

The House of Toptans

Country or territory:

ALBANIA

Name of organisation

compiling the information:

Institute of Monuments of Culture,

Contact name:

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Dwelling house of Toptans, Tirana

Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE HOUSE OF TOPTANS, Tirana

Inventory reference number(s):

1807

Building type(s):

Residential building

Main date(s):

19th century

Current use(s):

offices of the Institute of Geography

Significance:

The House of Toptans is an important example of the 19th century characteristic Tirana dwellings. The residence has a quadrangular shape with the hall situated in the center and rooms for different functions distributed around the hall. The interior is decorated with mural paintings and wooden carvings. The state of conservation is very bad, in particular the structure and the architectural elements. The house is a conjunction of two houses built almost in the same period. Only the half of the older house is preserved. Restoration works, undertaken in 1987, allowed to see all the construction phases and the consecutive alterations of the architectural and decorative elements. A restoration project should be prepared. It should be followed by appropriate interventions.

Categories of significance:

Of special national interest

Categories of ownership or interest:

The house is a private property, proclaimed by the State 'Monument of culture of first category', in 1973.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Full descriptive, technical, graphical and photographic documentation as well as estimates (technical/economical documentation) exist in the archives of the Institute of Monuments of Culture. The restoration project of 1986 is also available.

Bibliography

L.Lazimi; *A monumental dwelling in Tirana*, Tirana 1976

Condition:

Poor: deterioration of the supportive structure, architectural elements; humidity (ground floor).

Risk:

The risk relates to the lack of maintenance and funds.

Condition risk:

Slow decay, solution agreed but not implemented.

Technical assessments and costing:

A restoration project has been prepared. The estimated amount for implementation is 200 000 EUR.

Ownership:

The house is a private property.

Occupation:

Public use: offices of the Institute of Geography are currently established in the building.

Management:

The owners and the occupants (the Institute of Geography) are responsible for the maintenance of the monument, while the Institute of Monuments of Culture is responsible for the management, the administration of funds and supervision of the restoration works.

Summary:

The House of Toptans is an important example of the 19th century characteristic Tirana dwellings. Slow decay, solution agreed but not implemented. Because of the high artistic value and the present state of conservation, the building is assessed as *high* priority.

Sign. and date:

Dr. Arch. Latif Lazimi
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