

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Architectural Ensemble of the Trinity Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad

Brief description

This is a fine example of a working Orthodox monastery, with military features that are typical of the 15th to the 18th century, the period during which it developed. The main church of the Lavra, the Cathedral of the Assumption (echoing the Kremlin Cathedral of the same name), contains the tomb of Boris Godunov. Among the treasures of the Lavra is the famous icon, *The Trinity*, by Andrei Rublev.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1993

Agency responsible for site management

- State Historical and Art Museum-Reserve in Sergiev Posad
Prospekt Krasnoi Armii, 141300 Sergiev Posad, Moscow Region, Russian Federation
E-mail: sergiev@divo.ru
Website: www.musobl.divo.ru; www.stsl.ru
- Committee for Culture of the Moscow Government
- The Trinity-Sergius Monastery

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

Historical and architectural complex of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad is of unique value. It comprises monuments of town-building, fortification art, landscape, history and architecture, Old Russian painting. Monuments of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra and Podol (settlements beyond the walls) which preserved ancient planning structure and architectural appearance are masterpieces of Old Russian architects' art. They greatly influenced the development of architecture in 15th-18th centuries. Many of them became the models for later works of the building art in Russia.

The ensemble of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad is an outstanding specimen of buildings typical of its epoch. It is a universal value and has no analogies in the other outstanding universal values of world culture.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Qualities: This religious and military complex represents an epitome of the growth of Russian architecture and contains some of that architecture's finest expressions. It exerted a profound influence on architecture in Russia and other parts of eastern Europe.

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

- *Criterion ii* The Trinity Sergius Lavra Monastery complex represents the fusion of traditional Russian architecture with that of western Europe to create an eastern European tradition that had a strong influence on architectural developments in a large area of eastern Europe.
- *Criterion iv* The Lavra is an outstanding and remarkably complete example of an active Orthodox monastery complex with a military function that is characteristic of the period of its growth and expansion in the 15th to 18th centuries.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1993): The Bureau made no statement.

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 by State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- No change to buffer zone has been proposed by State Party

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have not been maintained. There have not been any significant changes to the authenticity/integrity of the site since inscription

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Law on the Protection and Maintenance of Monuments of History and Culture (1976, 1978)
- Decree “On Transformation of Historic and Artistic Valuables of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra into a Museum” (1920); Resolution “On Measures for Improvement of the Conditions of Monuments of the Sergiev Posad Museum” (1940); GIPROGOR Overall Plan for Zagorsk Town (1974); GENPLAN Detailed Layout Project of the Central Part of Zagorsk (1991)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Religious use

Management /Administrative Body

- No steering group has been set up
- Site manager on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional
- The current management system is considered by State Party as sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: April 1920
- The current management plan (revised in 2004) is considered to be adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: State Historical and Art Museum-Reserve in Sergiev Posad, the Trinity-Sergius Monastery and the Ecclesiastical Academy and Seminary

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- State Budget: not provided
- Federal Programme “Culture of Russia” for the restoration of monuments of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra (2004)
- Funding is insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 880

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

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

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

- Institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Geological Laboratory, Patriarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church
- Workshops and seminars organised by the UNESCO Chair in Urban and Architectural Conservation

9. Visitor Management

- No visitor statistics
- No visitor facilities
- Visitor needs: visitor centre, museum shop, hotel, parking lots

10. Scientific Studies

- Study and monitoring of vertical deformations of the architectural structures, cracks, underground water levels, temperature / humidity / atmospheric pressure, biological activity of micro-organisms; archaeological surveys at three lots of the Lavra’s territory

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, local authorities
- Web site available: www.stsl.ru

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Repair works
- Present state of conservation: adequate

Threats and Risks to site

- Environmental pressure, visitor pressure
- Emergency measures to address these problems: not provided

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme has been set up
- Measures taken/planned: not provided

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic, management
- Strengths of management: training of specialists involved in the conservation activities, raising awareness about World Heritage property
- Weaknesses of management: lack of funding