

# GERMANY

## Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg

### Brief description

Quedlinburg, in the *Land* of Sachsen-Anhalt, was a capital of the East Franconian German Empire at the time of the Saxonian-Ottonian ruling dynasty. It has been a prosperous trading town since the Middle Ages. The number and high quality of the timber-framed buildings make Quedlinburg an exceptional example of a medieval European town. The Collegiate Church of St Servatius is one of the masterpieces of Romanesque architecture.

### 1. Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1994

#### Agency responsible for site management

- Quedlinburg Town Administration (Stadtverwaltung Quedlinburg) Markt 1 D – 06484 Quedlinburg e-mail: [eberhard.brecht@quedlinburg.de](mailto:eberhard.brecht@quedlinburg.de) [rolf.langhammer@quedlinburg.de](mailto:rolf.langhammer@quedlinburg.de) website: [www.quedlinburg.de](http://www.quedlinburg.de)

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (iv)

#### Justification provided by the State Party

The extraordinary and worldwide cultural importance of Quedlinburg is based upon the close link between history and architecture, the town's history being intertwined with that of the Saxonian-Ottonian ruling dynasty.

With the coronation of Henry I the royal residence of Quedlinburg became capital of the East-Franconian German empire, the "metropolis of the Reich", of the first German state founded by Henry I. Members of German dynasties frequently took up residence in Quedlinburg.

A visible evidence of the Saxonian-Ottonian dynasty and the altogether most important monument of the town up to this time is the collegiate church dedicated to St.Servatius, which was considered to be one of the most highly esteemed churches in the whole of the Reich in the high Middle Ages. As is well known, its original

building contained the tombs of Henry I (d.936) and later also that of his wife Mathilde (d.968) in front of the "Confessio"; for eternal memory later also occupied a central place in the extension structure added after 1070.

Quedlinburg is of interest in a variety of ways. For medievalists the town is an outstanding evidence of history, mainly because of the above mentioned collegiate church, one of the most important pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architectural monuments. Its crypt with its cross vaults, capitals, tombs and murals constitutes one of the most significant monuments in the history of art from the 10th to the 12th century. In the impressive church, built from 1070 to 1129 on the ground plan of a basilica, the crypt of the original building is included. Of this crypt the two western bays of the three-nave central part with the remarkable Ottonian "mushroom-capital" columns remain.

The present church building, erected after the fire of 1070, retained the ground plan of its predecessor, thus continuing the architectural tradition, which deliberately took up the ideas of the Ottonian structure. In addition, the cross-shaped basilica, whose three-part crypt under the choir and transept was newly structured to a great extent, was given a western two-tower building. In the front elevation various decorative forms were applied in the Northern Italian style- certainly with the intention of emphasizing the high standard of this imperial foundation. Above all these decorations include the friezes in and outside as well as the ornaments on the capitals and imposts.

Among the furnishings special mention should be made of: the paintings on the crypt vaults preserved to a considerable extent with depictions from the Old and New Testaments and the stucco tombstones produced before 1129 for the three abbesses Adelheid (d. 1045), Beatrix (d. 1062) and Adelheid II (d. 1095). Besides there are a few exceptional objects from the medieval church treasure, kept in the treasure chamber which was installed into the northern part of the transept around 1170 (also named "Zitter"), including the abbesses' rod of 999, several precious reliquaries and the Adelheid Evangeliar from the 10th century in its magnificent cover, as well as considerable parts of the treasure that was recently returned to Germany.

A Gothic-style addition is the polygonal choir erected above the Romanesque crypt, which according to written records, was completed in 1320. The interior of this choir was changed retrospectively by the incorporation of a "Romanesque" apsis in 1939/40.

In the period from 1708 to 1711 the partially dilapidated southern wall of the long nave was renewed. From 1866 to 1882 the western towers were reconstructed, whose helm roofs destroyed during the war were replaced by tent-shaped ones in 1946/48.

The collegiate church owes its outstanding importance above all to the special historic role played in the Middle Ages, being the burial place of Henry I, first German king from the Saxonian dynasty. Apart from this historic significance and the superb architectural shape it is the interior furnishings that contribute to the unique status of the collegiate church of Quedlinburg.

