

Rural Complexes: “Pivnice” and Graveyard

Country or territory:
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Name of organisation
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Name and address of building(s) or site:

RURAL COMPLEXES: “PIVNICE” AND GRAVEYARD, immediately following “pivnice”, of the village Rajac, “pivnice” of village Rogljevo and “pivnice” of village Štubik. Villages and their “pivnice”, as separate complexes, are located near town Negotin – in the North-West of Serbia.

Inventory reference number(s):

PKIC 14/1, PKIC 14/2, PKIC 10, SK 342

Building type(s):

Rural buildings and gravestones

Main date(s):

Date of “pivnice” – 19th century
Date of gravestones on the graveyard in Rajac – from the second half of 18th century.

Current use(s):

“Pivnice” of the village Rajac are in use now, “pivnice” of village Rogljevo are partially in use, while “pivnice” of the village Štubik are abandoned.

Significance:

Vineyard settlements – pivnice – in Negotinska krajina, traditional vineyard region in Lower Danube Area, were developed in the 19th century on sites of older “pivnice”. These are spontaneously formed rural seasonal agglomerations, and comprise individual wine cellars called “pivnice”, built by every village family. They served for grape processing and storing wine, as well as for habitation in times of intensive works in the vineyard. They were built as one-spaced, partially dug-in buildings, or, in more developed cases, with rooms above the cellar. At harvest time, life from the village went on in “pivnice”.

The “Pivnice” of Rajac are on the hill above the village. They are built as a tight group that forms a central square with “zapis” (taboo tree), as a mark of cult and gathering place where a wellonce existed. From there, bent, broken streets extend, as well as passages with smaller squares where streets cross. The group is comprised of about 270 “pivnice”, mostly as individual buildings, but there are two, three, even four below the same roof. They were built in the second half of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century on the place where “pivnice”

existed from the end of 18th century. They were built in stone and covered with tiles, with impressive entrances under arches, simple but expressive, and twofold massive doors. The oldest cellars were built by stonemasons from the south, more familiar with stone and cheaper. One of them is signed as "Master Kosta from Macedonia". The following "pivnice" is a graveyard with monuments from the second half of the 18th century. It has monuments in stele shapes, richly carved in shallow relief with geometric ornaments, old cult symbols of sun, moon, stars and crosses.

The "Pivnice" of the village Rogljevo are on the hill slope of the village. There are almost 150 "pivnice", erected on the site of a former, wooden "pivnice", whose remains are visible in the south part of the complex. Most of them are built more than one century ago. On the plaque on one stone built "pivnica" the year 1863 is carved, as the year of its building. On most of the other plaques, carvings are worn and illegible, which suggests that they could be older. As a spontaneously formed complex of irregular alleys and middle plateau with "zapis" and covered wells, as a cult gathering place, the "pivnice" of Rogljevo village have characteristics of an original rural complex.

The "Pivnice" of the village Štubik are near the monastery Bukovo, 15 kilometres from the village. Besides its original purpose – to live at harvest time in the vineyard and for storage – they also served their owners as a place for overnight stay when they had to go to Negotin. Until the mid 20th century there were 260 of them, but at the end of the century, only 39 remained. Different from representative stone built "pivnice" of Rajac and Rogljevo, those in Štubik are built as ground level buildings, with verandas, that almost vanished. They exist also with one storey, where cellars are built from the broken stone and roofs are of tiles. Such "pivnice" were built by people from Crna Trava, and, afterwards, by local builders, from the mid 19th century till the first decades of the 20th century. In spite of a quick deterioration due to the change of original use, this complex retained significant architectural and artistic values.

Categories of significance:

Of special national interest

Categories of ownership or interest:

Rural complexes of special use built in vineyard areas represent characteristic and preserved examples of the traditional vernacular architecture of the region.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Incomplete technical and photo documentation is in the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade and Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Niš.

Bibliography

Bibliography: N. Pantelić, *Pivnice – poljane*, Glasnik etnografskog muzeja 22-23 (Beograd 1960), 171-185; A. Žikić, *Krajinska naselja donjeg Timoka*, Beograd 1997.

Condition:

The state of conservation is extremely varied, depending on the “pivnice”. The best preserved are the “pivnice” of the village Rajac, whereas the worst conserved are those of the village Štubik.

“Pivnice” of Rajac

Weak – condition of some buildings is either very bad or extremely bad because they are abandoned and fast deteriorating. However, a large number of buildings are used and in good shape, and their structure is almost preserved. Conservation and restoration works are necessary, as well as building revitalisation.

“Pivnice” of Rogljevo

Very bad – A small number of buildings are used and are in a relatively good shape. The majority are damaged and abandoned.

“Pivnice” of Štubik

Extremely bad – The larger part of the complex is destroyed, while the rest is in extremely bad condition.

Risk:

“Pivnice” of Rajac

Condition is varying from weak to good, there are solutions for their conservation and rehabilitation, and the local community and Society for restoration of “pivnice” of Rajac are interested. Owing to the decline of viticulture, the “Pivnice” are losing their function, and risk being abandoned.

“Pivnice” of Rogljevo

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration and loss of the structure, there is no solution for conservation at the time being. Building and urbanisation appeared with settling due to closeness and good commuting links with Negotin.

“Pivnice” of Štubik

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration and loss of the structure, there is no solution for conservation at the time being.

Technical assessment and costing:

Only for the “Pivnice” of village Rajac 500,000 dinars were allocated for the technical screening of the building, in the budget of Ministry of Culture and Media, but screening never took place.

Ownership:

Privately owned by village families as individual farmers.

Occupation:

“Pivnice” of village Rajac retain their function and they are in continuous use.

“Pivnice” of village Rogljevo have partially retained their original function.

“Pivnice” of village Štubik are no longer in use and abandoned.

Management:

Owners have the responsibility for managing objects, under terms of protection. In case of financing, the funds would be managed by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia. The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade will conduct the oversight of works.

Summary:

As spontaneously formed season agglomerations, built in the 19th century, in times of intensive wine growing in Negotin Krajina, the “pivnice” rural structure represent rare preserved examples of vernacular rural architecture. Two groups of “pivnice”, in Štubik and Rogljevo are in very bad condition and their survival is threatened. The stone built “pivnice” in Rajac is the best preserved complex with realistic possibility of survival. An interest for their preservation in the local community and an initiative through the Society for preservation of “pivnice” of Rajac contribute to their possible survival.

This would justify a *medium* priority for intervention.

Sign. and date: