the State Party

Crit.I. L'ensemble du monastère de Horezu représente un chef-d'œuvre du style brancovan, synthèse artistique toute particulière se remarquant par la pureté et l'équilibre architecturaux, la richesse de la décoration sculptée, le traitement des compositions à thèmes religieux, les portraits votifs et les éléments décoratifs peints.

Crit. II. Le couvent de Horezu à représenté un important centre de rayonnement culturel. L'école de peinture de Horezu a marqué l'ensemble de la peinture roumaine du XVIII-e siècle (peinture murale et d'icônes). Les représentants de cette école ont travaillé autant en Valachie qu'en Transylvanie. La bibliothèque du monastère eut, à son tour, un important rôle culturel dans tout le monde orthodoxe.

Crit.IV. Par son architecture, sa sculpture et sa peinture, le monastère de Horezu constitue l'un des plus représentatifs monuments de l'époque brancovane, temps de plein épanouissement culturel de la Valachie.

Il s'agit du plus vaste et somptueux ensemble monastique parmi ceux élevés au sud-est européen à la fin du XVII-e siècle.

As provided in ICOMOS/IUCN evaluation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria i and ii:

Criterion i: [omitted by Committee] The ensemble of the Monastery of Horezu is a masterpiece of the Brancovan style of art.

Criterion ii: The artistic school, especially of mural and icon painting, established at the Monastery of Horezu in the early 18th century had a profound influence on religious art and architecture in the Balkan region, spreading from Wallachia into neighbouring countries such as Bulgaria and Moldavia and beyond.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1991): The Bureau deferred the examination of these nominations, considering it necessary for these monuments and sites to be afforded satisfactory legal protection, particularly with regard to the proposed protective perimeters. The Bureau also considered it desirable for a mission of experts to these three sites to be organized so that the Romanian authorities could be helped to prepare the necessary protective measures.

Bureau (June 1993): The Observer for Romania informed the Bureau of the interest of the national authorities in heritage conservation and expressed the wish that the nominations for inscription proposed by his country be re-examined. The Bureau recommended that the three nominations deferred during the June 1991 Bureau session be examined at the next session in December 1993 on the condition that the competent authorities provide assurances that there exists in Romania a real legal protection for monuments and cultural properties.

Bureau (December 1993): Responding to the Bureau request, the Romanian authorities provided information on the legal protection of cultural heritage in Romania confirming the adoption of legislative protection in April 1992. ICOMOS considers the legal texts provided as appropriate and therefore recommended the inscription of the site. The Bureau decided to recommend to the

Committee to inscribe this site under criterion (iv). However, it made a strong recommendation that the surrounding landscape not included in the buffer zone, should be adequately protected. In view of the above information concerning legal protection, the Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site under criteria (i) and (ii).

Session (1993): The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criterion (ii).

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Additional change proposed by State Party: a change of the name of the site to "Hurezi Monastery"

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Ordinance (2000) and Law 564 (2001) concerning the protection of historical monuments inscribed on WHL, the Governmental Decision (2004) for the approval of the Methodology for the monitoring of the monuments inscribed on the WHL
- General Urban Planning for each town/commune elaborated between 1995-2000
- Law 350 (2001) for the organization of the state territory and urban planning
- The Order of the minister of transports, buildings and tourism (2003) for the approval of the "Methodology for the elaboration and the content of the documentation for protected built zones (PUZ)"
- The Urban Area Map and the substantiation study with the protected area and regulation of the area have to be remade, and the coordinates of the buffer zone's limits have to be identified and marked
- The protection arrangements are considered not sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- General Development Plan and Local Area Map with Regulations

- Elaboration of a Management Plan
- To impose the strict respect of the laws concerning the protection of monuments
- To seek financial support
- Special national programmes

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, religious use

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: none exists at this time, however the local, regional and national administration could be consulted according to their respective areas of strength
- Site manager: responsibilities have been added to an existing job
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local; the ecclesiastical authority
- The current management system is not sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Elaboration of a management plan, including its creation, creation of a team, updating urban plans and regulations, involving the levels of public authority and the church administration, enhancing access to the site
- Timeframe: 2006-2007

5. Management Plan

- No management plan is being implemented
- Implementation is scheduled to commence: 08/2006
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, local administration, property owners and/or their legal representatives

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Budget sources: funds given by the state budget of the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs- National Office for Historical Monuments, Orthodox Church
- Bi-lateral: PHARE, national and/or regional projects by international agencies including Banca Țiriac, B.R.D., B.C.R., "Sfinții Martiri Brâncoveni" Foundation, SC RAV CO SRL,

Banca Olandeză, National Bank of Romania,
World Bank

- Insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: none

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

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

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

- Training on site management: guides are trained at courses organized by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs
- Further training is needed for site management

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: number not given, but use an empirical counting methodology, not number of tickets sold
- Trend: increasing by approximately 5%
- Visitor facilities: visitor centre, museum, accommodation, parking, trained guides, telephones, newly re-covered tarmac road
- Visitor needs: a standard UNESCO-WHC sign for the monument

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site; Monitoring exercises; Archaeological surveys; Transportation studies
- Studies used as part of a restoration and conservation programme with the role of promoting the site

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- There are not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local authorities

- Need for awareness raising: local community communication, television, publications, lectures in schools, tourism promotion
- Events: exhibitions
- Web sites available: MCRA-CIMEC, www.unesco.ro, www.cimec.ro/monumente/UNESCO/judet

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Conservation: 90% of the main church was restored and consolidated; the gutters were re-made; under-floor heating was installed and the interior frescoes were restored and the frescos of the paraklesion; the external frescoes have to be restored
Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- Environmental pressures, visitor/tourism pressures
- Emergency measures planned: updating the Urban Planning regulations; monitoring the implementation of relevant laws in the area; regulating visitor numbers

13. Monitoring

- A formal monitoring programme exists
- Measures taken: The methodology regarding the monitoring of historical monuments inscribed on the WHL and of the methodology regarding the elaboration and frame content of the protection and management plans of the historical monuments inscribed on the WHL. The National Institute for Historical Monuments together with DJCCPDN Vâlcea have assessed twice per year the conservation state of the monument and the utilization conditions by its owner. The MCRA inspectors are testing the implementation of the National Commission for Historical Monuments notices during the restoration-consolidation works

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social factors, economic factors

- Strengths of management: Attracting additional funds; attracting tourists; information on the area and promotion of several services
- Weaknesses of management: Weak local administration when confronted with the ecclesiastic authorities; lack of regulations for the protected area

Future actions:

- Implementation of the regulation and involvement of the owner in the UNESCO report, more involvement of the MCRA