

Use of the Complex of the Former Cistercian Abbey in Plasy during the Second Half of the 20th Century

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This study discusses utilisation of the complex of the former Cistercian abbey in Plasy during the second half of the 20th century on the basis of published and unpublished sources and specialist literature. The introduction provides information about the historic development of the complex until 1945 when the estate belonging to the Metternich family was nationalised. It then outlines use of the buildings of the complex after the end of the Second World War and particularly after the communist coup d'état in 1948. [Cistercians; Plasy; Abbey; Normalisation; Metternich Family]

Introduction

The Cistercian monks inhabited the abbey in Plasy until 1785. Available sources date establishment of the complex to the 1140s, specifically to 1144, and refer to the deed of foundation. This document has survived in the form of a falsification dating from 1146.¹ The abbey was founded by Vladislav II. The location and landscape of this site corresponds to the order's ideology. It is located in a valley, within a meander of the Střela River, on unstable, marshy underlying soil. The soil here is not suited to growing agricultural crops and does not simplify construction of buildings. The river provides enough water to sustain life and for farming and the landscape provides enough peace for prayer and contemplation. The first monks came to Plasy from

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¹ This document is now part of the collections of the National Archive in Prague. Do kláštera se vrátila zakládací listina, chrání ji neprůstředné sklo, in: https://www.idnes.cz/plzen/zpravy/plasy-centrum-stavitelskeho-dedictvi-zakladaci-listina-klaster.A150929_150053_plzen-zpravy_pp [2019-01-10].

Langheim in Upper Franconia in the spring of 1145, under the leadership of Abbot Konrád. They started to construct the facilities and the complex practically immediately upon their arrival and the original wooden, temporary buildings were soon replaced with masonry structures. The first convent was completed in 1173 and the building of greatest importance to the monks, the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady, was completed at the beginning of the 13th century.² In subsequent years the complex was gradually expanded by a royal residence, used in the event that the ruler and his retinue visited, the prelatore building and the farm buildings. Over more than 600 years of the monk's activities in the Plasy basin, the abbey experienced alternating times of prosperity and deep decline. The more prosperous periods mainly include the second half of the 17th and the first half of the 18th centuries, when the complex underwent extensive conversion under the direction of Jean Baptist Mathey, Jan Blažej Santini and Kilián Ignác Dientzenhofer. The current convent building, part of the prelatore building, and the Baroque granary were built within the scope of these conversions. These replaced the palace demolished during the wars in the 15th and 17th centuries and surrounded the two Gothic chapels that remained of the original building. Sources consider critical years to be the two centuries of decline between the Hussite Wars and the Thirty Year's War or the crisis, which allegedly occurred in the abbey community during the 1780s.

After the abbey was closed the abbey property was managed by the Religious Fund until 1827, when the estate was purchased by Austrian Chancellor Klemens Václav Nepomuk Lothar Prince Metternich-Winneburg, Duke of Portella. Following the reforms by Joseph II, the Religious Fund sold part of the original abbey property, for instance houses in Prague, Plzeň and Česká Lípa (1786), Kalec yard (1787) and Loubí farm (1792).³ No significant conversions or major investments were made at the complex during the period between closure of the abbey and the arrival of the Metternich family in Plasy. The entire property was enclosed by a high wall and the rule of closure at night

² Z. CHUDÁREK, Některá nová zjištění o stavebním vývoji klášterního kostela Nanebevzetí Panny Marie v Plasích ve 12. až 14. století, in: *Plasý klášter a jeho minulý a současný přínos pro kulturní dějiny: sborník příspěvků ze semináře konaného v Plasích a Mariánské Týneci ve dnech 11.–13. května 2005*, Plasy 2005, p. 19.

³ P. HUBKA, Plasy a Metternichové, in: *Metternich a jeho doba*, Plzeň 2009, p. 74.

continued to be adhered to.⁴ The abbey Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady was transformed into a parish church with the first priest being Desiderius Frantisek Studenský.⁵ The trivium elementary school in Plasy, which was established in 1775 under the abbey school, continued to operate.⁶ The farm buildings and buildings used to assure operation of the complex retained their original purposes while the complex was owned by the Religious Fund. The mill and the buildings belonging to the brewery also functioned between 1785 and 1826.⁷

The first negotiations for purchase of the Plasy estate took place in 1826. The local landscape evidently reminded the Metternich family of the landscape in the Rhine region and we can consider this one of the reasons for the subsequent decision to lay the remains of their forebears to rest in Plasy. In one letter to their daughter Leontyne in July 1826, Metternich wrote: *“Our stay here was very pleasant. The weather is fine and this estate is so large that it will take me more than a month to see everything, even though we spend seven to eight hours a day travelling. [...] We will continue going on trips here, which can only compare to those in Ischl with regard to the quality of the roads, which are excellent throughout the estate. The surrounding area is beautiful, but not as beautiful as where you are. The buildings are enormous and in very good condition, which does not prevent me from not being able to imagine a guest I would be able to accommodate here.”*⁸ Some sources incorrectly give 26 January 1826 as the date of purchase, but this statement has never been confirmed. Even the contract was only officially signed a year later, specifically on 4 July 1827 in Prague.⁹ The original purchase contracts can be found in the National Archive in Prague at Chodovec, along with a contract

⁴ I. BUKAČOVÁ, Popis plaského areálu v době jeho počínající zkázy na počátku 30. let 19. století, in: *Vlastivědný sborník: čtvrtletník pro regionální dějiny severního Plzeňska*, 8, VIII, 1, Mariánská Týnice 1998, without pages.

⁵ A. PODLAHA, *Posvátná místa království českého III*, Praha 1909, p. 81.

⁶ J. MAŠKOVÁ, Proměny edukačního potenciálu a doprovodné programy objektů patřících v minulosti pod klášter Plasy pro žáky základních škol, in: *Proměny plaského kláštera (1145–2015)*, Mariánská Týnice 2015, p. 171.

⁷ J. MÍRKA, Historie plaského pivovaru do zrušení propinačního práva roku 1869, in: *Západočeské archivy*, 2017, VIII, pp. 20–46.

⁸ J. KAHUDA, *Kancléř Metternich a Plasy ve světle soudobých dokumentů*. Plasy 2009, p. 30.

