

Haydar- Kadi Mosque

Country or territory:
"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC
OF MACEDONIA"

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Institute for the Protection of the Cultural
Monuments of the Rep. of Macedonia,
Skopje

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<u>Name and address of building(s) or site:</u>	HAYDAR- KADI MOSQUE, Bitola
<u>Inventory reference number(s):</u>	4-802-009/016 RND
<u>Building type(s):</u>	Monument, Mosque
<u>Main date(s):</u>	1561-62 AD
<u>Current use(s):</u>	Storage of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Natural Rarities, Museum and Gallery, Bitola

Significance:

The Haydar-Kadi Mosque is situated on the left bank of the river Dragor, in the location of the former *Ovchi bazar*, Sheep Market, near *Deboj*, a Turkish bath from the 17th- 18th century. The mosque was commissioned by Hayder Beg, the administrator of Rumelia, the largest Turkish administrative territory, with Bitola as a regional centre.

According to the inscription in Arabic on the stone plaque above the door, the mosque was built in 969 he (1561/62 AD). The mosque is a domed building with massive walls of about 1,4 m thick. The surface under the dome is 11x11m. The builders came from a small village in the region of Bitola but the project was most probably prepared by an unknown Islamic architect, influenced by the work of famous architects of that time, such as Kodja Sinan.

In the description of Evlia Celebia's travels through the Balkans in the 17th century, this mosque was considered as one of the most beautifully decorated. Study of the remains show that the Haydar-Kadi Mosque was the only mosque in Bitola with two minarets. Marble decorations adorn the *mihrab* and the triangle-shaped tromps. Stone *bas-relief* can be seen on the portal, capitals and on the *mimbar*. Colourful geometrical designs can be found around the windows, on the arches, as well as on the tromps. The wood-carved door is executed in *bas-relief*. The most distinctive motif is the stylized Arabic letter "elif". This type of wood-carved doors can be seen in Istanbul mosques.

The mosque was repaired in 1890. We also know that all the mosques of the town were restored before the visit of the Sultan Reshad in 1910, a fact confirmed by certain elements of the interior decoration painted at that time.

Categories of significance:

Of special national interest.

Categories of ownership or interests:

As a cultural monument, the mosque is of interest for all the nationalities in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.

Documentation and bibliographic references:Documentation

Technical architectural documentation, prepared in 1984, is available at the Documentation Centre of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments.

Bibliography

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Condition:

Poor: the roof is deteriorated and there is extensive damage to the wall decoration; the stone *mimbar* is severely damaged; marble reliefs are also in bad state of conservation.

Risk:

The greatest risk is linked with the inappropriate maintenance of the monument which has led to its current bad condition.

Condition Risk:

Immediate risk of further deterioration and loss of heritage components. There is a conservation project, elaborated by the experts of the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of the Rep. of Macedonia, Skopje.

Technical assessment and costing:

Technical assessments have not been carried out yet.

Ownership:

State property

Occupation:

Since 1912, the mosque is not used as a sacral Moslem building. Several conservation projects were carried out in 1957/58. In 1962, the restoration process was completed but the original function of the building was not re-established. Presently, the building is used for storage by the Institute of the Protection of the Cultural Monuments in Bitola.

Management:

The Institute in Bitola is responsible for the management of this building. The same institution will be responsible if funding is provided.

Summary:

In view of the significance of the building, and considering the need for conservation measures and for a revitalization project, including the change of the present use, the potential priority level of intervention for this monument is *medium*.

Sign. and date:

Z. Pavlov, M.A.
Skopje, 10.12.2003