

# **GREEK CATHOLIC WOODEN CHURCHES IN SLOVAKIA**

Assessment of construction and technical condition of the buildings  
and mobiliar



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## I. HISTORICAL SURVEY

The western group of sacred buildings of Byzantine liturgy situated in Carpathian Arch is represented by the Eastern Slovak wooden churches. These are mostly situated approximately 300 km far from the northern part – Marmarosh crossing the west Ukraine and south-east part of Poland towards the north-east of Slovakia.

More than 30 of the above mentioned churches have been preserved in Slovakia and most of them were built in 18<sup>th</sup> century. With only some exception, like the church in Trochany (built earlier, 16<sup>th</sup> century), there is no doubt that on the whole all of them appeared even after signing the so-called Uzhorod Union in 1646 which joined Orthodox clergy and north-eastern Hungary /comprising of Slovakia and Carpathian Rus/ believers with the Roman-Catholic church. All liturgic and church-law specifics were preserved. Such a church was called a Union church, later Greek-Catholic one and was supported by Habsburg power. This fact led to population increase and at the same time towards the tendency to build new churches even in villages. Wood was the commonly used building material for these churches. Local carpenters could be proud of their master work. However close the contact with the Roman-Catholic surroundings was (e.g. wooden church of gothic character in Hervartov), especially in the vicinity of Bardejov, main features of sacred buildings following the Byzantine and consequently Kyjev-Russian examples were preserved.

The group of wooden churches of Eastern liturgy in Carpathian region consists of four types. Only one of them can be found in Slovakia – the Lemkian type along with an object (Nizny Komarnik) of the Boikian type which represents the later architecture, the 30s of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Neither the original Hutsul type with its floor plan of Greek cross shape nor the Marmarosh type influenced by Gothic roof architecture of Sedmohradsko do not occur in Slovakia. The common feature of the Boikian and the Lemkian types is their three-part design – the women's part /the hall/ situated under the tower, the nave – the largest room which is mostly a square oblong shape and the sanctuary on the east. The wooden wall with icons – the iconostasis - separates the sanctuary from the nave. Rooms are covered with the logs, in some parts the nails are used. On the other hand the nave and sanctuary are non-genuine vault-shaped by a cut cone. Roof construction dominates this type of churches. Thus it could be considered to be an important part that differentiates the Boikian and the Lemkian types. While it is the part above the nave – roof or cupola which dominates the Boikina type – as for the height and size; in the Lemkian type the roof leading from sanctuary through the nave towards the tower on the west is obviously higher. Under the Baroque influence and at the same time by preserving the “eastern” character both buildings are typical for their pyramid-onion-like spire on the top. In some cases it seems to be something like many-storeyed impressive construction. A metal cross is fixed to the tower showing the great smith art of the locals. Typical Boikian or Lemkian roof shape is not always the case. On the north-east many of the churches are covered with a compact monumental roof (Ulicske Krive, Jalova, Topola, Ruska Bystra, Inovce, Krive etc.) leading from the sanctuary to the west tower. Some cases when the roof overlaps the tower substance do exist as well. Exceptions are represented by ridge roofs (Brezhany). Various tower construction and look alterations widely occur. Thus the churches of the Eastern Slovakia form a remarkable group of wooden sacred architecture of the whole Carpathian Arch.

The buildings must be entered from the west through the hall under the tower, exceptionally directly from the nave (Brezhany). The south-side entrance is possible only in Varadka since it is the case of earlier architecture. In the nave and sanctuary rooms the light penetrates through two square or oblong shape windows situated on the southern or occasionally northern wall. Some navies do comprise of empora situated on the west wall or above the hall which could be reached by the ladder shape stairs or passing through the frame

construction tower with bells usually. The exceptions, of course, do exist. Mostly these are the churches with an individual belfry built as in Ladomirova and Potoky.

The interior consists of the above mentioned iconostasis, benches situated in the nave room, altar in the middle of the sanctuary and zhertvennik by the northern wall. The former consists of the so-called basic icons row, "prazdnik" row above – Apostle Row, Prophet Row, Calvary. Three crossings from the nave to the sanctuary are present, the middle one is called The Royal Door. Walls are covered by unique icons sometimes older than the church itself. In some cases the interior is decorated by wallpaintings /Kozhany, Potoky, Bodruzhal/.

Beginning with 19<sup>th</sup> and succesively in the course of 20<sup>th</sup> century the wooden churches are replaced by stone-base ones. Such a fall is connected with the front-lines during WW1 and WW2. Even in the course of the first Czechoslovak Republic the wooden churches find their place in museums or city parks /Koshice, Bardejovske Kupele, Hradec Kralove, Praha/. In the 60s they appear in open-air museums /churches in Zboj, Nova Sedlica, Nova Polianka, Matysova/.

In the 50s of 20<sup>th</sup> century the Greek-Catholic church lost its political power. The churches got the new owner – Orthodox church and remained under that ownership up to 90s. Nevertheless the first action to save them took place after 1968. Several of them were shingled and the log constructions were conserved. However their technical condition was getting worse. Realised job was more aimed to the interior restoration than to architecture itself. It follows the restored icons and iconostasis were damaged by the destroyed architecture.

The property of the Orthodox and Greek-Catholic churches was settled at the end of 20<sup>th</sup> century. With an exception of Ruský Potok all were given back to the original owners – Greek-Catholic parish. No considerable changes appeared particularly due to the lack of financial means. Some local and regional citizen's associations were created to restore the churches, but the money was gained not in a suitable amount, mostly from government funds, Pro Slovakia fund and others. In the last years buildings in Prikra, Krajne Chierno, Dobroslav, Jedlinka, Korejovce and partially in Jalova, Inovce, Hunkovce were restored in the similar way. The problem is that some of the churches are only minimally used due to the building of new ones in Topola, Lukov-Venecia, Shmigovec, Hrabova Roztoka, or due to conversion of parishioners to Orthodox church or Rome Catholic church (Trochany) and consequently it does not help the condition of the buildings.

