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The Bosnian Chardaklia House: The Suljagic Family House in Spionica Near Srebrenik

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Abstract

The Suljagic family house is located in the Spionica village (Geographic coordinates: 44°44'13.85"N, 18°29'41.90"E, Elevation: 201 m). It was built before 1887 on a wide flat plateau of the huge estate of the Suljagic family with wide 360° views. The exact time of construction as well as its founder and first owner are not precisely known. According to one variant (ground book), the house was built (1887) by a certain Dželal-beg Efendić. In the same year, the house was owned by Dzemil Dzelalbegovic (Dzelalbeg's son). The house with its property has been owned by Jusuf Suljagić since 1917, who lived there with his family until his death (1999). His wife Hava lived in the house until her death

(2012), since then no one lives in the house anymore. According to another version (which was verbally communicated to the Author by Mr. Nuraga (Jusuf) Suljagic (born in 1951), on June 4, 2016, during the Author's visit to this house), this house was built by a certain Zajim-beg Babic at the end of the 15th century. The house housed a court and a prison for those who did not pay taxes according to the laws of the Ottoman Empire at the time. After Zajim-beg, the owner of the house is his son Dzemil-beg Babic, who is inherited by his two daughters. According to both versions, the house was bought (1917) by Mula Jusuf Suljagic from Cehaje near Srebrenik.

Keywords: Suljagic Family, Spionica Village, Bosnian Chardaklia House, Architectural Heritage

1. Introduction

The Suljagic family house is located in the Spionica village (Geographic coordinates: 44°44'13.85"N, 18°29'41.90"E, Elevation: 201 m). It was built before 1887 on a wide flat plateau of the huge estate of the Suljagic family¹ with wide 360° views (Fig 1, 2). The exact time of construction as well as its founder and first owner are not precisely known^[1].



Sources: Google Earth: Accessed: November 22, 2022

Fig 1: The Suljagic family house in Spionica near Srebrenik. Location

¹ The author visited this house on April 6, 2016. Information about the house and the Suljagic family was given to him by Mr. Nuraga (Jusuf) Suljagic (born in 1951), the youngest son of Mulo Jusuf Suljagic.



Source: Author (6.4.2016)

Fig 2: The Suljagic family house in Spionica near Srebrenik. View of the house from the east (left), view of the house from the southeast (center) and view of the house from the northeast (right)

According to one variant (ground book), the house was built (1887) by a certain Dzelal-beg Efendic. In the same year, the house was owned by Dzamil Dzelalbegovic (Dzelalbeg's son). The house with its property has been owned by Jusuf Suljagic since 1917, who lived there with his family until his death (1999). His wife Hava lived in the house until her death (2012), since then no one lives in the house anymore.

According to another version (which was verbally communicated to the Author by Mr. Nuraga (Jusuf) Suljagic (born in 1951), on June 4, 2016, during the Author's visit to this house), this house was built by a certain Zajim-beg Babic at the end of the 15th century. The house housed a court and a prison for those who did not pay taxes according to the laws of the Ottoman Empire at the time. After Zajim-beg, the owner of the house is his son Dzamil-beg Babic, who is inherited by his two daughters. According to both versions, the house was bought (1917) by Mula Jusuf Suljagic from Cehaje near Srebrenik.

2. Spatial-form characteristics of the house

According to the layout of the horizontal plans, the house of the Suljagic family in Spionica Donja near Srebrenik belongs to the type of three-section Bosnian čardaklija house, with certain specificities of this type of house in the area of northern and northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina (Fig 3). Due to the emphasis on the volume of the floor (whose contour, on three sides of the house, is cantilevered in relation to the contour of the ground floor), the house could be included in the type of central solution of the Bosnian čardaklija house (Fig 2, 3).

The house is vertically developed through the ground floor, mezzanine and first floor, which is not its original solution but the result of some of the numerous reconstructions and adaptations [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12].

In the original solution, today's ground floor and mezzanine levels were a single space of the ground floor with a relatively large clear height (about 365 cm).



Source: Author (Drawings, 2017)

Fig 3: The Suljagic family house in Spionica near Srebrenik. Disposition



Source: Author (6.4.2016)

Fig 4: The divanhana on the first floor is additionally emphasized with the polygonal form of the base

from the outside of the building (Fig 3, 4, 5). From the living room you can access four bedrooms, two in each end section of the base of the floor.



Source:

<http://srebrenik.ba/images/stories/kultura/KucaSuljagica.pdf>. Accessed: 9.20.2016.

Source: <http://starigrad.srebrenik.ba/srebrenik/kulturnabastina/>. Accessed: 5.19.2016.

Fig 6: Exit of the staircase to the floor level (left) and view of the divanhana from the staircase (right)



Source: <http://starigrad.srebrenik.ba/srebrenik/kulturnabastina/>. Accessed: 5.19.2016. Source: <http://srebrenik.ba/images/stories/kultura/KucaSuljagica.pdf>. Accessed: 9.20.2016.)