After their return to Quedlinburg considerable parts of the above mentioned foundation treasure will be accessible to the public in 1993. Thus the almost complete foundation treasure, which survived a millennium, may be admired in Quedlinburg. This treasure represents an exceptional single example of the intimate linkage between architecture and high-standart objects of art, including the tombs, the Evangeliar of abbess Adelheid and the carpet of abbess Agnes, who dies in 1203, the oldest remaining knotted carpet with pictorial representations.

Quedlinburg is typical of the development of a medieval town originating from a castle village and several settlements. Its value as a monument of urban architecture is based upon the preservation of the town-wall of 1330, the still existing urban interaction with the old parishes of St.Aegidius, St.Blasius, St.Benedictus and St.Nicolas and on the urban structures with medieval and post-medieval half-timbered houses.

The market settlement with merchants and craftsmen to the West and later also to the North of the castle hill which combined with smaller settlements to form the town of Quedlinburg owed its foundation and development up to the 18th century to the town rule of the imperial foundation which contributed to its structure and appearance to a great extent.

The splendour of the metropolis of Quedlinburg from the 10th to the 12th century is shown in the buildings standing on the castle hill. Of the citizen's town of that time at least the ground plan and very likely some old parts inside the houses have survived.

In the churches of Quedlinburg Romanesque predecessor buildings are demonstrable, the present ground plan dating back to the time before 1200. This largely preserved urban structure enclosed in the town-wall which still exists in many sections and the townscape with its - in spite of the

losses of the last 100 years- numerous preserved half-timbered houses from the last six centuries go to make up the importance of Quedlinburg and bear witness of the political historic interrelation between town architecture and the history of half-timbered houses.

Even during and immediately after the Thirty Years War the town experienced an economic boom. Compared to other half-timbered towns of the time between 1620 and 1710 Quedlinburg has by far the greatest number of houses of this type. That period constitutes a heyday in the art of architecture with the development of a special variety of shapes. During that time, as already in previous centuries, the rights of ownership ensured the construction of new buildings along the historic streets and squares - the reason for the preservation of vast sections of the layout of the town.

Due to the one-sided building policy of the government of the former GDR with its orientation to industrial pre-fabricated construction techniques and the dissolution of craftsmen's enterprises the possibilities for preserving historic building substance were severely restricted. Thanks to the protests of citizens in 1989 the large-scale clearance measures in the northern part of the town, still planned by the GDR authorities, could be stopped, so that losses are restricted to smaller areas in the Schmale Straße, Breite Straße and their side-streets.

The shortcomings in the past mainly consisted in the fact that when maintenance work was carried out at all, renewal measures were only put into effect in a small way, thus leaving the original substance undisturbed. Therefore the buildings of the town, in spite of their condition, represent excellent authentic evidence of structure, material and craftsmanship. This is the reason why even today there exist numerous historic buildings, many apparently undisturbed sites of streets and squares, giving the townscape its special character and which, in spite of all shortcomings have remained genuine historic buildings with high values in detail.

The re-unification of Germany with its many opportunities for support and sponsoring and the revival of craftsmanship brought a realistic chance to preserve the historic ensembles and single buildings in Quedlinburg. The first freely elected democratic town council put the preservation of the inherited values into the centre of attention. One of the first decrees put a stop to demolition and banned the use of industrially pre-fabricated building materials.

The intention of those politically in charge and of the citizens to preserve Quedlinburg's important

evidence is proved by the envisaged and already completed projects as well as by some under way:

- reassessment and recording of existing monuments (based on the law of monument conservation of the Land of Sachsen-Anhalt)
- investigations in urban architecture for the preservation and the development of the town of Quedlinburg;
- statutes for the old part of Quedlinburg
- optimization, assessment and control of the planning and undertaking of construction work in the historic part of the town (ensuring monument conservation concerns)

The town council of Quedlinburg passed the following resolutions to guarantee this programme:

- application of the town of Quedlinburg for inclusion in the World Heritage List of UNESCO (resolution Nr. 443/24/92 of June 18th 1992, cf. supplement)
- catalogue of monuments in the inner city. Resolution of the Town Council Nr. 504/26/92 of September 9th 1992 (cf. supplement)
- statutes on urban reconstruction measures in the inner city according to § 142, sections 1 and 3, construction decree of march 28th 1991.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Quedlinburg is among the most outstanding historic towns in central Europe which preserves a high proportion of timber-framed buildings of the medieval and later periods. It is also of great historical importance as the first capital of the Saxonian-Ottonian dynasty of Holy Roman Emperors. ... Quedlinburg justifies inscription on the World Heritage List primarily because of its Imperial origins rather than for its rich architectural heritage. There is, however, a relatively urgent need for a comparative study of historic European towns with predominantly timber-framed architecture, such as Rothenburg-ob-der-Taube and Troyes.

At its 14th Meeting in Paris in June 1990 the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee recommended that "the examination of this nomination be deferred until the authorities of the German Democratic Republic have decided to nominate either the Collegial Church and the whole of the Burgberg, or the whole town... In the latter case, it would be necessary to have elements of comparison, in the light of the global study." The revised nomination, submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany, has adopted the second alternative proposed by the Bureau.

#### Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion iv:

*Criterion iv:* Quedlinburg is an outstanding example of a European town with medieval foundations which has preserved a high proportion of timber-framed buildings of exceptional quality.

#### Committee Decision

Bureau (1990): the Bureau recommended that the examination of this nomination be deferred until the authorities of the German Democratic Republic have decided to nominate either the Collegial Church and the whole of the Burgberg, or the whole town (within the 1,330 enclosure, including the Burgberg and the Münzenberg). In the latter case, it would be necessary to have elements of comparison, in the light of the results of the global study.

Session (1994): in inscribing the town on the World Heritage List, the Committee commended the German authorities on the conservation programme undertaken over the last years and encouraged them to continue with its implementation.

- 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: the conservation area is defined as a buffer zone. It forms a ring around the World Heritage and protects it inter alia from disturbances. No change can be made in the conservation area which may negatively influence the townscape

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- No changes are planned which might impact the authenticity and/or integrity of the site

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Regional: Land Saxony-Anhalt Law on the Protection of Monuments Monument Directory for the Town of Quedlinburg
- Local: restoration statute since 1991, maintenance statute since 1992; a statute on the development of the Old Town was issued in 1991 and amended in 1998 for the sphere of the World Heritage site. Town Directive on

subsidies for privately funded building modernization of 1992. Since 1996 there has been a framework plan adopted by the Town Council (Stadtrat) with plans for use, transport and the townscape and several sectoral framework plans concerning various quarters

- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

#### 4. Management

##### Use of site/property

- Urban centre

##### Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group. There are currently no plans to set up an official steering group as the personnel available in the Town Administration and those responsible for restoration are suitably qualified to protect and further develop the World Heritage site. An interministerial coordination group of all competent ministries has been set up to coordinate the development of the UNESCO sites. There is however a working group which meets every six to eight weeks to discuss restoration issues and take decisions on future restoration work. This working group brings together staff from the lower authority on the conservation of monuments, Land Saxony-Anhalt Office for the Conservation of Monuments, the UNESCO Department of the Land Administration Office (Landesverwaltungsamt), those responsible for restoration and the Administration of the Town of Quedlinburg (Stadtverwaltung Quedlinburg);
- Management under protective legislation
- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: local;
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

#### 5. Management Plan

- No management plan
- Other arrangements: restoration plan; framework plan; sectoral framework plan town development plan; land use plan
- Management plan foreseen for the future

#### 6. Financial Resources

##### Financial situation

- State Budget (Federation and Land); German Lottery; German Foundation for Monument Conservation (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz); etc.

- No extra funding has been drawn through the World Heritage status
- Private sponsors who provide funding and/or restore houses and provide all kinds of facilities which are made available free of charge (German Centre for Half-timbered houses (Deutsches Fachwerkzentrum)), Lienhard House for Young Stonemasons (Lienhardhaus für die Jugendbauhütte). There is also a private foundation which finances the upkeep of St Blasius Church
- From 2005 on a decline of financial contributions is to be noted
- EU funding (ERDF)
- Insufficient funding available for the adequate management of the site
- Funding for protection and conservation: needs are currently in excess of the planned financial support. The town is no longer in a position to provide co-financing on the scale necessary and is dependent on the assistance of third parties. Since 1997 the German Foundation for Monument Conservation has been providing 100% of these co-financing funds. But its level of funding has also fallen. Because of this shortfall, the town cannot claim the supplementary support earmarked by the Federation and the Land for urban development assistance to the tune of approximately 3.0 million euros