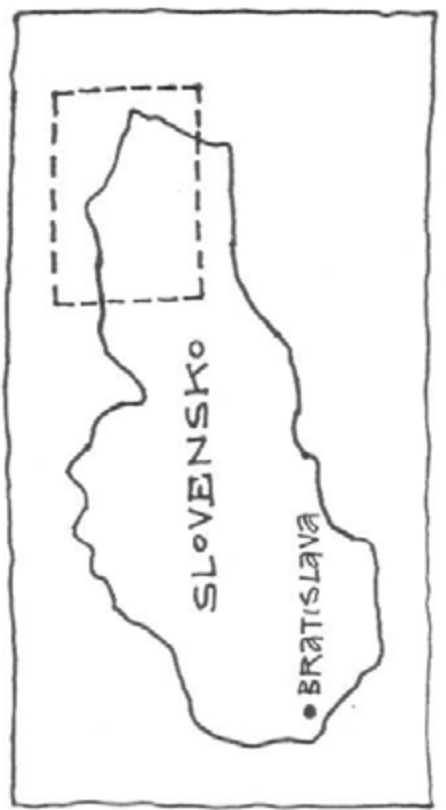
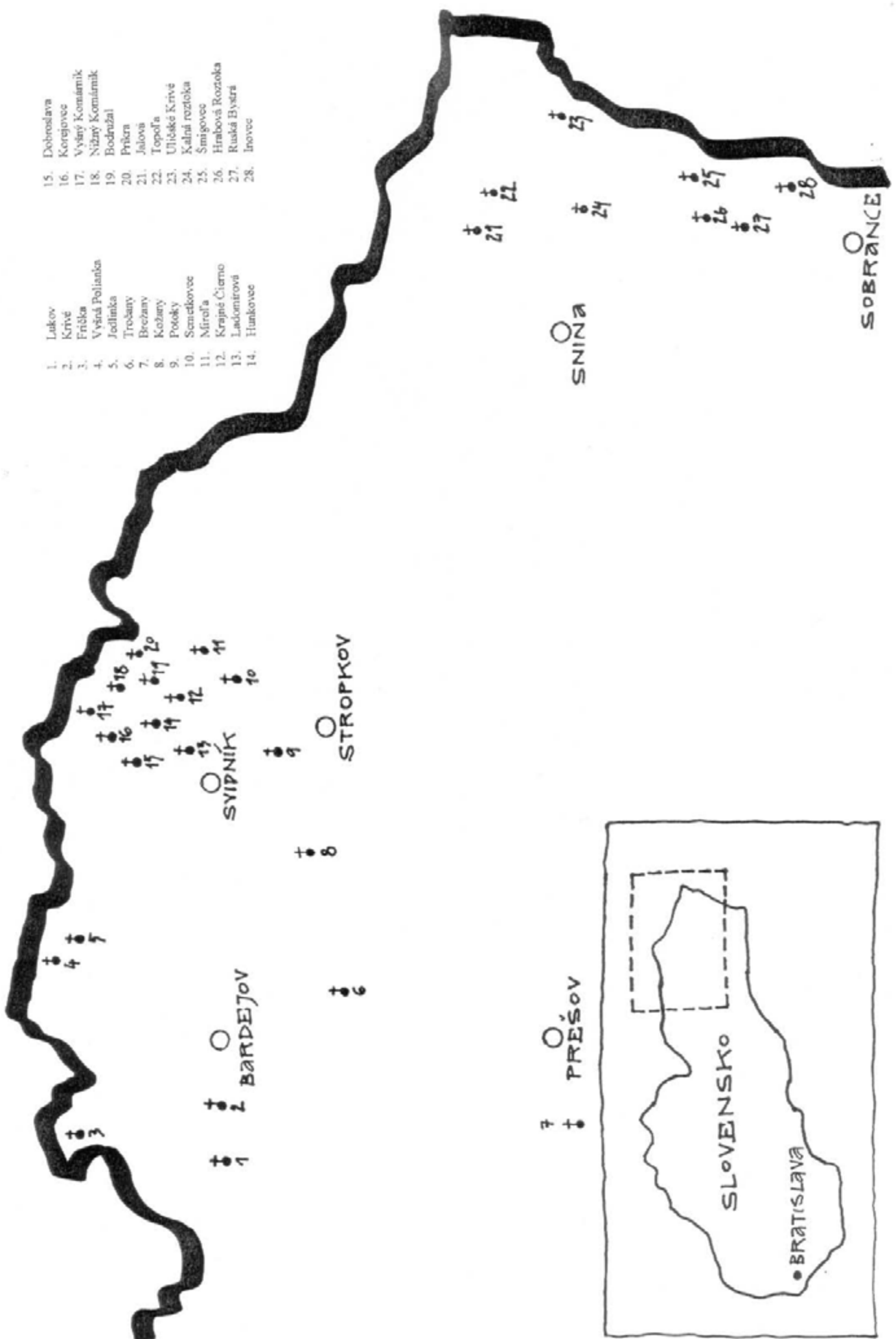
## II. CONDITION OF WOODEN CHURCHES

Evaluation of the current condition of wooden churches which was being done from November to December 2002 was focusing on buildings in the possession of Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia and which can be found in Preshov Bishopric and Koshice Bishopric. There are 28 buildings in the district of Bardejov, Preshov, Sobrance, Snina, Stropkov and Svidnik. Condition of wooden buildings in Rusky Potok (Orthodox church), Hervartov and Hranichne (Roman Catholic Church) and in Varadka, where property rights have not been settled yet, has not been evaluated yet. The churches which were moved to open-air museum have not been evaluated as well. When evaluating condition of foundation construction, log and its exterior and interior planking, roofing and floor were examined. The condition of mobilier was examined individually. Wood dampness, wood damaging insects and fungi and using of conservation substances during previous reconstructions were closely studied. There was a problem to find out what the condition of log construction was because very often it was covered from both sides. Some of the buildings could not be precisely found out what fungi there were present without laboratory tests. It was supposed that the same ones, which have already been there before, are present there again. Due to the time limitation humidity of all the perimeter walls of the nave and sanctuary it was impossible to be measured so the measures were usually done in the middle and at the top of the north side of the wall close to the foundations, where it was the wettest. These figures gave the chance to compare the dampness of construction of all the churches with the figures given during last measurements done by Chemical and Technological Department of National Monument Office in Bratislava in 1998. The material, focusing on building and technological condition of wooden churches in the late 20th century, enabled to compare it with the current ones, to watch the trends of changes in the recent past and assume their future developments. Condition summary chart, made of evaluation forms, shows the condition of each building and enables to create list of the most urgent cases and their complex or partial restoration. We can say that mainly thanks to partial help of the state and activities of foreign sponsors, while funding Bishopric Office, the churches were restored or at least in some areas works could begin with minimal number of inhabitants. Another positive thing is that the works could be moved from the position of restoration works to the position of realisation of building. It decreased the risk of devaluating of works, which have already been realised, as it often happened in the case when restoration of mobilier was done before roof restoration or eliminating static faults. On the other hand there were no positive changes or even there is deterioration in the condition of the churches in Hunkovce, Krive, Lukov-Venecia, Potoky, Topola, Trochany, Shmigovec. With the exception of Krive the other buildings are used only from time to time or they are not used at all, despite the fact that the interior of majority of them is extremely valued and in some cases it is the cream of Slovakia heritage. There is repeated need to do at least basic repairs in the other churches that were restored in the 70-80s of the 20th century, as for example Bodruzhal, Frichka, Ladomirova, Ulicske Krive. The building and technological condition of these buildings can be so deteriorated in a short time that it can endanger the condition of interior which is extremely valued but even restored interior can be endangered (Bodruzhal, Ladomirova). When evaluating whole condition of architecture of the particular churches and their mobilier it is necessary to put following into the most endangered: -Lukov-Venecia with regard to the repeated presence of wood harmful fungus and very strong damage of iconostasis, -Potoky with a belfry and a fence with a very old shingle covering, weak log construction of belfry and also mobilier, -Topola with profound static faults of roof construction and its old covering and with neglected interior, -Shmigovec with damaged tinplate covering, leaking and damaged perimeter walls and its panelling. The value of this younger building including mobilier is lower compared

with the majority of the buildings. In spite of the urgent condition of the church in Shmigovce it is prior to save the other more valuable churches.

East-Slovak wooden churches are, except their specific architecture, equally valued when compared with the other wooden churches in Poland, Ukraine or Romania and sometimes even more valued thanks to qualitative equality of their building and art elements, restored mobiliars and clear developments during the last three centuries. So logically coordinated, thoroughly prepared restoration, including all valuable elements of architecture and mobiliars, must come out of it. Regular maintenance and appropriate use of the church must be kept in mind. They must not become indifferent buildings in an urbanised village, but they should be, also if new ones are built, centres of spiritual and cultural life of the community.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lukov          | 15. Dobroslava      |
| 2. Krivé          | 16. Korejovec       |
| 3. Fritška        | 17. Vyšný Komiárik  |
| 4. Vyháň Polianka | 18. Nižný Komiárik  |
| 5. Jedlinka       | 19. Bodružal        |
| 6. Trošany        | 20. Prieň           |
| 7. Brežany        | 21. Jalová          |
| 8. Kožany         | 22. Topoľa          |
| 9. Potoky         | 23. Uličské Krivé   |
| 10. Semetkovec    | 24. Kalná roztočka  |
| 11. Míroľa        | 25. Smigovec        |
| 12. Krajné Čierne | 26. Hrabová Roztoka |
| 13. Ladomirová    | 27. Ruská Bystriá   |
| 14. Humkovec      | 28. Inovec          |



### III. EVALUATION OF EACH CHURCH

**Bodružal /Svidník/** - Church of St. Nicholas is one of the oldest in Slovakia. It was built in 1658 on a small hill of the village. There is a fence with shingle roofs with dominant cone shaped roof. Floor plan of the building is rectangular with the women's room of the same width. Roof construction is divided into small parts dominated by west tower with a room which was made by extending upper part of the tower where bells can be found. The tower and hipped roof of the nave and the sanctuary are topped by onion-like spire. The log building entrance hall is covered with planking. The rooms are situated next to women's room from which one can get to the tower by ladder steps. Women's room has flat ceiling whereas sanctuary and nave have vaulted ceiling with pyramidal angel cuts with wide panels. Nave is illuminated by two windows on the south and sanctuary with windows on the south and east. There is valuable baroque mobiliar and wall painting on the north wall of the nave.

