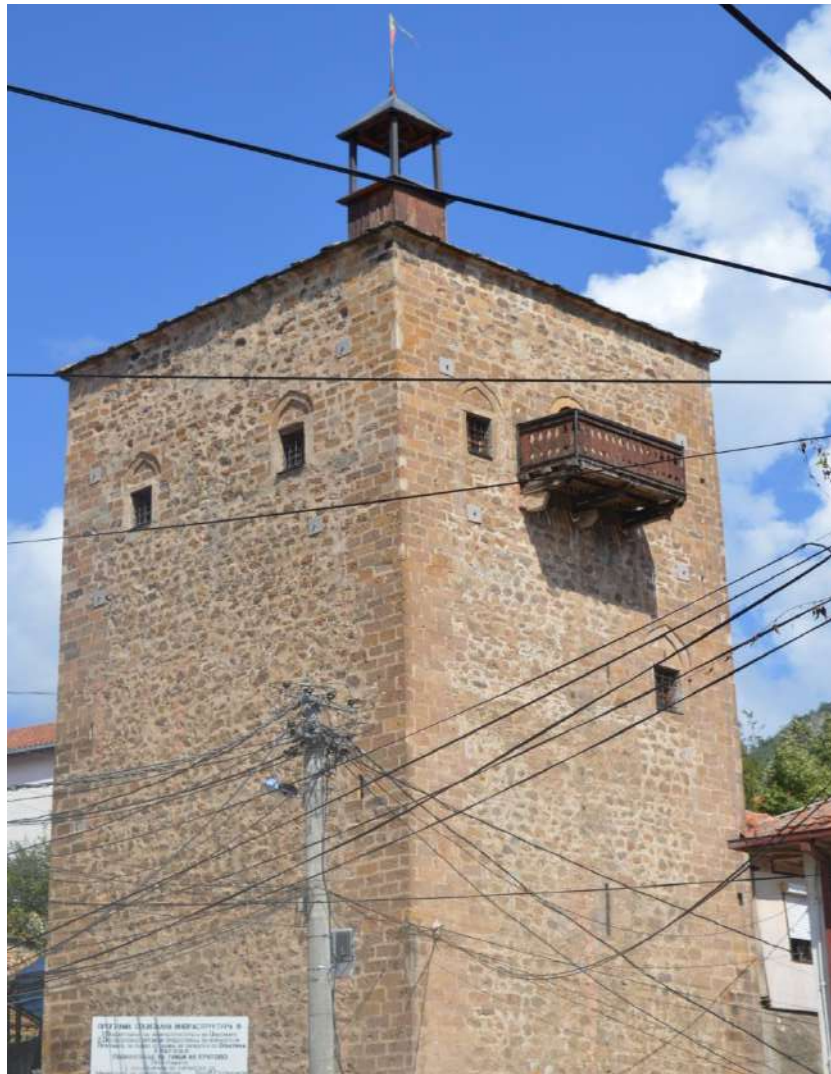


MA Dragan Georgievski

**THE CLOCK TOWER
IN KRATOVO**



The Municipal Institution Museum of the Town of Kratovo



Publisher:

Municipal Institution the Museum of the Town of Kratovo -Kratovo

Main and responsible editor:

Dragan Georgievski – Director

Author of the text:

Georgievski Dragan–ethnologist custodian – advisor

Translation to English:

Lide Stojanovska

Printed by:

2-ri Avgust – Stip

100 copies

E-mail: muzejkratovo@t.mk

Facebook: Музеј на Град Кратово

Phone/faks: 031-482-015

Tel. mob. 078-237-984

WELCOME TO KRATOVO

Welcome to the town of mining, the town that has the strength of an extinct volcano (crater) upon which it was built and because of which it got its name! Welcome to one of the oldest towns on the Balkan Peninsula, which dates back from IV century B.C.! Welcome to Kratovo! Kratovo is situated in the north-eastern part of Republic of Macedonia, at the foot of the Osogovo Mountains. The town is amphitheatrally outspread on the coasts of three small rivers at an altitude of 600 to 720 meters. Visiting Kratovo will give you a retrospection of the past. It will discover its secrets woven through the many towers and bridges. It will take your breath away with its natural and authentic beauty and it will lead you to visit it over and over again.

