

## ***Jusuf Mašković's Inn, Vrana***

Country or territory:  
Republic of CROATIA

Name of organization  
compiling the information:  
Ministry of Culture,  
Conservation Department in Zadar

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Name and address of building or site: JUSUF MAŠKOVIĆ'S INN, VRANA

Inventory reference number: UP/I-612-08/02-01/1358

Building(s) type: caravanserai

Main date(s): 1644-45

Current use(s): Residential

### Significance:

Jusuf Mašković's Inn is the most significant monument of Turkish architectural heritage in Dalmatia and Croatia. The complex is an exceptional architectural monument because of its size (3280m<sup>2</sup>), building technique and used materials (built from finely cut stone blocks), location in the environment and architectural decorations (use of Islamic elements).

The inn was built by the Turkish vizier Jusuf Mašković 1644-45 as a caravanserai. The complex comprises two connected inner courtyards along whose inner edges buildings with closed-in outer walls, resembling defensive walls, extend in a row. The main residential building located on the northern side is two-storeys high and the front courtyard is entered through its ground floor. Opposite to the main building is a fountain with four-sided arches. The remaining residential space is mainly made up of single cells, each with a fireplace, with the exception of the one-storey buildings located on the West side.

### Categories of Significance:

National importance

### Categories of ownership or interest:

The complex is exceptionally important for its location in the environment, space organisation, quality of workmanship and uniqueness - the only preserved profane Islamic building in Dalmatia.

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#### Documentation and bibliographic references:

Complete architectural documentation exists (photogrametry) in the proportion 1:50, 1:100 and 1:250 and photo documentation. Jusuf Mašković's Inn has been examined in detail and the findings published by Ivo Petricoli "Jusuf Mašković's Inn" the History of Vrana, JAZU Institute in Zadar, Zadar 1971. The published work contains all the known archival records

#### Condition:

Poor – deteriorating structure and/or leaking roof; outbreaks of rot; general internal deterioration; partly affected by fire or disaster

Roof more than 30% damage, with significant damage to walls, but can be repaired

#### Risk:

##### Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; solution agreed but not begun

##### Technical assessment and costings:

An approximate scale of charges has been worked out according to which the total estimated cost of the renovation works amounts to 1,700,000 Euro.

##### Ownership:

Municipal ownership, namely the owner of the inn is the municipality of Pakoštane. There is also an illegal owner who is a private person.

##### Occupation:

The structure is partly used (it is used by the private user in a completely inadequate way - he keeps agricultural machinery and animals in the inn).

##### Management:

The management of the structure is the responsibility of the owner (municipality of Pakoštane) which has no interest in it while the illegal user does not want to move out.

If resources for its reconstruction are provided, the owner, i.e., municipality of Pakoštane would administer and be responsible for the financing while supervision over the conservation works would be carried out the Zadar Conservation Department.

##### Summary:

Jusuf Mašković's Inn is a monumental and representative residential complex built all at once in the first half of the XVI century. By its size, method of construction and materials, as well as by its form, Mašković's Inn is the most significant Turkish structure in Dalmatia if not in the whole of Croatia that can be compared with the best historical residential complexes on our coast.

Today, Mašković's Inn is in a very poor state. Centuries old neglect and inadequate use have caused degradation that has accelerated in the last few years. The Inn was built from finely cut stone blocks which are falling out and disappearing, the spaces within the complex are being filled up with earth causing the excessive growth of vegetation whose roots are

destroying the walls. The roof over the main residential building is in poor repair so that humidity has almost completely destroyed the first floor.

The structure is severely threatened given that the binder, i.e., plaster, has lost its properties. For that reason the heavy rains from a few years back caused the sliding of over 30m<sup>2</sup> of the enclosing wall built from dressed stones.

Sign and date:

Anastazija Magaš  
18. ožujka 2004