⁹ J. HOFFMANOVÁ, Hrobka Metternichů v Plasích, in: *Minulostí západočeského kraje*, XXXI, 1996, pp. 190–191.

signed on 27 March 1827, on the basis of which Salomon Mayer von Rothschild loaned Metternich 1,040,000 Gulden. The price of the Plasy estate with adjoining land was set in auction at 1,100,050 Gulden.¹⁰ Along with the former abbey estate in Plasy the new owner also acquired property, which included the town of Kralovice, over fifty villages, and large areas of fields, meadows, forests and ponds. The area offered suitable conditions for development of industry and subsequent farming. Metternich and his family did not renew the abbey and instead established a manor farm here and use of most of the buildings was adapted to this. Part of the convent areas underwent conversion and began to be used as accommodation for employees of the manor farm. Up until 1850 the building also housed the seigneurial authority.¹¹ The Plasy school also repeatedly moved here throughout the time the property was under the management of the Metternich family. Part of the building was used as a hospital from the 1840s, the Metternich's had a pharmacy established in the original winter refectory and an iron store in the other half of the area. The family archive was also located on the first floor, along with a library in the Chapel of Saint Bernard and a theatre hall with smoking room in the northern tract of the convent. The family had the monumental summer refectory converted in the 19th century and established a granary there.¹²

The prelatore in the complex also underwent changes and was converted into the family home or "chateau", the originally secular church of Saint Wenceslas was converted into the family tomb and many other buildings were also converted. Compared to Kynžvart, which was eighty kilometres away, it is evident that the chateau in Plasy was never considered a representative home. The family usually visited Plasy in autumn during the hunting period and remained until Christmas, when they prepared a programme and small gifts for the children of Plasy.¹³ Klement's son Richard and his wife Paulina established a tradition of performances held in the theatre hall at the convent, the content of which they participated in. At the end of the

¹⁰ Ibidem.

¹¹ L. LANCIŇGER, *Plasy, Konvent, stavebně-historický průzkum, I. etapa: Dějiny objektu*, Praha 1975, p. 6. Stored by the National Heritage Preservation Institute, transcribed by Vlastimil Svoboda.

¹² Ibidem.

¹³ M. STRETTIOVÁ, *O starých časech a dobrých lidech*, Praha 1940, p. 152.

19th century the convent in particular was damaged by an extensive fire, which originated on 27 August 1894 when barrels were being charred in the cooper's yard.¹⁴ The fire engulfed the second floor of the building and lasted 14 days. Because it did not spread to the first floor, the valuable private archive and the theatre hall were saved. The damages were covered by the fire insurance policy and employees of the manor farm were able to return to the convent in 1895.¹⁵ The farm and production were revived quite quickly after the First World War and establishment of the republic. However, the land reforms also affected the manor farm. The author of the dissertation, Kristýna Kaucká, which focused on land reforms in Plasy, in the Křivoklát Region and in Radnice, states that in 1906 the Metternich estate spread over more than 13,000 ha.¹⁶ Most of its area covered forests and agricultural land. According to the same source, the Metternich family farmed approximately half the total land area and the remainder was managed by tenants. Framework Act No. 215/1919 Sb., from April 1919, ordered confiscation of land plots consisting of over 150 ha of agricultural land and consisting of over 250 ha of all land to be confiscated. Negotiations concerning confiscation lasted for nearly the entire 1920s. The matter would probably have lasted even longer if not for the death of the owner of the estate Klement Metternich in May 1930. In June 1931 the administrators of his estate concluded a general agreement with the State Land Fund regarding final execution of the land reforms at the manor farms owned by the estate.¹⁷ At the beginning of the 1930s recipients received a total of 2,420.28 ha of agricultural and 2,653.04 other land out of the 3,020.75 ha of agricultural and 13,065 other land.¹⁸ After Klement died his properties passed on to his minor son Paul Alfonse, born in 1917.¹⁹ From the time of Klement Michal the

¹⁴ O. SOUTNER – P. HUBKA (eds.), *Osm a pět století v plaské kotlině: 1145–1995, díl II*, Plasy 1997, p. 91.

¹⁵ Státní okresní archiv Plzeň-sever se sídlem v Plasích (hereinafter SOKA Plasy), fond (hereinafter f.) Farní úřad Plasy (hereinafter FÚ Plasy), Memorabilienbuch der Pfarre Plass, Pamětní kniha 1836–1945, No. 2, p. 263.

¹⁶ K. KOUČKÁ, *První pozemková reforma na velkostatech Křivoklát, Plasy a Radnice*, Ph. D. Thesis, Praha 2016, p. 61.

¹⁷ Ibidem, pp. 84–86.

¹⁸ J. VOŽENÍLEK, *Předběžné výsledky pozemkové reformy*, Praha 1930, p. 64.

¹⁹ V. STEINBACHOVÁ, *Velkostatek Plasy 1565–1945 (1949)*, Inventář, in: *Inventáře a katalogy státního archivu v Plzni, pobočka Klatovy, SOKA Plasy*, Plzeň 1972, p. 4.

Metternich family no longer stayed in Plasy as intensively as in previous years. One of the last residents of Plasy Chateau at the beginning of the 1930s was Klement's sister Paulina Thurn-Thaxis, known as "Titi" among the people of Plasy, and her family.²⁰ At that time her husband Maximilan Thurn-Taxis was appointed manager of the estate. He managed the estate until his death in 1939.²¹ Paul reached his majority a year before his death. He owned the Plasy estate with his wife Tatiana until the Second World War. During the war he was forced to join the Wehrmacht and fight in the army, even though he himself opposed the regime. During the war the Metternich family stayed mostly in Kynžvart, which they were forced to leave at the end of the war. Thanks to the family's activities Plasy became a major political and cultural centre in East Bohemia. The estate belonged to its owners until 1945, when it was nationalised on the basis of President Beneš' Decree No. 12/1945.

Use of the Buildings in the Complex after 1945

The last list of Plasy property dates from the 1930s. The *Plasy Manor Farm* fund, now stored in the Abbey by Nepomuk, offers the opportunity to examine the last inventory list executed in 1933. The inventory list is written in German and focuses on the furnishings of the chateau, particularly on items of higher value. One of the reasons why this list was executed is probably because the list of items in the Plasy chateau would have become an important basis for a probate proceeding in the event that another estate needed to be drawn up. The list includes collections of paintings, busts, statues, volumes of books, lists of furniture, crockery and musical instruments.²² As well as the chateau, the inventory also lists furnishings for the church, equipment for the sawmill or the brewery. Records of execution of a list of inventory for the convent in the 1930's are unfortunately not stored by the *Plasy Manor Farm* fund. The farm administrators kept meticulous records, even during the Second World War and we can see from these documents that the owners invested into their Czech estate even during the

²⁰ SOkA Plasy, f. FÚ Plasy, Pamětní kniha 1836–1945, No. 2, p. 192.

²¹ STEINBACHOVÁ, p. 4.

