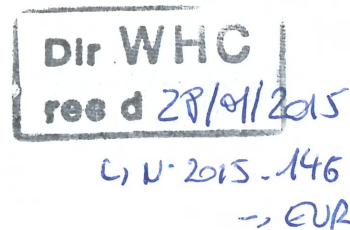




REPUBLIQUE DE SERBIE
*Délégation permanente
auprès de l'UNESCO*

WHC/EUR
received on
30 Jan 2015



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
*Стална делегација
при Унеску*

Paris, 28 January 2015

Ref.: 59-2/2015

Dear Mr. Rao,

I have the honor to transmit, enclosed herewith, a state of conservation report for the property Medieval monuments in Kosovo (Serbia), inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm that the Government of the Republic of Serbia has no objection to making this report available on the website of the World Heritage Center.

Please accept, dear Mr. Rao, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Marija Antonijević
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Mr. Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Center
UNESCO
Paris

**INSTITUTE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS OF SERBIA**

РЕПУБЛИЧКИ ЗАВОД
ЗА ЗАШТИТУ СПОМЕНИКА КУЛТУРЕ

Бр. 9/3
26.10 2015 год.
БЕОГРАД

REPORT

ON THE STATE CONSERVATION OF
MEDIEVAL MONUMENTS IN KOSOVO
INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN DANGER

MEDIEVAL MONUMENTS IN KOSOVO (C 724)

The Dečani Monastery
The Patriarchate of Peć Monastery
The Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša
The Gračanica Monastery

Belgrade, January 2015

THE DEČANI MONASTERY

The monastery church narthex

In the period from October to December 2014, the works were done on the sarcophagus in the narthex of the monastery church ascribed to Đorđe Ostouša Pećpal. After the removal of the lid, an ossuary together with fragments of marble, oculi, and fresco plaster with and without painted layer have been found, as well as various small objects, laid down together with the deceased. Several fragments that belong to the lid have been found at the bottom of the sarcophagus.

The stone that the sarcophagus is made of was cleaned, while its back side, that was missing, was made of stone equal to the original. The missing parts were reconstructed in the restoration plaster which by its structure, colour and texture was equal to the original.



Sarcophagus before the works



Sarcophagus after the works were completed

St. Nicholas Parekklesion

The painting and conservation works were done in the St. Nicholas parekklesion during September and October 2014. The detached areas of fresco plaster were the biggest problem in the cross vault owing to a danger of possible collapse. In addition to this form of damage, in places there were larger cracks that could expand owing to unstable parts along their edges. In the apse, the most endangered were the frescos in the middle section above the window. There were numerous damages in those places with only boundary reinforcement – lining. The cracks had not been treated in the earlier conservatory actions and therefore large areas with parts of plaster containing fresco painting moved at a touch of a hand. The damaged areas were consolidated by injecting and filling up of larger craters and cracks. The strengthening of the painted substance was also partially done by fastening it.

Description of works:

- Taking pictures of all iconographic wholes, their prominent parts and details that depict conservation issues – the present state;
- Descriptions on the basis of the visual inspection;
- Contact with all parts of the frescos' surface (palpation, wiping tests);
- Recording of damages, their description and schematic drawing;

- Conducting of the surface deposits cleaning tests on each iconographic whole according to the encountered problems;
- Computer data processing;
- Undertaking conservation measures, necessary procedures with appropriate materials for the purpose of repairing the damages – on the principle of minimal interventions and minimal addition of new materials;
- Processing of photos and texts – preparation of the final report on the conducted protective painting and conservation works.



