

SPAIN

Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe

Brief description

The monastery is an outstanding repository of four centuries of Spanish religious architecture. It symbolizes two significant events in world history that occurred in 1492: the Reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula by the Catholic Kings and Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Its famous statue of the Virgin became a powerful symbol of the Christianization of much of the New World.

1. Introduction

Year of Inscription **1993**

Agency responsible for site management

- CNE of ICOMOS-España, in collaboration with the Franciscan Community of the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe and the Directorate-General of Heritage of the Culture Council of the Extremadura Regional Administration.

2. Statement of Significance

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

Justification provided by the State Party

Le Monastère de Santa María de Guadalupe a été et est encore un monument d'une importance capitale car:

- Il a été le principal monastère de l'ordre de Saint Jérôme, qui fut à l'origine de la fondation du Monastère Royal de Saint Laurent de l'Escorial, ce qui conféra une influence fondamentale à l'ordre.

- Il s'agit d'un exemple exceptionnel des styles architecturaux les plus divers réunis dans les différentes constructions, parmi lesquelles se distinguent, par leur ancienneté et leur élégance, le temple et le cloître mudéjar avec son pavillon, datant des XIV^e et XV^e siècles. Le pavillon mudéjar, combiné avec le gothique est d'ailleurs un exemplaire unique dans les diverses modalités du style mudéjar.

- Ce monastère a eu une grande influence dans l'histoire moyenne et moderne de l'Espagne. Les souverains associèrent le Monastère aux principaux événements de la vie nationale, plus particulièrement les Rois Catholiques, avec la reconquête de Grenade et la découverte de l'Amérique en 1492.

- Sur le plan international, le monastère eut une grande importance dans la découverte et l'évangélisation de l'Amérique. La statue de Sainte Marie de Guadalupe devint célèbre en Amérique, et l'on prononce son nom sans cesse dans tous les pays d'Amérique latine.

- Le monastère fut un centre culturel de première ampleur. Ses hôpitaux, son école de médecine, sa pharmacie revêtirent une importance particulière. Son scriptorium fut à l'origine de splendides livres de chœurs (manuscrits enluminés), et le monastère en conserve probablement la meilleure collection de toute l'Espagne; son atelier de broderie lui a donné le meilleur musée de broderie au service de la liturgie. Ses relations avec le monde culturel attirèrent de grands artistes tels que Juan de Sevilla, Egas Cueman, Juan de Flandes, Francisco de Zurbarán, Juan Carreño de Miranda, Eugenio Cagés, Vicente Carducho, Giraldo de Merlo, Lucas Jordán et bien d'autres.

Sa bibliothèque, ses archives historiques et musicales constituent aujourd'hui un fonds très riche de manuscrits et de documents imprimés au service des chercheurs et des spécialistes de partout.

- Au chapitre de la dévotion, le monastère a été et continue d'être un endroit de visite et pèlerinage continus.

- L'harmonie existant entre la construction et les œuvres d'art que le monastère renferme est une valeur fondamentale. La plupart des créations artistiques se trouvent à leur place d'origine; ceci confère à ces lieux un charme unique qui surprend chaque visiteur.

Le site sur lequel se trouve ce monastère royal est d'une grande beauté. Il donne sur une vallée encerclée de grandes montagnes, les Villuercas, les Altamiras et le Pico Agudo, ainsi que d'autres monts où pousse une végétation luxuriante et où l'on trouve de l'eau en abondance. D'après les experts, les Villuercas réunissent les conditions pour être déclarées Parc naturel protégé.

Les rivières des environs, l'Ibo, la Rucas, et surtout la Guadalupe, qui donna son nom à l'endroit, fertilisent la campagne qui entoure le

monastère royal. Ce bien culturel offre donc aussi un cadre d'une beauté naturelle exceptionnelle.