Fig 5: Ground floor-mezzanine staircase (Left) and 'divanhana' arrangement in part of the polygonal doxat (Right)

The entrance to the ground floor is arranged in the central tract of its base, like a hall with a staircase. Here are the accesses to the storage room, one in each of the two end tracts of the base of the ground floor (Fig 3, 4, 5). The entrances to the rooms are arranged from the intermediate landing of the two-legged staircase, one in each end section of the base.

The first floor of the house is left exactly in the space (about 40 cm) in relation to the three sides of the contour of the ground floor, which gives the architectural physiognomy of the house characteristics that are associated with fortified residential buildings-towers (Fig 2, 3). In the central tract of the base, on the floor level, there is a staircase with a sofa bed. Part of the sofa bed is left to the space and is thus additionally emphasized, seen both from the outside and



Source:

<http://srebrenik.ba/images/stories/kultura/KucaSuljagica.pdf>. Accessed: 9.20.2016.

Fig 7: Chardak arrangement

3. Construction and materialization

The foundations and walls of the ground floor are made of hewn limestone 70-80 cm thick. The walls are plastered on both sides and painted with milk of lime (Fig 3, 8).

The ceiling construction of the ground floor-mezzanine was done only between the warehouse and the rooms, while the earlier light height was retained in the Hayat (Fig 3, 10).

The roof of the house is hipped, with a medium slope (about 45°), with a pepper-tile cover (Fig 2, 3, 10).



Source: Author (6.4.2016)

Fig 8: The Suljagić family house in Spionica Donja near Srebrenik. Massive stone walls of the ground floor and mezzanine (left); wooden 'hatulas' are the stiffening of the stone wall against the action of shearing forces due to different subsidence of the terrain (right)



Source: Author (6.4.2016)

Fig 9: The walls of the first floor are made of a wooden skeleton with a brick filling ('cerpic')



Source: <http://starigrad.srebrenik.ba/srebrenik/kulturnabastina/> Accessed: 5.19.2016.

Fig 10: Warehouse-mezzanine ceiling structure (left) and roof structure (right)

4. Doors and windows

The opening elements are of different ages, where some are original and some were added in some of the reconstructions and adaptations of the house (Fig 11).

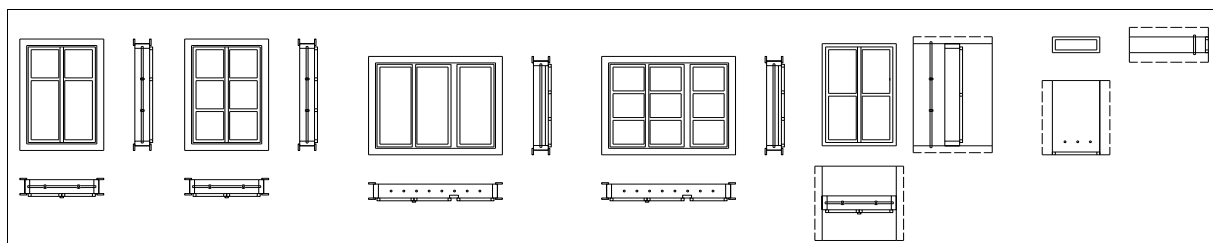


Source: <http://starigrad.srebrenik.ba/srebrenik/kulturnabastina/> Accessed: 5.19.2016.

Source: Author (6.4.2016.)

Fig 11: Entrance door to the house (left and center) and door to the room (right)

The windows are single, double-hung and triple-hung, with single-layer glazing (Fig 12, 13). All windows have safety protection - a wrought iron grille ('demiri').



Source: Author (Drawing, 2017)

Fig 12: A variety of different window designs



Source: Author (6.4.2016)

Fig 13: A series of windows on the 'chardak' provides abundant natural lighting in the space as well as good views of the surroundings

5. Specific elements of home equipment

In the house, some original surface treatment solutions and space equipment elements have been preserved: a brick oven with ceramic pots, chests ('sehare'), sofa ('minderluk'), brazier ('mangala') for serving coffee (Fig 14).



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/starigrad.srebrenik/photos/a.10152118989413253.1073741832.43355318252/10152118990243253/?type=1&theater>

Accessed: 9.20.2016.

Source:

<http://srebrenik.ba/images/stories/kultura/KucaSuljagica.pdf>

Accessed: 9.20.2016.

Fig 14: Brick stove with ceramic 'pots' (left), 'hamadzik' in the chardak (middle) and brazier ('mangala') in the chardak (right)

6. Conclusion

The Suljagic family house in Spionica Donja near Srebrenik was lived in until 2012, until the death of Mrs. Have Suljagic, wife of Mulo Jusuf Suljagic. The physical structure of the house is in a preserved state, although some of its elements are devastated.

From its construction until today, the house has survived numerous reconstructions and adaptations, but, viewed as a whole, its architectural physiognomy has been preserved.

As the house has the status of a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina ^[10, 12, 13], it is to be expected that it will not only be preserved but put into a function that, in a way of sustainability, will preserve it in the future.

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