

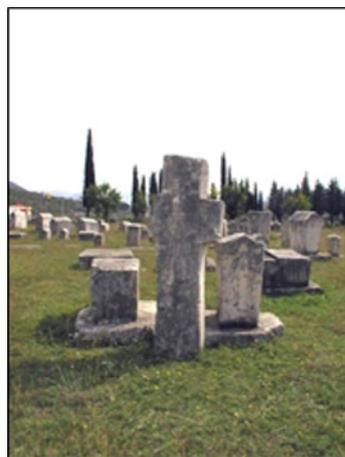
### ***Historical Necropolis Radimlja***

Country or territory:  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Name of organisation  
compiling the information:  
Commission to Preserve  
National Monuments

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<u>Name and address of bulding(s) or site:</u>	HISTORICAL NECROPOLIS RADIMLJA, Stolac
<u>Inventory reference number(s):</u>	01-275/02
<u>Munument or site type(s):</u>	Historic site, Burial ground
<u>Main date(s):</u>	15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> century
<u>Current use(s):</u>	Historical site

#### Significance:

In the number of monuments, the diversity and representation of all the basic *stećak* shapes, the relatively high artistic quality of the work, the wealth of decorative elements, relief carvings and epitaphs referring to known historical persons, as well as in its unusual site and accessibility, the necropolis of Radimlja is one of the most valuable mediaeval monuments in BiH.

Most of the tombstones, of the type known as *stećci* (sing. *stećak*) date from the fifteenth and sixteenth century. The most reliable evidence of the date of origin is an epitaph on one of the *stećci*, which suggests that the necropolis dates to the time when the Hrabren-Miloradović family lived in Batnoge or Ošanići.

According to the 1967 data there were 133 *stećci* in the necropolis. When the Čapljina to Stolac road was built in the Austro-Hungarian period, it cut through the necropolis, leaving eleven *stećci* to the north and the remainder to the south of the road. The assumption is that twenty *stećci* were destroyed on that occasion and used for tarmacking the road. During the late 1940s, A. Benac took some archaeological soundings, and determined that some of the graves beneath the most typical *stećci* had previously been excavated and robbed. Research conducted by A. Zelenika in the late 1950s, when the road was widened and asphalted, produced similar results. These works prompted and hastened the legal protection of this site.

#### *General information*

The *stećci* in this necropolis face north-west/south-east, with the head of the deceased to the north-west and the feet to the south-east. They are made of limestone from the quarry on the

nearby Ošanići hill, some 800 m to the north-east of the necropolis, where one unfinished *stećak* still stands. The basic shapes were probably cut in the quarry, while the final treatment and decoration were carried out in the necropolis, to avoid damage during transport.

Following the customary classification of basic *stećak* forms, the necropolis consists of the following *stećci*: 36 slabs, 1 slab with plinth, 27 chests, 24 chests with plinth, 4 deep chests, 5 deep chests with plinth, 2 ridged, 31 ridged with plinth, and 3 crosses. A total of 63 *stećci* are decorated, making the Radimlja necropolis one of the most highly decorated necropolises in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its artistic features make it one of the most valuable and important necropolises as a whole.

The decorations on the Radimlja *stećci* are executed in shallow relief by carving or a combination of techniques, with the emphasis on preserving the basic form of the *stećak*. The short scoremarks on the surface indicate the use of a hammer with a short cutting blade, while the flat surfaces were smoothed with hard stone.

The finest decorated forms are the ridge and the tall chest forms. The vertical sides of some of the monuments bear arcades with pillars and arches, indicating that the *stećci* represent the abode of “eternal repose”. The roof sections of the ridge shaped *stećci* and the gable are particularly salient, with prominent eaves, zigzag carving or a broad line or ropeweave decoration.