²² Státní oblastní archiv Plzeň (hereinafter SOA Plzeň), pracoviště Klášter, f. Velkostatek Plasy (hereinafter VS Plasy), kniha (hereinafter k.) 29, inv. č. 25. Inventář plaského zámku 1933.

war. However, it is very difficult to observe development of the Second World War directly from the abbey complex, because, apart from statements of management and a list of orders stored in the archives, we can only find a minimum of extant records. Sources usually end at the beginning of the war and start to record modern history approximately from the middle of 1945. Events identical to those that occurred in other towns occurred in Plasy after the end of the war. General hate towards the German population, the beginnings of displacement of the German population, establishment of people's courts, efforts to quickly revive farming activities and the economy or appointment of a Local People's Committee. Despite all this, according to the records, the last owners of the estate tried to protect the residents of the estate during the war and maintain their living standards, but it seems that they did not receive any thanks for this. In the following years the chronicles describe the Metternich family as representatives of feudalism and "decayed capitalism" who oppressed their subjects to their own benefit.²³

The Metternich estates in the Czech lands were nationalised in August 1945 on the basis of Decree by the President of the Republic No. 12/1945.²⁴ The National Committee in Kralovice issued the order to confiscate the Plasy estate under number 10949/45.²⁵ On the basis of this Decree all property was transferred under the administration of the National Land Fund under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Plasy manor farm was renamed immediately after national administration was imposed. This is the time when the *State Administration and Factory Revolutionary Committee of the Plasy (formerly Metternich) Manor Farm and Brewery* began settling official documents.²⁶ František Bílý became chairman of the Factory Committee of the manor farm, members of the committee were Václav Balín for the sawmill, Antonín Janeš for

²³ SOkA Plasy, f. Místní národní výbor (hereinafter MNV), *Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957*, p. 48.

²⁴ Decree by the President of the Republic on confiscation and accelerated distribution of the agricultural property of Germans, Hungarians, and also traitors and enemies of the Czech and Slovak nation. Valid from 23 June 1945.

²⁵ SOkA Plasy, f. Městský národní výbor, nezpracováno (hereinafter MěstNV), *Kronika obce Plasy, 1958–1965*, p. 45.

²⁶ Archiv společnosti Plzeňský Prazdroj, a. s. (hereinafter archiv PPAS), f. Pivovar Plasy (hereinafter PP), k. 1, inv. č. 2, sign. A 1a, National Administration, confiscation of enemy property.

farming, Pavel Jícha for the brewery, Mr Jiříček for clerks and others for farms and forests.²⁷ The owner of the manor farm disposed of 8,412 ha of forests after 5 May 1945, the farms of Plasy, Lomany, Býkov and Hubenov covered a total of 412.33 ha. The estate also included hunting grounds, a sawmill, brewery, a distillery, a mill, employee flats, 10 churches under its administration, the Plasy chateau, convent, children's home and ponds. The total value of the buildings was calculated at 7,242,968 Czechoslovak Crowns, with machinery in the value of 576,868 Czechoslovak Crowns, a total of 7,819,836 Czechoslovak Crowns. The manor farm generated a profit of 2,632,966 Czechoslovak Crowns.²⁸ Division of land plots and creation of plans for further undertakings with the confiscated property commenced after May 1945. In June of the same year the Czechoslovak Church requested allocation of the Church of Saint Wenceslas, but the Local National Committee denied the request.²⁹ Applicants for acquisition of land, consisting mostly of forests, and of minor real property, expressed the greatest interest. The convent building received the fewest applicants for acquisition. The total list of applicants recorded 91 small-scale farmers, 45 applicants for building sites, 1 cooperative and 7 municipalities. The confiscated agricultural land and real property was allocated mostly to former employees and farmers, the distillery was allocated to the cooperative. The committee allocated a total of 38 real properties in this manner. The price was set at 20 to 180 Czechoslovak Crowns per m³. A technical expert estimated the value of the chateau and the former abbey in the value of 1,626,927 Czechoslovak Crowns.³⁰ The chateau and the convent were allocated to the District People's Committee in Kralovice in 1948. The Ministry of Agriculture allocated it by decree dated 17 December 1948. This allocation occurred under the condition that: "*The recipient would maintain the buildings in good condition and only carry out any building modifications with the prior consent of the State Heritage Preservation Authority in Prague.*"³¹ The organisation consequently moved its offices from Kralovice to Plasy and Plasy became a district town in 1949.³²

²⁷ SOKA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 50.

²⁸ Ibidem, p. 207.

²⁹ Ibidem, p. 55.

³⁰ Ibidem.

³¹ Ibidem.

As a result of new categorisation, the historic buildings of the complex were classified as a second category monument. Buildings in this category continued to be used, for instance as youth homes, sanatoria, schools or psychiatric hospitals. The National Cultural Committee, which was appointed in 1946 and replaced the Heritage Committee under the National Land Fund, was required to make decisions regarding the furnishings. In Plasy the committee helped preserve at least part of the surviving items, furniture and archive documents. Looting and selling of property began not long after the last owners left the estate. Between 1945 and 1947 several auctions took place in the chateau or in the courtyard, where it was possible to purchase valuable items for minimal prices. This is also probably how the hairdresser in Plasy came by handkerchiefs with a monogram of the Metternich crown.³³ After a list of property was drawn up, the National Cultural Committee sorted through it. Some of the furnishings were left in Plasy in order to establish a museum. The chairman of the committee, Zdeněk Wirth, had some of the remaining property distributed to other institutions. We can name the National Gallery, the Military Historic Institute, Jemniště Chateau, Horšovský Týn Chateau, Prague Castle, the local school, the Local People's Committee, the Museum in Mariánské Týnice, the Municipal Museum in Plzeň, the Auction House and others.³⁴

The historic buildings in Plasy suffered various fates after National Administration was imposed. Some retained their original purpose, others found a completely new use. The building of the former convent was the most "difficult" to find a new use for. This monumental square building has several particularities, which all its owners had to come to terms with. To this day the maintenance and heating of this building probably remains the most complicated. There is also a unique water system underneath the building, which consists of over

³² It is interesting that, until that time, Plasy only had the status of a municipality, which means that the representative body was the Local People's Committee. As the seat of the district it became a district town. However, it was only officially granted the statute of town when the District offices were moved to Plzeň, specifically in September 1960. The National People's Committee was also renamed the Municipal People's Committee in this year.

³³ SOkA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 55.

³⁴ Národní archiv Praha (hereinafter NA Praha), f. Státní památková správa (hereinafter SPS), k. 406, inv. č. 30, 30 – zámek Plasy.

5,000 oak posts to reinforce the marshy soil under its foundations. However, the plans for its maintenance have not survived and neither the Metternich family, nor subsequent managers of the building could have known the precise procedure for maintenance or even the importance of such maintenance. Investigations to determine maintenance procedures in modern times only began in the second half of the 20th century. Heating was another problem. It is still not possible to heat the entire convent today. The original tiled stoves did not survive and the temperature in the unheated interiors is normally around 4 degrees Celsius in winter. This was probably also the reason why most institutions only considered the convent a temporary measure before moving to a new building. The building lacked cohesive use for nearly the entire 19th and 20th centuries, which is also demonstrated by the great number of institutions that it housed. After its ownership was passed to the District People's Committee in 1948, along with ownership of the prelatore building, it continued to provide a home to various authorities and also provided storage space. The need to move the offices of the District People's Committee to the convent made it necessary to ensure substitute accommodation for the forty families who had lived in the rooms previously. The flats in the new housing development commenced at the end of the nineteen forties were intended for these families as well as others.³⁵

During the second half of the 20th century the Metternich's purpose for the convent building was structurally retained. Part continued to serve as offices, part as an archive and depository, other parts as flats. And we must not forget the summer refractory, used as a granary, and the technical facilities of the building on the ground floor. While the historic value of the prelatore was acknowledged, the value of the convent was only admitted over time. There were no detailed probes or research into the water and ventilation systems until the second half the 20th century. The considerably devastated water system as subject to several experiments over several decades. The building's sewers were out-dated and in very poor condition after the Second World War. A number of institutes residing in the convent handled their waste management by connecting the sewers to the sewers for managing the water in the water system, which led to their blockage.

