

The Latin School

Country or territory:

ROMANIA

Name of organisation

compiling the information:

National Institute for Historical Monuments
Bucharest, Ienăchiță Văcărescu str. 16,
sector IV

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Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE LATIN SCHOOL
CINCU commune, Braşov County

Inventory reference number(s):

Position 08B 0377 of Historical
Monuments List / 1992

Building type(s):

Urban residential building, house with
passageway and compact front facing
the street.

Main date(s):

18th century

Current use(s):

Not in use

Significance:

The building named The Latin School is located in the historical centre of the commune, on one of the plots belonging to the two islands which allegedly belonged to the first stage of Saxon colonist occupation – around the 13th century. The study of the building's historic evolution certifies the repeated alterations it underwent until it reached the present U-shape, in which it appears on the Austro-Hungarian map after 1875. The current building is an urban edifice, justified by the function it had, as a town hall and school. The current 18th century form is composed of older volumes, from the end of the 16th century. The building has an evolution that comprises all the stages of a Transylvanian Saxon urban house, starting with the Transylvanian Saxon type of building, erected on the possible foundations of a Francon one, continuing with the Gothic and Renaissance type of merchant house and finally adopting Baroque formulas, once the upper floor was built.

Typologically, it belongs to the group of the houses with passageway and compact front facing the street. The volumetric characteristics, typical for an urban area, with high roof and an interrupted slope, can place it in the same category with any building in the central area of the towns and villages with Transylvanian Saxon inhabitants – Sibiu, Mediaş, Turda, etc.

The Latin School is a striking element of the constructed environment of the Cincu commune, intrinsically contributing to the spatial definition of the central square, and, at the same time, it is a valuable element of the Transylvanian Saxon cultural heritage.

Categories of significance:

Of regional or local interest

Categories of ownership or interest:

Of interest to the ethnic group of the Saxons.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

The preliminary Studies and Researches, the Technical Expertise and the Feasibility Study, all of these being elaborated by a private firm.

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3. Fabrițius-Dancu, Juliana, *Cetați țărănești săsești din Transilvania*, Editura Transilvania, Sibiu, 1980.
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6. Giurescu, Constantin C., *Istoria românilor - din cele mai vechi timpuri până la moartea regelui Ferdinand*, Ed. Humanitas, București, 2000
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10. Opreșcu, George, *Bisericile cetăți ale sașilor din Ardeal*, Ed. Academiei R.P.R., 1956.
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17. Colectiv, *Brașov - Monografie*, Editura Sport Turism, Buc., 1981
18. Arhiva D.M.I.- Dosar nr 3141 / 1967

Condition:

Very bad

Risk:

Currently, the building is in a precarious state and is improper for use. This is mainly due to the pluvial water which penetrated the roof and infiltrated the basement, as a result of the bad water collecting system. This situation was also aggravated as a result of the abandonment, as the building was subjected to both natural and man-made destruction.

Condition risk:

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

Technical assessment and costing:

The approved rehabilitation project is aimed at a double function variant. Because of its shape – two structures with two separate entrances from the passageway – and its extensive surface, the building can preserve one of its previous functions, such as the school, and have a new one, for the benefit of the community, such as the museum.

As a school, the building can take the function of the *School of Arts and Traditional Crafts* (restoration), where old crafts could be preserved and resurrected, crafts that are threatened by disappearance or have already disappeared. The School could serve for the specialization of the students and it could also serve as a summer school for pupils and students who seek a specialization in the domains of restoration, art, ethnography, folklore. The school's influence could be extended to the entire area and it might have the chance of becoming a polarizing cultural centre in the entire southern area of Transylvania.

The Museum of Saxon Material Civilization is a striking element of the Transylvanian Saxons' culture, as it is new in the Transylvanian cultural landscape and it has the capability of becoming a polarizing factor in the area.

Regarding the structural configuration, the main interventions aim at removing the causes of decay and repairing the damage. The reconstruction of the structural elements includes consolidating the carrying walls, rebuilding of the passageway structure, rebuilding of the floors, restoring the framework and the cover. In the attic there will be a thermo-insulating mansard-roofed space, properly protected against fire. The objective of the intervention is to fully repair the floor, wall and ceiling finishing, while preserving the existing decoration as much as possible.

The Feasibility study and a complete restoration project exist and are accepted by the National Commission of Historical Monuments.

Estimated financial value in the Technical project is about 530, 000 EUR.

Ownership:

The building is owned by the Romanian State represented by the local public administration Cincu Commune City Hall, Braşov County

Occupation:

Abandoned

Management:

The Cincu Commune City Hall is responsible for the general management of the building. The National Office for Historical Monuments is responsible for administering funds and supervising works.

Summary:

The Latin School is a striking element of the constructed environment of the Cincu commune, intrinsically contributing to the spatial definition of the central square, and, at the same time, it is a valuable element of the Transylvanian Saxon cultural heritage.

Currently, the building is in a precarious state and is improper for use. This is mainly due to the pluvial water which penetrated the roof and infiltrated the basement, as a result of the bad water collecting system. This situation was also aggravated as a result of the abandonment, as the building was subjected to both natural and man-made destruction.

The potential priority level for intervention is *high* .

Sign. and date:

Ph.D.Arch. Sorin Minghiat

09.03.2004