Condition: Church covering and shingle roofing are about to root. It is the same for shingle on the fence. There will be some leaks in the short time. Woodworms are active in the log construction and tower and there is a possibility that it can spread to iconostasis and the other mobiliar which is in a good condition at the moment. The last restoration was done in 1990-95.

Suggested measures: Roofing and parts of exterior covering must be replaced. Fence and gate must be renewed. Chemical treatment is needed where there is the presence of woodworm, namely log construction, tower and roof. Signaling gadgets are needed to be checked and lightning must be of better quality.

Description of the photos:

1. view of the church with entrance gate
2. view of the church from the west
3. nave with iconostasis
4. wall painting on the north wall of the nave
5. altar
6. zhertvennik



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5, 6

**Brezhany /Preshov/-** Unique church of St. Lukas was built in 1727. It is directly entered from the place below the tower into the nave. The church is situated in the cemetery on a small hill in the village. Log construction of the nave and the sanctuary are not paneled and is covered by saddle shingle roofs. Holes between beam logs are filled with soil. Wooden frame construction of tower has dominantly widened the place under overhanging roof on the perimeter of walls and topped by hipped roof. There is beam ceiling of the nave. Sanctuary is vaulted by fractional vault. Empora is on the west wall of the nave and can be entered by ladder steps. The nave is illuminated from the south by three windows and from the north by one and the sanctuary by three small ones. Iconostas dates back to 18th century and it is a valuable decoration in spite of the fact that the building is used by parishioners of Roman Catholic Church.

Condition: Log construction is quite damaged. Log corner notching are weakened and there is presence of woodworms. Soil that was used to fill the holes between beams is falling down. Roofing is getting damaged as well. The construction of tower needs conservation. All the parts of mobilier are in a very bad condition, namely iconostasis, altar and zhervennik, due to the woodworms and also its construction, wood carving and art decoration are damaged.

Suggested measures: Damaged parts of the log could be repaired by carpenter and then chemically treated and holes could be filled with new soil. Damaged shingles could be replaced. Condition of frame, construction of the tower needs to be examined and repaired. Complex restoration of mobilier should be prepared. Secure the function of security systems.

Description of the photos:

1. access to the church
2. view of the church from the north
3. view of the church from the east
4. iconostasis



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2



4

**Dobroslava /Svidnik/-** Church of St. Paraskevy, dates back to the 30s of the 20th century. It is the only church with roof plans of Greek cross. It was built in the place of previous church out of which only entry portal was saved. It is situated on the slope of the village. The church is a mix of lemsonian and boikian type, which is dominantly topped by rising towers to the west. Interior and exterior of the stone base wall of the building is planked. There are entry stairs leading to the women's log room. The central part of the building and sanctuary are vaulted and there is a flat ceiling in the side wing. Room is accessible from the entry hall by ladder stairs under the women's log room. When comparing the church with the other ones it is illuminated by larger windows, placed on all wings of the Greek cross. Baroque mobiliar was taken from an older church including painting of The Last Judgement.

Condition: The church was badly damaged at the end of Second World War and it was being renewed until 2001. At that time log construction planking, shingle roofing was replaced and stone base wall was reconstructed. As a proof of war there can be still found holes from shots on the boards. Out of the mobiliar only the painting of The Last Judgement has been restored. Other elements are extremely damaged.

Suggested measures: Mobiliar should be restored and replace the present one. Inappropriate fence should be replaced by an aesthetically better one.

Description of the photos:

1. view of the church from the south-east
2. view of the church from the east
3. view of the church from the west
4. iconostasis
5. altar
6. zhertvennik

Dobroslava



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3



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5,6

**Frichka /Bardejov/** - church of St. Michael was built in the 18th century and rebuilt in the 19th and the 20th century. It is lemkiian style building which is the westmost of all the lemkiian churches. Three dimension building with rebuilt entry hall is located on the slope of a cemetery in the middle of the village. There is a new stone wall Orthodox Church near this one. The church is enclosed by wooden beam fence, which can be entered through wooden entry gate. The building is dominated by west tower with double onion-like spire. There are only small spires above the nave and sanctuary. A self standing tower whose support encircles women's log room creates store room on its sides. From the entry hall you can get to the women's room and using ladder steps to the tower. Women's room has log ceiling and nave and sanctuary have shallow pyramidal vault. The exterior is covered with shingles and partially with boards. Nave is illuminated by three small windows. The ceiling paintings date back to the 20th century, iconostasis dates back to the 18th and partially the 19th century and altar to the 18th century.

Condition: The church was restored the last time in 1995. Shingle roofing and planking are partially damaged and are covered with moss on the west. Woodworms are present in the interior as well as on the walls, construction of the iconostasis and benches.

Suggested measures: Shingle roofing should be replaced in the near future and conservation of damaged interior log, iconostasis and benches should be made. Store rooms at the sides of women's room should be cleaned. Enclosure should be maintained as well.

Description of the photos:

1. view of the church with the enclosure from the east
2. view of the church from the west
3. iconostasis
4. paintings of the ceiling of the nave
5. altar
6. zhertvennik



Fricka

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**Hrabova Roztoka /Snina/** - Church of Basil The Great was built in the middle of 18th century. The building is situated in the dominant position on the hill above the village next to the cemetery. It is enclosed by a wooden fence with a gate. Three dimension of floor pan is covered with a big valbian roof with overhang of the perimeter log walls which are planked in the exterior. The exterior is planked as well. The church is directly entered to the women's room above which there is a room leading up to the nave. It is accessible by ladder steps. All the ceilings are the same. On the west valbian roof is topped by west tower, built above the women's room and the tower and spire above the sanctuary are topped by onion like spires with well made shingles. The roof is covered with shingles. The nave is not well illuminated by two small windows and the sanctuary has three windows. Iconostasis and altar date back to the building of the church and is only rarely used due to the minimum number of believers in the village.

Condition: The building is in relatively good condition. Only the shingle is a little bit damaged and there is moss appearing. Mobiliar and the interior of the church are in a good condition.

Suggested measures: The shingles and planking should be closely examined. Interior and the fence need basic maintenance. In the case that the church is not used there is a danger of it being devastated.