³⁵ P. HUBKA, *Plasy*, Plasy 1987, p. 29.

This resulted in the water level determining the level of water in the inspection pools rising by nearly two metres above the recommended standard and remaining at this level for several years. This resulted in the increased overall dampness of the building and in the staircases above the pools. In the effort to prevent the water level from rising further, the space was filled with concrete, which was once again shown to be ineffective.³⁶ In subsequent years experiments, which consisted of draining all the water from the water pools, were also realised. It must be specified that no cohesive correct procedure for maintenance of the water system existed, nor was it possible to determine the optimum water level. The first specialised probes began to be executed during the 1970s, but more significant findings regarding the water and ventilation system were only made after the fall of Communism.

As well as organisations that remained in their original areas, new organisations also moved to this building. We can name the District Construction Enterprise in a partitioned area of the winter refectory and other rooms, the depository of the Regional Archive in the west and north area of the first floor or the post office on the ground floor next to the south roundel.³⁷ The post office first moved into the convent in 1939 and remained here until the end of the nineteen eighties.³⁸ The chronicle mentions the following institutions in the convent as of 1953: the wing of the former rectory (hospital note by author) housed the District Military Administration, the post office, the offices of the Purchase Enterprise and a non-functional laundry were located on the ground floor. The first floor housed the People's Court, the public prosecutor's office, the depository of the Regional Archive and a basket workshop in the former Metternich casino, the District People's Committee's financial department, the offices of the District Industrial Processing Company, the secretariat of the Czechoslovak Youth Association and the kitchen were located on the second floor in the north wing.³⁹ The depository of the Regional Archive was moved in 1956 and the space it vacated was assigned to the people's court, its archive and the newly established museum committee headed by

³⁶ SOkA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 323.

³⁷ M. MATUŠKOVÁ – K. ROM, Inventář ONV Plasy 1945–1960, in: *Inventáře a katalogy státního archivu v Plzni, pobočka Plasy*, Plasy 2015, p. 10.

³⁸ SOkA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 91.

³⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 134.

Rudolf Soukup, which had the task of supervising establishment of the new museum.⁴⁰ The first part of the museum was opened at the end of 1956 by installation of paintings by painters from the Stretti family. Due to inappropriate conditions, particularly dampness and low temperatures, these paintings quickly had to be moved back to the depository. Apparently, the room leaked and the floors were also in a very bad state.⁴¹ The Czechoslovak Film Weekly recorded the condition of the convent in 1957. According to this documentary the building was in a disastrous condition. Some of the windows in the corridors had no glass and the monastic garden was unmaintained and was overgrown with weeds.⁴² In response to the weekly the chronicle described the momentary condition of the building as extreme disrepair with the need for renovation. However, the convent did not undergo any substantial work even after 1960, when the District People's Committee moved to Plzeň.⁴³

At the end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s changes were once again made to use of the building. The archive was the most important remaining organisation, which served as a specialist organisation for the Plzeň-north district after the district offices moved to Plzeň. The library moved to the convent from Střela Cinema, whose areas were insufficient, in 1963 the new kitchen and the dining room began operation on the ground floor of the east roundel, with 125 seats for employees of local enterprises.⁴⁴ The rooms in the hospital wing were also converted into a boy's dormitory for the Secondary Technical School of Agriculture. This was located in the hospital wing until the end of the 1960s. The dormitory was moved after the temporary dormitories next to the agricultural school were completed in 1969.⁴⁵ The District People's Library initially took up three rooms, an office, lending room and depository, all located in the roundel.⁴⁶ A

⁴⁰ Ibidem, p. 130.

⁴¹ Ibidem, p. 320.

⁴² *Československý filmový týdeník 1957*, díl 639/2379, <https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/1130615451-ceskoslovensky-filmovy-tydenik/207562262700030/> [2019-03-16].

⁴³ SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1958-1965, p. 83.

⁴⁴ SOUTNER – HUBKA, p. 138.

⁴⁵ Ibidem, p. 139.

⁴⁶ J. C. SEKERA – I. HEZKÁ – V. SOUTNEROVÁ, *Knihovnictví v Plasích: historie a současnost*, Plasy 2015, p. 14.

children's department was opened on the second floor of the hospital wing on 1 May 1966. At the end of the 1960s the library contained nearly 14,000 books.⁴⁷ At the beginning of the 1970s the convent building remained in a desolate condition and the conditions for storing archive documents and books were unsatisfactory. Practically the entire complex was in a disastrous condition. At the beginning of the 1970s it was decided to completely renovate the hospital wing and move the remainder of the District Library into this space. Heritage preservation principles also began to be applied more extensively at this time, the users and managers of the buildings evidently realised the value of the historic buildings in Plasy at least partially. An extensive structural-historic survey of practically all the buildings in the complex was executed by Luboš Lancinger between 1974 and 1980 on the occasion of modification of the south wing. The first renovation work was commenced at the same time, after specialist probes and studies had been executed. The convent building was glazed, and the doors and windows were unified, the chapel of Saint Bernard and the corridors were painted. The broken water mains on the ground floor of the convent were repaired, the water pool was drained and cleaned, the locks were replaced, and the depository was renumbered. Further renovations assumed restoration work on the staircases and overall work on the south wing.⁴⁸ The chronicle also gives the number of visitors to the convent in the specific year during this period. In 1974 there were 1,646 visitors, in 1975 there were 4,835 visitors and a year later there were 4,771 visitors.⁴⁹ The route for visitors consisted mainly of the Museum of Liberation and the interiors themselves, with a commentary from a guide. The guides' texts always had to be prepared and approved by the relevant specialist workplace in advance. Due to electrical and other work in progress, the building was closed for several months for operating reasons in 1977. The artificial partitions in the winter refectory were also removed in the same year. A year later an exhibition of paintings by Victor Stretti was ceremonially opened, but due to the enormous dampness the paintings were soon placed back in the depository. In spite of the modifications and renovations to the south wing, the work did not go according to plan, which meant

⁴⁷ SOkA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1966–1968, p. 43.

⁴⁸ SOkA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1972–1978, pp. 107–108.

