

## **Novi Pazar**

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  
Institute for the Protection  
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Name and address of building(s) or site:



NOVI PAZAR, (Raška or Sandžak district), South West of Serbia

Inventory reference number(s):

Building type(s):

Groups of monuments

Main date(s):

15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century

Current use(s):

Cultural heritage with religious, public or residential use. Only one valuable and rare monument, Gazi Isa bey hammam is not in use and rapidly deteriorating.

Significance:

Novi Pazar is a multi-layered town and precious cultural heritage. It has identifiable characteristics of the Ottoman-Balkan settlement, with urban structures formed at the time the Ottoman Empire flourished (end of the 15<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century). Novi Pazar was well known as a trade focal point, with the status of an administrative centre. After damages sustained in 1689 during the Austro-Turkish war, Novi Pazar sorely recovered and stayed in its pre-war dimensions. After the departure of the Turks, in 1912, the city landscape started to change and continued until the end of the WW II. With numerous “modernizing” interventions, the authentic urban matrix of Novi Pazar was changed, with particular emphasis on the problem of illegal construction works, characteristic of the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The distinctive elements in urban structure of Novi Pazar are:

The City centre established on the route to Constantinople, where it crosses the Raška River. Amiraga’s inn and rows of shops in the place of the former bazaar and Grain market, with the Ras Museum building, erected on the foundations of some older buildings are the main heritage buildings.

Stara čarsija (Old town) is situated on the right bank of Raška River. Heritage buildings: Altun alem, Arap and Gazi Sinan bey mosques, Gazi Isa bey's double hamam of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, fortress and rows of shops along the 1. maja street i 7. jula street.

Varoš mahala is on the left bank of Raška River with groups of religious and residential buildings around the three-aisle dome church of St. Nicholas from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (school, archbishopric), where the Serbian orthodox population resided. This part of the city is inclined towards St. Peter's church, the seat of Serbian mediaeval clerical spirituality and statehood. Micro-complexes of individual monuments, old graveyards (Moslem, Orthodox and Jewish) and archaeological sites are dispersed throughout the entire town as evidence of the history of a broader area.

The Heritage of Novi Pazar is significant in various ways:

Archaeological – there are numerous archaeological sites from various periods, not researched enough, often lying beneath built structures.

Architectural – because of its value and permeating various cultural layers. Ras is the historical centre of mediaeval Serbia. A part of its most valuable heritage, St. Peter's church, is located in the municipality of Novi Pazar. Best evidence of times of the Turkish occupation and the forming is its architecture. In Islamic construction mosques are distinctive, with general characteristics as in those preserved in Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but with specifics of Bursa style and early Constantinople style, as well as public buildings (inns, religious schools, hammams). The Church of St. Nicholas is a representative edifice, in accordance with the significance of a metropolitan seat, with a luxurious iconostasis. It is possible to track the development in residential construction, from rural to urban architecture, with valuable examples of Serbian, Moslem and Jewish communities.

Historical and Social – It was an important commercial, administrative and religious centre during several centuries.

Cultural and Educational – influences that spread from educational and religious centres to the local population that was divided on a religious and ethnic basis, with the appearance of mixed institutions after the Turks receded in 1912.

Religious – Through the ages, the Novi Pazar area was multi-confessional, with Orthodox Christianity and Islam dominance.

Ethnic – population is multi-ethnic, majority of Muslims and Serbs. During WWII, the Jews, an important part of the population of this city, were wiped out due to genocide. Today, the only evidence of their presence is a cemetery, devastated and attacked with illegal building works.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

There is documentation, carried out over a long period, from 1960 till 2000.

Institutes in Kraljevo and Belgrade contain documentation that was continually updated, about the state, the conservation and restoration works.

## Bibliography

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- E. Mušović, S. Vujović, Džamije u Novom Pazaru, Beograd-Kraljevo, 1992.
- V. Vučković, Lejlek džamija u Novom Pazaru, Raška bastina 2, Kraljevo 1980.
- S. Đorđević, Hamam u Novom pazaru, Raška baština 1, Kraljevo 1975.
- H. Čar Druda, Osnivanje Novog Pazara do kraja XVI veka, Novopazarski zbornik 8, Novi Pazar 1984.
- E. Čelebi, Putopis, Sarajevo 1967.
- Grupa autora, Studija zaštite Stare čarsije
- Grupa autora, Studija zaštite Starog Rasa sa Sopoćanima, rađena za potrebe Prostornog plana

## Condition:

Poor. Significance and monumental characteristics of the complex are diminished by irregular and illegal interventions.

## Risk:

### Condition Risk:

Slow decay. Warning from the Protection service exists – that complete devastation of cultural heritage will occur through the continuation of uncontrolled buildings and changes of elements of authentic architecture, as well as through the non-selective application of modern materials.

## Technical assessment and costing:

A number of conservation and restoration works were undertaken since the 1960s on particular buildings. Documentation plans were also made, based on years of research directed by Prof. Dr. Jovan Nešković. Conservatory principles were observed whenever works were financed by the republic budget or budgets of regional communities. When the Islamic community took over the initiative and financing in 1990s, drastic violations and physical disappearances of monuments (old medrese) occurred. These buildings were replaced by new ones.

## Works planned:

- Management plans for Novi Pazar
- Interventions on particular objects are necessary, and Gazi Isa bey hamam is of high priority, because it is going to fall down.

## Ownership:

Private, communal and of religious community

Occupation:

In the de-nationalisation process certain changes will occur.

Management:

Consciousness of this matter is not developed enough on the level of the local community. The city is struggling with problems of incoming population, bad infrastructure, and changes in the economy, so the cultural heritage does not fall within the scope of community quality.

Summary:

Multinational and multiconfessional, important orthodox and Muslim sacral and profane buildings. Some monuments are part of the area Stari Ras and Sopoćani, listed as a World heritage, mostly seriously violated through illegal and unplanned development. Novi Pazar is one of the most important historic towns and district of Serbia.

Specific warning from the Protection service exists – that complete devastation of cultural heritage of Novi Pazar will occur through the continuation of uncontrolled building and changes of elements of authentic architecture, as well as through the non-selective application of modern materials. In the local community, consciousness of values and importance of cultural heritage is not developed enough. It has been devastated by the need for newer and “nicer” areas, so the cultural property has been destroyed within the same ethnic community and religion. Help to the broader community and a resolution to end destruction of the cultural heritage is necessary. Since the Novi Pazar city area falls within the area listed as World heritage of UNESCO, changes in attitude towards heritage have to occur, or else, by degradation of the part of heritage, the international status will be lost.

Need for a very urgent conservation intervention.

The priority level of intervention is *medium*.

Sign. and date:

Slavica Vujović

Novi Sad, March 5, 2004.