

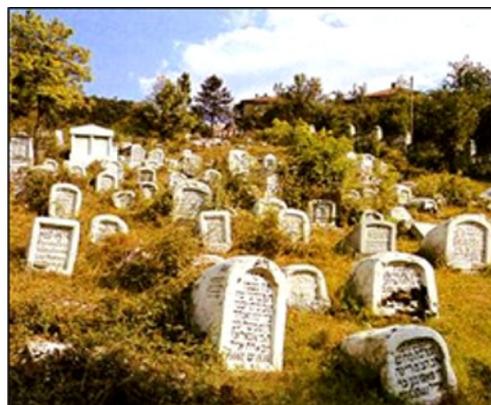
Historical site the Old Jewish Graveyard

Country or territory:
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
**Commission to Preserve
National Monuments**

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Name and address of bulding(s) or site:

HISTORICAL SITE THE OLD JEWISH
GRAVEYARD, Sarajevo

Inventory reference number(s):

Provisional List of National Monuments
No.:508

Monument or site type(s):

Religious and burial, graveyard and chapel

Main date(s):

Date range from middle of the 17th century
to 1966.

Current use(s):

Religious

Significance:

This old Sephardi burial ground, in Borak or Šatorija, once on the western edge of Sarajevo, where the oldest surviving tombstone (belonging to the first rabbi of Sarajevo) dates from the mid 17th century (it was erected in 1630), is a Jewish memorial complex which, on account of certain specific features, is without parallel, not only in former Yugoslavia but also in Europe. In some features the cemetery is comparable only to the mediaeval necropolises of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The burial ground remained in use until 1966, when the city authorities decided to open the new city cemetery in Bare, where separate areas were set for the Jews and for other confessions.

What makes this old burial ground unique is the shape of the tombstones, which is to be seen nowhere else but in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Jewish cemeteries, two types of tombstone are recognised – horizontal and vertical or standing tombstones. The first group is the older, and probably originates from the Middle East, while the second group shows the influence of Christianity.

The oldest part of the burial ground is to the south, at the highest altitude and furthest point from the city centre. From here, the cemetery gradually extends down towards the valley and the city, contrary to other burial grounds. The reason for this is that there was a quarry above the burial ground where stone was quarried for tombstones, worked and brought down into the valley.

Although all the tombstones have the same basic stylistic features, there are certain differences in the treatment of the front and upper surfaces. There are also variations in the way the monolithic tombstones are set on the grave site. In the case of older examples, they are set on a basal slab, while more recent ones have no slab at all. There is no decoration on the tombstones other than a frame on the front surface where the epitaph is incised.

In the south-eastern part of the burial ground is a Geniza or book tomb. The Jews bury damaged Torahs and all other scriptures in a grave in the same way as people are buried, and set a tombstone above the grave of the same kind as those erected for humans.

There are a number of empty graves in the Jewish cemetery, bearing the names of people who died elsewhere; in most cases the place where they are buried is not known. Most of these tombstones were erected in the years following World War II. Close to the top of the burial ground is a symbolic tomb in the shape of a white pyramid, with the inscription: "To the Jews who fell as soldiers and victims of fascism - Jasenovac - Stara Gradiška - Đakovo - Jadovno - Loborgrad - Auschwitz - Bergen - Belsen". Following World War II the mortal remains of Ashkenaze Jews were transferred here from another Sarajevo cemetery.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

Of national interest.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Commission to Preserve National Monuments

Condition:

Poor

In the latter years of the 19th century the northern part of the old cemetery was destroyed by the construction of the railway line and city streets, and at the same time burials began in the central area of the cemetery. In 1924, the reduced cemetery acquired its present form, when it was surrounded by a stone wall with a wrought iron gate, within which a fountain and the "Ciduk adim" chapel were built using a design by Scheiding.

During the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina the burial ground was badly damaged. In 1998 Norwegian People's Aid demined the cemetery, and the Government of Sarajevo Canton provided the funds to repair the chapel.

Amount of war or associated damage:

Roof more than 30% damage, with significant damage to the walls. The Chapel was seriously damaged during the 1992-1995 war; and repaired in 1998. Tombstones suffered damage and have not been repaired

Risk:

The Old Jewish Graveyard is in jeopardy because of unplanned constructions in its surroundings. Besides structure damages during the war the stones are exposed to deterioration by lichen.

Condition risk:

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

Technical assessment and costing:

Conservation and restoration works on the tombstones of the graveyard need to be carried out according to an appropriate project; approved by the relevant Federal ministry and under the professional supervision of the heritage protection authority of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Specially the following measures need to be carried out:

- investigation of the cause of damage and the options for cleaning and removal of lichen.
- to perform cleaning and removal of lichen and conservation of stone.

Costing proposals for the project and works have not been done.

Ownership:

Jewish municipality

Occupation:

In occasional use.

Management:

The provisions relating to protection and rehabilitation measures set forth by the Law on the Implementation of the Decisions of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, established pursuant to Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH nos. 2/02 and 27) shall apply to the National Monument.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be responsible for ensuring the legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary to protect, conserve, display and rehabilitate the National Monument.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be responsible for providing the resources for drawing up and implementing the necessary technical documentation for the rehabilitation of the National Monument.

Summary:

The Old Jewish Graveyard in Sarajevo is the most important monument complex associated with the history of Sarajevo's Jews.

The Regional Plan for BiH to 2000 classified the City hall in Sarajevo as category I – object of national importance.

The priority level of intervention is *high*.

NOTE:

Condition

Poor

Condition risk

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric, solution agreed but not begun.

Criteria employed for the Priority Intervention List:

- The monuments are designated as national monuments,

- They represent a rare and unique example of the typology or chronological - stylistic corpus,
- They were damaged/destroyed during the 1992-1995 war in BiH or they were endangered by the post war conditions (illegal constructions, lack of funding for restoration and maintenance, inexpert reconstruction,) and are subject to further deterioration,
- Their restoration will encourage the return process in BiH,
- Their restoration will support development of the region.

Sign. and date:

Mirela Mulaluć Handan

10.03.2004.