La ville, qui s'est formée autour du monastère et dont la fondation remonte à 1337, offre dans ses constructions médiévales et anciennes une singulière beauté témoignant de l'architecture populaire.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

(This paragraph, Bureau evaluation only)
Management: [...] the dossier contains no plan indicating the precise boundaries of the site proposed for inscription on the List, nor is there any indication of the existence of a buffer zone. This is important, since the town abuts directly upon the monastery.

Additional Comments: An ICOMOS mission visited Guadalupe in April 1993.... The lack of a defined buffer zone was discussed, and it was explained by the representatives of the competent authorities that the legislative protection under Spanish law extends to the ensemble of the monastery and the town. Precise information about the extent of this area was subsequently supplied to ICOMOS in confirmation.

Qualities: The Monastery is of significance not so much for its individual features (though its arts treasures are of the highest quality) as for its organic growth over some six centuries, which means that it contains architectural elements from the Mudéjar period to the late Baroque.

Its associative value is great, in view of the profound influence of the Virgin of Guadalupe throughout much of Spain and, more especially, in the New World. It also has great symbolic value by virtue of its association with the two important historical events of 1492, the expulsion of the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula and the discovery by Columbus of the New World.

Recommendation: That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria iv and vi: Criterion iv: The Monastery of Guadalupe is of exceptional interest as an ensemble of religious architecture spanning some four centuries.

Criterion (vi): The monastery symbolizes two significant events in world history that both occurred in the same year, 1492, namely the final expulsion of the Moslem power from the Iberian peninsula and the discovery of America by Columbus. Its famous image of the virgin also became the pre-eminent symbol of the Christianization of much of the New World.

Committee Decision

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

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: inadequate
- Buffer zone partly adequate, enlargement proposed by State Party

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- National heritage legislation; Spain's Historical Heritage, Historical and Cultural Heritage of Extremadura
- Cultural Property (BIC)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- To include La Cilla and La Huerta

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, religious use, museum

Management /Administrative Body

- Formal steering group: The management of the Ensemble of the Royal Monastery is the responsibility of the Franciscan community
- Site manager on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective, etc.

Actions proposed:

- The elaboration of a Directive Plan for the Royal Monastery

5. Management Plan

- Management plan under preparation
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Betic Province of

the Friars Minor. Franciscan community of the Royal Monastery of Guadalupe. Autonomous Region of Extremadura. Culture Council of the Extremadura Regional Administration

6. *Financial Resources*

Financial situation

- Ministry of Culture
Regional Administration of Extremadura
Banking entities
Franciscan community
Private individuals
- Available information refers to 2002
- Sufficient

7. *Staffing Levels*

- Number of staff: 0

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

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

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

- Training available for stakeholders on the site

9. *Visitor Management*

- Visitor statistics: 200,000 (ticket sales), 2002
- Visitor facilities: reception, information, ticket office, snack bar, gift shop, toilets (for handicapped visitors) medicine cabinet

10. *Scientific Studies*

- Studies to be included in the Directive Plan

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
- Information flyers, detailed guidebooks

- Heritage days; publications, Annual Cultural Agreement with the Culture Council of the Extremadura Regional Administration, which makes it possible to hold congresses, cultural seminars, and exhibitions. 500th Anniversary of Isabella the Catholic
- Web site available:
www.monasterioguadalupe.com

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

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Extensive list of conservation and restoration works
- Present state of conservation: Good

Threats and Risks to site

- Natural disasters, agricultural/forestry regimes

13. *Monitoring*

- Formal monitoring programme by the Regional Administration of Extremadura

14. *Conclusions and Recommended Actions*

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation; social; economic; management; environmental interests
- Weaknesses of management: The lack of a Special Protection Plan for the Old Town. The importance of including La Huerta and La Cilla on the list. Wear and tear on the pavement due to visitors

Future actions:

- Approval of the Special Plan for La Puebla, and putting into effect the Directive Plan for the Monastery
- A new definition of the property would consider both La Huerta and La Cilla as part of it
- Establishing protection mechanisms against wear and tear due to visitors