

Monastery: Le Couvent des Cordeliers



In 1220, Berlion, Lord of Moirans, founded the first monastery of the Order of Saint Francis in the Dauphiné region: Le Couvent des Cordeliers. Prior to the French Revolution, between 4 and 15 mendicant monks lived there in peace.

In the 14th century, Humbert II, Dauphin of the Viennois, forbade any constructions within the vicinity and also gave them the moats around the ramparts so that they could farm fish.

Various historic events of note have taken place within these walls. In 1485, during the plague that wrought havoc throughout the Dauphiné and particularly Grenoble, the Parliament sat in the refectory of the Cordeliers monastery. In 1790, a vote was held there to choose between Moirans and Grenoble as the future capital of the department. Moirans lost by just 19 out of 556 votes.

A few remains of the church (southern wall) and the eastern wing of the ordinary buildings are all that are left of the monastery's sober, elegant, medieval monastic architecture. In the courtyard, a series of arches recalls the reconstruction of the northern wing of the cloister, probably in the early 17th century. Restoration work has been carried out on a number of medieval paintings.

Openings remain on the eastern side that would have been part of the former chapter hall, opening onto the cloister gallery. A door topped by a pointed arch opens between two twin bays with sculpted capitals. In the 14th or 15th century, an upper floor was added or rebuilt, probably for use as a dormitory for the monks.



The De La Motte family opened a hospice in the former monastery in the middle of the 19th century. The chapel, acquired by the town council in 1953 to extend the boys' school, was destroyed in 1957.



After the French Revolution closed down the religious orders, the whole monastery was sold as national assets and the last four remaining monks were expelled in 1792.

Abel de Luppé, owner of the Pâris brothers' château, bought the Cordeliers assets, including the gardens, monastery and outbuildings, bequeathing them to his nephew, Abel Damase Maigre de la Motte.

The monastery was demolished in 1987, and the remains of Le Couvent des Cordeliers were added to the supplementary inventory of historic monuments in 1989.