Description of the photos:

1. church with the landscape background
2. surrounding of the church from the east
3. surrounding of the church from the west
4. view of the nave
5. iconostasis and chandelier of the nave
6. altar

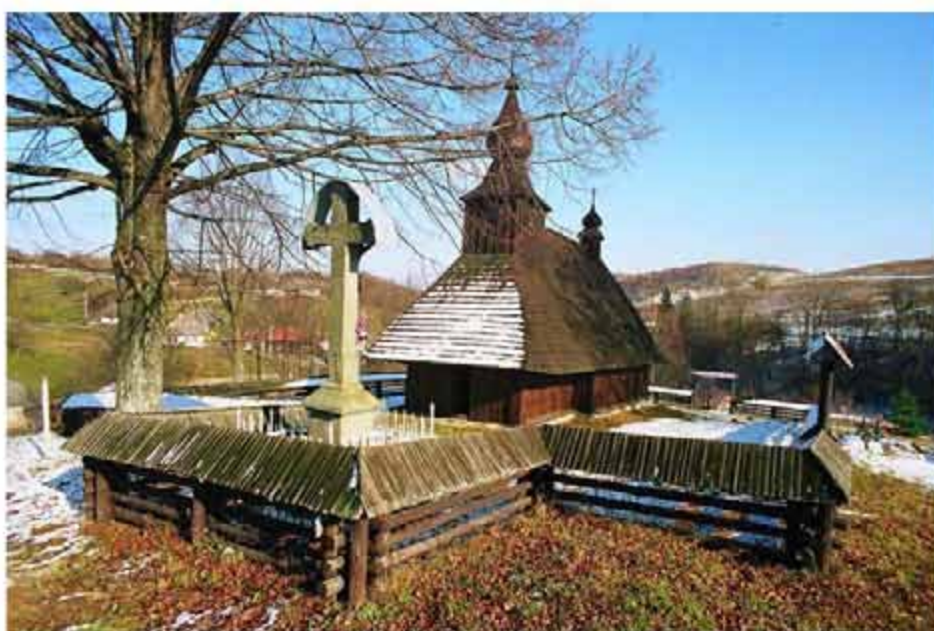
Hrabova  
Roztoka



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**Hunkovce /Svidnik/** – the church of the Mother of God's Death, built at the cemetery situated on the slope at the edge of the village at the end of 18th century. A typical Lemkian building with high onion-like spires over the tripartite type of a building stands on the stone base wall. The floor plan adhering to the grounds is reflected in the turn of the sanctuary towards the nave. A post construction pattern is used in the hall, which is as wide as the nave. The log wall construction of the nave and sanctuary, as well as the whole tower, is covered vertically with boards and battens. The roofs are made of singles. The interior, which has not been completed within the long-term continuing reconstruction, has no facing. Similarly to the sanctuary, two windows light up the nave. There is a wooden mount framing on the windows.

The interior is not furnished. Currently the church does not serve for liturgical purposes, but an exposition of sacral art has been installed there.

Condition: Restoration of the interior without the mobiliar, has not been completed yet. The exterior has been reconstructed and we can state that at the moment it is in good condition unless the object is restored to life. In that case there is a danger of devastation.

Proposal: To complete the interior renovation as soon as possible, and to re-establish the exposition or to re-start at least occasional liturgies.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view on the church from the south
- 2/ view on the church from the north
- 3/ view on the church from the east

Hunkovce



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3

**Inovce /Sobrance/** – the St. Michael's Church, built above one of the villages which lies in the very East of Slovakia in 1836. A small tripartite building is covered by a high hipped roof made of shingles. The tower above the hall ("babinec" – women's section) is put on the log walls. A small tower over the sanctuary is connected to the truss construction. Both are ended with onion-like cupolas. The entrance leads directly to "babinec", which similarly to the nave of a square floor plan and the pointed sanctuary, has a level ceiling. The log walls are not covered with boards. Only two windows in the nave and two windows in the sanctuary light up the interior. The incomplete iconostasis (due to spatial reasons it does not have the south side door) comes from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, similar to the altar.

There is a simple open bell-tower of a square floor plan in the area. The fence enclosing the area of the adjacent cemetery is inconvenient.

The church is used only occasionally due to the lack of parishioners in the village.

Condition: The church was partially restored in the 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the renovation the damaged lowest beams of the log building were replaced. Also the shingles on the roof were replaced. It was seen also to the church interior, so its condition can be evaluated positively, despite of the fact that wood worm was not liquidated completely. Iconostasis, its construction and as well as separate icons need some treatment. While the altar is in a convenient condition, the zhertvennik (sacrificial desk) is damaged and renovation is inevitable. The bell-tower is in a good condition.

Suggested measures: Chemical re-treatment to the beams of the log building is necessary.

Special attention should be paid to the iconostasis and the zhertvennik needs immediate restoration. It is necessary to build a new fence around the entire area but first of all around the church itself.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view on the church from the south
- 2/ view on the church from the north
- 3/ view on the church from the north-east
- 4/ iconostasis
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik



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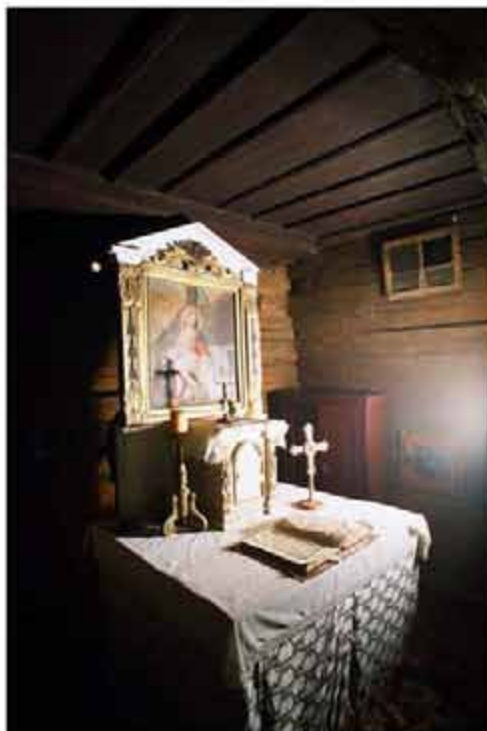


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**Jalova /Snina/** - the St. George's Church built in 1792. The copy built in 2002. The church is situated on the slope above the village, accessible only through private lands. The log building coated with a mud plaster, three rooms covered with a shingles roof following in its perimeter the width of separate parts. There is a narrow hall ("babinec" - women's section) opposite the nave. A post construction of a subtle western tower is created above the hall. A smaller spire is on the roof above the sanctuary. The hall, which is accessible by a new concrete staircase, follows into the nave without a separating wall. The nave is situated on the east of the narrowing sanctuary and separated only by the iconostasis construction. The ceiling over the separate rooms was not completed yet at the end of 2002. The interior furnishings were dismantled and not returned to its original place until now.

Condition: The church was taken to bits and replaced by a copy in the same material. As there were some arguments between the investor and the sights institution during the reconstruction, the work was stopped before completion. Currently, there are only peripheral walls and truss construction including the roofing.

Suggested measures: To complete the construction renovation, see to the dismantled iconostasis, as well as other furnishings, and set them to their original places. To cultivate the paths of access and the immediate church surroundings within the construction work.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ placement of the church above the village
- 2/ view on the church from the west
- 3/ view from the unfinished church



Jalova

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3

**Jedlinka /Barejov/** - the Mother of God's Church built on a cemetery in the middle of the village in 1763. It is situated near a stream which can in case of a higher level of water endanger the church. The church is separated from gardens by a wire netting fence. The typical tripartite design is enriched by a space behind the door from which a ladder steps lead to a spire with a conspicuous bell-room. A post construction is partially situated to the hall ("babinec" – women's section) and partially in the place behind the door. The hall is as wide as the nave. The hall, nave and sanctuary have huge log walls, covered with boards mainly from the exterior. A shingle roof, gradually increasing in size to the west, is divided into a tower part, truss part of a pyramid shape and another pyramid over the sanctuary. The roof culminates with onion-like cupolas with metal crosses. The hall has a level ceiling. Both the nave and the sanctuary have a pyramid shape vaulted ceiling. The rooms are illuminated from the south, the sanctuary from the south and east.

One of the most valuable baroque iconostasis and other furnishings, including the chandelier on the supporting beam with carving decoration, are situated in the church. We can find icons and parts of furnishings from an older building on the western wall of the nave over the connection with the hall.

**Condition:** In 2001 and 2002 the church was completely reconstructed, including the static failures on southern wall of the nave and the vaulted ceiling of the sanctuary near the iconostasis. Mains and security equipment were replaced and completed. The recently restored iconostasis, seriously jeopardized by static failures, was dismantled and re-treated. The fence was not restored nor the access road which is sometimes flooded with water.