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 313.

that the final inspection date for the repaired areas was moved back to 31 December 1980.⁵⁰

The optimistic idea of a final inspection by the end of 1980 became unrealisable. The windows in the direction of the brewery were fitted and the parquet flooring was filled in in February 1979 and the ceiling was lifted in July. However, renovation work continued very slowly. Electricity outages in the entire building and the catastrophic condition of the electric wiring also played a role in this. The Municipal People's Committee promised to arrange a substitute power supply for the library and the archive, but it became clear that it was practically impossible to ensure smooth operation without electricity.⁵¹ At the turn of the seventies and eighties the building administration decided to change the purpose of the renovated hospital wing. New areas in the prelature building were to be assigned to the library and the Museum of Liberation was to be moved from the inappropriate conditions in the actual convent into the wing. The Museum of Liberation was not the only institute to leave the square building. In June 1979 the "Medika" medication warehouse, which had been located in the middle of the second floor for several years, was removed and the oak staircase by the entrance was completed in July.⁵² In November the metal fitters started work on fitting copper sheeting to the cupola and the lantern of the capitular hall. This work was completed in 1980 at a cost of 500,000 Czechoslovak Crowns.⁵³ But the repairs to the hospital wing were still not completed at the beginning of the 1980s. Even the metal fitting work over the capitular hall was more problematic than beneficial. Poorly executed work on the scaffolding by the capitular hall resulted in water leaking into the roof, which caused the ceiling to fall in in two rooms in the convent.⁵⁴ The hospital wing was ceremonially opened to the public in February 1988 after fourteen years of renovation work. The façade was completed in 1984 and the wing was handed over a year later. However, the renovation work contained a number of final inspection defects. The end of the 1980s meant moving out of the premises for more enterprises in the convent. Before the

⁵⁰ SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1972–1978, p. 390.

⁵¹ *Ibidem*, p. 10.

⁵² *Ibidem*.

⁵³ *Ibidem*, p. 40.

⁵⁴ SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1979–1989, p. 58.

revolution the post office moved into to a new building by the pond and the Purchase Enterprise also vacated its offices.⁵⁵ Not long before the revolution a committee met at Plasy, which submitted proposals for discussion and subsequently published plans for the buildings for the following two years. The result of the meeting was submission of the following plans. *“Access through the main entrance would be modified, the area behind the entrance would be resorted to its original condition, when it was used as the winter refectory. Partitions would therefore be created and the vaulting would be restored. The corridors into the left and right wings on the ground floor would be repaired. The left corridor would provide access to the roundel where the former office would be converted into a ceremonial hall, other areas, up to the hospital wing, would be used by the people’s school of art. A flat for the building maintenance man was also planned, but the Municipal People’s Committee promised to provide another flat in the housing development within 3 years. The Construction Enterprise and its operation would move into the north wing, where the manufacturing facilities for the abbey (workshops, storage, etc.) were also located. The repaired areas in the former Chapel of Saint Bernard would be added to the Monument of Liberation on the first floor. The receiving salon would be moved to the theatre hall, which would also be opened up. The depositories of the District Archive would be moved from the first floor to the second floor.”*⁵⁶

Immediately after the fall of communism minor repairs began in the complex, in which the building’s management and volunteers participated. Some of the submitted plans were executed, but over longer periods. The town and the managers waited for investments by a foreign investor, which did not come about. The visitor’s route was restructured the beginning of the 1990s, most importantly the Museum of Liberation was removed from the route and the church was opened to up. Over the following years the remaining institutions were moved out of the convent and extensive renovation work on its renewal was commenced. The District Construction Enterprise moved out in 1991, followed by the aforementioned closure of the museum and the archive was also moved to a new building before the end of the century. After the year 2000 the only remaining institutions in the building were the depository on the second floor and the People’s school of art

⁵⁵ SOUTNER – HUBKA, p. 151.

⁵⁶ SOkA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1979–1989, pp. 325–326.

on the ground floor. The building is currently undergoing extensive renovation work and surveys. However, completion of the renovation work will have to be planned for many years ahead. The convent is managed by the National Heritage Institute.

On the contrary to the convent, the prelatore building was put to cohesive use right up until the Second World War and was used by the Metternich family as its residence after the estate was purchased. Until the Second World War it was only open to a limited number of visitors and was an important building in the complex. With regard to the importance of this building and the care it was given, the prelatore was the best preserved of the monitored buildings. After the rooms were cleared out and all the necessary administrative matters arranged, the building was taken on by the District People's Committee, the same as the convent. Luboš Lancinger stated that neither the District People's Committee, nor the Local People's Committee used the chateau very much, apart from the Cultural Department of the District People's Committee, so it was used as an occasional storage area.⁵⁷ There is no record of renovations during this period, only general repairs were probably carried out. From 1953 installation of two floors of assembled module offices in the large hall was discussed but was not executed.⁵⁸ The abbey underwent the first major repairs in 1955, these concerned the façade and particularly renovation of the large abbey hall. The layout of the building previously was as follows: the historic tract of the building, the so-called old abbey, housed the District Headquarters of the State National Security Office from 1948. A flat was located in the part between the chateau and the old abbey on the ground floor, the first floor above this housed the Department of Education and Culture of the District People's Committee and the Department of Job Protection. The rooms of the Department of Education were expanded in 1955.⁵⁹ From the middle of the 1950s the hall was intended to be used for cultural events and exhibitions and repairs to the stucco work and also to the façade were contracted for this purpose according to sources. The State Heritage Preservation Institute supervised the work and also partially subsidised this project. Repairs consisted of cleaning, reinforcing and completing the stucco reliefs in the area of

⁵⁷ LANCINGER, p. 6.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 7.

⁵⁹ SOKA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 213.

the ceiling fresco, in reinforcement of the plaster and overall restoration of damaged areas of the fresco.⁶⁰ One of the first events held in the space of the newly restored chateau hall was the District Agricultural Exhibition held on 20 and 30 September 1956.⁶¹ In the following years the hall hosted cultural and social events and was used as a gallery to exhibit paintings or as a hall for holding meetings of the Municipal People's Committee and the District People's Committee. Exhibitions of paintings by well-known artists, such as Max Švabinsky, Augustin Němejc or the Stretti Family were also held here.

Following reorganisation and transfer of the District Authority the prelatore soon found a new purpose. Between 1960 and 1963 the prelatore building was converted into a girl's dormitory for the Secondary Technical School of Agriculture. Practically the entire prelatore building was renovated. The old abbey was modified, the first floor, along with the ground floor and staircase, were given new layouts. The attic was converted into another floor and a boiler room was created in the yard.⁶² The structural-historic surveys present the condition of the prelatore before the renovation work as one of the best of all the buildings in the complex. In February 1966 there was a small fire at the girl's dormitory in the prelatore, which originated from a beam that had been bricked up in the chimney. Apart from frightening the boarded students, no one was injured and the fire was quickly extinguished by the local fire brigade.⁶³ After some of the boarded students were moved to new temporary dormitories by the agricultural school at the beginning of the 1970s, the dormitory was expanded for use by boarders from among students of the School of Transport in Plzeň, who commuted to Plzeň from Plasy every day until 1978, when their own dormitory was completed near the school.⁶⁴ The dormitory fulfilled its function in the prelatore building until the beginning of the 1980s. In the 1970s we would have found that the building also housed a number of offices, the Purchasing Enterprise in Plasy was also located here, along with a warehouse and civil defence shelter, and the lunch issue counter was located in the original sala terrena

⁶⁰ NA Praha, f. SPS, k. 406, inv. č. 30, 30 – zámek Plasy.

