

The Zlatko's Tower

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: THE ZLATKO'S TOWER,
st. "T. Kukovski"b.b., Kratovo

Inventory reference number(s): 40814-013/36RND c.r. br. 451
r.b.53, 13.02.1953

Building type(s): Monument, defensive tower

Main date(s): Approximate date: 16th century

Current use(s): Presently, the tower is abandoned. One or
two chambers in the basement are used for
storage.

Significance:

The city of Kratovo, situated in the northeastern part of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", was a famous Medieval mining centre. According to travel accounts from the 19th century, the city had eight towers. The remains of four additional towers were excavated in the first half of the 20th century. These structures were used for housing and defence. The towers were owned by the most rich and powerful inhabitants of the town. Kratovo is particularly rich with this type of structures, compared with other cities of Macedonia and the region.

The Zlatko's Tower is considered to be the oldest amongst the Medieval towers in Kratovo. The structure is located on the right bank of the Tabak river, and flanked by the Simic Tower and the Clock Tower. It is a solid structure built with massive blocks of stone on a square plan of approximately six by six meters. The basement is covered with a dome-shaped ceiling. Between the ground-floor and the first floor there is a wooden construction. The ceiling of the first floor is a stone cross-shaped vault. The roof is covered with stone tiles.

Categories of significance:

Of special national interest.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Zlatko's Tower is a heritage structure of multicultural relevance, offering great potential for cultural tourism development.

Documentation and bibliographical references:

Documentation

The Conservation Project is prepared by the experts of the Institute for the protection of Cultural Monuments.

Bibliography

St. Simic, The Towers of Kratovo, Glasnik Skopskog naucnog drustva k. XXI, Skoplje, 1940, 145 (on Serbian, Cyrillic)

Condition:

Poor: The tower is seriously damaged. There are visible cracks on the walls. The wooden structure between the floors is partially demolished. The fire-place, the chimney on the upper floor, and the stone-tiles of the roof are severely deteriorated. The original entrance in the eastern wall was closed and a new one opened in the northern wall. The exterior stone staircase no longer exist, as well as the interior wooden stairs, which are completely demolished.

Risk:

Risks are related to the extremely bad condition of the structure. However, the main problem is the lack of a responsible user or manager of the monument.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk: the monument has been abandoned for a long time without a function or maintenance. Atmospheric conditions cause serious damage. The risk of acceleration of deterioration and collapse is very high. There is a conservation project but it has not as yet been implemented.

Ownership:

Zlatko's Tower is owned by the State.

Occupation:

The building is abandoned. The person living in the neighbouring house uses one of the chambers in the basement.

Management:

The State is responsible for the management of the tower. If financial means are provided, the Institute of the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of the Rep. of Macedonia will be responsible for their management, under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture.

Summary:

The Zlatko's Tower is the oldest and the most significant tower in the Medieval defence complex of Kratovo. It is necessary to safeguard this structure because of the rarity of this type of building. The state of conservation of the monument is poor.

The potential priority level for intervention on this monument is *high*.

Sign. and date:

M. Nikoloska

19.10. 2003, Skopje