

WHV – Documentation and maintenance at a cemetery of the Moravian Church

Moravian Church Settlements (Herrnhut), Germany

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2022)

PROJECT DATES

21 July 03 August 2024

THE SITE - Moravian Church Settlements is a proposed transnational extension of Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement (Denmark) founded in southern Jutland 1773 as a colony of the Moravian Church, a Protestant denomination in the free church tradition centred in Herrnhut, Saxony. The Herrnhut component, the ‘mother’ or ‘founding town’ of the Renewed Moravian Church, was established in 1722 in Saxony and emerged in step with the evolution of Moravian theology and societal ideals, defining the principles of all Moravian Church settlements.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to document and research the grave plates within the historic cemetery known as "God's Acre, ". The participants will also engage with in the inscription process of Herrnhut as a UNESCO World Heritage site, providing insights into community involvement and potential transnational status. Lastly, through educational programs and cultural exchanges, participants will gain a deep appreciation for Herrnhut's history, the Moravian Church's values, and their global significance, fostering cross-cultural understanding and preservation efforts.

ACTIVITIES - The participants in the Herrnhut project will take part in hands-on tasks working directly at one of the components which is listed in Germany's tentative list to become a UNESCO World Heritage: the historic cemetery of God's Acre. There, guided by experiences technical instructors and local researchers working with the community, they will carry out documentation of the state and content of the grave plates in the oldest part of the cemetery and will be implementing basic conservation measures for historic cemetery slabs. They will also participate in awareness-raising events, sharing insights into the rich heritage of the Moravian Church. The pinnacle of the project will be the site's inscription decision by the World Heritage Committee, offering participants a unique opportunity to witness and engage in the UNESCO process while partaking with the local community the experience of the site's inscription. It's a holistic experience combining practical conservation efforts, cultural exchange, and a momentous occasion in the preservation of Herrnhut's historical significance.

PARTNERS - Evangelische Brüdergemeine Herrnhut, German Verein der Förderer des Kulturdenkmals Gottesacker Herrnhut (Association of the sponsors of God's Acre in Herrnhut) and Herrnhut Municipality.

European Heritage Volunteers

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