

Wooden church ensemble in village Donja Jablanica, Serbia

Conservation Plan and a proposal for revitalization

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Abstract

Given the importance of wooden structures built for religious purposes for understanding the social and economic history of Serbia, this restoration proposal intends to bring back original features of the Wooden church ensemble: external appearance, decoration, and construction techniques among others. In addition to that, this project proposal intends to preserve the historic character of the site. Adaptive reuse is also included to reinforce development of the local community. This project should provide guidelines to manage and implement policies on the revitalization of the site.

Introduction

Wooden churches in Serbia, were often built before the 20th century. In western Serbia and mountain areas, wood was the main building material. Wooden churches in Serbia are part of the rich tradition in timber construction. These wooden churches were most common from the 17th to 19th century deeply impacted by the occupation during the ottoman era, in which, the construction of Christian buildings was limited to the outskirts of villages, or in remote locations away from towns and main roads. Churches were not allowed to have bells and permanent materials, such as stone or brick, so that the buildings would look like regular houses, made of wood, simple and small and be hidden in the landscape. Wooden churches are also consequence of the political and economical conditions during the ottoman period. The choice of materials and techniques used in the construction was also determined by geography and craftsmen's skills. Each church

reflects the creativity of the carpenters and craftsmen from the region.

The appearance of wooden churches differs from others found in the rest of the Europe. In Serbia, the limitations of materials and techniques have impacted on size, structure and features, with particularities such as the belfries (not integrated to the building like in other parts of Europe). These belfries were built within the churchyards after 1830, once the ban on construction was lifted and the State of Serbia was restored again.

Sobrasices were built as a wooden table surrounded by benches in an open space, sometimes with a roof, or a single room cottage, designed for the family to have shelter during a communal meal after service. Their main purpose was to have shelter and accommodate relatives and friends during a number of events related to the church. In different parts of Serbia these structures have different names depending on local traditions, but for the purpose of this paper I will call them **sobrasice**.

Sobraice buildings are mostly found in Western Serbia, in the area between Drina and Morava rivers. It is known that the development of sobrasice typology have begun in the second half of the 18th century, although the preserved ones, were built in the first half of the 19th century. During this period (19th century), wealthy villagers built sobrasices near the church, especially when living far away. These structures were used for their families to rest and have a meal while paying a visit to the church or cemetery. Sobrasice have had an important role in social and family life among the local community, closely connected to the Christian life and its traditions.

In this project proposal I will focus my assessment on the existing wooden church ensemble in Serbia.





Figure 2. A refectory



Figure 3. Parish house within the ensemble

Background

Location

The village of Donja Jablanica is located on Zlatibor Mountain, the municipality of Cajetina in west Serbia. Zlatibor is part of a mountain region situated in the western part of Serbia, a part of the Dinaric Alps. Zlatibor is a climatic resort, characterised by a cool mountain climate, clean air, and long periods of sunshine during the summer and a heavy snow cover in winter. Tourist facilities include contemporary hotels, holiday centres and cottages, sports grounds and skiing.

In western part of Zlatibor Mountain, there are two wooden churches, in villages of Donja Jablanica and Dobroselica. Donja Jablanica is located southwest of the main tourist resorts on Zlatibor.

Less than one kilometre from the village of Donja Jablanica, at the top of the hill, there is a sacred site comprised of one wooden church and a bell tower (Fig.1,4), one ancient cemetery (Fig.5,29), a refectory (1960's), (Fig.2), concrete fountain (Fig.25) and parish house (1936)(Fig.3). There is also a sobrasice within the church yard, designed for family gatherings and communal meal.

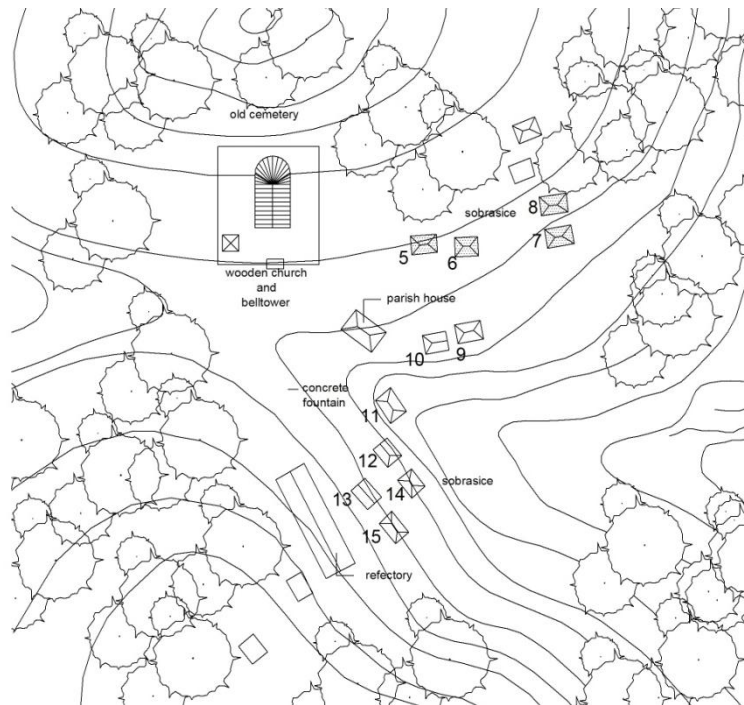


Figure 4. Map showing the locations of the wooden church ensemble



Figure 5. One of two graves on old cemetery within the ensemble

History

The actual ensemble is dated in the first half of the 19th century. The church was built in 1838 as a part of a widely spread group of

similar structures using traditional techniques. It is located in the place of the former wooden chapel, which was demolished. For the majority of wooden churches, the authorship is anonymous, but in this case, recent historical research revealed that the builder was a craftsman named **Lazar Stikić** from the nearby village.

