

**Church of St. Nikola**

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Country or territory:  
MONTENEGROName of organisation  
compiling the information:  
Ministry of CultureContact name:  
Lidija LjesarEmail address:Name and address of building(s) or site: CHURCH OF ST. NIKOLA, Nikoljac, Bijelo PoljeInventory reference number(s): 161Type of building(s): Sacral building, ChurchMain date(s): 16<sup>th</sup> centuryCurrent use(s): ChurchSignificance:

The construction of the church is situated in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. According to the historical sources from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, the monastery had an intense manuscript activity. The church is a three-nave basilica with an octagonal dome resting on four massive columns. On the eastern side, there is a semi circular apse. There are two entrance doors, the main door on the west side of the building and an additional one on the northern side. The church was built of crushed stone and plaster. The roof is covered with shingles. The interior was decorated with paintings in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The richly carved iconostasis includes icons painted by Radul, Maksim Tujkovic, Kir-Kozma, and Simeon Lazovic. The church also possesses a fine collection of manuscripts and printed books.

Category of significance:

Of special national importance

Category of ownership or interest:

Characteristic monument of the Orthodox religion.

Documentation and bibliographic references:Documentation

- Decision on inclusion in the Central Registry of Protected Cultural Monuments of Montenegro.
- Architecture – originals.

Bibliography

1. Stojanovic, Lj. *Notes and Inscriptions* I -580, 618, II – 3272, 4581, III – 5592.
2. Cvijetic, B.: *Anthology of the History of South Serbia I*, 1936.

3. Deroko, A.: *Antique Dealer VII*, Beograd, 1932.
4. Markovic, Cedomir, Vujicic, Rajko: *Cultural Monuments of Montenegro*, Novi Sad, 1997.

Condition:

Fair. The exterior of the church is in quite good condition, but the iconostasis of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which is one of the most valuable parts of the church, is in very bad condition.

Risk:

Risk is related to the current condition and management.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration. No solution agreed.

Technical assessment and costing:

There is a technical assessment without costing.

Ownership:

Property of the Orthodox Church.

Management:

The Orthodox Church is responsible for the management of the monument.

Summary:

The exterior of the church is in quite good condition, but the iconostasis of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which is one of the most valuable parts of the church, is in very bad condition. This church has a *high* level of potential priority.

Sign. and date:

Lidija Ljesar  
February 2004