Among the motifs of a decorative nature, those that stand out both in quantity and quality of treatment are vine leaves in threes and twisted bands, as well as motifs of a symbolic nature such as the sun (circle), stars and crescent moon. There are also numerous motifs of the cross, often stylised, as well as shield, sword and bow-and-arrow motifs. Animal figures are represented on several *stećci*, and the necropolis is also rich in human figures. Those that stand out in particular are the figures of dukes, and the figures of men with their arm held aloft. There are also scenes of combat, of hunting and of games.

Five monuments bear epitaphs, naming certain members of the Vlach shepherd family of Hrabren Miloradović (Donji Vlasi), and indicating that Radimlja was where they buried their inheritance “na Batnogah”. A further detail makes it possible to date the necropolis more exactly. Radoje Vuković, nephew of duke Petar, and Radoje, a brother of duke Petar, belong to the class of high feudal lords. Duke Stipan is mentioned on the inscription above the portal on the church in Ošanići, as well as on the large stone outside the church. Duke Stiepan died around 1470 and duke Petar was mentioned in 1477 as a chief of the Vlach summer pasture of Hrabrena. According to Radoja’s epitaph the second son of Stipan died at a date later than the 1470s, while Radoja Vuković, nephew of duke Petar, died in the 1480s or 90s. (Hrabak GZM, 1953, 326-327).

Vlač or Vlađ Vlahovič and Stipnan are mentioned in two inscriptions. From the shields on their monuments it may be assumed that they belonged to the military while nothing definite can be said concerning Vukac Petrovič.

Clerks or blacksmiths named Bolašin Bogačić, Miogost and Ratko Brativo(-)nič /Brativojevič put their signatures to these monuments.

#### *Research and Conservation and Restoration Works*

- In the late 1940s A. Benac took archaeological soundings
- A. Zelenika, an archeologist from the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments in Mostar, conducted minor archaeological research in the late 1950s.
- The necropolis was set in order in the late 1960s under the supervision of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of SR BiH. The cemetery area was cleared of vegetation and a hedge and line of cypresses were planted. A prefabricated café-restaurant, wholly inappropriate for the site, was erected; it was later burned down, during the 1992-1995 war.
- In the late 1980s the Restoration Institute of Croatia cleaned and carried out the chemical

protection of the whole necropolis under supervision of the Institute for Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of BiH. These works carried a five year guarantee, which expired in 1994.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

Of national interest

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

- Copy of cadastral plan with protected zones duly indicated;
- Copy of land register entry and ownership certificate;
- Photographs;
- Plan of the necropolis of stećci (A. Benac)

Bibliography

1. Documentation of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments
2. P. Anđelić, *Doba srednjovjekovne bosanske države, Kulturna istorija Bosne i Hercegovine od najstarijih vremena do pada ovih zemalja pod osmansku vlast* (The mediaeval Bosnian State, Cultural History of Bosnia and Herzegovina from ancient times to the beginning of Ottoman rule) Sarajevo, 1984, pp. 345-587
3. Benac, *Radimlja*. Sarajevo 1950.
4. Hrabak, *Prilog datovanju hercegovačkih stećaka* (Supplement to the dating of the stećci of Herzegovina). *Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja* (Journal of the National Museum), n.s. Vol. VIII/1953, Sarajevo, 325-328.
5. M. Vego, *Zbornik srednjovjekovnih natpisa BiH* (Anthology of mediaeval inscriptions in BiH), I. Sarajevo, 1962, 64-71, no. 42-46 (with relevant bibliography).
6. Wenzel, *Ukrasni motivi na stećcima* (Decorative motifs on tombstones). Sarajevo, 1964.

Condition:

Poor

- the site is at risk from the construction of buildings in the immediate vicinity
- the site is exposed to specific risks (traffic, pollution, weathering factors)

Amount of war or associated damage:

The site had suffered no war damage.

Risk:

- the site is at risk of rapid deterioration as a consequence of failure to provide regular maintenance

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric, solution agreed but not implemented.

Construction of new buildings in immediate vicinity is jeopardising the site.