The area surrounding the church, is enclosed by a wooden fence. A belltower is isolated and located in the yard, probably built at the same time. A few meters from the yard, on the east side of the building, two old graves are located on the small hill (Fig.5). showing the remains of the old cemetery. A new graveyard is located about 150 meters to the west of the church, currently in use.

On the South western slope, there are eight remaining sobrasices, situated on the both sides of the road (Fig. 6). These structures were built shortly after the church, around 1840. In that time, there were additional sobrasices, but during the years some were demolished. Sobrasice represent a type of structures which are disappearing rapidly over past fifty years, especially because of lack of use. Until the World War II, in Donja Jablanica, there were about 40 sobrasice. An official report from 1982 states that there were 15 sobrasice in good condition and 5 more in poor condition.(Fig.7,8)

Description

The Church and its surroundings

A wooden belltower is located in the yard close to the church, there are also three tombstones and a metal structure used for burning candles. The entrance gate to the church yard is topped by a gabled roof made of wooden posts. The belltower walls on the ground level were built with a timber technique. The first level of the tower seems to be used for the storage of church materials. The structure was supported by four posts and transverse beams until 1968 when it was enclosed (Fig.9). The bell in the tower dates from 1924.



Figure 9. Condition before 1969



Figure 6. Present condition, view from the access rural road



Figure 7. Condition from 1982

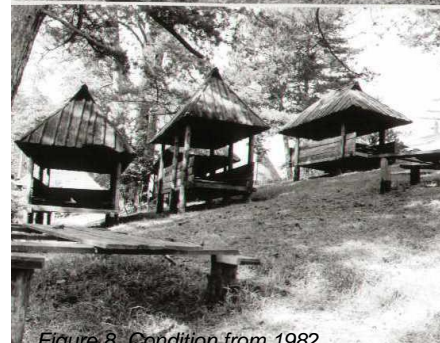


Figure 8. Condition from 1982



Figure 10. Iconostasis in the wooden church



Figure 11. Main western door on the church



Figure 12. Northern door on the church



Figure 13. Sobrasice, half-opened type

The layout of the church is elongated; the altar faces east, while the main entrance faces west. It has a rectangular nave and a semicircular apse at the end of the nave, on the East side. This type of elongated layout with only one nave is typical for wooden churches. In Donja Jablanica, the church consists of a single oblong shaped room, separated on the east side with a iconostasis (Fig.10), a construction, made of stone or timber, for icons displayed, separating the nave from the altar. The building is covered by a steeply pitched roof, which is following the shape of the church layout.

Walls

The church stands on a visible concrete footing in cascades, which extends around the entire floor plan. This base protects the building from moisture and is used to compensate the location for the inclination of a ground. Walls are made of pine planks, with thickness of 9-11cm, and with different mutual connections. The planks are curvilinear on the apse, on the east side.

Doors

Often wooden churches have two entrances; the main access (Fig 11,17), facing west, with decorative doors, the secondary entrance on the northern wall of the church (Fig.12) usually has a smaller door and plain door. This is also the case with church in Donja Jablanica.

Roof

The roof forms a deep eave around 120cm long. Visible parts of eaves/wall plates, ceiling beams and rafters, under the eave, are decorated with geometrically shaped elements (Fig.19). The roof construction consists of straining beams, rafters and ridge piece. It is a steeply pitched roof with an angle of inclination of around 60° and galvanized steel roofing.

The ceiling

The ceiling above the access of the nave is flat and it extends into an arched construction.

Sobrasice

In late 80's 10 sobrasice were still in good condition, while 5 or 6 were about to collapse. Moreover there are few places with recognizable remains of previous structures. Today, their condition has worsen. Two of the remaining structures have collapsed. Even those sobrasices, which had been preserved in 1987, are in poor condition.

There were several types of sobrasice on this location: built as an open porch, rarely as a cottage, covered with planks. Instead of foundation they had corner stones as a base for pillars. Interior layout is simple- in the middle there is an elongated board, which was used as a table (Fig.20). This table was surrounded by

benches and fence or a wall, depending on a size and a type of a sobrasice. These similarities are a product of the use of the same building materials, same function and location. The rest depended on wishes and needs of owners, as well as the proficiency of the craftsmen who had built them.

Considering the limited number of sobrasice in Donja Jablanica, there are two types: cottage type (two)(Fig.15) and half open type with an entrance on the longer side (three) (Fig.14)or on narrow side (five)(Fig.13,15).

The construction is simple. Basic elements are ground beams which are propped on the ground or on corner stone (depending on the slope). On the ground beams, stand planks of a fence or of a wall (depending of a type of sobrasice), and wooden floor and posts. The roof construction consists of eaves/wall plates, rafters, sometimes straining beams, ridge piece and roof boards for the roof covering made out of shingles or planks (Fig.13,14,15,21). It is usually shaped as a hipped roof (on eight sobrasice) or gable roof (one sobrasice).

Condition

The church

The church is in good condition and it is structurally stable, its appearance and authenticity is severely damaged. In 1969 villagers tried to improve critical condition of the building doing a number of changes on it (Fig.1,22,24). Authentic wooden shingles roof covering were replaced for metal sheeting, slacken stone foundation walls were fixed with concrete and also three concrete steps were added to the church entrance on the west. The entire facade was painted with dark yellow oil paint.

