

The Brâncoveanu ensemble from Sâmbăta de Sus (Castle)

Country or territory:
ROMANIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
National Institute for Historical Monuments
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Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE BRÂNCOVEANU ENSEMBLE FROM
SÂMBĂTA de SUS (Castle)
SÂMBĂTA de SUS, village
VOILA, commune, BRAȘOV county

Inventory reference number(s):

Position 08B 0558 of Historical Monuments
List / 1992

Bulding type(s) :

Residential building, Dwelling

Main date(s):

1714, 1800

Current use(s):

abandoned

Significance:

The ensemble had been built by the Wallachian Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu in 1714 in order to have, in Transylvania, a retreat place for him and his family in case he lost the throne. The Castle, built on the Brancovan structure, and the principal Gate of the precinct, still remain until today. In 1800, the Castle was restored by the Prince's nephew, the chief of the administration of the Little Wallachia (Oltenia), Grigore Brâncoveanu.

The initial planimetry of the Castle has been preserved, but the façades have been changed to the late Baroque style, characteristic for the end of the 18th and the beginning of 19th century architecture in Transylvania.

The Castle became a private property, and after the World War II it was ruined and improperly used. The Castle has been abandoned for the past 20 years.

It is one of the representative buildings in Transylvania belonging to Wallachian Princes. From the architectural point of view it combines Wallachian and Transylvanian features. It preserves the original structure (1714) in the layout and in the cellars, with minimal modifications and modernizations from the 19th-20th centuries in the upper levels. Nice Corinthian capitals are preserved in the structure of the main gate of the precinct. Part of the historic park is preserved. The massiveness of brick and stone masonry preserved the building from serious structural damages. Although there are fissures on the keystones of the arches, on the floors made of wood beams, decay of the framework of the chimneys.

Recently one of the four vaults of the cellar has partially fallen. The cellar suffers from humidity.

Categories of significance:

Of special national interest

Categories of ownership or interest:

The monument is of direct interest to the Romanian Writers' Union.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

There is now a complete design project for the consolidation and restoration of the Castle and for the conservation of the Gate. Technical documentation refers to all required works for the consolidation of the structure and the new function of the Castle – a boarding house for artists and writers. Beside the expert's report on the structure, this documentation has to be updated because of great delay in execution.

Archaeological excavations in the precinct in order to find the traces of the princely church, that was part of the ensemble, and a design for the layout of the precinct are still necessary. A project for the restoration of the main building and of the annex buildings was prepared the national Institute for Historical Monuments in 2000.

Condition:

Bad:

- decay of the roof
- damages of the exterior and interior plaster
- the total lack of the joinery
- damages of the floors – especially the finishing layers.

Occupation:

Abandoned since 20 years.

Condition risk:

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

Technical assessment and costing:

From the point of view of the structural configuration, the main intervention is targeted to the elimination of the sources of decay and remedy to the degradations by a set of restoration and consolidation actions which aim at restoring the original appearance and silhouette of the building, according to preliminary research.

The estimated value according to the Feasibility Study is about 750,000 EUR.

Ownership:

The monument is owned by the Town Hall of Voila commune.

Occupation:

Abandoned

Management:

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

Summary:

It is one of the representative buildings in Transylvania belonging to Wallachian Princes. From the architectural point of view it combines Wallachian and Transylvanian features. It preserves the original structure (1714) in the layout and in the cellars, with minimal modifications and modernizations from the 19th-20th centuries in the upper levels. Nice Corinthian capitals are preserved in the structure of the main gate of the precinct. Part of the historic park is preserved. The massiveness of brick and stone masonry preserved the building from serious structural damages. Although there are fissures on the keystones of the arches, on the floors made of wood beams, decay of the framework of the chimneys. Recently one of the four vaults of the cellar has partially fallen. The cellar suffers from humidity.

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

The potential priority level for intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Ph.D. archeologist Voica Maria Pusçaçu

08.03.2004