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#### Technical assessment and costing:

Urgent protection measures from further deterioration need to be taken.

The following measures shall be taken on the National Monument placed on cadastral plots 394/9 and 363/19:

- all construction is prohibited
- any works other than those carried out for the conservation and presentation of the tombstones is prohibited
- all agricultural activities are prohibited

The above mentioned part of National Monument should be surrounded by a hedge. Within this area the restaurant and pergola in the south-western sector of cadastral plot 394/9 may be restored to its condition prior to demolition.

The following measures shall be taken on the parts of National monuments placed on cadastral plots 394/2, 394/174, 395, 396, 397, 363/8, 363/22, 363/23, 363/24, 363/25, 363/26, 693/1, 374/1:

- construction is prohibited
- all construction and infrastructure works are prohibited.

Within the above mentioned area, agricultural works shall be permitted (vineyards are recommended) subject to the preservation of existing vegetation (the group of cypresses on cadastral plot 394/2).

In the area that includes a protective zone of at least 2 km from the outer boundary of the parts of the National monument placed on cadastral plots 394/9 and 363/19, the construction of buildings of no more than two storeys and maximum dimensions of 12 x 12 m is permitted. The construction of industrial buildings and facilities, major infrastructure facilities, quarries or the siting of potential environmental polluters is prohibited.

Costing proposals for projects and above listed works have not been done.

#### Ownership:

Private – most of the site  
Municipality of Stolac

#### Occupation:

Occasional use

#### Management:

The provisions relating to protection and rehabilitation measures set forth by the Law on the Implementation of the Decisions of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, established pursuant to Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH nos. 2/02 and 27/02) shall apply to the National Monument.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be duty bound to ensure the legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary to protect, conserve, display and rehabilitate the National Monument specified in Clause I of this Decision.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be duty bound to carry out the Programme for the permanent protection of the site of Radimlja near Stolac –

Principles of Complete Protection, adopted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at its 36<sup>th</sup> session, held on 15 March 2000, which provides for all planning documents and administrative acts on the basis of which planning permission for the erection of buildings or facilities has been granted to be set aside as null and void, and for the removal of all buildings and facilities from the central protected zone.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be duty bound to draw up all the necessary planning documents of an executive nature for the historic site of Radimlja. The area as a whole comprises the cadastral plots within protected zones 1, 2 and 3, as defined by this Decision.

Summary:

In the number of monuments, the diversity and representation of all the basic *stećak* shapes, the relatively high artistic quality of the work, the wealth of decorative elements, relief carvings and epitaphs referring to known historical persons, as well as in its unusual site and accessibility, the necropolis of Radimlja is one of the most valuable mediaeval monuments in BiH.

The Regional Plan for BiH to 2000 classified the necropolis as category I – of national importance.

Applying the Criteria for the adoption of a decision on proclaiming an item of property a national monument, this national monument reaches the following criteria (criteria of significance):

- A. Time frame
- B. Historic value
- C. Artistic and aesthetic value
- D. Clarity (documentary, scientific and educational value)
- E. Symbolic value
- F. Landscape value
- G. Authenticity
- H. Uniqueness/rarity
- H.i. the single or rare example of a object type or style
- I. Integrity (groups, sites, collections)

The priority level of intervention is *high*.

NOTE:

Condition

Poor

Condition risk

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric, solution agreed but not implemented.

Criteria employed for the Priority Intervention List:

- The monuments are designated as national monuments,
- They represent rare or unique examples of the typology or chronological - stylistic corpus,
- They were damaged/destroyed during the 1992-1995 war in BiH or they were endangered by the post war conditions (illegal constructions, lack of funding for restoration and maintenance, inexpert reconstruction,) and are subject to further deterioration,
- Their restoration will encourage the return process in BiH,
- Their restoration will support development of the region.

Sign. and date:

Mirela Mulaluć Handan  
10.03.2004.