

Identification

<u>Nomination</u>	The Maulbronn Monastery complex
<u>Location</u>	Land Baden-Württemberg
<u>State Party</u>	Germany
<u>Date</u>	28 September 1989

Justification by State Party

Maulbronn is universally held to be the most complete and best preserved medieval monastery complex north of the Alps. The topographic features around the monastery have been preserved almost intact, its development from the 12th to the 17th century can be traced, and the whole complex is in an excellent state of conservation. Although originally its importance was largely regional, its remarkable state of preservation makes it exceptional.

History and DescriptionHistory

After their lack of success in building a new monastery at Eckenweiher, land in the Salzach valley belonging to the Bishop of Speyer was donated to a small community of 12 monks led by Abbot Dieter from the Cistercian abbey of Neubourg (Alsace). Here in 1147 they began building their monastery of Maulbronn, under the protection of the Holy See, granted by Eugenius III, the first Cistercian Pontiff. Nine years later it was taken under the direct protection of the Holy Roman Empire by the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa.

The church was completed in 1178 and consecrated by Arnold, Bishop of Speyer. Over the next century the temporary wooden buildings of the community were progressively rebuilt in stone - the first infirmary, now the ephorate (end of the 12th century); the lay brethren's refectory, cellar, and auditorium (1201); the porch of the monastery church (1210); the south cloister (1215); the hall (1220-5); the monks' refectory (1225); the fortifications, forge, inn, cooperage, mill, and Chapel of the Holy Trinity (13th century); the west cloister (1300); the north cloister and fountain house (1350); and the east cloister (1350). This formed the core of the complex, but other buildings were added and modifications carried out in later centuries.

The Reformation was a period of great turmoil, not least for the monastery of Maulbronn. It was seized in 1504 by Ulrich, Duke of Württemberg, who reformed and secularized it 30 years later, after it had twice been plundered during periods of

unrest. The Emperor Charles V returned it to the Cistercians in 1547, only for it to be reformed again in 1556 by Christoph, Duke of Württemberg, who established a Protestant monastery school there and allowed private owners to acquire some of the buildings. During the Thirty Years' War it was once again handed back to the Cistercians by the Emperor Maximilian in 1630, but they were to stay only three years, and it finally became a Protestant establishment with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. The entire church property was secularized by King Friedrich I of Württemberg in 1806 and in the following year it became a Protestant theological seminary, which it has remained to the present day (apart from four years when it was closed down by the National Socialist Government).

Description

The architectural ensemble of the monastery reflects developments within the Cistercian order between the 12th and 16th centuries, and also the effect of secularization and conversion to Protestant use. It is clearly defined and separated from the town by its fortifications and its location on the outskirts of the town.

The church is typical of first-generation Cistercian architecture: it has a two-storey Romanesque nave and a low chevet leading to a transept which has three rectangular chapels opening off each arm to the west. A stone screen from the same period as the nave physically separated the monks from the lay brethren. The Gothic vaulting of 1424 which replaced the original wooden beams considerably modified the rigorous spatial divisions practised during the lifetime of St Bernard of Clairvaux; it incorporated the Romanesque traditions of the Hirsau region into the Cistercian requirements of austerity and renunciation.

The fortifications consist of a 850 m wall and an inner wall, with a ward between the two. They attained their present form over the period between the 13th and 15th centuries. The outbuildings of the former monastery comprise both stone and timber-framed buildings; the latter are mostly from the 16th-18th centuries, though often incorporating substantial remains of the medieval buildings that they replaced. The hall, with its open fireplace, is now used as a museum.

The basic medieval layout and structure of the central monastery complex, which is typical of the Cistercian tradition, is virtually complete. The 13th century buildings, in the transitional style of the "Master of the Paradise", provided a decisive stimulus for the development of Gothic architecture in Germany. Only the monks' refectory and the lay brethren's dormitories have undergone significant transformations since the Reformation, in order to adapt them for use as a Protestant seminary.

There are several post-monastic buildings within the nominated area, mostly in plastered stone. They include the former hunting lodge of Ludwig, Duke of Württemberg, and the ducal stables, which have Renaissance elements in their design and decoration.

The Cistercian Order was notable for its innovations in the field of hydraulic engineering, and this is admirably illustrated in the Maulbronn monastery complex. There is an elaborate system of reservoirs, irrigation canals, and drains, used to provide water for the use of the community, for fish farming, and for irrigating its extensive agricultural holdings. It was only after the secularization of the monastery's land-holdings in the 19th century that this was significantly changed, with the drainage of several of the reservoirs, and also the expansion of the town of Maulbronn.

Management and Protection

Legal status

Some 90% of the monastery complex is in public ownership (Land Baden-Württemberg, represented by the Staatliches Liegenschaftsamt Karlsruhe and the Staatliches Forstamt Maulbronn, and the Town of Maulbronn).

The monastery complex proper is protected under Sections 28 and 12 of the Protection of Monuments Act 1971 as amended 1983, whilst a buffer zone in the surrounding area is covered by Sections 2(3) and 15(3) of this Act, which requires approval of any alterations to its character. The historic water system is also protected by the same Act, under Sections 2(1) and 2(2), and also by the Law on the Conservation of Nature, the Preservation of the Countryside and Measures for the Rehabilitation of the Open Countryside 1975 as amended 1989.

Management

Cultural elements owned by the Land are managed by the Staatliches Liegenschaftsamt Karlsruhe and the Staatliches Hochbauamt Pforzheim; the Town of Maulbronn is responsible for managing those in its ownership. The owners of private properties (including those within the zone of historic water management systems) must seek approval for any work that they wish to carry out.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

The first major phase of restoration in the monastery complex took place in the later 19th century; somewhat unusually for the period, it concentrated on protective measures, no attempt being made to reconstruct missing architectural features. A second stage, which began in 1950 and is still in progress, begins with scientific analysis and careful research before conservation and restoration commence. It has so far dealt with the choir stalls, stained glass, cleaning of facades, and preservation of plaster-work and wall paintings.