**Suggested measures:** As the building is in good condition at the present, it is necessary to pay attention to cultivation of its surroundings, to replace the fence and to make the road firmer.

**Description of the photos:**

- 1/ view on the church from the south
- 2/ view on the church from the east
- 3/ the entrance door to the hall
- 4/ the iconostasis
- 5/ the vaulted ceiling in the nave
- 6/ view on "empora"
- 7/ altar
- 8/ the icon of the Mother of God



Jedlinka

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3,4



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7,8

**Kalna Roztoka /Snina/** - the St.Basil's Church built on the hill above the village at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The church together with a wooden bell-tower form a conspicuous dominant of the country. The tripartite log building coated with mud is covered by a shingle roof which follows the peripheral walls by its extension. A quite sizeable post construction of the tower with a pyramid shape roof following into a baroque cupola is built over the log walls of the hall. A metal cross was set on the roof above the sanctuary. The hall has a level ceiling. There are ladder steps leading into the tower. A wider nave is diagonally connected with the sanctuary. These rooms have level ceilings they are plastered, with the exception of the hall covered with boards. In the tower there is an "empora" room visually connected with the nave. The rooms of the nave and sanctuary are quite well lighted up by windows from the south and north sides and in the sanctuary also from the east.

Furnishings are baroque with the exception of new pews. An old Tzar gate is placed on a wall of the sanctuary.

A low bell-tower with a post construction has a hipped roof with shingles, which is open in the upper part in order to allow good bell audibility. The area is surrounded by a wooden beam fence with shingle roof and accessible through gates.

Condition: The mud coat has recently been restored from both inside and outside. Despite of that, there appear spots caused by the damp parts of the log building. Shingle roofing is damaged very much and there is a danger of leaking. The interior is in good condition, as well as the restored iconostasis, altar and zhertvennik.

The bell-tower is in good condition, but the fence with gates shows a local damage of shingles and beams.

Suggested measures: To replace the damp plaster. To check the roofing, complete it locally or replace it by new roofing. The tower building and truss will need some attention during the roofing replacement. The fence enclosing the church area will have to be treated.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ overall view on the area
- 2/ view on the church from the east
- 3/ view on the church from the west
- 4/ view into the nave with iconostasis
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik

Kalna  
Roztoka



1



2,3



Kalna  
Roztoka



4



5,6

**Korejovce /Svidnik/** - the Mother of God's the Protector built at a cemetery on a sheer slope above the village in 1730. The area surrounded by an inconvenient fence contains a simple wooden bell-tower. The tripartite design is accentuated by a truss construction with a dominant west tower. From the interior there are two rooms with added place behind the door, accessible by several steps. The log walls in the hall ("babinec"-women's section) and the nave are of the same width and these rooms are separated from one another only by a different type of ceiling. The ceiling over the hall is level, while the ceiling over the nave is of a cut pyramid shape. There is a trough-shaped ceiling in the sanctuary situated opposite the nave, narrower in a floor plan. The log walls of the church are covered with boards, similar to the post construction of a tower with a pseudo-room, which is built on the log walls. The hipped roofs of the tower and the sanctuary are made of shingles and topped by onion-like copulas of nearly the same size. The nave is lighted up from the north, the south, sanctuary from the south and east.

Regarding the space of this small building, the furnishings consist of an incomplete iconostasis (without one basic icon), altar and zhertvennik, which are of the baroque style.

The bell-tower is of a post design. It was built in the south-west of the church over the slope and comes from the 40s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is covered with boards and the roof is a hipped one.

Condition: The church and the bell-tower were completely restored in 2002, when the roofing, boards, floors and mains were replaced. At the same time a stone base wall was renovated and a new lightning conductor set. The entire furnishings were restored.

Suggested measures: As the buildings were restored, it is necessary to pay attention to the fence and paths to the church and the bell-tower. The bridge over the stream needs fixing as it leads to the path to the church.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view on the church from the west
- 2/ view on the church from the north
- 3/ view on the church from the east
- 4/ bell-tower near the church
- 5/ altar
- 6/ iconostasis



Korejovce

1,2



3



Korejovce

4,5



6

**Kozhany /Bardejov/** - the Church of the Lord's Meeting with Simeon built in 1698. It is built at the cemetery on a slope above the village. Concerning its abundant interior decoration, it represents one of the most valuable buildings among wooden churches in Eastern Slovakia. A post construction of the tower with a belfry and a pyramid is situated before the two parts of the nave and a narrower sanctuary with a level closure. The tower is accessible by ladder steps. The shingle roofs are hipped. The building is covered with boards. The vaulting of the nave and the tower are in the shape of a cut double pyramid. A narrow "empora" is placed on the west wall. The nave gets light from the pairs of windows from the south and north. Windows from the south and east illuminate the nave.

The walls of the nave and sanctuary, as well as the vaulted ceiling, are decorated by wall paintings from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The rich mobiliar is of the baroque style. Iconostasis in Kozhany does not have one side door. A picture of the Last Judgement hangs upon a wall in the nave.

There is a cemetery with huge trees around the church.

Condition: Facing and log walls including the post construction show a certain extent of damage caused by wood worms. There is a danger of leaking because of the ruined shingle roofing. Further, the roof is covered with moss. Thick tops of trees above the church assist the high dampness of the roofing. The interior, the wall paintings of which were renovated more than 30 years ago, is in a quite good condition. Certain damage can be observed only on the iconostasis and some icons.

Suggested measures: It is necessary to replace the shingle roofing and see to the worms-ridden wooden elements in the interests of the interior decoration protection. The icons and iconostasis will need restoration. Attention should be paid to trimming the tops of trees near the church.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view on the church from the north-west
- 2/ view on the church from the north-east
- 3/ southern wall of the nave
- 4/ view on the Mother of God the Protector
- 5/ view into the nave with iconostasis
- 6/ empora and the vaulted ceiling in the nave
- 7/ altar
- 8/ zhertvennik



1



2



3,4



5



6



7,8



**Krajne Chierno /Svidnik/** - the Church of St. Basil the Great built on a slope above the village in 1730. It is a quite atypical building showing some archaic patterns. The tripartite log construction has a boarded place behind the door along the entire width of the western front. The hall ("babinec" – women's section) and the nave have the same width and are optically divided by different ceilings. The sanctuary is sizeably narrower with a flat closure. The beam ceiling over the hall carries the post construction of a gradually narrowing tower. The nave and the sanctuary have pyramid vaulted ceilings. The back of the church is covered with shingles. The tower is covered with planks. The hipped roof over the nave and the sanctuary and the roof of the tower are topped not by onion-like cupolas but by cones. The nave gets light from a pair of windows from the south. The sanctuary has three little windows.

The furnishings are of the Baroque style. There are several free icons. The iconostasis have been, though not completely yet, restored.

The church area is enclosed by a wooden beam fence. The fence has an entrance gate roofed in a similar way as the roof of the church.

Condition: The church was reconstructed in 2001 and 2002. During the restoration, the plaster and shingle roofing were replaced. Restoration of the furnishings began, but is not completed yet. Condition of the church and the entrance gate is good. The fence around the church will demand for some preservation work.

Suggested measures: First of all, it is necessary to complete the restoration of the iconostasis construction. The slightly damaged fence will need some preservation. The access road is, due to rain, often washed away and will have to be made firmer in compliance with the wooden architecture.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ overall view on the church area
- 2/ view on the church from the north
- 3/ view on the church from the east
- 4/ view on the incomplete iconostasis
- 5/ icon of the Christ from the iconostasis
- 6/ altar



1



2



3



4



5,6

**Krive /Bardejov/** - the church of St. Luke was built in 1826 in the cemetery area up the slope over the village. It is much larger than other churches, however the expressive means are not the ones of that strong architecture. The twopartite log building consisting of prolonged nave and polygonal sanctuary is on the west topped by the tower of frame construction. The latter being surrounded by the room serving as a hall in other churches. The entrance room is planked while the nave and sanctuary are shingled. The whole church is covered by the simple shingle roof and is topped by the west onion-like spire. Metal cross is above the sanctuary. The nave is straight, the sanctuary is beam ceiled. Empora in the nave is formed by the Deesis row dating back to the original iconostasis. Three windows light up the nave and sanctuary as well.