HISTORY

Kratovo in its centuries-old history was called differently as a result of number of civilizations and cultures in the past. From the antique name Tranupara, the Roman name Kratiskara, the Byzantine name Koristos, the Turkish names: Karatonlu and Karatova and later the town got the Slavic name Kratovo, which it is the present name of the town.

It was the town where the Thracian tribe called Paeoni lived and that is testified by the found coins on the area of the current town of Kratovo, from the time of the Paeonian king Audoleon (315-285 B.C.).

The archaeological researches discovered that Kratovo is rich with historical necropolis, which belong to different historical periods: Thracian, Paeonian, Antique, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, etc. The old coins and archaeological artifacts speak of the age and the importance of the town. The history of Kratovo has always been connected with mining. It is assumed that the founders of the town were the old miners. They have been digging up and processing lead, zinc, copper, silver, gold and iron in the important mining centre on these areas-Kratovo (this name was first encountered in 1213). The favourable political, military and geographical position of the town created conditions for economic and cultural development of Kratovo throughout the years.

Many cultures have passed through Kratovo and they left some marks shown by the authentic roads and architecture, the archeological remains and coins, the medieval towers and bridges, the underground halls, the hammams, the churches...

Welcome to Kratovo - the town museum that lives!



The medieval towers in Kratovo are the most recognizable symbols of the town. The medieval appearance of this town is given by these tall and huge stone towers. The timeless architectonic builders gave the towers simple and peaceful solutions with monumental appearance judging by the combination of the mass and the composition of the material used for the construction that is made of stone, plaster and brick. In the past, there were twelve towers – five on the right side and seven of the left side of Tabachka River. In 1680, according to the data by the report given by Petar Bogdani - the Catholic archbishop from Skopje, there were eight firm towers and there had been four more but they were destroyed before he came to Kratovo. There were seven towers in 1914 and there are six stone towers now: Zlatkov (Asanov) tower, Simikj tower, Krste tower, Clock Tower and Eminbeg (Sres) tower which are complete and Hadzikoste tower is demolished. The towers that existed in the past were: Kralichina (Shuta tower), Juzbashiska, Muzeva, Mangova, Spaiska (Dzekova), Doseva and Zafirova tower.

All the towers were built with semi – carved stone and plaster and carved stone was used for the corners, the door, the windows and the stairs inside the tower. The towers have three or four floors and the top floors usually served for living, but they also served

for defense. There, they have beautiful and wide fireplaces and they have a balcony at the top floor. The windows have iron colanders made of wrought iron and they are put inside the stone wall. The roofs are covered with stone plates and there is a chimney that is delicately built of carved stone. According to Jordan Ivanov, the towers were built during the biggest boom of the mining i.e. when the Serbian ruler Kostadin Dejanovich ruled this territory before the Turks came on this territory.



Kratovo – recorded in 1921 by Nikola Zafirovski - a photographer from Kratovo

General data for the cultural heritage

1. Name
THE CLOCK TOWER
2. Unique citizenship number
4-814-014/036 R ND
3. Classification
Real estate cultural heritage, defensive residential construction – tower
4. Location
Braka Miladinovi Street bb, Kratovo, Municipality of Kratovo
5. Land registry data
KO Kratovo KP 630
6. Protection act

A Decision for confirmation of the status a monument of culture, number 53 on 02.13.1953 in the Central Registry under the number 451. The Law of declaring the old Kratovo nucleus as cultural heritage with special significance under the subcategory big significance was brought in the official gazette of Republic of Macedonia under the number 144 on 09.30.2014. Clock tower is part of this monumental totality. The same regime for protection of the heritage and its contact zone is accepted for the tower because the tower is a part of the monumental totality within the subcategory big significance. According to that regime, the **first rate** will be applied on the protected heritage and that includes exclusion of actions and activities which can harm the authenticity or the integrity of this architectonic monument. The regime for protection of the first rate predicts minimal intervention on the protected heritage that essentially will be: a regular and current maintenance and conservative treatment of the existing architectonic elements.