Sobrasice

Remaining sobrasice are in bad condition (Fig. 14,20,21,23). The majority of roofs are covered in moss, timber construction is loose and it is not stable. Furthermore, the interior inventory is either destroyed or in poor condition. The last repairs on sobrasice were done in 1987. At that time the Institute for the protection of cultural monuments in Kraljevo made an inventory on technical and photo documentation, as well as the reconstruction of four sobrasice on south side of the church.

The new graveyard

The new graveyard does not belong to the ensemble itself, but it is situated near by and it should be considered as part of the ensemble. Many tombstones were relocated to the new one (Fig.28). In the last few decades it is spreading to the slope, distinguishing from the older part of cemetery by its bigger, concrete enclosed tombs and granite tombstones. The appearance

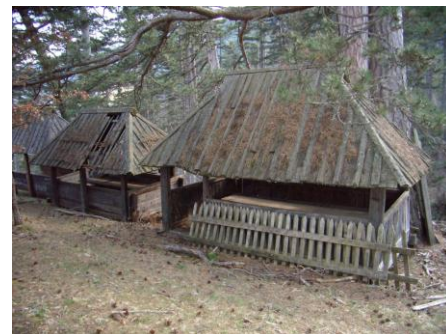


Figure 14. Sobrasice, half-opened type



Figure 15. Sobrasice, half-opened type



Figure 16. Rural road to the ensemble and new cemetery

of the cemetery is seriously affected with the formation of a new village road which damaged the part of a cemetery (Fig.16)

Analysis

Statutory protection/restraint

The cultural heritage items of the ensemble, consists of the church, sobrasice and old cemetery is safeguarded by:

- The Decision by the Institute for the Preservation and Scientific Examination of the Cultural Properties of the PR of Serbia No. 2272/48 from December 22th 1948.
- By the Decision on the Identification of Immovable Cultural Properties of Outstanding and of Great Importance (Official Gazette 14/79), the Wooden church ensemble in Donja Jablanica was awarded the status of a cultural monument of great importance.

Although, the ensemble is officially a listed as a protected site, the listing does not include boundaries or specific parcels, nor it is supported by the corresponding graphic documentation.

Basic research and investigation of the site had been carried out as well as design projects for the most of buildings of the ensemble by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Kraljevo twenty years ago. The ensemble has not been reconstructed yet as a whole, but as single structures such as particular sobrasice.

Ownership

The ensemble is situated on a property of Serbian Orthodox Church. Nevertheless, the tenancy and use of sobrasice is private to families of the village.

Significance

Historical, cultural, and social values

The significance of this ensemble is primarily reflected in the cultural and historical values. It represents significant events reflecting the religious structure of the community until the 19th century. The ensemble, with the church, surrounded with structures of sobrasice is the symbol of national identity during years of Turkish occupation. As the conditions for development and spreading of wooden churches had changed, also the needs and capability of believers, and wooden churches were not built anymore. That is the reason to retain that type of buildings as a witness and evidence of an specific period in history.



Figure 17. Main western door of the church

Today, the ensemble in Donja Jablanica is a unique and the last complex in Serbia. These kind of ensembles existed all over the country, most of them are missing the sobrasice, and only churches survived.

The social value lied in the use of the ensemble as a place for gathering and keeping traditional rituals of the local society.

Architectural and artistic values

The buildings of the ensemble illustrate construction techniques and materials used by villagers in west Serbia. The organisation and typology of the buildings also represent a significant issue to take into account, as the ensemble includes the last standing sample of wooden church with sobrasice as surrounding. The relation between the ensemble and the natural landscape of pine woods contribute to its significance, as a recognized compound.

The church itself is a fine example of wooden churches in Serbia, a type of sacral structures which have been affected by the weather conditions of the region and the little use given to the buildings in the past fifty years.

The architectural value of sobrasice lies on the specific typology of buildings, designed for one purpose- a communal meal.

The artistic values of the church are presented by the fine craftsmanship in the external details, such as decoration of architectural elements and the finishing in the front door(Fig.11,17,19). Also, the great significance have icons in the church, dating from the mid and second half of 19th century (Fig.10,30).

Main Difficulties:

Legislation difficulties

- No boundaries of protected area, as well as the buffer zone

Although, it was necessary that a site, listed as a protected monument of culture, should be subjected to a proper survey for defining boundaries, that was missing for this particular site. The buffer zone, which should be established to control development around the site's boundaries and to preserve the natural and cultural landscape, has never been determined. This issue could be a potential threat for the ensemble, because of illegal constructions in the surrounding.

- Within the existing framework of law and regulations for cultural heritage, there are no guidelines for implementation nor maintenance instruments and management plans



Figure 19. The church, detail of decoration



Figure 20. Sobrasice, half-opened type, interior



Figure 21. Sobrasice, half-opened type



Figure 22. The church with surrounding

That lack of legislation generates difficulties on responsibilities towards cultural heritage, in the first place. The state is not obligated to help population in time of need, and often, owners have no resources to maintain the premises of cultural relevance without an additional financial help. Also, management plans are not prepared if it is not requested, so basically many heritage monuments and sites stay without any plan for future development.

Site difficulties

The rural road leading to the ensemble is passing through it, and leads further to another village. The great problem is the road that has not been designed for agricultural vehicles. There is a present danger that the cargo from the vehicle will fall down and damage site buildings (Fig. 16,22).



