



Monuments in Saxony

Guidelines for Monument Owners I: What is protection of monuments?

Who protects monuments?

We all are responsible for conserving this cultural heritage and to pass it on to the next generation, complete and unadulterated. The Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments assigns the official tasks of monument protection to the Protection of Monuments Offices, the Saxon State Office for Conservation of Monuments and the Saxon Archaeological Heritage Office. According to Sec. 8 Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments, owners and holders of monuments must take good care of them, preserve them in a reasonable manner and protect them against hazards. Monument protection would not be so successful were it not for the outstanding commitment of our citizens. Countless private initiatives, associations, foundations and private owners have committed themselves to conserving our cultural heritage. With great commitment and caring they have refurbished and revitalised old buildings.

Who should I contact?

Contacts in all questions concerning monument protection are the Protection of Monuments Offices of the administrative districts, independent towns and the municipalities of Freiberg, Görlitz, Hoyerswerda, Pirna, Plauen and Zwickau. The Protection of Monuments Offices listed below internally consult the Saxon State Office for Conservation of Monuments and the Saxon Archaeological Heritage Office as competent authorities in matters of monument protection and conservation.



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What is protection of monuments?

The offices for the protection and conservation of monuments are responsible for protecting and conserving monuments, in particular, for monitoring their condition, avoiding putting monuments at risk and salvaging monuments, and to record and study them scientifically (Sec. 1 Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments).

In addition to approximately 30,000 archaeological sites, there are around 100,000 cultural monuments in the Free State of Saxony. More than 80 % of the cultural monuments are residential buildings of all types, from simple farmhouses to exclusive residential villas in large cities. In terms of significance, in particular, it must be emphasised that there are around 1,850 churches and around 800 castles and fortresses. In addition, the Free State of Saxony as a historic industrial state is characterised by approximately 6,800 industrial and transportation buildings.

Why do we protect our monuments?

Monuments characterise our cities and landscapes. They bear witness to past architectural styles and ways of life. They reflect Saxony's rich history and culture and convey a feeling of confidence and belonging. This is the reason why many German and international visitors are interested in visiting these monuments.



Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted that you are interested in the conservation and protection of the monuments of our state, Saxony. These monuments are an essential piece of our home place, a living experience in our history and part of our identity.

This leaflet is the first of a series of information leaflets on the protection and conservation of the monuments in the Free State of Saxony. The conservation of monuments is a demanding, but also a thankful task. Those who dedicate themselves to this task will gain a much greater awareness of our heritage, values and traditions. They will pass on a piece of history and leave traces for the future history of our home place. Monuments are not an end in itself and are not mere ornaments, but should be used actively and integrated as a living part of the environment. Protection and conservation of monuments also must be understood in the context of current challenges. Demographic, financial and technological developments with demands on climate protection are also related to this field. The new leaflet series will provide citizens interested in the protection and conservation of monuments with all necessary information and suitable contacts.

'What is Conservation of Monuments?' is the title of the first leaflet of this series. This introduction briefly summarises the concept of the conservation of monuments, why we protect monuments and what a cultural heritage is.

I hope you will enjoy the knowledge you gain from these leaflets.

Markus Ulbig
Saxon State Minister of the Interior



What is a monument?

Within the meaning of the Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments, monuments are man-made objects, ensembles, parts and traces of objects, including their natural foundations, whose conservation is in the public interest on account of their historic, artistic and scientific importance, as well as their significance in urban development and landscape design (Sec. 2 Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments).

The prerequisite for the object's characteristics of a monument is its potential of classification and status as monument.

The **potential** of being classified as monument means: The object must have at least one characteristic of historic, artistic and scientific importance, as well as significance in urban development and landscape design.

- The **historic** potential of being classified as monument exists if the monument highlights historic events or developments for today's or future generations, such as the last home of the composer Richard Wagner or the last baroque residential home in a town.
- Objects of **artistic** significance are those which primarily inherit art-historical values. They must convey the impression of being something special, such as the design of a palace complex or a ceiling painted in a Renaissance building.

- The potential of being classified a monument for **scientific** reasons exists if the monument is significant for science or a branch of science; this also includes natural sciences. This, for example, applies to technical monuments, such as iron hammer works, mills or factories.
- **Urban-planning** significance is verifiable if the building has a uniform urban development feature that either is based on unique planning or for other reasons was developed over a period of time, such as the market square in a historic old town or a housing estate of the 1920s.
- A **landscape design** may be classified a monument if a natural landscape was changed by human intervention, so that – compared with its original form – ideas of order and design are evident and they have become a characteristic component of the landscape. Wall installations or town fortifications, promenades and parks can be cited as examples.

In addition to the potential of being classified a monument, an object also must have **the status of monument**. An object with the potential of being classified as monument also has the status of monument if there is public interest in its conservation. In other words, not every building with the potential of being classified is worth preserving, but only in cases where the interest in preserving the monument has attained general significance beyond subjective individual interests. Further, the process of consideration, among other things, must take into account aspects, such as its significance for the environment, the documentary and

exemplary value, a good example for tradition, significance to the local landscape or history, artistic rank, etc.

If the object satisfies the characteristics of being classified a monument according to Sec. 2 Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments, it will be under monument protection by act of law. No formal declaration or recording in the list of natural documents (see Sec. 10 Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments) is required. However, the Protection of Monuments Office must establish the characteristics as monument in response to an approval application filed by the monument's owner. Opposition or legal action before an administrative court is permissible.

According to Sec. 12 Saxon Act for the Protection of Monuments, a monument may be restored or maintained, changed or affected in its appearance or substance, provided with add-ons or attachments, inscriptions or advertising signs, removed from its environment, destroyed or demolished only with the Protection of Monuments Office's approval. The application for authorization must be filed in writing with the competent Protection of Monuments Office. If the project requires a building permit or planning permission, the approval application is deemed to have been filed with the application for a building permit or planning permission.

