

Village of Kichinica

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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Name and address of building(s) or site: VILLAGE OF KICHINICA, Mavrovi Anovi

Inventory reference number(s): m.b. 4-807-041/3 END

Building type(s): Vernacular settlement

Main date(s): Second half of the 19th century

Current use(s): The village is abandoned. The owners use their houses only during the summer.

Significance:

The village of Kichinica is located 3 km west of the Mavrovo Lake, on the slopes of the Bistra Mountain, in the National Park of Mavrovo. It belongs to the area of Gorna Reka, a part of the Reka-Debar region (western part of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", near the border with Albania), it is known for its natural and cultural heritage.

Kichinica is a clustered mountain village. The houses are built in stone. The steep roofs are covered with *shindra*, i.e. interlaced small boards. The windows are very small, similar to the loopholes of a defense tower. The *chardak*, an enclosed porch, common in traditional Turkish style houses, is positioned on the central part of the upper floor. The house of Mr. Spiridion Janevski is the oldest and the most significant in the village. The original spatial organisation of this building is classified in the typology of a "double house". The most characteristic architectural component of these houses is the deep niche on the eastern wall on the first floor, used as a "private altar". The village church dedicated to St. Nicolas is a small one-aisled church, built in the 19th century.

In the framework of the listing process to grant this ensemble the status of a cultural monument protected by the Law, the experts of the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of the Rep. of Macedonia prepared the Project "Documentation for the Rural Ensemble of the Village of Kichinica", within the Institute's Program activity for 1992.

Categories of significance:

Of regional importance

The vernacular settlement of Kichinica represents the typical architectural style of the mountain villages of the Gorna Reka region. The village could become a settlement of *special*

national interest if the idea of preparing a project for cultural tourism development was to be supported by the Governmental and the local authorities.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Considering the complexity of this ensemble - cultural heritage in a natural protected setting - (the village is a part of the Mavrovo National Park), the potential for tourism development is considerable.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Technical, written and photographic documentation, has been prepared by the experts of the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of the Rep. of Macedonia, Skopje, within the scope of the Valorisation Project, in 1992.

Bibliography

1. J. Krunić, *Oblici narodnih kuća Ohrida, Kičinice, Galičnika i Kruševa kao karakteristične nijanse izraza narodne arhitekture*, Zbornik radova Arhitektonskog fakulteta, Beograd 1951-52; (in Serbian, Cyrillic).

Condition:

Very bad: the house of Mr. Spiridion Janevski (No. 10). The roof covering is demolished. This causes additional damage to the walls in the back of the house. There are other structural problems in the interior of the building.

Poor: the northwest facade of the house, property of the Lazarevski family. There is a visible, large vertical crack on the wall endangering the entire construction of the building.

Fair: the rest of the houses, including the church, are still in structurally good condition, even though there is a need for minor interventions on small cracks on the façade. Generally, all of the houses are in need of minor interventions and regular maintenance.

Risk:

The lack of maintenance of the houses seems to be the main risk. The houses are abandoned during most of the year. Unsettled ownership issues for some of the houses, and the disputes about their maintenance, is another element that needs to be seriously considered.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk: the house of Mr. S. Janevski is at risk of collapsing. There is an architectural documentation of the present condition.

Immediate risk: the house of the Lazarevski family is exposed to gradual decay. There is an architectural documentation of the present situation.

Immediate risk: the rest of the houses are exposed to slow decay. Neglect and long periods of absence by the inhabitants increase the risk of further decay and damage.

Immediate risk: the church is in good condition, but, just as the houses, it is rarely used and therefore also exposed to gradual decay.

The most important but inappropriate interventions were undertaken on the house of the Manojlovski family by the owners: the floor was reconstructed without professional consultation, cement was used on the facades, the north-western facade was plastered and painted in white, the shape of the balcony, the *chardak* and windows was changed. These interventions destroyed the authenticity of the building.

Technical assessment and costing:

None

Ownership:

The houses are private property. Most of them are shared by several owners. The church is the property of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

Occupation:

The occupation of the houses and of the church is occasional. The buildings are used only for a brief period, during the summer. Since the houses belong to several owners, separate parts of the houses are occupied in different ways. Some of the owners do not use their part of the house at all.

Management:

The owners are responsible for their houses. If a feasibility study on cultural tourism exploitation and the financial support for implementation of the project was possible, a contract could be agreed upon between the owners and the organisation responsible for the cultural tourism, assigned by the Governmental and the local authorities. The Institute of the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of the Rep. of Macedonia, as an organisation responsible for the protection of the cultural monuments on this territory, would provide the expertise and supervise this project.

Summary:

The preserved authentic components of the rural settlement of Kichinica and its location within the National Park of Mavrovo, are the main elements of a successful pilot project for the cultural and natural tourism development of the area. The improvement of the state of conservation of several buildings will be the first step in the preparation of a project for the revitalization of Kichinica. The potential priority level of intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

M. Nikolovska, Ph.D.
Skopje, 7.12.2003