

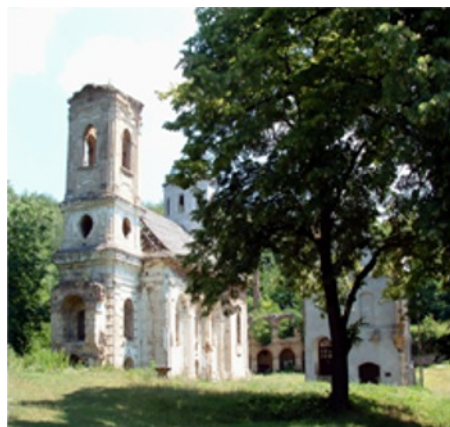
Monasteries of Fruška Gora Mountain

Country or territory:
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Provincial Institute for the
Protection of the Cultural Monuments
Novi Sad, Vojvodina

Contact name(s):
Slavica Vujović
Dejan Radovanović

Email address:
pzzzskns@ptt.yu
slavaheritage@ptt.yu
drkonz@ptt.yu



Name and address of building(s) or site:

MONASTERIES OF FRUŠKA
GORA MOUNTAIN

Inventory reference number(s):

Monastery Krušedol	R. No. 135, December 22 1949
Monastery Grgeteg	R. No. 295, November 22 1949
Monastery Novo Hopovo	R. No. 124, October 24 1949
Monastery Staro Hopovo	R. No. 147, December 7 1949.
Monastery Velika Remeta	R. No. 234, November 22 1949
Monastery Mala Remeta	R. No. 146, December 7 1949.
Monastery Vrdnik	R. No. 142, December 6 1949
Monastery Jazak	R. No. 148, December 7 1949
Monastery Privina glava	R. No. 143, December 6 1949
Monastery Divša	R. No. 145, December 7 1949
Monastery Šišatovac	R. No. 138, November 22 1949
Monastery Beočin	R. No. 133, November 22 1949
Monastery Rakovac	R. No. 134, November 22 1949
Monastery Kuveždin	R. No. 140, December 22 1949
Monastery Petkovića	R. No. 144, December 6 1949

Building type(s):

Groups of buildings, churches,
chapels, dormitories, and auxiliary
buildings

Main date(s):

15th-19th centuries

Current use(s):

Sacral, except of Staro Hopovo – no
function

Significance:*General information*

Descriptions:

CHURCHES

Velika Remeta, Mala Remeta, Jazak, Novo Hopovo, Divša, Rakovac, Privina Glava, Petkovic and Krušedol – post Byzantine churches with Moravian school influence, rebuilt and transformed during the 18th century when baroque elements – bigger windows, baroque bell towers and dome caps – were added. The post Byzantine basic matrix remained. Staro Hopovo, Grgeteg, Šišatovac and Beočin restored during the 18th century were added with baroque style churches. Vrdnik and Kuveždin in the 19th century built new churches in classicist style. At the beginning of 20th century, through a radical restoration of Herman Bole, Grgeteg took on a completely new shape in Arts and Crafts style.

DORMITORIES

During the 18th century, Velika Remeta, Jazak, Novo Hopovo, Divša, Rakovac, Privina Glava, Krušedol, Grgeteg, Šišatovac and Beočin had new Baroque dormitories that surrounded the churches on three or four sides. The dormitories of Vrdnik and Kuveždin took on classicist style characteristics in the 19th century. Dormitories of Mala Remeta, Petkovic and Staro Hopovo are more modest. The dormitories of Grgeteg were completely remodeled during the Herman Bole restoration.

WALL PAINTING

Original fresco paintings are preserved almost completely in Petkovic and Novo Hopovo. Fresco paintings from the 16th century are preserved in Krušedol under later baroque walls paintings from the 18th century. In Rakovac fresco paintings are preserved in the dome, in Velika Remeta in fragments in the altar area and on the church facades. Oil wall paintings in Krušedol are a unique example of a completed baroque ensemble with Ukrainian influences (in the entrance and altar) with strong influences of western development of baroque art (in the use of paint). Wall paintings from the 19th century are preserved in Vrdnik. Wall decoration from the beginning of the 20th century can be found in Grgeteg with movable objects and church equipment in Arts and Crafts total design.

ICONOSTASIS

The iconostasis from Krušedol monastery is a unique example of icons ensemble and carving from the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Development and European influences on the whole Serbian church art from that period are visible in this artwork.

The iconostasis in Jazak, Mala Remeta, Beočin, Privina Glava, chapel of Rakovac monastery and preserved parts of Divša iconostasis, Novo and Staro Hopovo, are paramount artworks of baroque church painting and applied arts in Serbia, as are the thrones from Jazak, Rakovac, Krušedol and Privina Glava.

