

## ***The fortress of Oradea***

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 FORTRESS OF ORADEA  
ORADEA Municipality,  
Iancu de Hunedoara str, no 1  
BIHOR County

Inventory reference number(s):

Position 05B 026 of Historical  
Monuments List / 1992

Building type(s):

Fortification

Main date(s):

First part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century

Current use(s):

University of Fine Arts, Archives of  
the Bihor county, Marriage Hall,  
Depots

Significance:

The first part of the fortress was the Catholic cathedral, founded at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and reconstructed in Gothic style in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Fortress of Oradea, considered as one of the most interesting and valuable Italian type fortifications in Romania, has been built in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries by Italian architects. This fortress and the cathedral were destroyed by the Turks in 1660. The actual fortress is of the Vauban type – with bastions, moat and escarpment. In the middle precincts there is a pentagonal castle with a second precinct.

The fortress is important due to its architectural and historic value, being one of the most remarkable of the Vauban type in Central and Eastern Europe.

Categories of significance:

Of special national interest

Categories of ownership or interest:

Documentation and bibliographic references:

1. The preliminary studies and researches - Private archaeological research team - Cluj Napoca; Draft for a restoration project for the South-Eastern part of the Castle - National Institute for Historical Monuments
2. Balog, Jolan – *Varadium Vara*, Muveszettortenereti fuzetek 13/2, Akademiai Kiado Budapest, 1982
3. Emodi, Janos – *Toteneti adatok Nagyvarad multjabol II*, Oradea 1998
4. Kovacs, Andras – *Szabalzos alaprajzu, olaszbastyas varkastelyok Erdelyben*, in Muvelodes tortenereti tanulmanyok, Ed. Kriterion, 1980
5. Sebestyen, Gh. and V. – *Arhitectura Renaşterii în Transilvania*, Editura Academiei, 1963

Condition:

Different state of conservation in the different parts of the Castle or of the Fortress :

Very bad in the South-Eastern part of the Castle:

- structural failure and instability
- major internal deterioration

Poor - in the other parts

Risk:Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric in the South-Eastern part of the Castle; solution agreed but not implemented.

Technical assessment and costing:

From the point of view of structural configuration, the main intervention's objective is to eliminate the sources of decay and remedy to the degradations by a set of restoration and consolidation interventions which aim at restoring the original appearance and details of the edifice, according to preliminary research.

The estimated value according to the pre-feasibility Study is about 1,500,000 EUR.

Ownership:

The cultural property is owned by the Town Hall of Oradea Municipality.

Occupation:

Fully occupied and used by several institutions.

Management:

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

Summary:

The fortress is important due to its architectural and historic value, being one of the most remarkable of the Vauban type in Central and Eastern Europe.

Very bad in the South-Eastern part of the Castle:

- structural failure and instability
- major internal deterioration

Poor - in the other parts

The potential priority level for intervention is *high*.

Sign and date:

Ph.D. archeologist Voica Maria Puscasu

08.03.2004