

St. Peter's Basilica

Territory:
KOSOVO/UNMIK

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Museum of the City Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

Contact name:
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Name and address of building(s) or site: ST. PETER'S BASILICA, Stan Trg/Stari Trg.

Inventory reference number(s):

Building type(s): Archaeological remains, sacral building

Main date(s): 13th-16th century

Current use(s):

Significance:

St. Peter's Basilica is known in Kosovo as the Saxon's Church or the Latin Church. The remains of the church are located in the mining colony in Stan Tërg, 9 km east of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica city, on the edge of the Albanian mountain (Monte Argentarium), close to the Trepça mine known for the exploitation of zinc, lead, gold and silver. The church was constructed by Saxon colonists in Kosovo who, in the medieval period, were specialized in mining and metal extraction. The basilica was constructed in the 13th century and used till the 16th century.

St. Peter's Church, a three nave basilica, is of particular interest because of its gothic architectural style and construction techniques, as well as for the Byzantine mural paintings, which decorate the interior.

Presently, the church is almost in a state of ruin. Only the foundations in the western part remain, together with the east apse which is partially preserved up to the roof level. Inside the apse, fragments of murals can be seen.

Categories of significance:

Of regional importance.

St. Peter's Basilica in Stan Tërg represents a creation of gothic architecture decorated with Byzantine style murals. The monument could become of national interest, if a cultural tourist development project were supported by local and regional authorities, as well as international organisations.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Of national interest.

The possibility for developing cultural tourism are more than clear.

Documentation and bibliographic references:Documentation

Because of its value – archaeological monument protected by law – professionals from the Museum of the city in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica prepared a documentation project for St. Peter's Basilica in Stan Tërg, as part of the programme activity of the Museum in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica during 2003.

Technical documentation, written and photo documentation – as part of a survey and archeological soundings carried out in 2003 by experts from the Mitrovica Museum, the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments and the Pristina Regional Museum.

Bibliography

The bibliography consists mainly of historic data gathered for the documentation project.

Condition:

Very bad: the condition of the apse, the mural paintings and the foundations is very bad.

Risk:

The risk is related to lack of maintenance.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk: risk of further deterioration, solution not agreed.

The central apse is at risk of collapse together with its internal murals. A state of conservation assessment was prepared 40 years ago and was sent to Belgrade after the war in 1999. 40 years ago, preservation activities were carried out on the central apse by restoration experts. The foundations of the basilica are exposed to gradual decay.

Technical evaluation and costing:

A precise technical evaluation has not been prepared.

Ownership:

St' Peter's Basilica is public property.

Current use(s):

The basilica and the surrounding area are not in use.

Management:

The management of St. Peter's basilica is the responsibility of the Museum of the City in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. If a study for the development of cultural tourism were to be prepared, the

Museum of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, organisation responsible for the protection of cultural monuments in this territory, together with the Institute for Protecting Cultural Monuments of Kosovo, would provide expertise and supervise this project.

Summary:

St. Peter's Basilica in Stan Tërg represents a creation of gothic architecture decorated with Byzantine style murals. The monument could become of national interest, if a cultural tourism development project were supported by local and regional authorities, as well as international organisations.

The possibility of reconstruction of the basilica complex of the St. Peter is the main precondition for a successful pilot project to develop cultural tourism, for which the drafting of a detailed project is needed.

Risk of further deterioration, solution not agreed.

Sign. and date:

H.Mehmetaj
Pristina
11.03.2004