

Monastery of the “Dormition of the Holy Virgin”

Country or territory:

ALBANIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:

Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church/
Foundation “Love spirit”/
Cultural Heritage Cell

Contact name:

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Name and address of building(s) or site:

MONASTERY OF THE “DORMITION OF
THE HOLY VIRGIN”, Kakome, Saranda

Inventory reference number(s):

1398

Building type(s):

Architectural monument, church

Main date(s):

mural painting from 1672

Current use:

not in use

Significance:

The Monastery of the “Dormition of the Holy Virgin” is situated in the Kakome Bay, one of the most picturesque landscapes of the Ionian sea, isolated from inhabited centers. The monastery is one of the most distinctive monasteries in the region because of its architectural and landscape values.

The ensemble is composed of a church (*katholikon*) and a building with guest rooms. The guest rooms in the southern part and the monastery tower are of particular interest.

The church consists of a gallery and a nave. The nave is covered with a cruciform type dome, and has three apses of 6.80 x 30 70 m dimension. The two gabled roof is interrupted by the volumes of an octagonal drum and the north and south flanks are covered by one gabled roof and end by a belfry wall. The roof is covered with tiles. Both of these structures are severely deteriorated. There is a strong need for consolidation works in the *katholikon*, in order to protect the interior walls painted with frescoes in 1672 by the famous painter Mihali from Zerma.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Available in the Institute of Monuments of Culture and in the archives of Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Bibliography

1. P. Thomo; *Post Byzantine churches in Albania*
2. A. Meksi; *Post Byzantine architecture in Albania*

Condition:

Poor: Both buildings are damaged. There is need for conservation works to reinforce the elements of the structure, and to restore the frescoes.

Risk:

Risk is related to the state of conservation and lack of funding.

Condition risk:

Slow decay, solution agreed but not implemented.

Technical assessments and costing:

Technical assessment and costings are not available.

Ownership:

The monastery is a State property.

Occupation:

It can be occasionally used for religious purposes.

Management:

The Institute of Monuments of Culture through the Local Directorate of Monuments of Saranda, is responsible for management, for administering funds and supervising restoration works.

Summary:

The Monastery of the Holy Virgin is situated in the Kakome Bay, one of the most picturesque landscapes of the Ionian sea, isolated from inhabited centers. The monastery is one of the most distinctive monasteries in the region because of its architectural and landscape values. The two monastery buildings are damaged and exposed to slow decay.

The priority level for intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Arch. Gentian Stratoberdha
10.03.2004.