

In 1294 the Baron of Mevouillon sought authorisation to found a monastery for the brothers at Buis. The monastery was completed in 1310, situated just outside the town. It was fortified in 1371 by the Governor of Dauphiné. The Dominicans rapidly became powerful and important land and property owners. Nevertheless, the monastery was overwhelmed and burnt by protestants in 1562, the brothers taking refuge inside the town. They bought the chapel of St George, which formed part of the former castle of the Barons of Mevouillon, in the centre of town, in 1580; this is probably the extant chapel. The cloisters were added later (over several years after 1635).

You can see the date 1702 on the lintel of the Hall of the Justices of the Peace (the former refectory) and the date 1728 on the key stone of the

vault of the covered passage. In the choir of the parish church you can see the main altar is decorated with the arms of the Dominicans – a dog with one of its paws resting on a globe and holding a lighted candle in its mouth. The dog represents the faithfulness of the Brothers and is also a play on words – Domini Canis (Dominicans) meaning the dogs of God.

After the Revolution the order was dissolved, its buildings confiscated and sold. The monastery was acquired by the commune in 1791 and from then until the beginning of the 20th Century it housed various municipal services, notably the Town Hall, the boys' school, the police station and the Justices of the Peace.

The building was listed on 19th April 1974; the woodwork in the former refectory (or Hall of the Justices of

the Peace) was restored by the Conseil Général in 2010. The monastery was completely restored between 1979 and 1981. This historic building, still the property of the commune, is currently used as a holiday centre.