18<sup>th</sup> century iconostasis is enlarged by several older unique icons. Cemetery area is fenced by badly damaged wire-netting. Entrance communication is kept up in a bad condition.

Condition/State: While the log has been infected by wood damaging insects merely partly, shingling and panelling are explicitly passing away. There is a threat of continuous leaking. Unique icons from 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries situated on the nave walls are damaged as well. Non-esthetical fencing is out of order, entrance communication is covered by water running from the cemetery.

Suggested measures: The parts of the wall-wooden construction and the spire infected by re-active wood damaging insects should be treated chemically. Get ready for a complete exchange of shingling and wainscoting of the nave and sanctuary. Free icons restoration and iconostasis as well as empora treatment is needed.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view of the church from the north
- 2/ view of the church from the west
- 3/ view of the empora
- 4/ iconostasis
- 5/ the Royal Dood detail
- 6/ altar

Krive



1



2,3



4



5



6

**Ladomirova /Svidnik/** - the church of St. Michael was built in 1742 within the cemetery area in the village suburb. It is considered to be one of the most unique churches of the Lemkian type. Wooden frame belfry and log fencing along with an entrance gate are present. The church tripartite consists of the square-like floor plan – the largest nave and the smallest hall situated in “under roof” space. The planked backdoor surrounding the frame construction of the tower and the hall from three sides is on the west. Gradual ceiling of individual rooms levelling up towards the west spire is decorated by extremely rich Baroque cupolas. The roof is shingled, log and belfry panelling is planked. The women’s section /the hall/ is straight, the nave is octogonally vault-shaped, the sanctuary is shaped by a cut cone. Empora is reachable by ladder-like stairs. The nave is lightened by two couples of windows situated on the northern and southern wall, the sanctuary by three windows.

Interior is characteristic for its Baroque features. Iconostasis was damaged by the 20<sup>th</sup> century fire. Icons on the wall come from the same period.

Condition: The log construction, tower pillars and belfry are infected by wood damaging insects. Shingled roofing is continuously passing away and soon leaking is probable. Planked packing is bad letting snow and rain run through the backdoor. Nets are gone. Iconostasis has been restored and is now in a good condition. Re-activity of wood damaging insects cannot be excluded. Wooden fence and gate suffer from the weather changes.

Suggested measures: In close future complete and change the shingled roof over the whole area. Locally fix the church planking. Fix the nets and signal system. Examine the iconostasis condition and slowly end up free icons restoration.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view of the area from the west
- 2/ view of the church from the west
- 3/ iconostasis - icon of St. Michael
- 4/ altar
- 5/ zhertvennik



1



2





3



4,5

**Lukov – Venecia /Bardejov/** - the church of St. Cosmas and Damian was built in 1709 on the slope of the hill above the cemetery and the village. The church of newer lengthwise type rests on a massive stone base wall levelling the slope. A small cellar is situated under the sanctuary. West tower is situated not above but in front of the hall, thus giving rise to four rooms added by roofed porch space on the sides of the hall and nave. Frame construction tower is explicitly added to the nave substance. It is visible mostly on the prolonged ridge roof changing into a hipped one over the nave to change back into the ridge above the sanctuary. The nave and tower roofs are topped by conical spires, one may find onion-like shape above the sanctuary. The roof itself is shingled, the log is planked. The hall as well as sanctuary are beam ceiled, the nave is pyramid-like vault-shaped. Empora is reachable by ladder-like stairs. The nave is lightened by a couple of windows, the sanctuary by three windows.

Condition: Re-appearing of wood damaging insects represents the most serious problem. Such a spread might cause the church destruction. Wooden substance of the log and the movables are also in a bad condition, infected in a same way. The nave window packing is getting worse, in some parts even planking leaking is visible. Cracks on a frame construction of the tower are the problem as well. Shingle is moss-grown and soon raining water may be leaking. Iconostasis as well as individual icons are in a very bad state, paintings are falling apart, wood-carving decoration is cracking.

Suggested measures: Liquidate the wood damaging insects as soon as possible, chemically treat the whole building and its movables. Locally fix the wainscoting and shingle covering, get ready for its change. Examine the nets, pack the window holes. Judge the tower and roof from the statics point of view. Start to restore the iconostasis, icons and other church equipment.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ the church situated on the slope above the village
- 2/ view of the church from the west
- 3/ iconostasis
- 4/ nave vault
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik



1



2,3



Lukov

4



5



6

**Mirola /Svidnik/** - the church of Mother of God Protection was built in 1770 on the slope of the hill above the pond in the cemetery area. The building itself represents the Lemkian type, and is encircled by huge trees. Wooden polygonal gate is situated on the road in front of the church. The log has two rooms – the nave and the sanctuary, along with the tower of frame construction. Having planked all three rooms the building got optically united on the wall level. On the other side dynamics and charm emphasized by onion-like cupolas were gained by gradual roof boundary line between the nave and the sanctuary dominated by the tower. The ladder from the women's part /the hall/ – “under” roof space leads towards the tower; the nave as well as sanctuary are vault-shaped by cut cones. Two couples of windows could be found in the nave and two small windows light up the sanctuary.

Iconostasis and other sanctuary movables date back to the original site. Icons of earlier data may be found in the nave.

Condition: The log construction is damaged, active wood damaging insects is present.

Wainscoting is partly destroyed, not appropriately laid shingle in the hall is moss-grown. Protective chemical coatings got effectless. Wooden floor overlaps in some parts. Iconostasis and sanctuary movables have been restored. Older icons paintings fall apart.

Suggested measures: Detailed analysis of the log construction, partly change or fix damaged beams. The same should be done with the tower. Complete wainscoting and get ready for shingle change. Fix the floors. Wooden construction with active wooden damaging insects presence should be treated chemically. Prepare consecutive icons treatment by restoration.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view of the church from the east
- 2/ view of the church from the west
- 3/ iconostasis
- 4/ altar
- 5/ free icon – The Mother of God's Death
- 6/ zhertvennik



Mirola

1,2



3



4



5,6

**Nizhny Komarnik** (Svidnik) - Church The Protection of the Mother of God was built in the 30s of the 20th century on a hill of the village. It is the only boikian type of building in Slovakia, realised by the layout of the building designed by architect SiĀĀynsky. Except classical three dimensions and dominating nave it bears the marks of its origin for example big windows with not typical shape and modernised iconostasis. The church is entered through wooden porticoes with wooden carved pillar. Womenâ€™s log room, the widest nave and the sanctuary are of rectangular floor plan and are vaulted with polygonally rising pyramidal cupolas, which are topped by cylindrical small roofs. The log construction of all three rooms is planked above the small roof in the place under the window ledge. The roof is covered with shingles, but tinplate can be found on the top of the spires. In some parts the exterior is covered with colour paint. The interior is well illuminated and the mobiliar dates back to the building of the church. Belfry with rectangular floor plan is covered with the same roof as can be seen on the church and it is situated next to the church.

Condition: Woodworms are active in interior and exterior. Planking and shingle roof is too old and about to start to leak in near future. There were signs of leaks in the past in the interior. Belfry is in the same condition. Fence is absolutely inappropriate from the point of architecture of the church.

Suggested measures: Renew stone base wall of the church. Repair the damaged parts of the log planking and shingle roof. Wood of the building and mobiliar must be chemically treated. Renew colour of the original paint. Mobiliar and iconostasis must be cleaned and conserved. More aesthetical fencing should be put or it could be left without any fencing.

