

Interim report – Žďár nad Sázavou

1) Brief summary of history

Cistercian monastery Studnice Blahoslavené Panny Marie and settlement Žďár was initiated by the father of St. Zdislava, Přibyslav of Křižanov, as well as his sons-in-law, Boček of Zbraslav and Smilof Lichtenburg, who brought his plan to reality. Monastery was founded in 1252. The monastery comes into the possession of King Jiří (George) of Kunštát and Poděbrady in 1458, the descendant of the monastery's founder. During the years of his reign (1458 – 1471), he tried to restore the monastery that had been plundered and burnt down during the Hussite wars. The monastery becomes private property of the Cardinal of Olomouc, František of Ditrichštejn after 1614, who had the prelature (the abbot's living quarters) transformed into a castle.

The Abbot of Velehrad, Jan Greifenfelsof Greifenfels, who is considered the second founder of the monastery, buys out the former monastery from Maxmilián of Ditrichštejn in 1638. After 70 years of reconstructing property of the monastery the head of the monastery (convent) becomes Abbot Václav Vejmluva in 1705, who invites a prominent architect, Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel, sculptor Řehoř They, and painter Michael Willmann. This is the era of the monastery's transformation into one of the most prominent sacral domiciles culminated in the consecration of the St. Jan Nepomuk Church in Zelená Hora. Unfortunately, following a disastrous fire, Abbot Otto Steinbach of Kranichštejn asks Emperor Josef II to close the monastery in 1784.

2) Brief characterization of the landscape

Location-wise our monastery could be best described by Libicka route, which was a well know and important trade route from Bohemia to Moravia first know in a document from 1144. Zdar monastery was build on this route as an border point between Bohemia-Moravia border that was given by Sazava and Svratka rivers and most of it's former property was situated on perimeter of this former route. Thanks to this fact, property of Zdar monastery was spreaded to 45 km long landscape.

Characterization of our monastery was influenced the most by primal Cistercian landscaping – by rivers at which dozens of ponds were made since 1370 to 1750 (most of them in late medieval era). Because of this cascade of ponds, monks were very efficient in using power produced by water streams. This power was used not only in powering mills but

also in powering power hammer that was used for metal production. Metal was mostly imported because there weren't any major metal mines on properties of Zdar monastery.

In the first half of the 18th century, monks, most notably abbot Vaclav Vejmluva, were very active in building structures of a high architectural value such as Pilgrimage Church of st. Jan Nepomuk, Churches in Zvole, Bobrová, Nové Veselí, but also new agricultural sites such as Lyra or taverns were built. Most of the buildings built in this era were designed by world well known architect Jan Blazej Santini-Aichel.

3) Proposal of 35+ elements

Because of the characterization of our landscape, we decided to include elements, that would capture unique nature of our subsite.

Structures located at monastery ground

1. Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary
2. Brewery
3. Monastery mill
4. Convent building
5. The Well Chapel
6. Statue of Virgin Mary
7. Statue of Jan Nepomuk
8. Bridge from the 18th century with saints characteristic to our subsite
9. Pilgrimage church of st. Jan Nepomuk
10. Granary
11. Monastery gardens
12. Historical area of nearby monastery property
13. Monastery area bordered by ponds and river

Major ponds important for financial and food supply to the monastery:

1. Velké Dářko
2. Cascade of Polnička ponds
3. Branský pond
4. Konventský pond
5. Matějovský pond
6. Novoveselský pond

7. Rendlíček pond

Border and route elements

1. Border stone (northern part)
2. Border stone (south-western part)
3. Libická route
4. Vápenická route
5. Pilgrimage route to the Pilgrimage church of st. Jan Nepomuk

Sacral structures outside the monastery

1. Holy Trinity church (Zdar nad Sazavou)
2. St. Václav Church (Nové Veselí) + Church house
3. St. Peter and Paul Church (Bobrová) + Church house
4. St. Václav Church (Zvole) + Church house
5. St. Prokop Church (Zdar nad Sazavou) + Church house

Mills and power hammers

1. Nové Veselí mill
2. Fikl mill
3. Black mill
4. Dusík mill
5. Slakhammer
6. Frenzl hammer
7. Flieget hammer

Inns and monastic grange

1. Táferna
2. Ostrov nad Oslavou inn
3. „Three stars inn“
4. Lyra grange
5. Nové Veselí grange
6. Radešín grange (granary)
7. Kotlasy grange
8. Cikháj grange

9. Řečice grange

10. Old „farmyard/grange“