

The Church of Kozara

Country or territory:

ALBANIA

Name of organisation

compiling the information:

Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox

Church/

Foundation "Love spirit"/

Cultural Heritage Cell

Contact name:

Arch. Gentian Stratoberdha

Email address:

gentian_s@hotmail.com



Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE CHURCH OF KOZARA, Berat

Inventory reference number(s):

34

Building type(s):

Architectural monument, church

Main date(s):

painted in 1806

Current use(s):

not in use

Significance:

The Church of Kozara is a three-aisled basilica type church, with a flat ceiling and wooden colonnades connected directly to the ceiling balks. The southern side of the church has an open gallery with colonnades and vaults. The nave is surrounded by a closed gallery on its west and north side. The neoclassic belfry, characteristic for the *Myzeqeja* period, dates from the beginning of the 20th century. It is separated from the church and placed in front of the southern entrance.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

The Church of Salt-Kozara, Kuçova, represents the traditions of the Orthodox community in the Myzeqeja region. Religious celebrations for the entire community of this zone were carried out in this church. Various elements in the surroundings, such as the street, cypresses, and tombs show that this complex preserved the functional part of the service.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Of religious 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: inside walls are fissured; the structural capacity of the construction is reduced. In the southern part of the nave wall, a horizontal fissure and a 25 cm inclination in the upper part are visible. The monument suffers from humidity because of roof deterioration. The decorative ceiling is rotted and has lost its characteristics. Wall frescoes are also seriously damaged. One of the belfries is destroyed.

Risk:

Risk is related to the condition and lack of funding.

Condition risk:

Slow decay, solution agreed but not implemented.

Technical assessments and costing:

Technical assessment and costing are not available.

Ownership:

The church is a State property.

Occupation:

The church can be occasionally used for religious celebrations.

Management:

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

Summary:

The Church of Kozara is a three-aisled basilica type church, representing the traditions of the Orthodox community in the Myzegeja region. The state of conservation is bad, there are numerous fissures in the walls reducing the structural capacity of the construction. The roof is also damaged. The priority level for intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Arch. Gentian Stratoberdha
10. 03.2004.