

The Church of St. Prodrom

Country or territory:
ALBANIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church/
Foundation "Love spirit"/
Cultural Heritage Cell

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Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE CHURCH OF ST. PRODROM
Monastery in Voskopoja, Korce.

Inventory reference number(s):

880

Building type(s):

Architectural monument, church

Main date(s):

1632, 1659

Current use(s):

occasional religious use

Significance:

The Church of Saint Prodrom is the most ancient building remaining from the important economic and cultural center of historical Voskopoja. The ensemble is situated in a beautiful natural setting, in the middle of a pine wood. Old photographs show remarkable panoramic views.

The church is the central point of the monastery. It was built in the inner yard, surrounded by three aisles including the guest rooms (on the south the buildings are two-floors high, and on the north one-floor high).

The church is of high architectural and artistic value. According to the inscription carved on a marble stone at the entrance, the church was built in 1632 and painted in 1659. The monument is composed of a nave and a narthex. The nave is covered with a cruciform type dome, and has three-apses of 10.7 x 6.50 m. The construction technique, divided fugues and architectural elements show that the narthex was built in a later period. The nave is constructed with stones that are assembled with lime plaster. The masonry has been repaired several times and recently has been consolidated with buttresses. The frame of the walls is composed of carved stones. The wide double-gabled roof has somehow concealed the inner structure, highlighting the longitudinal axis of the church. The compact volume, flat facade, a plan-volume construction, perceptible rising in height accentuates the monument clearly referring to the Byzantine inspiration models.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Available in the Institute of Monuments of Culture and in the archives of Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Bibliography

- 1 P. Thomo; *Post Byzantine churches in Albania*
- 2 A. Meksi; *Post Byzantine architecture in Albania*

Condition:

Poor: The church shows signs of structural problems. Dangerous fissures are visible, the roof cover is damaged. Consolidation measures undertaken, such as the building of buttresses in the most dangerous points, were provisional but are not functional anymore.

Risk:

Risk is related to the condition and lack of funding. This monument is not sufficiently protected and has been looted.

Condition risk:

Rapid deterioration, no solution agreed up on.

Technical assessments and costing:

Technical assessments and costings are not available.

Ownership:

The church is a State property.

Occupation:

The church can be occasionally used for religious purposes.

Management:

The Institute of Monuments of Culture, through the Local Directorate of Monuments of Korca, is responsible for management, administering of funds and supervising the restoration works.

Summary:

The Church of Saint Prodom is the most ancient building remaining from the important economic and cultural center of historical Voskopoja. The church is the central point of the monastery. It was built in the inner yard, surrounded by aisles including the guest rooms. The

church is of high architectural and artistic value. According to the inscription carved on a marble stone at the entrance, the church was built in 1632 and painted in 1659.

The church has structural problems. The consolidation measures undertaken are not functional anymore.

The priority level for intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Arch. Gentian Stratoberdha

10.03.2004.