The Clock tower is situated near the bazar of Kratovo. It was built in 1372 by the ruler Kostadin Dejanov. It got its name with the placing of the town's clock in 1924, on initiative of the town's administration. The tower is rectangular and it's wider than the tower of Simich but in height is smaller than this tower and it has tighter walls. From the lower is 19,30 meters tall, from the south –west side is 8,40 meters tall and from the

south-east side is 8 meters tall. The tower has 4 floors. On the fourth floor there are 2 terraces, on the south-east and on the opposite side. The first terrace is set on stone consoles and the second one on wooden consoles that were attached on wooden cones with ropes for pulling objects. The first floor of the tower is without hole for illumination and it's entered on the south-east side. On this part the precious minerals were kept and on the other wall there is only one small window on the south-east side of the wall.



DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT

BEY'S TOWER or now the Clock Tower in Kratovo is located in the central town area in the immediate vicinity of the famous Kratovo bazaar on the right bank of the Tabachka river. It is a medieval defensive-residential tower, built in the time of Konstantin Dejanov, i.e. in the time of the great rise of mining, when the income from the exploitation of ore is also reflected in the domain of architecture with the construction of more bridges, towers and rich houses.

He built several towers in a semicircle for defense, and today's appearance is due to operations carried out in the 20th century when it was adapted into a Clock Tower. It was built diagonally in a northeast-southwest orientation, with walls of hewn and semi-hewn stone in plaster, with well-worked corners and casement windows and doors with a monumental appearance both in terms of the combination of the material and the composition of the components used. The joints are flat. It is a building complex with ground floor+3 floors, with an almost rectangular base, and its height measures 8.40 x

7.70 meters. The external height is 19.30 meters measured from the eastern lower street, 8.50 from the southwest side and 8 meters from the southeast side.



The biggest height of the Clock Tower, together with the tambour and the railway spike on it, is 24.7 meters from the lowest to the highest point of the tower. The thickness of the walls, made of semi-hewn stone and plaster, is from 1.40 meters on the ground floor to 0.95 meters on the third (last) floor. The spatial organization of the tower is on four levels, interconnected by one-legged stairs. The constructions between the first and last floor are stone and vaulted, and above the ground floor and the second floor are also wooden and flat. There are semi-circular spire cornices of worked yellowish stone above the window openings. All the wedges on the facades and doors are built of hewn stone and a rough profiled cornice under the eaves. The roof is made of stone slabs from which two massive chimneys emerged in the past which do not exist today. The tower originally had two balconies on stone cantilevers, of which only the balcony on the southeast facade has been reconstructed today. There are open arch parts inside the tower, located on the first, second and third floor. All the natural material used to build the tower was procured from the surroundings of the town. Hard micas in the association with andesite, which are very suitable for building, were used as building material. At the end of the 19th century, by resolving part of the political occasions in the Ottoman Empire and giving more freedom to the citizen, the defensive towers lost their advantages and they were abandoned or converted to other needs. One of the important needs is the announcement of the time for starting work in the bazaar,

during which the construction of clock towers is intensified in several cities in Macedonia, and where there are conditions, the existing towers are adapted, as is the case with the Kratovo clock tower.



In fact, the tower gets the function and appearance of a clock tower by adding a bell in the open wooden case, connected to the clock mechanism on the top floor. It was established in 1921 and functioned until 1970, and it was maintained and promoted by Esharov Danke - a Turk, who was a postman by profession. Due to the installation of the mechanism, the second and third floor were opened so that the pendulum of the clock and the construction of the bell can be placed. The clock mechanism was bought from Thessaloniki, with a beautiful bell with an inscription that said 'vox mea inavribvs tvis sonnet - my voice in your ears rings'.

