

The Church Of Shipska

Country or territory:

ALBANIA

Name of organisation
compiling the information:

Local Directorate of Monuments of Korca

Contact name:

Arch. Kliti Kallamata

Email address:



Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE CHURCH OF SHIPSKA, Korca

Inventory reference number(s):

886

Building type(s):

architectural monument, basilica

Main date(s):

17th century

Current use(s):

occasional use for religious service

Significance:

The Church of Shipska was built in the 17th century. This building, of artistic and architectural values, is a basilica type church with stone columns and supporting arched structures. The frescoes decorating the church were painted in 1650. The church, currently in use, is located 30 km from the city of Korca and 23 km from Voskopoja, a 17th century historic center famous for its churches.

Categories of significance:

Of special national importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

The church is of interest to the religious Orthodox community. It is a testimony to the survival of the Christian community in Albania after the Ottoman invasion.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

Complete documentation is available in the archives of the Institute of Monuments of Culture, and of the Local Directorate of Monuments.

Bibliography

P. Thomo; *Post Byzantine churches in Albania*, Tirana

Condition:

Very poor: structural failure, interior deterioration.

Risk:

Risk is related to the technical condition.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration.

A part of the narthex vault is at serious risk of collapse. Four columns of the narthex are inclined, failing to adequately support the covering structure above. Only two columns have been reinforced.

Technical assessments and costing:

There is an urgent need for a restoration project and an approximate amount of 20 000 EUR for immediate interventions to consolidate the supportive structure and the vault. Full restoration, including the restoration of frescoes, is estimated at approximately 70 000 EUR.

Ownership:

The church is the property of the State, until the Law on ownership is prepared and implemented in Albania. The church is under the protection of the Institute of Monuments of Culture. The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania collaborates with the Institute of Monuments for maintenance works.

Occupation:

The church is used only for Liturgy celebrations on feast occasions.

Management:

The Institute of Monuments of Culture, through the Local Directorate of Monuments of Korca, is responsible for the management, the administration of funds and supervision of the restoration works.

Summary:

The church of Shipska was built in the 17th century, the frescoes date from the same period. It is situated in a village, 30 km from the city of Korca, and 23 km from Voskopoja, famous for its churches. The church is at risk of rapid deterioration. A part of the narthex vault is at serious risk of collapse since four columns are inclined and do not sufficiently support the structure above.

The priority level for intervention is *medium*.

Sign. and date:

Arch. Kliti Kallamata

10.03.2004.