Figure 23. Sobrasice, half-opened type, almost collapsed

Maintenance difficulties

The greatest problem in maintaining sobrasice is that the architectural structures are no longer in use. They were built by families from the village, in a property that belongs to Serbian Orthodox Church. Structures of sobrasice are abandoned for several decades. That is a result of changed priorities and way of life of local community, and changed structure of habitants in the village of Donja Jablanica. The previous function-communal meal is currently performed in the common refectory now.

Conservation- technical difficulties

The lack of use of sobrasice and maintenance of the ensemble, developed in a complete damage of the site, especially in the area where sobrasice are located. The church is still in use, due to the changes that were made in 1969 by villagers, there are sever alteration to the authentic of its appearance, both, external and internal areas (see Appendix 1, Fig.1,24). Given the fact that no conservation measures were taken to preserve the condition of the site since 1987, when few sobrasices were repaired, it is urgent to control degradation of the sites.



Figure 24. The church, detail of foundation wall

For the conservation of the ensemble, it is necessary to have a Conservation and Restoration Plan, including the church, belltower, sobrasice, old cemetery and all movable material in the church. Since, the physical condition of the ensemble is not a main problem, special attention should be given to the revitalization of a site.

Financial difficulties

There is no financial support for maintaining and managing the site, because owners- the Church and local community, have no sustainable and continuous resources. The Church, in smaller villages, support itself by volunteer donations for: weddings,

funerals, commemorations, christenings, etc. Villagers can't afford the maintenance of the site.

Proposal for the Programme of Revitalization

Principles for development of the ensemble

General principles

- *Not changing the historic context of a site*

This objective will be addressed in spatial planning documents and controlling the negative impact of future interventions to the ensemble.

The historic context considers, a part from the physical form, the social value, which is relevant, treasured and valued for members of the local community who consider it to be the part of their lives and identity and it is a priority to keep that value.

- *Objectives proposed to address the site's major problems*

The basic condition to protect the site should be to confirm spatial boundaries of the protected area of the ensemble according to cadastre.

The lack of regulations addressing management and maintenance plans for the heritage sites could be solved by the interest of owners to participate in development and maintaining of the site for tourist purposes and the future economic benefit.

It is necessary to remove the segment of rural road which is passing through the ensemble or to reconstruct it so it would not be a threat for the buildings of the ensemble.

Revival of the ensemble and reuse of its part- the sobrasice area is essential, without that the conservation process of the ensemble will be worthless. Previous conservation works on several sobrasice structures without any further plan for their use and maintenance completely failed and today they look almost the same as others which had never been restored.

- *Issues of social benefits to the local community and the effects on the economy and environment*

The community of the village of Donja Jablanica is oriented mostly towards farming which is not sufficient for their needs. New activities in the area would increase their possibilities to market their goods and even combined with cultural tourism and following facilities.



Figure 25. Public fountain and the refectory



Figure 26. Sobrasice and the refectory



Figure 27. Sobrasice, half-opened type near the church

The main goals for the revitalization of the site are:

- Restoration of the authenticity of features in the site and environment to promote cultural and historic heritage and tradition of this area. The wooden church ensemble in Donja Jablanica should be used in a sustainable manner for the benefit of society
- Raising awareness among local community to get involved in the concern for the site
- Integration of local community in the reuse and development of the site
- Introducing new compatible structures to the site, in order to attract more visitors and to develop a tourist proposal for the site. The values of the ensemble should in no way be diminished by use for short term gains.
- Creating a Conservation Management Plan for the future use of the ensemble (required difficulties and actions for the conservation of the church and sobrasice- Appendix 1,2,3)
- Creating a Restoration Design Project for sobrasice, for which is provided necessary documentation and drawings

Potentials for future development

- *Preserved function of the church*, which is still in use, although reduced, is the main guarantee of the historical continuity
- *Rareness of original structures of sobrasice*, especially as a part of an ensemble
- *Preserved authentic surrounding* which can be incorporated within the ensemble, as a part of environment and presented as a cultural and natural heritage and a tourist destination
- *Vicinity of a developed tourist centre of Zlatibor Mountain* provides the ensemble of Donja Jablanica connection with tourist and visitors that are already present in that area. The ensemble could be included in a existing Zlatibor Mountain tourist offer
- *Development of rural tourism in Serbia* is in progress in last ten years. People are interested in spending the time in rural areas, and especially in visiting the churches and other sacral buildings. This could be an opportunity for the village of Donja Jablanica and the ensemble to show their special and rare offer as a cultural and tourist site.

Regulation of the use

In a process of revitalizing of the ensemble, it is important to define the best possible direction towards the development of a site and the possibility to introduce new interventions to improve the interpretation and presentation of the site. Prevention of harm

to a site and safety of the public are part of the conditions for the use of the site.

New use should warrant that the historic significance is not changed, that the physical remains are not damaged, and that there is no interference in managing conservation of the site. This specifically includes:

The possibility of further adaptation in the use of the site

Besides the primary function of the ensemble- religious purpose, it could be used for excursions, especially because sobrasice are located near the local road and they are out of the church yard, and could be available any time. For that purpose sobrasice do not require any additional equipment on the very structure.

