

Hamмам, Mitrovicë

Territory:
KOSOVO/UNMIK

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Centre for Cultural Heritage, Mitrovicë
Contact name:
Mr.sc.Bektesh Vidishiqi
Xhejlane Hoxha, arch.

email address:
bektesh_v@ hotmail.com
gjejlaneh@ hotmail.com



<u>Name and address of building(s) or site:</u>	HAMMAM, Mitrovicë
<u>Inventory reference number(s):</u>	Being processed
<u>Building type(s):</u>	Public building, Hammam
<u>Main date(s):</u>	17 th century
<u>Current use(s):</u>	Archaeological and ethnological Museum

Significance:

Mitrovicë is situated in the northern part of Kosovo, at an altitude of 508-510m. Four rivers flow through Mitrovicë: Ibri, Sitnica, Lushta and Trepca rivers. The hammam is situated in the core of the old city, in the vicinity of other historic monuments which constitute the centre of the town, such as the Old Mosque with Maddrasa, the Tower Clock, Han and the Old Bazaar.

The monument belongs to the Ottoman period and is constructed in oriental style, characteristic for buildings, such as public baths, of the 18th century. By the end of the 19th century a right-angled annex 15m long and 10m wide was added. The Old Hammam is constituted of the entrance part (the hall), the central part and four side alcoves. The *hammam* is 14m long and the 10m wide. The building was constructed with large stones, and the width of walls is 80cm. The coronet around the roof is made with three rows of bricks, put in a diagonal position. The roof and cupolas (in total nine; eight small and one big, the central one) are covered with tiles and lead-iron-sheets.

The interior decoration is made up of a Marble Console and fountains. The floor is made from big marble square slabs (of milk-white colour). The monument represents special architectural value of oriental architecture of thermal baths, and is protected by law.

Categories of significance:

Of regional importance.

It expresses an architectural creation of oriental style, characteristic of the objects of sanitation – a public Turkish bathhouse – *hammam*, from the Ottoman period. This object presents suitable conditions to be used as a regional museum (archaeological and ethnological), and together with other parts in its vicinity, constructed over centuries, which constitute the old core of Mitrovica, will contribute to the cultural tourism development, generating material benefit.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Considering the values of this object and the cultural-historical environment, the *hammam* and the old core in its vicinity are predisposed to cultural tourism development.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Partial technical theoretic and photographic documentation and one project for partial repair, prepared by the experts of the Institute for Protection of Monuments of Kosova, Pristina 2002. No bibliography.

Condition:

Technical condition of the Hammam is very bad. During rainfall, atmospheric waters and black-waters, penetrate flooding the floor up to 50cm and jeopardizing the structure. Also the roof of the Hammam is heavily damaged. As a consequence of atmospheric precipitation, the water penetrates in many places and endangers the construction of the roof, which is almost completely destroyed.

Poor condition of the interior in general and of the exterior in part. Penetration of water from the around and from the roof has damaged the interior walls and the floor.

Fair volume – structure of the object. As a consequence of bombings during the war – the walls have suffered cracks in several parts.

Risk:

If we do not take the necessary sanitation measures, we will face the further alarming deterioration of the *hammam*.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of rapid decay or loss of material. No solution agreed.

The *hammam* is exposed to gradual, but severe decay, which affects its stability.

Technical assessment and costing:

No detailed technical assessment. According to partial preliminary evaluations, the costing for the sanitation is around 226,000 €.

Ownership:

The *hammam* is the property of the Municipal Assembly (the object was nationalised in 1959).

Occupation

The *hammam* is used as a regional museum.

Management:

Management of the monument is the responsibility of the Municipal Assembly – Mitrovice.

Summary:

Considering that the Mitrovice *hammam* expresses special cultural values, represents oriental architecture (Turkish public baths) and considering the high level risk of destruction of this object, we think that there are sufficient predispositions for a successful sanitation and restoration project.

The potential priority level of intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Mr. sc. Bektesh Vidishiqi
Mitrovice, 15.03.2004