

Sremski Karlovci

Country or territory:
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Institute for the Protection of
Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Belgrade

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Name and address of building(s) or site:



SREMSKI KARLOVCI – urban complex

Inventory reference number(s):

CR PKIC 47 (11.11.1997)

Building type(s):

Historical town – urban complex (Spatial
cultural and historic complex)

Main date(s):

18th to 20th century

Current use(s):

The prevailing use is residential. Buildings
of public, residential and religious purposes
are in the inner zone of city.

Significance:

This historic town, located on the slopes of Fruška gora, on the right bank of the Danube, is surrounded by vineyards and represents an example of integration of cultural and natural heritage. As a unique cultural landscape, it is evidence of the interaction between man and the environment. The National Park Fruška gora, vineyards and the Danube represent the most significant elements of a landscape, which developed an exceptionally active role in the territory, characterised by a special connection with the life of the urban centre throughout history.

The present day historic centre of Sremski Karlovci emerged from the development of the city during the 18th, 19th and at the beginning of 20th century. The settlement exhibits a continuous development since the neolithic, and owes its rich history to the exceptional geographic position and characteristics of the soil, which were used in Roman times for wine growing. The oldest preserved buildings originate from the end of 17th and beginning of the 18th century, from the times of the Turkish domination. The spontaneous development of an urban texture in the 18th century, when Karlovci was the largest Serbian town in the Danube area, was based on an earlier layout, as confirmed by historic sources and archaeological findings.

Since 1713, with the transfer of the Metropolitan seat in Karlovci, building activities were characterised by rapid development. With the growth of political importance and the role of Karlovci, the need arose for a public house to accommodate the new functions. The building activity was supported by the intelligent and ambitious metropolitans of Karlovci, as well as by rich traders and craftsmen, which together contributed to shaping the urban image of Karlovci around the middle of the 18th century. This image, which was to be finally completed in the last decade of the 19th century and in the beginning of 20th century, is largely preserved until our times. The urban centre is organised around the Square of Branko Radičevića and the

surrounding streets, encompassing buildings which have an exceptional place in the cultural history of the Serbs, due to their architectural, artistic and functional values.

The following architectures have a special character:

- Saborna church (1758-1762) with iconostasis painted by Teodor Kračun i Jakov Orfelin in 1781, with wood carvings by Arsenije Marković;
- Church of St. Mary's Ascension (Upper Church) built in 1746, with iconostasis painted by Dimitrije Bačević;
- Church of St. Peter and Paul (Lower Church) built in 1719, with iconostasis by Dimitrija Bratoglića from 1829;
- Patriarch residence (1892-96), by arch. Vladimir Nikolić with St. Dimitry chappel painted by Uroš Predić;
- Building of Gimnasium (1890), legacy of Anđelić brothers, built from blueprints of arch. Julius Partos of Budapest;
- Building Magistrate from 1805;
- Church of the Theological Seminary, by arch. V. Nikolić from the year 1900;
- Building of Theological Seminary (Stefaneum) from the year 1903;
- Building of Theological Seminary boarding house (Blagodejanije) from 1900-902, blueprints by arch. Vladimir Nikolić;
- Patriarch Rajačića manor (Ilion) from 1836-48 (today museum, restored by arch. Rudolf Sibeck of Wien);
- Chapel of peace, erected in 1817, on the place of a tent where the Karlovci Peace Agreement was signed in 1699;
- Court yard, planted according to the project of Rudolf Sibek in 19th century;
- House of Angelina Dejanović, exceptional example of residential building from 18th century;
- Roman Catholic church built in 1768, restored several times, with traces of earlier building phases preserved;
- Square fountain built in 1799.

Categories of significance:

Of exceptional national significance

Categories of ownership or interest:

- of exceptional national significance as the centre of political, cultural and spiritual life of Serbs in Austro-Hungary in 18th and 19th century.
- of significance for other ethnic groups and religions, Croats, Hungarians and others (Roman Catholic church, Catholic graveyard).

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

- Basic auxiliary documentation can be found within the Central Registry of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia;
- General urban plan of Sremski Karlovci – Protection of Cultural Property, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Vojvodina – Novi Sad, Municipal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Novi Sad, 1994/95;
- Programme of protection and rehabilitation of the built heritage of Sremski Karlovci, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Belgrade 1997;
- Long term programme of restoration and rehabilitation of building and landscape heritage of Sremski Karlovci – draft, Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Belgrade 2003.

Bibliography

- Karlovci, Istorijski grad, Srpska patrijaršija, Centar fruškogorskog vinogradarstva, Mesto izleta i letovanja, Sremski Karlovci 1930
- K. Petrović, Iz prošlosti Sremskih Karlovaca, Glasnik istorijskog društva, Novi Sad 1939
- K. Petrović, Karlovci i karlovačko stanovništvo u prvoj polovini 18. veka, Istoriski časopis V (Beograd 1955) 295-309
- P. Vasić, Umetnička topografija Sremskih Karlovaca, Novi Sad 1978

Condition:

Very bad – The general appearance of the Town, the condition of its main monuments and its natural environment is very bad. This is due to many years of insufficient investments in protection and preservation of the heritage, lack of maintenance, uncontrolled building activities, fast transformation of landscape and riverbanks, and finally a deteriorated visual integrity.

Risk:

Immediate risk of further deterioration – due to wrongly directed development that is incompatible to heritage, lack of cooperation with service for planning and protection, lack of control and management of heritage, lack of adequate management plans and resource coordination – of cultural and natural heritage, as an incentive of local development.

Technical assessment and costing:

- In past years, there have been investments in conservation interventions, but it is difficult to make an estimate of their cost, due to the devaluation. Funding was normally invested in technical protection of individual buildings, without consideration for long-term programmes and comprehensive conservation strategies.
- 2003 – The preparation of a long-term programme for the restoration and revitalisation of the building and landscape heritage of Sremski Karlovci, as well as for activities for the implementation of the Programme (Phase 1) – €200,000.

Ownership:

The buildings of the urban complex of Sremski Karlovci are state owned, privately owned and church owned.

Occupation:

Most of the buildings are fully used – for residential, public and religious uses.

Management:

- Sremski Karlovci Board of Government of Republic of Serbia,
- Municipality of Sremski Karlovci,
- Owners of buildings that are privately and church owned (under the expert supervision of protection service).
- Funds administration – Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia
- Supervision - Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia - Belgrade.

Summary:

The Historic Town Sremski Karlovci represents a unique urban space with a significant place in the cultural, political and spiritual history of the Serbs. The richness and significance of the cultural and natural heritage resources, their permeation and interaction, justify the recognition of the complex as a cultural landscape heritage.

A long term Programme of restoration and revitalisation of the building and landscape heritage of Sremski Karlovci (2003), is proposed as a high priority, to provide guidelines for the maintenance and restoration of the site, and developing sustainable activities compatible with the requalification of the urban and landscape heritage.

The project is based on an integrated approach to heritage, identifying resources and a strategic programme of action, articulated under three aspects (programmes), conceived as elements of a possible local development: urban restoration, re-qualification of cultural landscape and rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of an industrial complex (old mill) into a poly-functional cultural centre with a technical protection Unit. The specific goal of the Programme is the elaboration of a Management Plan.

In view of the significance of the historic town Sremski Karlovci, its complex history and outstanding values of heritage, the present condition of monuments and their natural environment – as well as the possible execution of a long term programme of revitalisation of the building and landscape heritage of Sremski Karlovci – the priority level of intervention could be considered as *high*.

Sign. and date:

Branka Šekarić
March 5, 2004.