The addition to or adaptation of the site and the scale of facilities required its appropriate use

- It should not be permitted to exploit the ensemble for a purely commercial gain, such as attracting visitors through misleading or inappropriate advertising, promotion or utilization of the ensemble, or its parts.
- In a relation to revitalization of the ensemble, it is possible to add new structures and functions into the ensemble which are acceptable for the owner of the land
- According to the new use and increased number of visitors, the ensemble, which is already equipped with infrastructure, such as water sewage, electricity, should be revised for capacity and facilities
- Sanitary facilities and a parking for visitors should be in the vicinity of the ensemble, near the access road

Proposal for new additions (Fig. 4)

Concerning the introduction of new use into the ensemble, a great attention was given to previous use of buildings and necessary new ones. It has been already mentioned in the proposal, that it is essential to keep the authentic use of sobrasice. Nevertheless, after the assessment of the future use of the building, conclusion was that the cottage type of sobrasice could be used as an exhibition space, as an attempt to present a traditional way of life that people led in this area. It will not diminish an authentic use of the ensemble since the rest ones will be intended for the resting of visitors.

Also, there is an issue of two reconstructed sobrasice, which will be marked as reconstructed ones and presented together with others (Appendix 4).



Figure 28. New cemetery, a view on the old and the new tombstones

Table 1.

Building	Action	Present use	Future- additional use	Infrastructure facilities	
				Present	needed
The Church (Appendix 2)	conservation	religious	religious	E	E
the belltower	conservation	wear house	the belltower	/	/
Sobrasice 5-8, 13-15 (Appendix 3)	conservation	abounded	gathering space	/	/
Sobrasice 9	conservation	abounded	exhibition- traditional tools	/	/
Sobrasice 11	conservation	abounded	exhibition- historical photos	/	/
Sobrasice 10,12 (Appendix 4)	reconstruction	ruins	gathering space	/	/
Refectory	adaptation	For communal meals	For communal meals	E	E,W,S
Parish house	adaptation	No use	Souvenirs and candles shop	E	E,W,S
Toilets	new			/	E,W,S

E- electricity W- water supply S- sewerage

Buildings, actions and use

All existing buildings should be either conserved or adapted for new use. The church (Appendix 2) and the refectory are kept their present use.

Sobrasice of open type should be conserved (Appendix 3) and presented as a place for gathering, first of all, families of owners on special occasions, and than, visitors. That issue should be solved in a way to give a priority to owners to use their property scheduled in advance. The whole system will be determined after the consultations with owners. Two buildings of cottage type sobrasice should be conserved and turned into a small exhibition places, with two kind of exhibited objects, traditional tools from the area and old photos of Zlatibor Mountain.

Parish house should be adapted for souvenir and candle shop on the first floor, and with one information office in the basement. The shop would be owned by church.

The only one new building, which never had existed in this area should be necessary facilities for visitors- toilets. It would

not be built in the ensemble, but in its vicinity, beside the parking lots and near the access road.

Infrastructure facilities

In the location the electricity and water supply are already present. Today, water can be used only in the public fountain in the centre of the ensemble, and electricity have the church, parish house and refectory. For the future use, an electricity should be provided like a public lighting on whole ensemble and water should be installed in the refectory and parish house. Sewerage is necessary for toilets and buildings with water supply.

Interpretation

There should be an analysis of interpretive areas open to the public. In this case, considering that the ensemble is already public space, it should be focused on capacity analysis. On the basis of this analysis, the objectives and content of interpretation can be determined. This section should specifically include:

- A conceptual plan for the use of the site to exhibit artifacts and historical themes.
- Methods proposed to interpret and explain the site and highlight specific elements therein.
- A plan for promotion and tourism

It is an important aspect of rehabilitation of the site, since it is not very known among people in Serbia. Vicinity of developed tourist centre of Zlatibor mountain should stimulate, but it is necessary to involve a local tourist organization to promote the site, and at the same time to enlarge its own tourist proposal.

Management

After an assessment of the management conditions required to undertake effective conservation an appropriate management system and objectives must be formulated. Regular maintenance is the most basic and important means of conservation. A routine maintenance program should be established to carry out regular monitoring, to identify and eliminate threats, and to repair minor deterioration. In the main these should include:

- *A management organization or persons*

In this particular site there is a specific situation which causes a special approach to management issues. For almost 200 years owners of the site, the Church and a local community, maintained the site. Now, a management should start with introducing them



Figure 29. A view from the old cemetery



Figure 30. Interior of the church, detail of the door on iconostasis

to expected effects of reconstruction and revitalization of the site, and encourage them to take a part of responsibility for the maintenance.

- *A program for routine maintenance and monitoring*

Assigning the responsibility for maintaining and monitoring to a local organization, within laws and regulations would be an ideal solution, but it is not so certain without previous consultations with owners. Still, it is supposed that they will participate in the development of the ensemble and will share process of maintenance. Monitoring could be a responsibility of local Institute for the protection of cultural heritage.

The Law for the protection of cultural heritage of Serbia has declared only the owner of the cultural heritage to be responsible for the maintenance of the property. That could jeopardize a lot of protected objects, since many of them have no knowledge or material resources to maintain their property. In this case, having in mind that the local church (wooden one, that we are talking about) is hardly in function and is very poor, same as the local community, it is necessary to provide a help in managing the these problems.

- *A financial issues*

Creating a plan for management and maintenance of the site, which should consider next:

- Financial assessment of Conservation projects for the ensemble and Urban Plan overtaken from official documents made for protection and urban planning purpose
- technical measures of protection for the ensemble- a plan for physical conservation and restoration of the ensemble
- a plan for physical organization of the ensemble
- urban planning measures of protection for the ensemble- boundaries and buffer zone, traffic regulations, infrastructure equipment etc.