#### 7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 4 full-time

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

- Very good: interpretation
- Good: conservation, management, education
- Average: promotion, visitor management
- No adequate staff resources to protect, maintain and promote the site: there is a lack of practice-oriented monitoring of building work by experts, especially as the Town of Quedlinburg is itself not the monument-conservation authority

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

- Staff are continually given further training either on site or at other training centres. The German Centre for Half-timbered Houses was also founded in Quedlinburg in 1998. It sees itself as a service centre for ecology, innovation and monument conservation. It offers basic and

further training for those commissioning building work, architects, construction engineers and craftsmen in the spheres of ecology and monument conservation

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 1,000,000 in 2003. Estimate based on the number of visitors receiving tours and the number of overnight stays per annum
- Visitor facilities: theatre, museums, churches, galleries, hotels and restaurants, holiday homes, tours, castle, events such as Kaiserfrühling (Medieval festival), Quedlinburg swingt Musiksommer (music festival), advent in den Höfen (Christmas market) etc., wide range of shops, library, pedestrian signpost system, visitor centre, museum shop
- No tourism/visitor management plan

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Studies and research programmes conducted specifically for the site: monitoring exercises, archaeological surveys
- In advance of future restoration work, a cellar survey is drawn up for part of the site; archaeological studies have to be carried out prior to any intervention involving the ground; scientific preparations are carried out for such work which is thereafter monitored
- Studies used to enhance the planning and implementation stages and serve as a basis for preparing for future work on the site

### 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: businesses, local authorities
- Need for awareness raising through advertising for the Old Town, attracting young people and/or young families, radio and TV reports, Open Monument Day to advertise for life in a monument
- Special events: OWHC symposium in framework of "Heritage and Youth"; grammar schools in Quedlinburg will be involved in the OWHC project "Youth on the Trail of World Heritage"; touring exhibitions; Open Monument Day; Issuing of the 100 euro gold coin "Quedlinburg World Heritage town" as the first

in a series of commemorative coins to honour UNESCO World Heritage sites

- Web site available
- Local participation: 80% of all buildings in the World Heritage area are privately owned. As a result, a large section of the population is directly affected by the restoration and maintenance of the World Heritage

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

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 21<sup>st</sup> (1997); 22<sup>nd</sup> (1998)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 21<sup>st</sup> (1997); 22<sup>nd</sup> (1998)

#### Conservation interventions

- Ongoing modernization and maintenance work on some 50 properties since 1990, and limited by stabilizing some 30-40 properties
- The drop in population since 1989 makes the revitalization process more difficult. Although considerable funds have already been invested in Castle Hill with the Collegiate Church and in the Münzenberg with the remains of the Church of Our Lady, the desolate system of supporting walls of the two hills, including the building substance requires comprehensive restoration
- Present state of conservation: adequate

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressures
- Like all East German towns, Quedlinburg suffers from a declining population. Urban planning is aiming to increase living standards, above all for families with children but also for the elderly

### 13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- World Heritage site is part of the Land initiative URBAN 21, for which monitoring data are collated on an annual basis and presented by 1 July. The results in the URBAN area, which is identical with the maintenance statute area, can therefore to some extent be used for the area of the World Heritage
- Key indicators: jobs within and beyond the World Heritage area; population and population structure in the World Heritage area urban structure; state of repair of buildings; infrastructure in the Old Town; goods offered in the World Heritage area; service offered by hotels and restaurants; number of overnight

stays and length of stays; other tourist facilities;  
meeting facilities

#### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic
- Strengths of management: the state of repair of the buildings, streets and squares within the World Heritage area has clearly improved in the last ten years. By means of intensive public relations and awareness-building, a large part of the population fully supports World Heritage status and the restoration objectives. The authenticity and integrity of the site has been entirely preserved. Tourism has clearly benefited from the inscription of the Town of Quedlinburg in the World Heritage List
- Weaknesses of management: decreasing population in the World Heritage area. Few incentives to build to close gaps as demanding development criteria apply. Empty properties threaten the success of the restoration process

#### **Future actions:**

- Federal Programme: improvement to the residential environment, particularly also for families with children to encourage them to stay in or move to the Old Town; reinforcement of the Old Town by reducing peripheral habitations