

Episcopal Palace, Pakrac

Country or territory:
Republic of CROATIA

Name of organization
compiling the information:
Ministry of culture,
Conservation department in Požega

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<u>Name and address of building or site:</u>	EPISCOPAL PALACE IN PAKRAC
<u>Inventory reference number:</u>	Z – 401
<u>Building(s) type:</u>	Representative sacral-residential building
<u>Main date(s):</u>	Built in 1732
<u>Current use(s):</u>	The building is in ruins - not in use
<u>Significance:</u>	

The Episcopal complex is made up of a series of gradually constructed structures situated along two streets on the South side of the main city square in Pakrac. The Episcopal palace is a one-storey structure built in the Baroque period, 1732. The palace was surrounded by a geometrical garden enclosed by a high wall, and opposite it a religious school (built in 1751), the Holy Trinity Episcopate (built from 1757 to 1768) and a priests' residential building. The Bishop's Palace together with the Church of The Holy Trinity represents a significant baroque ensemble that was renewed at the end of the 19th century (ca. 1896) in the spirit of eclectic historicism according to the design of Herman Bolle. Two wings were added then to the existing baroque building that had an elongated ground plan. The building is freestanding, with an inner courtyard between three wings, built from combined materials (stone and brick) in building lime mortar. A cellar extends under part of the structure with vaults over the cellar and ground floor. One part of the first floor is vaulted and the other has wooden beams. The roof construction is wooden, covered by ceramic tiles. The staircases are wooden and stone. The floors are either parquet or tile. The walls are plastered with traces of wall paintings and stucco works. From the courtyard side walled-in arcade arches on the ground and first floor are visible.

Categories of Significance:

The Eparchial Palace complex is of national significance. Its architectural, historical and particularly, religious dimensions are of national value.

Categories of ownership or interest:

The Eparchial Palace in Pakrac is in the ownership of the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Slavonia

Documentation and bibliographic references:

The Eparchial Palace in Pakrac had a well-stocked library, numerous paintings and valuable books that were partly evacuated during the war and are now in storerooms.

The Eparchial Palace in Pakrac has been photographically documented in detail at the end of the 80s, and the consequences of the war devastations have also been photographically documented in detail. The completion of the architectural survey of its current condition and static remediation project are underway.

Condition:

Very poor - the yielding or collapse of the load-bearing structure, collapse of the roofing, significant deterioration of the interior, and mayor damages to the entire building resulting from fire or similar disasters.

The building of the Eparchial palace is in exceptionally poor condition. The roof construction is almost completely destroyed as well as the roof structures over the ground and first floors. The vaults over the ground floor have almost completely caved in and the courtyard wall of the building is very slanted threaten to collapse.

More than 90% of the roof is damaged; walls severely damaged - reconstruction still possible.

Risk:

The structure is extremely threatened. In spite of its cultural value its reconstruction is questionable due to the disinterest of the owners, change in its significance as the centre of a one time large estate that has almost completely disappeared, extremely large financial resources required for its reconstruction.

The significance of the Eparchial palace as the centre of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Slavonia, in the extremely sensitive conditions after the war, is particularly important. Religious and national identities mostly overlap so that the Eparchial palace can also be considered as the focal point of Serb nationality in Slavonia. Undesirable expressions of identity, ethnicity and religious feelings also present a threat.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk. Indirect risk from accelerated destruction or loss of material; a solution has been found but its realisation has not as yet been initiated

Technical assessment and costings:

As the documentation for structural remediation is still under preparation, estimates of the costs of reconstruction have not been made.

The building is in the ownership of the church, the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Slavonia.

Occupation:

The building is severely damaged so that the entire structure is unusable.

Management:

The owner of the structure, the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Slavonia is responsible for its management.

Summary:

The Episcopal Palace in Pakrac is the historical centre of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Slavonia. It is an exceptionally complex structure with a number of developmental phases. After the war damages to the structure were not repaired in due time and atmospheric effects have turned it into ruins. After initial works of surveying the terrain and clearing it of mines, the clearing of the fallen parts of the roofing and ceiling constructions, vaults and walls was undertaken. Precisely because of that it is necessary to begin work on the remediation of walls and vaults as soon as possible in order to prevent further deterioration.

Sign and date:

Zoran Fumić, dipl. ing. arh.
22 March 2004