In this moment, only the Plan for physical conservation and restoration of the ensemble has partly be done in the Institute for protection and its cost could be assessed with necessary additions, as well as the source of financing - Ministry of culture

The cost of the Urban plan, which is necessary to do, could be roughly assessed by the m² of area, and the source of financing should be the municipality of Cajetina, with possible contribution of local tourist organization

Financial assessment of planed interventions according to official documents

- bill of quantities for equipped land infrastructure
- bill of quantities for organisation of location(footpaths, swards, stand pipes, public lighting)
- bill of quantities for conservation of the church
- bill of quantities for conservation of remaining sobrasice
- bill of quantities for reconstruction of destroyed sobrasice
- bill of quantities for new parking, access road, public toilets

- o Financial assessment of the Programme for Revitalization of the assembly

- o Financial assessment of planed actions according to Programme for Revitalization of the assembly – management and maintaining

Method

Having in mind elements of the Proposal for the Programme for Revitalization of the assembly, it will be used methodology which is partly based on the usual scientific and professional attitude to the problem of protection and urban planning. Inevitably, it is necessary to introduce, as well, a new methodology approach, which is not usual in the practice of treatment of the cultural heritage in Serbia, as follows:

- Consultation events between the Church, local community, municipality of Cajetina and local tourist organisations in order to create the plan for the future use and maintaining of the assembly under the patronage of Ministry of culture, Ministry of tourism and Institute for the protection of cultural heritage of Serbia.
- Defining their status over the ensemble and introducing them to the Proposal for the Programme for Revitalization
- Defining possible usage of sobrasice which is acceptable for all, and which should provide benefits to all
- Defining their roles and responsibilities in future usage and maintenance of the assembly
- Defining financial obligations for all involved parties
- Suggestions for implementation and possible impact on the local community (such as preparing local food, or providing accommodation for tourists at homes, possibility of employment)
- Suggestions for monitoring the process from professional point of view

Results/Current Status of the Work

At the moment, only a conservation and restoration projects are done, but not for all sobrasice, without a spatial organisation plan, because there are no appropriate documentation for that area.

Conservation plan contains a physical intervention for the church and eight sobrasice, with calculated budget. Restoration plan is made for four sobrasice, for which there is a documentation on how they looked like.

In 2006/07 CHWB financed the roof reconstruction for the church and five sobrasice.

The other part of this project, management and maintenance of the site is not even started to take place.

Discussion & Conclusions

This project proposal has the intention to approach the conservation process, not only as a physical repair, but a multidisciplinary program which can provide the site a safe future in a contemporary society. Having that in mind, the site has to be an integral part of local community's life and by its significance, attracts the general public. In the same way, the process of revival the site and its utility are very important, as the laws and regulations which have to be respected. Therefore, involving local community and local government through a multidisciplinary process of research, discussion, engagement and implementation for common benefit, is essential.

A very important role has a municipality of Cajetina, and their will for helping the development of the ensemble and indirectly, the village.

Financing the project or its parts is unknown, at the moment. It depends on a will and ability of involved parties. For example, Tourist organization of Cajetina has been recognized as a potential financier for the Urban Plan, but since there was no contact with them, it is a question are they capable for such costs. There were few examples in Serbia when a tourist organization financed a Spatial Plan for the heritage site. There is a possibility of involving a specialized firms for preparing a different kinds of plans, but that will be decided later in the process.

Only a Conservation project for the church and eight sobrasice and a Restoration plan for four sobrasice are made, and for that there are estimated costs.

Estimated costs

	per structure	total
The Church- conservation		33.155,00 €
8 Sobrasice- conservation	2.455,00 €	19.640,00€
4 Sobrasice - reconstruction	4.970,00 €	19.880,00€
Total		72.675,00 €

References

2008 *Documentation of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural monuments of Serbia-Belgrade*

2004 *Principles of the Conservation for the Heritage Sites in China*, The Getty Conservation Institute

Appendix 1

Conservation- technical problems

Surrounding

- No adaptative reuse plan for the building and the ensemble
- In the church yard, there is no sidewalks or pavement around the church
- On the site there are no footpaths around sobrasice, only a main road which is passing by the church and the cemetery
 - Two graves on the old cemetery are in poor condition

The church

- diminished authenticity of the church:
 - original roof cover was replaced with thin sheeting
 - facades were recolored with dark yellow oil paint
 - concrete foundation and steps replacing the original material, such as stone
 - in the interior of the church walls are coated with wainscot
 - in the interior, matched floor was placed, without any substrate

The belltower

- diminished authenticity of the belltower:
 - by blocking the belltower with vertically placed planks
 - making the store room inside the belltower

Sobrasice

- Poor condition of all 10 sobrasice:
 - two sobrasice have collapsed
 - roofs are overgrown in moss,
 - timber construction is not stable,
 - the interior inventory is either destroyed (have recollection of the missing objects?) or in poor condition.

Maintenance difficulties

- No intentions and motive of the Church or villagers for the maintenance of sobrasice. Many of the owners do not live around any more
- Maintenance of the ensemble is come to a basic cleaning of a church and mowing a grass in the church yard. The rest of the ensemble and a further maintenance is not provided
- The new cemetery is in poor condition, mainly because of non maintaining by families of the deceased. in the rural parts of Serbia cemeteries are maintained by villagers, they are not part of the public works, nor municipality.

Monitoring problems

- There is no continuous monitoring of use and maintenance of the ensemble by Institutes for the protection of cultural monuments. They also have no lasting instrument for maintenance and monitoring.

