

Historic Complex of the Great Market

Territory:
KOSOVO/UNMIK

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments
Gjakovë/Djakovica

Contact name:
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Name and address of building(s) or site: HISTORIC COMPLEX OF THE GREAT MARKET in Gjakovë/Djakovica, "Ismail Qemajli" street no.98

Inventory reference number(s): EK.02-137/80

Building type(s): Residential building, Tower

Main date(s): 19th century Batusha

Current use(s): Not in use

Significance:

Many studies highlighted the characteristics of the early residential "tower" forms in villages and cities. The residential tower in Gjakovë, the Hysni Koshi tower, built by the investor Selim Sejdi in the 19th century, is located in the Historic Complex of the Great Market, in an area called the Main-market in the complex of the Albanian League.

The tower occupies a suitable position illuminated from all sides, set at the crossing of three streets for better control. It is built in stone and includes small windows. Processed wood was found in the doors, ceiling and different closets of the tower. This building was modified to adapt to changing living conditions.

Categories of significance:

Of regional importance.

The tower is an example of national architecture, it has important architectural value. The special importance of this building is linked to the fact that this monument belongs to the Market historic area in the core of the city and that both the tower and the historic area are well preserved.

Categories of ownership or interest:

Of national interest.

In 1980 the tower was listed and protected as a cultural and historic monument. Official gazette KSAK no.19/77 on 10.04.1980 under no. 02/137.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

A complete architectural survey, including the inventory of cultural objects prepared by the experts of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Gjakovë/Djakovica in 2002-2003, a project of the European Union, is available.

Bibliography:

1. F.Dranqonqolli; *“Albanian Tower”*; Ali Hadri *“Gjakova in NLW”*
2. Mark Krasniqi; *“Albanological researches”*.

Condition:

Bad condition: the tower is not in function, the roof construction is damaged, frontages on two sides are damaged, doors and windows and part of the roof construction are burnt. Interventions for the roof and the interior/exterior damage from fire are necessary.

Risk:

The tower cannot be used for habitation because of cracks and the roof leaks.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk: tower – house owned by Hysni Koshi is continuously at risk of decay. Present technical condition is documented.

Technical evaluation and costing:

The tower can be restored and made functional, the foundations and walls are sound and the monument could be used in accordance with its original residential function.

Ownership :

The tower is privately owned by Hysni Koshit in Gjakovë/Djakovica,

Occupancy:

The tower cannot be used in its present state.

Management:

The owner is responsible for the management of the tower. A study for the revitalisation of the monument and for cultural tourism development is possible. The tower is a unique case for such research and therefore an agreement between the owner and the Institute should be reached for possible cultural visits. The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Gjakovë/Djakovica would provide expertise and supervision.

Summary:

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Market historic area in the core of the city and that both the tower and the historic area are well preserved.

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Sign. and date:

Arch. Osman Gojani, Director

Gjakovë/Djakovica

12.03.2004