Description of the photos:

1. Church
2. view of the church from the west
3. view of the church from the east
4. icononostasis
5. belfry
6. altar



Nizny  
Komarnik



1



2, 3

Nizny  
Komarnik



4



5, 6

**Potoky /Stropkov/** - Church of St. Paraskevy, dated back to 1773, was built with stone fencing on a hill of the village next to a cemetery. It is a classical lemkiian type of a building. There is a big belfry in front of west part of the church. Log construction, which is planked in exterior, creates three dimension room. Women's log room is joined with the nave on the place of east wall. Huge west tower with frame construction is rising above the women's log room and it covers women's log room in the way that it creates planked entrance and store room on the south and north wall of the women's log room, which has beam ceiling. Sanctuary is vaulted with pyramidal cuts. Shingle roofs are rising to the west and are topped with nice onion-like spire with some colour on the lucerne of the tower. The church is very poorly illuminated just with two windows in the nave and two in the sanctuary.

There are some bits of paintings in the interior. Mobiliar, iconostasis and altar are baroque dating back to the building of the church. The belfry with rectangular floor plan has hip roof which is planked and covered with shingles.

Condition: Log of the church, its planking and shingle covering are damaged. There are woodworms active in the log and planking and shingles are covered with moss which will result in roof leaking in near future and it may damage roof contraction. The walls are with preserved paintings. Iconostasis is in extremely bad condition. Altar and zhervennik were renewed. Construction of the belfry and its planking is in the same condition. Entrance of the gate and compactness of masonry are extremely damaged.

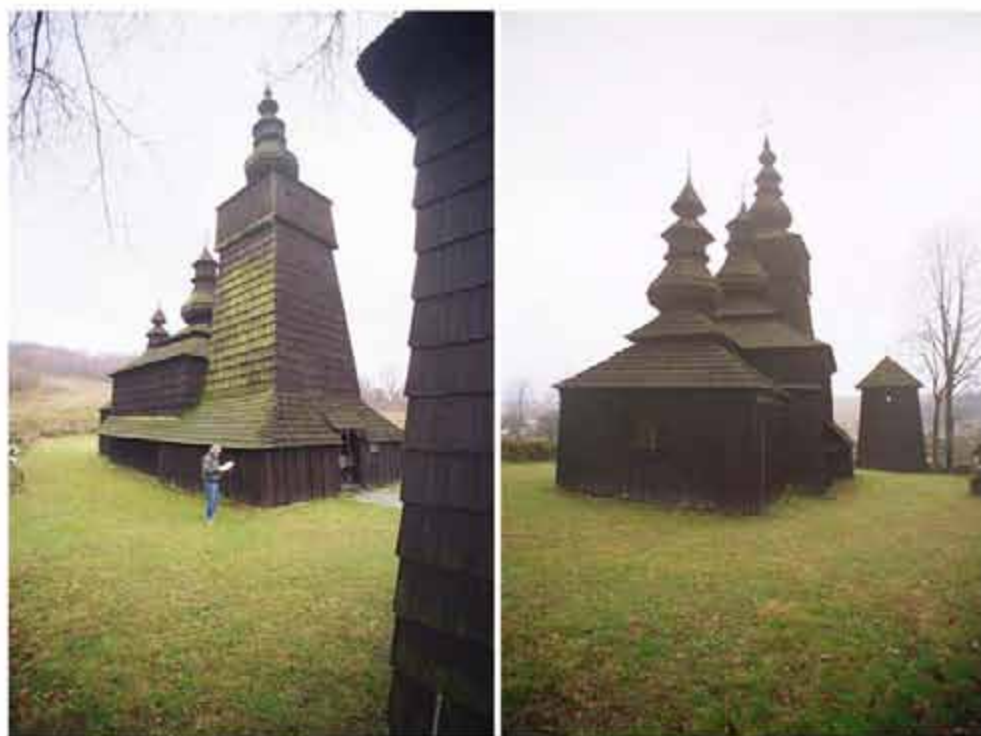
Suggested measures: In a short time shingle must be removed, wood must be chemically treated or in some parts the wood or planking replaced. The frame contraction must be treated in the same way. The same work must be done in the tower. Iconostasis must be urgently restored. Stone base wall needs new masonry. Stone fencing needs to be renewed and restored to its original look. Entrance gate needs to be rebuilt.

Description of the photos:

1. view of the church and the belfry from the east
2. view of the church from the west
3. view of the church from the south-west
4. ikonostasis
5. altar
6. zhertvennik



1



2, 3



4



5, 6

**Prikra /Svidnik/** - the church of St. Michael was built in 1777 above the village in the cemetery area. It represents the Lemkian type without more remarkable Baroque features. The log has two rooms – the nave and sanctuary. Frame construction tower encircled by the hall in the nave-like width is situated on the west and optically completes the log construction. They are planked together. On the west upgrading hipped roof is shingled and topped by a small onion-like spire with non-genuine room. The nave as well as sanctuary are lighted by two small windows. After empora reconstruction, only beam remains preserved. The movables have Baroque features dating back to the original site and are added by several extra unique icons, presently kept out of the building. Fencing does not correspond to the church value. It looks like a temporary one.

Condition: The church was restored in 2001-02. Building case and its covering were changed. At the same time the log beams and spire construction were conserved. Nevertheless wood damaging insects has reactivated in some parts of the nave. Iconostasis and the sanctuary movables have been mended and thus they are in a good condition. Fencing and entrance communication have not been fixed and are in a bad condition.

Suggested measures: Examine wood damaging insects occurrence, treat damaged parts chemically. Change the existing fence by the more aesthetical one and fix the entrance communication.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view of the church from the south-east
- 2/ view of the church from the north-east
- 3/ view of the church from the north
- 4/ iconostasis
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik

Prikra



1, 2



3



4



5, 6



**Ruska Bystra /Sobrance/** - the church of St. Nicholas was built in 1720 on the slope over the village in the middle of nice thicket. The log tripartite is covered by a simple shingled roof thus copying the walls. West part is dominated by frame construction tower spreading out of the women's part /the hall/. The tower is topped by a Baroque onion-like cupola, a small spire is situated above the sanctuary as well. Generally, the church seems not to be proportional. The hall roof overlaps the walls and creates under-roof space supported by pillars. The hall is directly connected to the nave. On the left side one may find ladder-like stairs leading towards the tower and consequently towards the nave empora. All ceilings are straight. The sanctuary is ended polygonally and is as wide as the nave. The movables dating back to the original site have Baroque features.

Condition: The church itself is in a quite good condition. Wood damaging insects appears locally, especially within the tower and roof construction. Shingle covering has been changed, considerable damages are not visible. The movables were restored at the beginning of 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Suggested measures: Parts infected by wood damaging insects should be treated chemically.  
Watch the condition of covering.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view of the church on the hill
- 2/ view of the church from the south
- 3/ view from the west
- 4/ view of the nave and iconostasis
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik



Ruska  
Bystra

1



2, 3



Ruska  
Bystra

4



5, 6

**Shemetkovce** (Svidnik) – the St. Michael's Church built in 1752. It was built on the hill above the village from which it is separated by trees. It is situated in the centre of the area consisting of the bell tower and a three-gate fence. The tripartite log room has in the hall of the same width as the nave a post construction of a tower. The nave is not separated from the hall, and it has, similarly to the sanctuary of the square floor plan, a hipped vaulted ceiling which gradually increases in size. The hall is of level view from below. An unusually long line western spire with an onion-dome ended by a colourful cupola dominates the exterior. The hipped roofs of the nave and sanctuary culminate with colourful cupolas with little conical roofs. The log walls are covered vertically with boards and battens. The roof is made of shingles. Two pairs of windows illuminate the nave while two windows illuminate the sanctuary.

Fragments of wall paintings have been preserved in the interior. The baroque mobiliar comes from the period of the church construction. Some valuable icons are older.

The belfry has a post construction covered vertically with boards. It has a hipped roof.

