



The Monastery of Poloshko

Kavadarci Municipality, Macedonia

The Monastery of Poloshko, located in the Kavadarci region of Macedonia, is an excellent example of late-Byzantine architecture in the Balkans, with well-preserved frescoes and decorative elements. Originally built in 1340 at the bequest of close relatives of King Dušan, a powerful Serbian monarch credited with staving off Ottoman invasions during his reign, the monastery also contains an additional set of wall paintings in the narthex dating from 1609, and was subject to extensive repairs in the late nineteenth century.

When the artificial Tikveš Lake was created in the valley of the River Crna in the 1960s, the village within which the monastery was situated disappeared, leaving the structure situated alone on an island, only reachable by water. Over time, conditions on the interior of the monastery have steadily deteriorated, with water damage evident on the wall paintings and the lack of a clear management plan for stewardship of the site. Fortunately there is an active monastic sisterhood that cares for the structure, and nearby communities value the site as an integral part of recreational opportunities in the area, as well as a gathering place for the feasts of St. George and Dormition of the Holy Virgin. Inclusion on the Watch is intended to raise greater public awareness of the beauty and significance of the site, and to galvanize collective action to restore and sustain the legacy of the Monastery of Poloshko for future generations.