

The village of Malovishte

Country or territory:

"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"

Name of organisation

compiling the information:

Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Natural Rarities, Museum and Gallery, Bitola

Contact name:

Risto Paligora

Email address:

muzej@muzejbt.org.mk



Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE VILLAGE OF MALOVISHTE

Inventory reference number(s):

08 773/1-42 (12.03.2001)

Building type(s):

Vernacular settlement

Main date(s):

Second half of the 19th century

Current use(s):

The village counts approximately 100 houses and almost as many inhabitants. Some of the houses are inhabited while others are abandoned or used as stables.

Significance:

The village of Malovishte is the only inhabited settlement in the western part of the Pelister National Park, 10 km from Bitola. The village is situated at the crossing of several small water streams forming the Shemnica river. Historical sources mention this village for the first time in the 16th century. Preliminary archaeological excavations discovered the remains of late Classical buildings, located along the ancient *Via Egnatia*, which crossed this region.

It is supposed that the oldest nucleus of the village be set up on the location of the village centre, called *Muzgaga*. People coming from three, still existing quarters, known as the Upper Quarter, Along the Pit and the Lower Quarter, gathered there around the inn, the school and several stores.

The inhabitants of Malovishte are the *Vlahos*, Aromans. The tradition of this ethnic group is expressed particularly in its vernacular architecture, comprising stone buildings in the form of towers, as well as buildings influenced by the European historicism.

House interiors had three essential functions: domestic economy, residence, and hospitality for the guests. The interiors are furnished with built-in cupboards for storing the kitchenware, wardrobe for bedclothes (*sergen*), and shelves embellishing the fireplace. They are decorated with wooden ceilings contrasting with the geometrical patterns and vivid colors of the woven rugs. The interiors are very functional.

The important church dedicated to St. Petka is a testimony to the considerable wealth of the village in the 19th century. This three-aisled church surrounded with a portico was built in 1856

in the central part of Malovishte. The elaborately wood-carved iconostasis is a remarkable artistic creation.

Categories of significance:

Of special national importance

The unique spatial structure with visually separated quarters, the narrow streets, the spectacular natural environment, and the diversity of houses, are the main features that contribute to the significance of this village, one of the few traditional heritage settlements still inhabited.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Malovishte is a testimony to the authentic culture and traditions of the Vlahos community.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Available written, architectural and photographic documentation of the Project for the Integrated Development of the Village of Malovishte in Terms of Economic Development, Cultural and Ecological Preservation, to be used as a pilot project in other similar areas of the border region (2000-2001), financed by the PHARE program for cross-border cooperation.

Detailed architectural and technical analysis of the houses and the church, showing the present condition, is also available.

Bibliography

R. Paligora, *Malovishte*, Bitola, 2001 (Macedonian - English)

Condition:

Considering the number and the condition of buildings in this settlement, there are four levels of the conservation state:

The houses of Kocho Miha and Spase Tanev are in very bad condition. Presently, these buildings are used as stables, the structure as well as the interiors are seriously damaged.

The houses of Nikola Babovski, Tome Dolovski and Kocho Chagorovski are in poor condition, due to the damages to the wooden floors and the inappropriate repair performed.

Some of the houses (for example the houses of Alenko Paligora or Vangel Gramosli) are in fair condition. Small interventions and regular maintenance are needed.

Thanks to the conservation interventions in the past, the Church of St. Petka is in good condition.

Risk:

Risk is assessed in four categories:

- Abandonment
- Inappropriate use (stables)
- Inadequate maintenance (in particular in the case of houses shared by several owners)

- Inappropriate interventions causing permanent damage to the buildings, altering their authenticity

Condition risk:

There is an immediate risk of collapse (the houses of Spase Tonev, Kocho Miha and Flora Gramosli). No consolidation measures have been undertaken yet, but architectural documentation of the present condition is available. The houses of Vanku Pape and Niko Daevski collapsed.

The houses of T. Dolovski and Kocho Chagorovski underwent conservation interventions that stabilized their condition. Repairs undertaken and financed by the owners transformed the interior of the houses resulting in the loss of authenticity.

The inhabited houses are in good condition.

The church is in relatively good condition.

Technical assessment and costing:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1998 | New roof, the Church of St. Petka (35,000 EUR, private donation) |
| 2001 | Project for compiling the inventory, establishing a regime for the protected zones and tourism development, financed by the PHARE program for cross-border cooperation (50,000 EUR) |
| 2001 | Reconstruction of one house (8,000 EUR, private donation) |
| 2003 | Research Project "Malovishte, a Living Tradition", financed by the King Baudouin Foundation (13,000 EUR) |
| 2003 | First phase of the project for the conservation of the church wall paintings, financed by the Ministry of Culture (10,000 EUR) |

Ownership:

Most of the houses are privately owned. Some of them are shared by two or more owners. There is only one house, which is publicly owned. The church and its annex buildings are the property of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

Occupation:

Most of the buildings are inhabited. However, the number of those inappropriately used as stables is considerable. Only a small number of houses are abandoned. The church is used in accordance with its sacral function.

Management:

Owners are responsible for the management of their houses. The four churches and the Monastery of St. Anna are managed by the Church Council of Malovishte, established by the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

The Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Monuments, Natural Rarities, Museum and Gallery, Bitola, would coordinate the conservation activities and manage the funds, should they become available.

Summary:

The unique spatial structure of the village, the diversity of the house typology, the spectacular natural environment, are the main features that contribute to the significance of this village. This village, one of the few traditional settlements that are not abandoned, is listed as a "living

heritage". In view of the importance of this ensemble and taking into account the need for different levels of conservation, the potential priority level of intervention is *medium*.

Sign. and date:
Risto Paligora
Bitola, 9.12.2003