The parekklesion paintings during the works

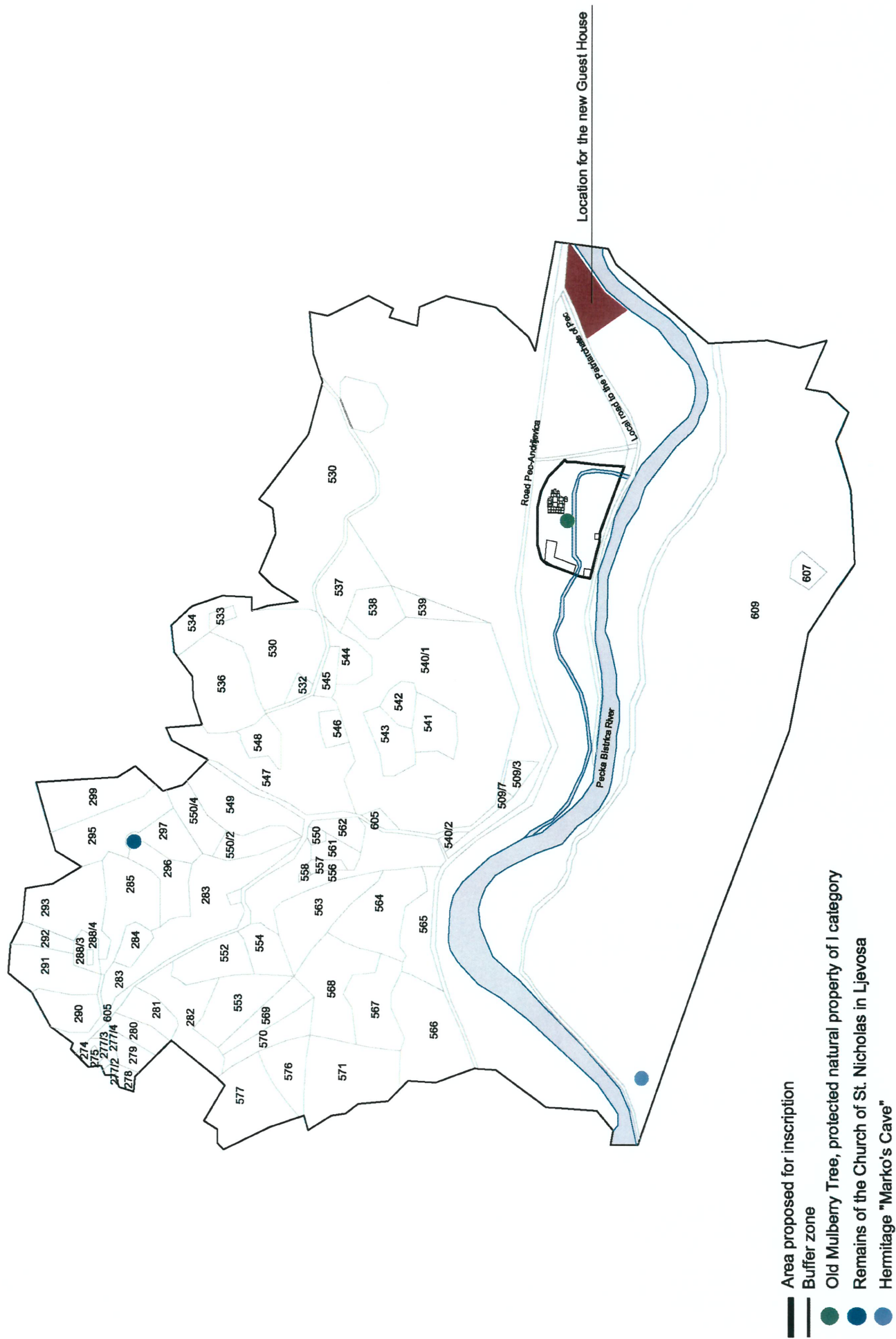
For security reasons, the monastery management has built a fence with gate in front of the entrance into the monastery, between the medieval wall and the new dormitory building.

The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments has been informed that graffiti with provocative contents were written on the monastery wall on several occasions during 2014. The monastery management has also informed the Institute on verbal abuse of the members of the brotherhood.