⁶¹ SOkA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 250.

⁶² LANCINGER, p. 6.

⁶³ SOkA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1966–1968, p. 26.

⁶⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 40.

(ground floor hall). The shelter was established in 1963 (possibly also as a result of the Cuban Crisis) by demolition of the historic cellars below the prelature. The shelter was not intended for the population of Plasy, but for very senior officials from Plzeň.⁶⁵ The prelature underwent further major plans and modifications in the 1970s. Between 1974 and 1976 the State Institute for Renovation of Historic Towns and Buildings executed a dislocation study of the entire complex, in which it outlined the principles of its renovation.⁶⁶ However, the planned modifications were not realised in full. The roof of the prelature and the roofs over the ambits and chapels in the garden should have undergone general repairs in 1975. The building was newly painted in the same year.⁶⁷ Three years later it was found that, out of the planned repairs, only the ambits had been secured. The roof over the main large hall continued to show traces of damage, which prevented its restoration, because the restorers refused to start work until the proper function of the roof was assured.⁶⁸ Renovations were delayed until the eighties, just like in the case of the convent.

The dormitory was closed at the beginning of the eighties, which meant it freed up areas for the District Library. But these rooms also required modification. The planned renovation work was not intended to last long, but due to delays the library only moved into the new building in 1984. New furnishings, a children's department, music department and adult department were prepared for readers. As well as offices, the employees were also provided with new sanitary facilities, functional electrical wiring and a heating system. Renovation of the library areas came to a total of 400,000 Czechoslovak Crowns.⁶⁹ The only deficiency, which the convent had already had, was the lack of a lift, which must have made moving 45,000 books quite complicated. This is why part of the library fund remained stored in the library

⁶⁵ The shelter occupies an area below practically the entire prelature and the purpose for construction of the individual rooms remains evident to this day. These rooms were intended to be used by departments of the District Committee. The shelter was prepared as a completely independent functional unit. It still has running drinking water and a back-up air and electricity generator. And it also contained a kitchen, dining room, sanitary facilities and machine room.

⁶⁶ LANCINGER, p. 12.

⁶⁷ SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1972–1978, pp. 171–172.

⁶⁸ Ibidem, p. 390.

⁶⁹ Ibidem, p. 171.

hall in the north tract of the convent. Ladislav Šmídl became the new manager of the library on 1 November 1984. Some of the rooms freed after the library was moved out of the convent were taken over by the District Archive in 1985. Because the dampness of the convent in particular was harmful to the archived documents, designation of a space in the old abbey prelatore was considered. However, the plans never came to fruition, because an investigation found that the walls of the abbey would not be able to support the weight of the shelves. Some proposals recommended demolition of the building and construction of a new building.⁷⁰ The sala terrena in the chateau garden fell into a similar state of disrepair. The condition of this building was mentioned by the chronicle repeatedly as desperate and it was not given much hope of being restored. After the revolution it was actually assumed that it would collapse completely. The library remained in the prelatore until 2016. The building is currently undergoing extensive and essential renovation work, on completion of which the new route should focus on the Metternich family and its activities in Plasy. The National Heritage Institute owns this building.

As the introductory chapter mentioned, there were two churches in Plasy, the Church of Saint Wenceslas, which Metternich family had converted into the family tomb in the 19th century and the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which was subsequently opened to the public and used as a parish church. The parish church retained its function after the Second World War without any changes. A ceremonial hall was built into the family tomb at the end of the 1950s and the cross was removed from its roof. Of course, public access to the parish church depended on the viewpoint of the church and church buildings in the specific period. The Catholic Church had a fairly strong base in Plasy, because the Metternichs were Catholic. They regularly visited the church when they stayed in Plasy and supported its activities by donating considerable sums of money. While their patronage continued, maintenance and repairs of the church took place without any issues. However, after the Second World War there was no organisation that would invest into the church. This meant that this valuable monument remained empty and gradually fell into disrepair. The Ministry of Education and Enlightenment issued a circular

⁷⁰ Ibidem, p. 283.

in 1947 in which it pointed out the possibility of obtaining an advance payment for essential repairs to churches and rectories, whose patronage had been terminated as a result of Decree No. 12/1945 Sb., The Roman Catholic parish authority in Kralovice also pointed out the very bad state of the roof and walls and the increasing damp, and applied for funds for the parish church in Plasy on the basis of the aforementioned circular.⁷¹

The Catholic Action, which one fund is devoted to in the archive, also affected Plasy in 1949. The Catholic Action movement had several main goals, for instance introduction of the national language into all church ceremonies, the fight against the Vatican or establishment of an organisational centre in Velehrad. This was basically an effort by the Communist Party to obtain control over happenings in the Church and over sermons held during church ceremonies. So-called “progressive priests” were to arise as a result of the Catholic Action, who were to occupy the highest church positions, and de facto collaborate with the regime and provide support in the fight for and against the church. However, only several priests became “*progressive priests, mostly unreliable individuals*”.⁷² The so-called “Church Six”, an advisory committee to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, consisting of the Minister of Justice Alexej Čepička, Minister of Information Václav Kopecký, Minister of Education and Enlightenment Zdeněk Nejedlý, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimír Clementis and deputy Prime Ministers Viliam Široký and Zdeněk Fierlinger, was involved in preparation of the Action.⁷³ The Catholic Action was established in June 1949 in Prague. The name of the Action was derived from the Church movement active at the beginning of the 20th century, when priests and monks helped laymen promote Catholic viewpoints in society.⁷⁴ Probably because many people considered the movement, which originated in the 1940s, to equate with the movement from the beginning of the 20th century, over 1,500 clergymen signed the introductory statement of the Catholic Action in addition to thousands of believers.⁷⁵ The founding meeting of

⁷¹ NA Praha, f. SPS, k. 406, inv. č. 30, 30 – Plasy farní kostel, děkanství Kralovice.

⁷² Ibidem, p. 79.

⁷³ M. MATUŠKOVÁ, Inventář Katolická akce, ONV Plasy 1949–1951, in: *Inventáře a katalogy Státního archívu v Plzni, pobočka Plasy*, Plasy 2009, p. 3.

