

City fortress, Krk

Country or territory:
Republic of CROATIA

Name of organization
compiling the information:
Ministry of Culture,
Conservation Department in Rijeka

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<u>Name and address of building or site:</u>	CITY FORTRESS, KRK, ISLAND OF KRK
<u>Inventory reference number:</u>	160
<u>Building(s) type:</u>	City fortification system
<u>Main date(s):</u>	IV.-III. centuries BC - XVI. century
<u>Current use(s):</u>	City fortification system

Significance:

The only city in the Primorsko-goranska County which has a completely preserved city fortification system around its entire perimeter (walls, citadel, towers, etc. from various historical periods) is Krk. Parts of the city walls date from the Hellenic times, the Roman Republic or the early empire, from the late ancient period, the Middle Ages, Romanesque period as well as alterations from the Renaissance. The city walls have not contracted but rather expanded in certain places in even five layers according to the latest archaeological research. The towers have been preserved of which the oldest is from the V-VI centuries, a square tower courthouse from 1191, a few smaller towers of rectangular shape from the mediaeval period built along the walls, a cylindrical one within the citadel and hexagonal and square towers of the city gates from the XV and XVI centuries respectively. The wall has a number of city gates of which two are completely preserved, the Small gate and Vinciguerina. Within the system of city walls facing the sea the complex of the mediaeval rector's fortress and in its immediate vicinity the bishops fortress dating from the V century are particularly prominent. The latest archaeological research has disclosed a system of city walls from the early and late antiquity, of which the most impressive are the last built from architectonic elements and blocks (binders) of classical, public, sacral and sepulchral structures, in at least two stages.

Categories of Significance:

Outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

The city walls have sporadic lots that are public goods but to the main part they are in private ownership given that they are directly between garden lots in and outside the city. Rarely are the houses or other structures incorporated into the fortress or vice versa, it being the case only in the rector's and bishop's houses and one of the monasteries (third order priests)

located on the city's acropolis. There is special interest in the preservation of the severely threatened wall structures that haven't been repaired from the time they lost their original purpose, except along the seaside where due to its effects repairs were required on a number of occasions in order to preserve the Bishop's residence and the citadel.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

The city walls have partly been documented and architectural surveys have been made only where research was carried out. All the finds of the research phases to date have been processed and reports prepared. They have been published only as city part surveys.

Bibliography: A. Faber, Ancient fortress walls of the city of Krk, Journal of Dalmatian Archaeology and History Split, 1963-65; I. Žic, City Walls and Streets in Krk, Krk Anthology 1971, 2; M. Bolonić i I. Žic, The Island of Krk through the Centuries, Zagreb, 1977; A. Mohorovičić, A Contribution to the Knowledge of the Ancient Urban Layer of the City of Krk, Zagreb, 1988.

Condition:

Its condition is satisfactory only where research, conservation and restoration have been undertaken and that is approximately one fourth of the overall city fortifications. The remaining parts are in poor condition. As much as has been researched has been preserved.

Risk:

The walls are at special risk due to the loss of binder and yielding because of the thrust of earth given that they have been filled with earth from the gardens within the city. It has been deposited over them for agricultural purposes covering thus the original archaeological layers, in places as high as 5 meters. They are also threatened by vegetation, ivy and small trees that sporadically grow through them from one side to the other destroying the crown cogs. Likewise there is sporadic risk from unauthorised deep excavations on private lots that destroy archaeological layers.

Condition risk:

As of late the structure has been deteriorating at an accelerated pace since parts of the walls are losing their bearing capacity given that the crown of the wall is gradually coming out of the static core of the cross-section. In the last five years continual repair and research as well as presentation actions have been undertaken, however, there are no adequate sources of financing and the required intervention dynamics has not been secured.

Technical assessment and costings:

In the next ten years the Ministry of Culture, City of Krk, the Primorsko-goranska County the tourist industry and other financial sources need to provide approximately 2,000,000 EURO. Constant systematic archaeological research, conservation and storing of finds are required.

Ownership:

Ownership is mostly private. Only some of its parts are common property. The owners of some parts are unknown and requiring research in the disorderly land-ownership records.

Occupation:

The space is partly and occasionally used for agricultural purposes, mostly for gardening. The developed sections are presented as repaired, restored, conserved and consolidated city walls, while a part is presented as an archaeological site and small private collection of stone

monuments that are used as combined catering and gallery space. Part of Vinciguerine tower should very soon start being used as a monument protection office.

Management:

The owners of the plots with whom there are occasional disputes are actually responsible. The developed part is managed by the City of Krk and a private owner (Stanić Gallery). Administering of the financial transactions is the responsibility of the City while supervision and undertaking of works are the responsibility of the Conservation Department in Rijeka.

Summary:

The latest works on the Krk city fortification system gave excellent results in scientific and presentational terms. Three groups of contractors for archaeological and conservation works have become quite skilled. The presentation of the finds has enriched the cultural and tourist supply of the city. Work on city walls generated the decision to build a school for very young children in the historical centre of the city and thus create a real opportunity for raising awareness among the young about the value of cultural heritage. Through the presentation of, for now, only parts of its fortification system Krk is demonstrating that it is capable of promoting the status of its built heritage with the financial assistance of outside factors.

Sign and date:

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10 March 2004.