

The Red Church

Country or territory:
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
National Institute for Monuments of Culture

Contact name:
Dipl. Arch. Georgi Ugrinov, Director

Email address:
nipk@mail.bg



Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE RED CHURCH
Town of Perushtitza, located 2 kilometres
South-East of the town

Inventory reference number(s):
State Gazette No 36 from 1966

State Gazette No 69 from 1927

Building type(s):

Architectural Monument in ruins

Main date(s):

5th century AD with wall paintings from the
6th and the 11th centuries AD

Current use(s):

Opened for free tourist visits

Significance:

The Red Church is one of the most remarkable monuments of the Early Christian period in the Balkans, dating back to the Early Byzantine period.

This type of church can be defined as a four-domed building with roundabout corridors and two narthexes. The preserved ruins provide data of three periods of construction. Part of the north dome of the main building is in good shape (up to a height below the dome arch), as well as the remains of two wall-painting layers dating back from the 6th and 11th centuries.

A large courtyard with an entrance and a tower in the western section has been discovered, as well as a necropolis from the 11th-12th centuries, and a settlement from the 13th century. Archaeological research of the earliest fortifications were carried out in the 1960s.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Archive of the National Institute for the Cultural Monuments
Archive of the Archaeological and Historical Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Science

Documentation

Designs for conservation and restoration, designs for structural reinforcement, etc. Partial photographic documentation, archaeological research studies. Publications in specialized media.

Condition:

Good: structurally sound, with the exception of the partly conserved vault. Some small repairs, intervention for structure reinforcement and conservation of the wall paintings are needed.

Risk:

Risk depends on the current physical condition.

Condition risk:

Slow decay; solution agreed but not begun.

Technical assessment and costing:

A technical assessment of the building condition and preliminary detailed costings have been carried out for repairs and rehabilitation, including structure and art conservation as well as the restoration works. The total estimated cost is about 40 000 Leva (20,000 €).

Ownership:

The site is publicly owned.

Occupation:

The building is regularly visited.

Management:

The Municipality of Perushtitza is responsible for the management of this cultural monument. The Municipality of Perushtitza would be responsible for the management of funds, should the funds become available. The National Institute for Cultural Monuments would monitor the conservation works.

Summary:

The Red Church is one of the most remarkable monuments of the early Christian period in the Balkans; the ruins are in good condition but in slow decay. With some exceptions the structure is sound.

The potential priority level of this building is considered *high*.

Sign. and date:

Arch. Georgi Ugrinov
Director of the National Institute for Monuments of Culture
16.01.2004