⁷⁴ S. BALÍK – J. HANUŠ, *Katolická církev v Československu 1945–1989*, Brno 2007, p. 23.

the Catholic Action for the district of Plasy was held on 8 June 1949 at the Town Hall in Plasy. The District Committee headed by František Vavřík was appointed at this meeting. The work programme was only established in July 1949, the chief content was an “informational campaign” during which the District Committee was supposed to visit villages and “inform” people and point out the “unfriendly policy of the Vatican”.⁷⁶ However, the District Committee of the Catholic Action in Plasy was not to carry out independent activities. In spite of threats, the Catholic laymen in Plasy and the surrounding areas refused to support the movement and despite recruitment in surrounding villages, no other committees had actually been established at the end of 1950. After the chairman of the committee in Plasy fell ill in January 1951 and resigned from his position, the committee started to stagnate. The Catholic Action failed to meet with success in the Plasy District.⁷⁷

The last church marriage was held in the church in Plasy at the end of 1949.⁷⁸ During the second half of the 20th century the church was used partially to store liturgical items, which could not be used in the convent. For example, one famous crucifix by Braun was stored in the sacristy of the church.⁷⁹ According to testimonies by witnesses, mass was served in the Plasy church during the previous regime, but everything proceeded according to approved texts and a previously arranged scenario. The church was not included in the probes and plans for restoration of the complex as executed by Luboš Lancinger in the 1970s. This meant that the real value of this monument could only be fully proven after the revolution. The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in particular was in a desolate condition at the beginning of the 1990s. The last major renovation work had taken place in the 1930s and only partial repairs, which stabilised its condition, took place after that. The church is only just now undergoing major restoration. Apart from renovation of the interior, the Church should also receive a new façade. Its operation is presently assured by the Roman Catholic Parish in Plasy. The buildings providing the complex

⁷⁵ Ibidem.

⁷⁶ MATUŠKOVÁ, p. 5.

⁷⁷ Ibidem, p. 6.

⁷⁸ SOkA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 97.

⁷⁹ Ibidem, p. 61.

with agricultural facilities were the ones most fully left to their original purpose, particularly the granary, the sawmill, the farmyards and also the brewery. These buildings continued to be used in the same manner from the time of the abbey and their use only ended after the Second World War. According to witnesses from the prelatore and convent, after nationalisation the granary was used partially by the prelatore and partially by the Enterprise for Purchase of Agricultural Commodities and Supply, the school farm, which was created in 1966 out of the original Plasy Unified Agricultural Cooperative, and the Zelenina (Vegetable) Enterprise for storage of vegetables and fertilisers in the chapels and cellars. Grain and legumes continued to be stored on the upper floors. In the second half of the 20th century the chronicle mostly mentions the clock mechanism, which remained in operation, and the frescoes in the chapels. We can observe traces of professional restoration for the first time in the 1960s, when the frescoes were discovered under a layer of paint. At that time the building suffered from damp, related not only to unprofessional use, but mainly due to the surrounding terrain being elevated during construction of a new road across the convent garden. The chronicle states that when the chairman of the Municipal People's Committee visited the granary in the winter of 1962–1963, he found that the walls were covered by several centimetres of ice and over 80 % of the surface was covered in mould.⁸⁰ The first probes executed in this building also dated to the second half of the 20th century. The clock mechanism was first mentioned in the second half of the 20th century and dated from 1958, when Richard Háže and František Šnábl put the mechanism back into operation after several years of disuse.⁸¹ In 1977 the chronicle mentioned Mr Jan Menšík as one of the maintenance men who managed to put the second bell in the tower back into operation and so renew the special function of the Plasy clock, two bells ringing on the whole hour. Mr Menšík took care of the clock until 17 May 1980, when he left the position to Mr Drozd, who continues to take care of the clock to this day. The last renovation work before 1980 was successfully traced back to 1978 and consisted of restoration of both entrance doors into the chapel.⁸² The granary was not used to store grain from approximately the 1990s. Ex-

⁸⁰ SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1958–1965, p. 416.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, p. 61.

⁸² SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1972–1978, p. 390.

hibitions of photographs by the local photography club were held in the granary and it became part of the tour circuit along with the clock mechanism. The National Heritage Institute ensures maintenance of the building.

The sawmill is located in the south part of the complex right next to the brewery. The sawmill operated in the complex from the time of the abbey. A large part of the Plasy estate consisted of forests, whose wood was a profitable item in the system. When the estate was owned by the Metternich family the sawmill was maintained as one of the few operations to retain its original purpose. After the Second World War the sawmill was transferred to the Forest Factory residing in the former *Na Knížecí* pub, whereas it processed wood from the surrounding Plzeň Region. In the 1950s the sawmill underwent a major conversion the chimney and the roofs were torn down due to overall renovation of the building in 1957. The plans counted on the addition of another floor with a flat for the manager of the sawmill, who lived in the former mill, modification of the ground floor for employees, installation of a new dining room, sanitary facilities and cloakrooms for employees, with a separate section for women.⁸³ Total costs for execution of this project were 270,000 Czechoslovak Crowns. However, in 1957 the chronicle states that only the chimney and the roof were removed, and further repairs were expected. In regard to the sawmill it gave a total of 25 employees in 1957, 14 men and 11 women. The average salary was 1,286 Czechoslovak Crowns and the sawmill's profits were over 891,000 Czechoslovak Crowns. At the end of the 1950s the sawmill produced an average of 8,000 m³ of timber per year.⁸⁴ Operation of the sawmill was terminated in 1977.⁸⁵ The sawmill currently houses the fire station of the Plasy Fire Brigade, which was established here a year later.

The brewery tradition in Plasy dates back many years. Beer brewing in the abbey was first mentioned in writing in the 16th century.⁸⁶

⁸³ The mill was located by the river right next to the abbey and Metternich brewery. It remained in operation until 1951, when it was transferred under the brewery as additional brewery warehouses.

⁸⁴ SOkA Plasy, f. MNV, Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957, p. 316.

⁸⁵ O. SOUTNER – P. HUBKA (eds.), *Osm a půl století v plaské kotlině: 1145–1995, díl II*, Plasy 1997, p. 145.

⁸⁶ Valuable findings regarding this period were published by Pavel Kodera at the con-

After the abbey was closed the Metternich family renewed the tradition of beer brewing in the 19th century. The chancellor himself laid the foundations of the modern brewery and development took place mainly after abolishment of the Propination Laws in 1869. The second half of the 19th century also assured the transition to brewing beer using the bottom fermentation method and creation of types of beer that remained popular until the brewery was closed in 1966. Just like the manor farm in Plasy, the Metternich family also owned the brewery until the end of the Second World War. Correspondence was delivered to the State Administration and Factory Revolutionary Committee of the Manor Farm and Brewery in Plasy immediately after the end of the war. Some sources mention Paul as the owner until 1947.⁸⁷ The brewery was subsequently administratively owned by *Západočeské pivovary* (West Bohemian Breweries) and it specifically fell under the Supreme Brewery Administration in Buštěhrad, subsequently in Staňkov, under the new official name of *Státní pivovar v Plasech u Plzně* (State Brewery in Plasy by Plzeň). No major building modifications to the brewery complex are recorded during the next twenty years. Individual standard repairs, essential for assuring operation of the brewery, are all the building activities recorded. Records of the beer brewed until 1957 usually gave a volume of around 20,000 hl.⁸⁸ Immediately before the brewery was closed the volume of beer brewed was slightly over 30,000 hl according to the records. With regard to the lack of sources, this data must be viewed critically. The brewery was closed in 1966, production gradually closed, and stock was sold until the following year. The reason for stopping production according to the chronicle was the very worn state of the machinery.⁸⁹

The former brewery complex was transferred under the ownership of SSD Jednota Plzeň-north on 1 January 1967. The building was taken over for the residual price of 1,100,000 Czechoslovak Crowns with the understanding that production at the malt house would carry one for

ference in Plasy in 2015. His research demonstrated the first written mention of the buildings and operation of the brewery for the first time in the history of the abbey. P. KODERA, *Zapomenutý opat Petr Peristerius a hospodaření na plaském klášteře po polovině 16. století*, in: *Proměny plaského klášteře (1145–2015)*, Mariánská Týnice 2015, p. 109.

