

Name of property: Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork

Localization: Malbork City is situated in the western part of Pomorskie voivodships. It is located on the territory of Żuławy Wiślane, on the bank of Nogat River.

Category of property: cultural property

Nominated area: Malbork Castle is one of the most magnificent monument of Gothic brick architecture in Europe. Three castles compose the vast mediaeval architectural composition, work on which began in 1247:

- High Castle;
- Middle Castle;
- Fore Castle;

They are enclosed by the system of fortifications that form the largest complex of Gothic brick architecture in Europe.

Legal situation:

legal provision (status): state property;

responsible administration: managed by the Castle Museum - an official body created at 13th September 1960 by the Ministry of Culture and Art, to which it reports directly.

Justification for inscription on the World Heritage List

date of inscription - 1997

criteria met - 2,3,4

Criterion 2

The castle at Malbork is a unique architectural achievement that provided many innovative and important approaches to the development of European mediaeval defensive architecture. This is due in particular to the revolutionary methods of construction and the exceptional artistic design of the vaulting and portals. Also worthy of note is a great interior original polychrome decoration and the use of architectural sculpture. These solutions undoubtedly influenced not only the evolution of the following castles of the Teutonic Order, but they also established a standard for other Gothic buildings in the northeastern Europe.

Criterion 3

In 1309 it became the main seat of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. Soon after, it developed into an economic military and administrative headquarter of the Teutonic State, which was at that time one of the most important in the region of southern coast of the Baltic Sea.

Criterion 4

Malbork Castle is of considerable historical significance for the evidence that it bears an outstanding witness to many social, economic and political events of great significance and historical meaning, in the mediaeval Europe, such as:

- Crusades in eastern Europe, which were realized for a forced baptism of the Baltic people, and the colonization of the tribal territories of the Teutonic Order;
- wars between the State of Poland and the Teutonic Order; for example
- Malbork Castle is also an historic monument that reflects some tendencies to treat its role, throughout the centuries, as an instrument in the service of political ideologies, such as for example the nationalistic and chauvinistic concepts of the Third Reich.

Malbork Castle is also an historic monument that reflects some tendencies to treat its role, throughout the centuries, as an instrument in the service of political ideologies, such as for example the nationalistic and chauvinistic concepts of the Third Reich. Finally, the artistic and aesthetic values of the complex are enhanced by the picturesque natural landscape.