Conservation of architectural elements of the church

Conservation Measures:

- Making a complete documentation on the present condition of the ensemble, as a base point for a drawing section of the Conservation and Restoration plan
- a plan for spatial organization for the ensemble

As one of the last places where authentic sobrasice still exist, this ensemble must be preserved and surrounding should be organized as a well planned outdoor space. Special attention should be provided to sidewalks in the church yard and footpaths around the ensemble

The wooden church

Roof sheeting

- Replacing the current thin sheeting on the roof with authentic wooden shingles roofing.

During the replacement of the roof covering, it is necessary to check all the constructive elements of the roof, as well as to do conservation, if needed. It should apply the traditional methods, such as hand chopping and finishing/ treatment/handling of shingle

Facade

- Taking off dark yellow oil paint from the facades.
It is necessary to remove all oil pain from the walls and from all other elements with an appropriate method
- Removal of concrete foundation and steps and using the material which was authentically used- stone
- Protection of wooden elements of the church from moisture and insects is a part of works that will be held as the repressive measures of the vulnerable, authentic parts, as well as preventive measures in the new elements

Interior

- In the interior of the church, vertical wainscot should be replaced with the horizontal pine planks. The width should be the same as the original plank. Floor should be removed and replaced with new planks, with the width about 20cm. For the protection and easier maintenance, it is possible to varnish the floor, but with matte varnish.
- In addition to works on the architecture of the church, conservation and restoration works are needed on the iconostasis, icons and on the western entrance gate.

The belltower

- Removal of vertically placed planks from the belltower and reverting it into a original/former state

Surrounding

- Two graves on the old cemetery, on the eastern side of the church, should be urgently repaired and conserved

Conservation of architectural elements of sobrasice

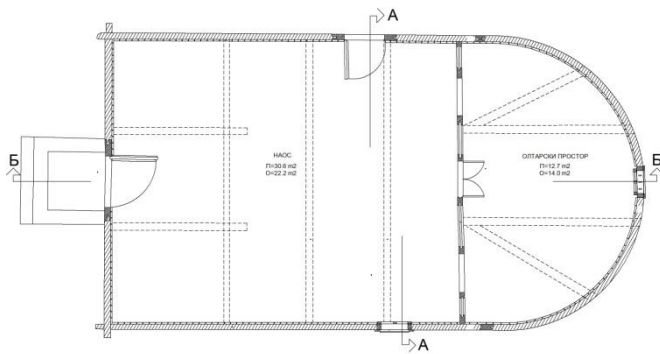
- For the eight still standing sobrasices it is supposed to make a restoration plan in which will be shown the extent of interventions for each one of them is this part of the
- On all sobrasices it is determined that it is necessary to replace roof covering and some elements of the roof construction.

Reconstruction of sobrasice

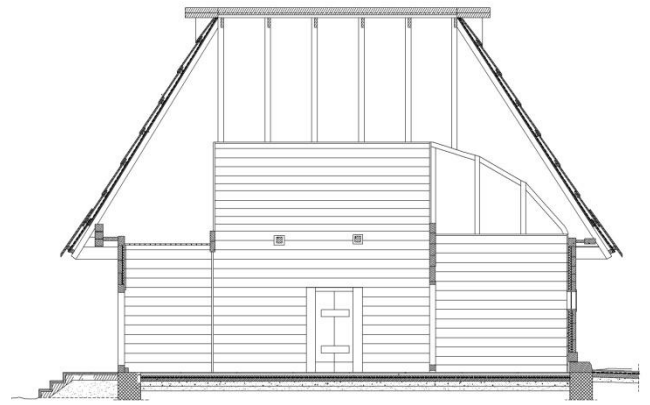
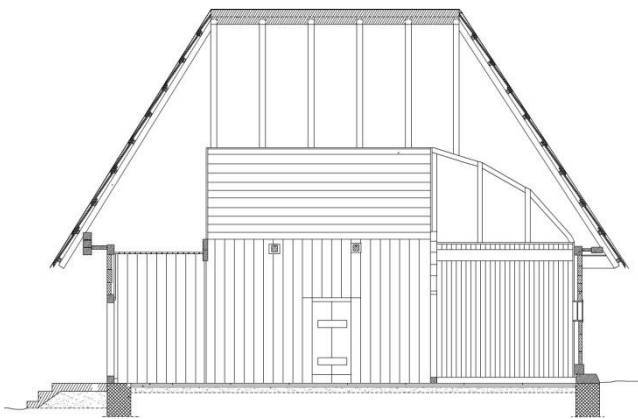
For the sobrasices that do not exist anymore or they are fell down (two of them), and there is a documentation with drawings how did they looked like, it is possible to reconstruct them.

If financial circumstances allow these could be a part of the ensemble, and used for tourist proposal and presentation, but it is necessary for them to be labelled as such-reconstructed ones.