THE PATRIARCHATE OF PEĆ MONASTERY

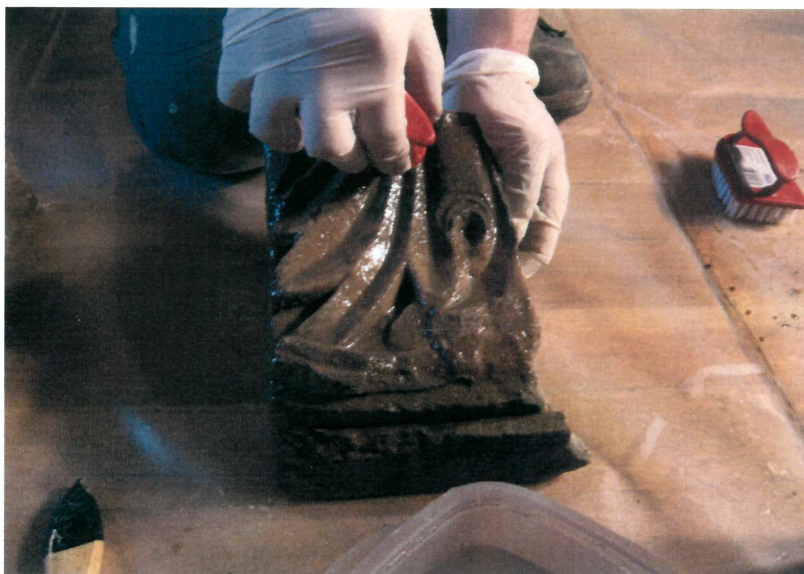
In December 2014, the Institute conducted an assessment and preliminary survey of the stone furnishings and decoration of the Peć churches that were used as a basis for the preparation of the conservation works project.

We wish to inform you that the bishop of Lipljan Theodosije presented to the Institute, initiative of for building a guest house within the buffer zone of The Patriarchate of Peć Monastery. After reviewing the proposal experts from the Institute have suggested the location shown on the plan.



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN OF LJEVIŠA

During 2014, the Institute conducted an assessment, mapping and preliminary survey of the stone fragments that are kept in the church.



THE GRAČANICA MONASTERY

The team of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia conducted conservation works in the exonarthex of the church in the period from July to September 2014.

Parts of the exceptionally valuable fresco decoration from 14th and 16th centuries are endangered by the action of humidity, efflorescences and intensive deposits of soot. After completing physical and chemical surveys, characterization of salts and establishing the features of the dark deposit, the method for their removal was determined, because of possible damaging effect on the frescos' pigments. The conservation works encompassed cleaning and strengthening parts of wall paintings on all preserved wholes in the exonarthex.

The conservation works included interventions on all weakened parts of the fresco decoration, of different degree of destruction. The task of these works was a direct contact and consolidation of these areas. The fixing of the painted layers was conducted on all of the parts of the fresco decoration where it was necessary. In the vault above the entrance, the inappropriate plaster lining was replaced with a new, appropriate lining. In places, partial strengthening by injecting was done, and all the parts of the wall paintings were cleaned from the large deposits of soot and dust.

The exonarthex which is first entered when going into the church is now presented in an appropriate manner. The conducted works and the use of contemporary materials, in the suitable interior ambient of the church, should ensure long-lasting existence of the wall paintings. Around 120 m² of frescoes and 260 m² of free surfaces (presented walls without plaster) were treated.

Description of works:

- Taking pictures of all iconographic wholes, their prominent parts and details that depict conservation issues – the present state;
- Descriptions on the basis of the visual inspection;
- Contact with all parts of the frescos' surface (palpation, wiping tests);
- Recording of pronounced damages, their description and schematic drawing;
- Conducting of the surface deposits cleaning tests on each iconographic whole according to the encountered problems;
- Computer data processing;
- Undertaking conservation measures, necessary procedures with appropriate materials for the purpose of repairing the developed damages – on the principle of minimal interventions and minimal addition of new materials;
- Processing of photos and texts – preparation of the final report on the conducted protective painting and conservation works.

The solving of the issue of the by-pass road is still an acute problem, since the local road that passes right next to the west monastery wall has grown into a road of major importance. The dense and heavy truck traffic has a negative impact on the monument both in terms of the statics and also by significantly increasing the level of pollution (exhaust gases and dust). It is not known whether any steps have been taken in order to solve this issue.

Exonarthex prior to the works



Exonarthex after the works