Work on the water systems has been confined to regular maintenance of reservoirs, channels, and those parts of the

medieval drainage system still functioning. The recording of the system, which began in 1986, is still in progress. When this is completed, it is intended to draw up a long-term preservation and maintenance plan.

Authenticity

In view of the monastery's long and chequered history, its present appearance is an amalgam of many styles and periods. The 19th century secularization and conversion to a Protestant seminary resulted in some fundamental changes to certain buildings. However, the restoration work in the 19th and 20th centuries has been impeccable, and as a result the whole complex has a very high degree of authenticity.

Evaluation

Qualities

In its layout Maulbronn is a traditional Cistercian monastery complex, which has conserved the great majority of its individual features. The water management system is of outstanding importance, and the best preserved at any of the houses of this Order.

The architecture of the main church, of transitional Romanesque-Gothic style, was very influential in the adoption of Gothic over much of the territory of the Holy Roman Empire.

Comparative analysis

In terms of its individual components, Maulbronn is of less importance than some of the great Cistercian foundations in France and England. It is in the completeness of its layout and monastic elements that it is of outstanding significance.

Additional comments

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.

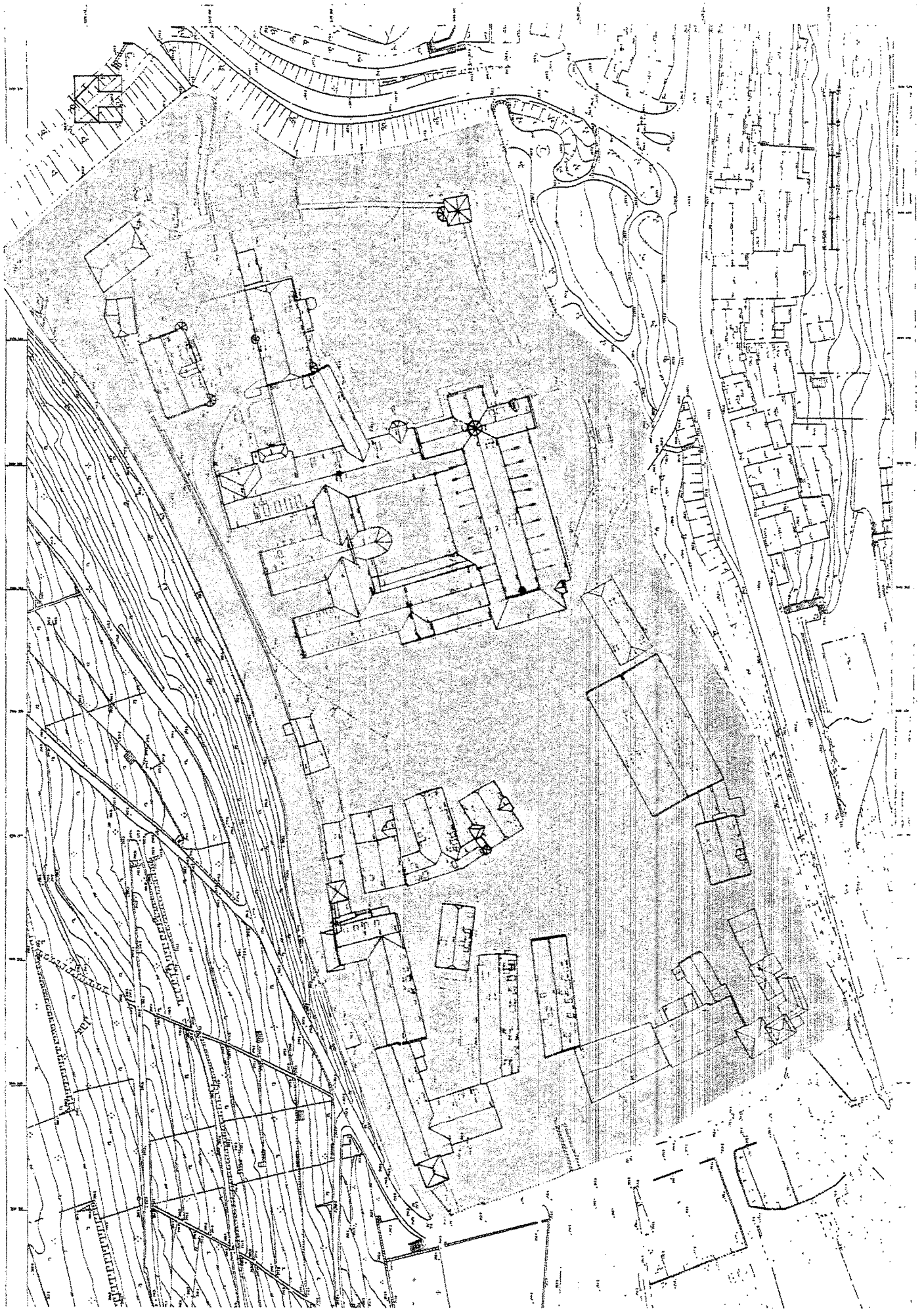
The area defined by the German authorities as containing the water-management system is very large and it is may be considered to be unrealistic to include the whole of this in the World Heritage Monument. In the light of the comprehensive legal protection existing in this area, the most practical solution 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.

Recommendation

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.

ICOMOS, October 1993



Maulbronn : délimitation de la première proposition d'inscription /
delimitation of the first nominated area



Maulbronn : proposition d'inscription incluant les
aménagements hydrauliques /
nomination including the hydraulic
installations