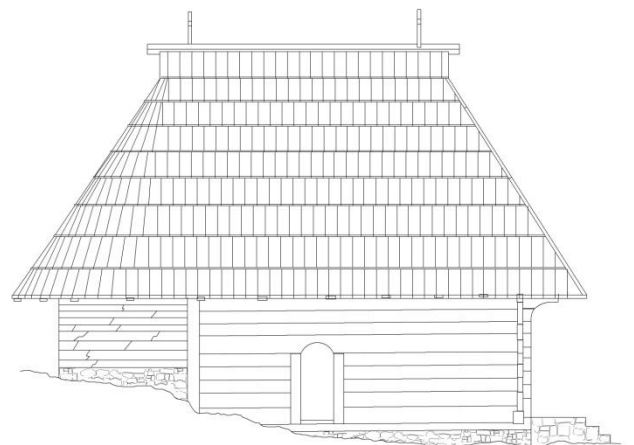
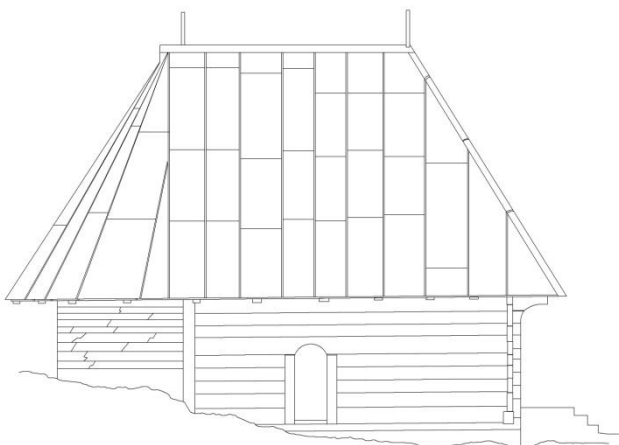
Appendix 2



Ground layout, present condition

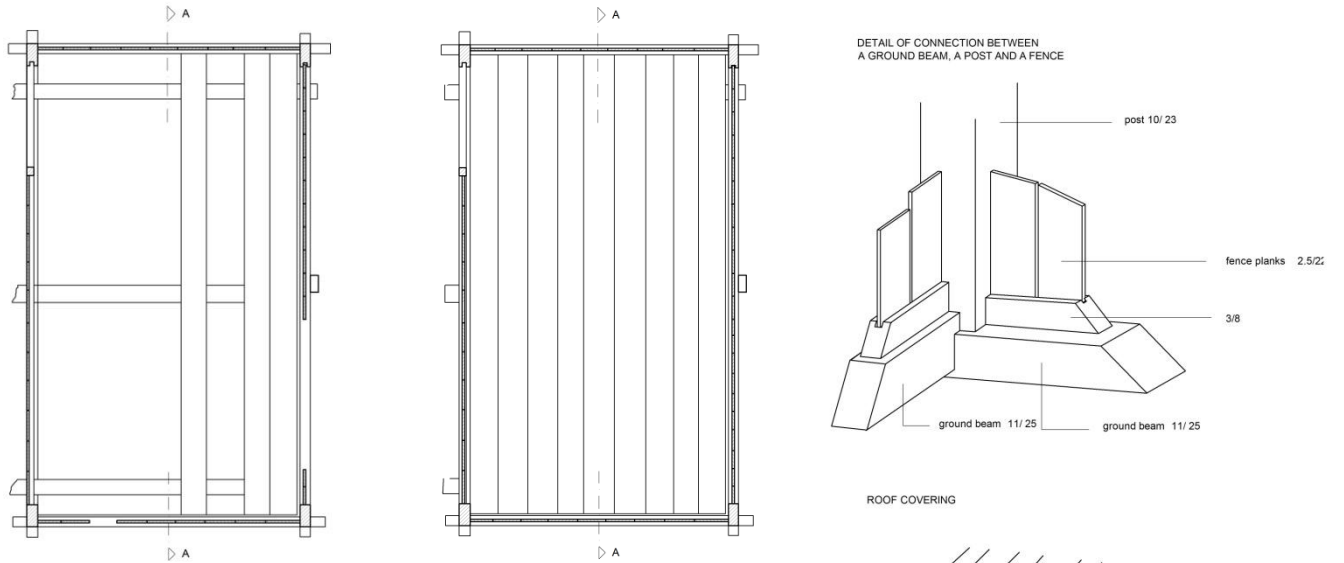


Section B-B, present condition and after the conservation

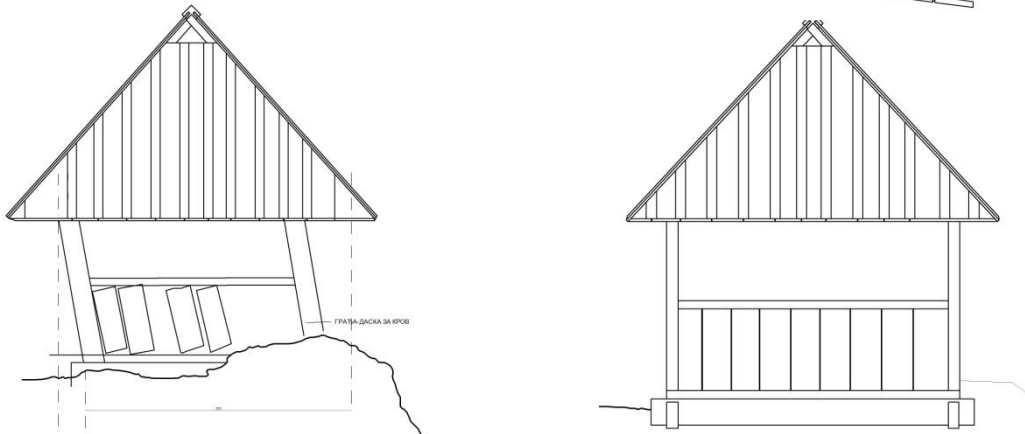


Northern facade, present condition and after the conservation

Appendix 3



Ground layout, present condition and after conservation



Narrow facade, present condition and after conservation



Longitudinal section, present condition and after conservation

Appendix 4

Reconstruction of sobrasice(down) based on drawings (above)