The best preserved iconostasis from the 19th century, with characteristics of Vienna Nazarene's painting is the one in Vrdnik. Among the extraordinary artworks are the preserved fragments of iconostasis of Kuveždin.

The Grgeteg iconostasis, from the beginning of the 20th century, is unique in Serbian church art, due to its modern concept and iconographic solutions, as well as mastery of the artist.

TREASURIES AND LIBRARIES

The famous Munich Psalter was stolen in 1699 from monastery Privina Glava, during wars with Turks, and was transported to Bavaria.

Following the looting and destruction of monasteries in the past, mostly by Ustashas during the World War II, only fragments of once rich treasures and monastic libraries of Fruška Gora remain. Paintings and applied arts pieces of exceptional workmanship and artistic value safeguarded are mainly stored in the Museum of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

A small number of books from mediaeval times to modern age survived to WW II. High intellectuals of Serbia – Dositej Obradović, first Minister of education of liberated Serbia, Ilarion Ruvarac, founder of critic historiography in Serbia, Lukijan Mušicki, poet and philosopher, learned from these volumes.

MAUSEOLEUMS AND CENTRES OF NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS CULTS

Since its very founding, (high church officials were buried in the Krušedol monastery), like its founder bishop Maksim Branković, Patriarchs Arsenije III Čarnojević of Peć, Arsenije IV, Duke of the Serbian national movements of the 19th century, Stevan Šupljikac, Princess Ljubica and King Milan Obrenović. The remains of St. Duke Lazar were transported in 1697, from Ravanica to be held in Vrdnik, and became the centre of a national and religious cult. The remains of St. Tsar Uroš, the last ruler of mediaeval dynasty Nemanjić, were buried in Jazak, also as a part of religious and national cult.

Categories of significance:

A cultural heritage of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

All the monasteries are owned by the Serbian Orthodox Church, Srem Eparchy. SCG Army, individuals and the state now own estates after WW II.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

There is a complete documentation of the projects:

Technical documentation:	situation plan
	basis
	intersections
	all facades
	carpentry and ironworks in detail
	list of old books and artwork
	archaeological research
	research during restoration works
	old property maps, archives
	engravings of monasteries from the 18 th and 19 th century
	old photo documentation, starting from the last decades of the 19 th century
	photo documentation of conservatory and restoration works

Bibliography

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- O. Milanović-Jović, P. Momirović, Fruškogorski manastiri, Beograd 1963; Novi Sad 1990.
- V. Matić, Arhitektura fruškogorskih manastira, Novi Sad 1984.
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- B. Kulić, N. Srećkov, Manastiri Fruške gore, Novi Sad 1994.
- B. Kulić, Manastir Rakovac, Novi Sad 1999.
- L. Šelmić, Srpsko zidno slikarstvo 18. veka, Novi Sad 2003.
- D. Kovačević, Manastir Staro Hopovo, Novi Sad 2003.
- M. Timotijević, Manastir Krušedol, in print.

Condition:

Krušedol, Novo Hopovo, Jazak, Beočin, Vrdnik and Gregeteg – churches restored, partly restored movable objects, dormitories in the phase of construction / repair.

Privina Glava and Velika Remeta – churches and bell towers restored, dormitories under reconstruction.

Rakovac, church without bell tower restored, dormitory under reconstruction.

Mala Remeta – covered church, necessary repairs of cracked walls and ample works in dormitory.

Divša, church building reconstructed in its original shape, dormitory under reconstruction.

Petkovica, repairs of statics afoot.

Staro Hopovo – church under reconstruction.

Šišatovac – church building and bell tower reconstructed, dormitory partially restored (20%).

Kuveždin – church and dormitory in the starting phase of total construction restoration.

Conserved wall paintings, iconostasis and thrones. Supplementary works necessary on oil wall paintings.

In Novo Hopovo the fresco paintings from the 17th century are conserved, but still endangered by humidity. Parts of the 18th century iconostasis are conserved and held in the treasury of Patriarchate Court in Sremski Karlovci.

In Rakovac, the frescoes in the dome are conserved; the iconostasis from the monastery chapel from the 18th century is also conserved.

In Jazak, the iconostasis from 18th century is partially conserved, but still endangered by climate and worms. Conservation of thrones is necessary.

In Beočin, conservation of the iconostasis and apses is necessary.

In Petkovica works on conservation and restoration of frescoes started. Frescoes are endangered by humidity and bad stability of the church.

