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Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Area of *Lu Macchietu*

Three places of worship dedicated to St. Mary, St. Peter and St. Simplicio are located in the area of *Lu Macchjetu*, near the town of Bassacutena, in the current territory of Luogosanto. In the past this area appears to have been called Sùraga: because of the analogy with the name and the presence of the three churches it has been linked with the town of Surake, i.e. a place mentioned in several documents concerning the property of some assets contested between the Judicial and ecclesiastical powers and the Opera di Santa Maria of Pisa at least until 1339. The settlement must have been particularly important as there are written records of official acts issued there by the Giudicato of Gallura.

In the agreement reached in 1173 by the Opera di Santa Maria of Pisa and the bishop of Civita Bernardo for the allocation of churches and villas already donated to the Pisa cathedral and Gallura diocese, there is mention of the churches of San Pietro (fig. 1) and Santa Maria di *Surake* (fig. 2). There are only a few remains of walls from the first that can allow you to see the shape of a small building with apse; Santa Maria, on the other hand, although modified by renovations in the 20th century, is still in use. It was already mentioned in 1135, as one of the assets of the Vittorini monks of Marseilles.



Fig. 1 - Luogosanto, Lu Macchjetu: ruins attributed to St. Peter (from Pinna 2008, p. 96, fig. 76).



Fig. 2 - Luogosanto, Lu Macchjetu: the church of Santa Maria (from Pinna 2008, p. 96, fig. 75).

Not far away, there is another place of worship which is still in use, San Simplicio (fig. 3). The dedication to the bishop of Civita in this place is in relation to the topographical references in his Passio, that tradition would like as a refuge in which the Saint spent the period of his persecutions. There are no references to the church in medieval documents but it is possible that the essential and renovated architectures stand on older structures: inside, there is a marble simulacrum of San Simplicio on the altar (fig. 4), in bishops clothes.



Fig. 3 - Luogosanto, *Lu Macchjetu*: the church of San Smplicio (from Pinna 2008, p. 70, fig. 49).



Fig. 4 - Luogosanto *Lu Macchjetu*: statue of San Smplicio inside the church (from Pinna 2011, p. 346, fig. 7).

The area also has the ruins of an ancient town, formerly identified by Angius in the mid 19th century, perhaps Surake itself, which certainly revolved around the buildings of worship.

■ Credits

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