The tower has two entrances, the main entrance for the ground floor is from the southeast street side, and the second entrance for the first floor is additionally open from the north side from the higher courtyard elevation. Security was guaranteed by thick walls, a heavy front door made of durable oak wood covered with iron sheet, well anchored in the stone mass through blacksmith baglams, and protected from the inside by two rows of antimony. The windows have iron bars made of wrought iron and anchored in the stone wall.

In terms of spatial organization, there is one room on each level of the tower. The room on the ground floor is entered directly from the street and is an additional open door because there are no stone corners and with a flat lintel and it is not lit. There are two bathrooms here and it is connected to the first floor by internal wooden stairs. The room on the first floor, which also has a direct connection to the street, is not sufficiently lit, except for one slit - a gun room with dimensions 55 cm x 85 cm, but therefore there is a fireplace with 202 cm in height, 130 cm width and 65 cm depth and two niches for domestic needs, with dimensions of 90 x 90 cm. The door has a lintel with a slight arch, which measures 210 cm high and 125 cm width. It was closed with a transverse thick beam that entered the grooves of the side walls. The door opened to one side, pivoting on an iron shaft fixed in the walls themselves.

On the first floor, through the middle of the tower, there is a 0.49-meter-thick and 2.8-meter-high stone vault that separates the first from the second floor. During the installation of the clock, a hole was punched to raise the pendulum of the clock. On the mezzanine wall near the stone stairs, there is a gun room with dimensions of 30 x 50 cm. It is connected to the second floor through 12 stone steps in the wall. On the second floor, the room is lit by three windows with the same dimensions of 113 cm high and 85 cm wide, there are two balcony doors (today demolished), and a fireplace with dimensions of 120 cm high and 77 cm wide, and in the northwest corner of the room has a built-in hygienic-toilet niche, with a 40 x 20 cm gun room. For the entrance to the second floor, there is a door whose dimensions are 180 cm high and 75 cm width, and there is also a gun room at the same height of the door with dimensions 40 x 25 cm.

One-legged wooden stairs lead to the third floor. On the third (last) floor, the room is very bright and sunny, with a total of seven windows that have different dimensions, of which one window has dimensions of 100 cm x 77 cm, the second 100 x 87 cm, the third 110 x 88 cm, the fourth 115 x 85 cm. , the fifth with dimensions 98 cm x 80 cm, the sixth 100 by 88 cm and the seventh and last window with dimensions 110 x 85 cm. There are two doors to balconies. The southeast door to the balcony has a height of 180 cm and a width of 90 cm, with a semi-circular lintel that led to the wooden balcony. The wooden balcony is 120 cm high and 270 cm wide. Iron pulleys were attached to the wooden consoles to retrieve objects. In addition, on both sides of the terrace there were special depressions for collecting liquids. The construction was a combination of stone and wooden beams in three rows placed one above the other. The remains are still visible today. The balcony is used as a lookout point, from which you can see Kratovo's Ajduk bazaar and most of the town. The second window for the balcony, which has not been reconstructed, has dimensions of 160 cm x 90 cm, and is located on the west side. There is one hearth with dimensions of 240 cm high and 85 cm width. There is also a niche in which a plumbing and drainage pipe is installed in the external facade wall niche. Here we does not find a large cube of hewn stone. The height from the floor to the top of the vault is 6.76 meters. On the northwest side of the wall, a groove has been made along the wall that starts from the base of the third floor to the ground. It served to discharge waste water. The rooms on the second and third floor had painted decoration on the walls with stylized oriental ornaments. The roof construction on the third floor is vaulted, it transitions into a sectional four-pipe roof covered with stone slabs. The central part is a wooden tambour formed by four pillars and a wooden fence. A four-way

roof is formed above the pillars, made of planks covered with sheet metal, with base dimensions of 1.7 meters and a height of 5.2 meters. The junction of the roof and the fence is covered with a copper sheet. The fence also gets a sheet metal roof. There was a beautiful city fountain next to the tower in the past from which half of the town was supplied with cold spring water.