Destroyed wall decoration from the beginning of the 20th century is completely reconstructed in Grgeteg. Conservation of movable objects and iconostasis is necessary.

Preserved parts of the iconostasis from the 18th century of Staro Hopovo are conserved and stored in the treasury of Patriarchate Court in Sremski Karlovci.

Conservation of the iconostasis is at its final phase in Privina Glava.

In Mala Remeta, exploration works and making of survey for iconostasis from the 18th century are being made. Wall paintings from the 20th century are endangered by the poor stability of the church.

In Velika Remeta, conservation of the frescoes in altar and facades is necessary.

In Kuveždin, remains of the iconostasis from the 19th century are in a conservation phase.

U Divša remains of the iconostasis from the 18th century are in a conservation phase.

Parts of the iconostasis and movable objects are conserved in Vrdnik. Conservation of the wall paintings from the 19th century is necessary.

Risk:

High risk of fire and theft, due to the lack of adequate protection.

Condition risk:

Moist endangers the stability of the walls and deteriorates the wall paintings and iconostasis. Replacing authentic materials with new, modern ones might cause unknown impact on old materials and loss of authenticity. Pollution deteriorates cast and painted surfaces.

Technical assessment and costing:

Restoration of the churches started with founding the Provincial Institute in 1951. Smaller restorations of monastic dormitories also took place. Larger campaigns in dormitories started in 1980s. Conservation and restoration of the wall paintings and frescoes from 1950s – largest works in Novo Hopovo and Krušedol – 1960s. In 2003, conservatory works started on the frescoes in Petkovica.

Archaeological research

In Novo Hopovo: during restorations in 1950s, 1960s and 1980s.

In Rakovac during restorations in 1960s and 1980s.

In Staro Hopovo during restoration in 2000-2002.

In Petkovica out of the church in 1980s and 1990s.

In Divša during restorations in 1990s.

In Šišatovac during restorations in 1990s.

In Vrdnik during restorations in 1990s.

In Kuveždin in 2000, partial research.

In Velika Remeta during restorations, partial research in 2003.

Works planned

Researching the causes of humidity and providing solutions to this problem in all endangered monasteries.

Introducing fire protection and protection from burglary and theft in all monasteries.

Continuation of archaeological research in Kuveždin and Velika Remeta, within complex restoration.

Continuation of restoration of the church and dormitory in Kuveždin.

Insulation and moist removal in Petkovica, walls consolidation.

Completion of reconstruction of the dormitory in Rakovac.

Completion of reconstruction of the dormitory in Beočin.

Conservation of the frescoes in Petkovica.

Completion of conservation of the iconostasis in Privina Glava.

Reconstruction of the west wing of the Velika Remeta dormitory.

Start of conservation and restoration of the iconostasis in Mala Remeta.

Equipping and renewal of treasuries and libraries is comprised within a long-term plan.

There is a need for a strict and urgent restoration and appropriate management plan.

Ownership:

The Monasteries are owners of land complexes and the rest of the land.

Occupation:

The volumes and the capacity of the monasteries demonstrate that they were built for a large number of monks, often over 100. Now, there are few monastic communities, whose number rarely exceeds 10. They are mainly female communities, with few exceptions, and the average age is over forty. Therefore, the members of the communities are unable to complete agricultural works, maintain buildings and care for the treasuries.

The Staro Hopovo monastery is without occupants and monks. In the monasteries Mala Remeta, Kuveždin and Šišatovac only one person lives in each.

Management:

Low level of management and presentation of monasteries as cultural properties is a result of poor equipment and poor readiness for these functions. Main burden of management rests with the owners. Jazak is the best example of good management and presentation, due to tradition, patience and endurance of nuns, who have been working with experts on systematic restoration of the monastery complex since 1953. The plan to make Velika Remeta a rest home for senior citizens, once reconstruction of the west wing is over, is a good improvement.

Summary:

The historical, cultural and cult importance of Fruška Gora, as a treasury and testimony to the history of Serbian people and land, the concentration of preserved historical and art values, despite destruction and its present state, is outstanding in the Serbian culture and history. Not only can the development of Serbian church and culture be traced by the preserved values, but also mutual influences and spiritual permeations on the multi cultural plan of Central Europe. Ties with the baroque art of Ukraine and the West influenced changes in the spiritual field in a unique way. Examples such as Krušedol, historically and by content – the centre of the complex, where five centuries of existence and development of spiritual culture in unity of particularities - are vitally significant for measuring and founding a strategy in the times of general globalization. Certainly, they contribute to minimizing xenophobia.

The priority level of intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Slavica Vujović

Dejan Radovanović

Novi Sad, March 5 2004