⁸⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 185.

⁸⁸ SOKA Plasy, f. MNV, *Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957*, p. 317.

⁸⁹ SOKA Plasy, f. MěstNV, *Kronika obce Plasy, 1966–1968*, p. 17.

the entire year of 1967.⁹⁰ The brewers produced the last batch on 18 October 1967 and brewing was stopped on 11 November. Customers who enjoyed Plasy beer would now have to purchase Plzeň beer. Former brewery employees had several options of remaining employed. Some employees were employed by the Jednota enterprise, some accepted the offer to work at the Plzeň brewery or found other jobs, employees of retirement age usually chose to retire. After the brewery machinery was removed from the buildings, nothing prevented goods owned by Jednota and machines needed to make soda water from being installed. The road between the malt house and the fermentation cellars once again divided two parts of a factory owned by one organisation. The tall yellow building formerly belonging to the malt house now provided facilities for Jednota warehouses. Witnesses all identically state that we would have found all necessary goods ready for distribution in the warehouse. These areas are particularly remembered as warehouses for cans or jams, which a large amount of was reputedly stored of here. The area of the former icehouse and brewery fermentation facilities was filled with equipment for making soda water, production of which began here in 1969. Syrups and concentrates for further processing were stored in the cellars, the upper floors were used as a bottling room and offices. Part of this half of the buildings owned by Jednota were used as a dry warehouse belonging to the warehouse opposite.

SSD Jednota Plzeň-north supplied the surrounding area with lemonades from the Plasy factory and with goods from its warehouses. We can name Plasy itself, Kaznějov, Kralovice, Hadačka, Horní and Dolní Bělá, Bezvěrov, Kozojedy, Třemošná and many other surrounding towns and villages as the recipients of its goods. The Jednota warehouses and soda water factory operated in Plasy until the end of the 1990s when operations were closed. The warehouse was moved to central areas in other towns and operation of the soda factory was not renewed due to the expanding range of products and the popularity of beverages sold in plastic packaging in supermarkets. Today there is a micro-brewery in the area of the soda water factory and the former malt house houses the Centre for construction heritage.

⁹⁰ Ibidem.

Both these buildings are owned and were repaired by the National Technical Museum.

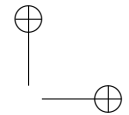
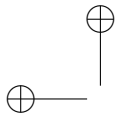
The upper and lower yard in the east part of the complex underwent probably the biggest transformation of the aforementioned buildings during the last decades. The dilapidated buildings were transformed into the jewels of the abbey complex over several years of restoration. The upper yard was mainly used as a transport platform. In the time of the monks this is where the abbey stables were located, where the best abbey horses were stabled and which a cart house adjoined. The opposite building, adjoining the lower yard, was where we could find the cowsheds, with poultry yards on the mezzanine. Development of the yard from the aspect of construction practically stopped in the 18th century. The biggest modification during the Metternich period was construction of the distillery in the north-west part of the yard. The distillery was probably established for more effective processing of raw materials and remainders, with subsequent use and conversion into feed for the animals. This building was built in 1902 and operation began in January 1903. The distillery's capacity was set at 2 hl brewed volume a day.⁹¹ After 1945 the distillery became the property of the cooperative, which continued to use it. Václav Šimek became the manager of the distillery in September 1946 and operated the distillery along with four employees. After the roof burnt down in 1950 operations were renewed and the distillery reported production of 364 hl of spirits in 1955.⁹² Livestock continued to be kept in the upper yard even after the Second World War. The buildings themselves were not maintained by anyone and they were in considerable disrepair in the second half of the 20th century. Luboš Lancinger also points this out in the structural-historic survey of 1974. The distillery burnt down not long after and remained in a catastrophic condition until renovations after 2010, the chimney and boiler were all that remained of the original distillery.⁹³

The abbey fishponds were located in the lower yard at the time of the abbey. In the 19th century the fish pools were used to cool the

⁹¹ L. BERAN et al., *Industriální topografie průmyslová architektura a technické stavby Plzeňského kraje*, Praha 2013, p. 95.

⁹² SOKA Plasy, f. MNV, *Kronika obce Plasy, 1945–1957*, p. 240.

⁹³ BERAN, p. 95.



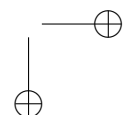
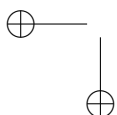
milk.⁹⁴ After the Second World War the area was used particularly by the Zelenina Enterprise as operating warehouses for fruit and vegetables and as an office.⁹⁵ Along with the Jednota warehouses located in the former malt room, witnesses considered these areas warehouses from which goods were distributed to business premises and enterprises in the surrounding areas. Complete renovation of the north-west part of the complex was considered and its adaptation into a club house, hotel and administration of the house of culture in Plasy was considered from about the 1970s. SÚRPMO executed studies for this plan along with studies for regeneration of the complex and preservation of the yard.⁹⁶ However, the conversion work was not realised and the yard only underwent complete renewal after its renovation in 2016. The National Technical Museum had the upper and lower yards repaired and manages them, the same as the buildings described in the preceding paragraph.

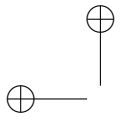
The described histories indicate that all the buildings in the complex have a difficult period behind them, full of uncertainty regarding their future. Complete demolition of some of the historically valuable buildings were actually considered. Fortunately, this step was not taken in regard to any of the monitored buildings in the 20th century. Historic development also taught the public to perceive the individual buildings in the complex separately, not the abbey as a whole. Despite this, more and more people started to realise the actual value of the former abbey during the second half of the 20th century and the need to protect the monument. The education that is currently taking place, has begun to offer findings about the integrity and the uniqueness of the complex once again. The renovation work that took place prevented further devastation of the buildings. The former Cistercian abbey located in a peaceful landscape, within the meander of the Střela River, is beginning to prosper once more and point out its historic, artistic and technical past.

⁹⁴ P. KODERA – K. KSANDR, *Centrum stavitelského dědictví v Plasích: kronika projektu*, Praha 2015, p. 28.

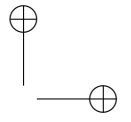
⁹⁵ SOkA Plasy, f. MěstNV, *Kronika obce Plasy, 1966–1968*, p. 19.

⁹⁶ L. LANCINGER, *Plasy, Hospodářský dvůr, stavebně-historický průzkum, I. etapa: Dějiny objektu*, Praha 1974, p. 20. Stored by the National Heritage Institute, transcribed by Vlastimil Svoboda.



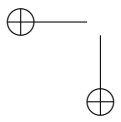


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