Condition: The building has recently been restored. The planking and roofing material have been patched. Traces of wood worms can be found in the log walls and post construction of the nave.

The wall paintings and mobiliar are in a very bad condition. Wood worms are in the wood. The paintings are pulverizing and falling off.

Neither the belfry nor the fence has been restored. This is reflected mainly in the condition of the shingle roof.

Suggested measures: To treat chemically the worm-ridden log building and the mobiliar.

Consequently, start preservation of the wall paintings fragment and restoration of the mobiliar. Then restore the bell room and the fence.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view on the church from the north
- 2/ view on the church from the north-west
- 3/ icon of St. Nicolaus and the Mother of God
- 4/ iconostasis
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik



1



3, 4



4



5, 6

**Shmigovec /Snina/-** The church of The Assumption of the Lord, dated from 1894, is built on a small hill in the middle of a cemetery close to a stream. Three dimension log has polygonal sanctuary nearly as wide as the nave. There is frame construction of a small tower which is only a little bit higher than a the top of the roof right above the women's log room directly joined with the nave on the whole side of the east wall. Hip roof tower with onion like spire is covered with tinplate. The church is planked with boards in the exterior and in the interior it is plastered. The ceilings are flat. Empora is accessible by ladder steps on the west side of the nave and from there one can get to the roof. Floor is concrete. Nave and sanctuary are illuminated by two windows. Mobiliar dates back to the time of building of the church. The church is fenced by a damaged wire fence. There is a cross on the path to the church.

Condition: After building a new church this one is rarely used and it is quite damaged.

Tinplate is already leaking in several places. The worst leaks are on the place where nave joints women's log room. So the interior plaster and log construction are extremely damaged close to the leaks and even there are visible some destructions of the parts of the walls. Woodworms are active. The place around the walls is stuffed up, what causes dampness and crumbling of log construction. The dampness is made worse by concrete floor. The dampness is reflected on the mobiliar, namely paintings and icons are endangered and it helps woodworms to spread. The surrounding of the church is only sporadically taken after. The fence does not exist and the path is damaged by rainwater.

Suggested measures: Roof covering should be replaced with shingle roof. Roof construction should be treated and repaired. The same thing must be done with the log construction of the wall. Wet plaster must be removed from interior and replaced by new ones but only after the wood is dry. The concrete must be removed. After the building construction has been treated mobiliar can be restored and surrounding treated.

Description of the photos:

1. view of the church from the path
2. view of the church from the south
3. view of the church from the north-east
4. iconostasis
5. altar
6. zhervennik

Smigovec



1



2



3





4



5, 6

**Topola /Snina/** - church of St. Michael, dates back to about 1700. It is built in the middle of a cemetery on a small hill in the village. Three dimension building with polygonal sanctuary is covered with huge shingle roof without plane roof with only a small spire above the women's log room topped by hip roof and onion-like spire. Extremely impressive roof

overhangs perimeter walls of the building and creates quite wide place under it on its perimeter. Roof construction is supported by beams on its perimeter. Women's log room is with rectangular floor plan. Women's log room has flat ceiling but nave is vaulted with not typically vaulted vault for wooden churches. There is shallow casket ceiling respecting polygonal floor plan. Empora with banister is situated on the west side of the nave. Extremely valuable deesis is accessible by ladder steps. Interior of the nave is illuminated by four small windows on the south side and sanctuary is illuminated by three small windows. Mobiliar dates back to the time of church building but there are some older icons on the walls of the nave. Surrounding of the church is decorated by very small belfry covered with hip shingle roof. It is not fenced and only a little maintained.

Condition: The church is in a very bad condition as a result of being only rarely used due to the building of a new one. Huge roof is supported by temporary pillars - beams which show signs of static and wood harmful insect damage. Roofing is rotting and there is a danger of leaking. Mobiliar has probably never been renewed since its existence except unsuitable repainting. Woodworms are damaging construction of iconostas and altar. The paint is peeling off. The icons that can be found in the nave and some older ones also show signs of damage.

The church and the belfry are in the same condition. The whole building bears the marks of being neglected.

Suggested measures: Static of the building must be examined and consequently repairs of the log and roof construction could start. Roofing must be removed. Frame construction, which is on the perimeter of the building, must be refined. Wood must be chemically treated. Then altar iconostasis and zhetrvennik can be restored and conserved. Mobiliar and valuable banister is needed to be restored as well. The belfry needs to have roofing replaced and construction must be examined.

Description of the photos:

1. view of the church from the west
2. view of the church from the north-east
3. view of the church from the south
4. iconostasis
5. empora
6. zhetrvennik

Topola

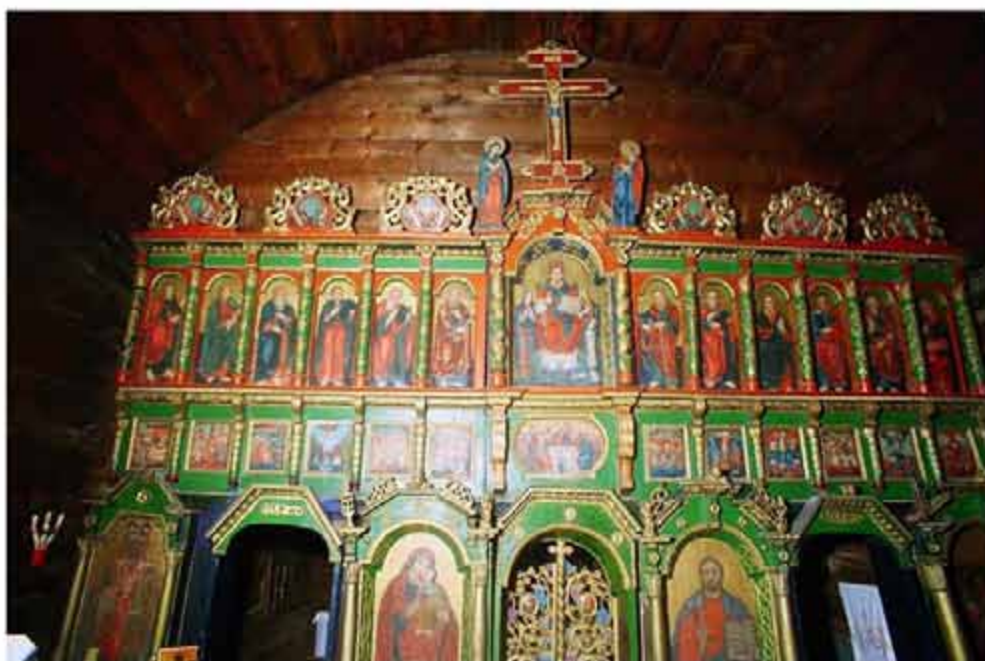


1, 2



3

Topola



4



5, 6

**Trochany /Bardejov/** - the church of St. Luke was built in 1739, probably even earlier. It is situated in the row houses area. The church has a square tripartite design. On the west it is dominated by the tower running by its frame construction towards the space in front of the hall. Lower roof is broadened, the tower is narrowed and its pillars situated off the hall form the an open under-roof space. The nave is topped by the log roof in a shape of a conical spire. A newer spireless ridge roof is situated above the sanctuary. Exterior is shingled. The hall ceiling is straight, the nave is shaped by a cut cone and sanctuary by half-trough. West wall empora is reachable by ladder-like stairs. The nave and sanctuary are lightened inadequately, only by two windows.

The church iconostasis consists of several gradually added parts – older icons, Deesis row and the unique Royal Door. The nave walls are covered by series of icons and Last Judgement as well.

The area is wire-fenced and is dominated by huge trees.

**Condition:** The log construction is infected by wood damaging insects, individual beams in the sanctuary room are being destroyed and wetted. Exterior as well as roof shingling is moss-grown even covered by metal; possible destruction is visible. Frame construction is reported similar damages. Wooden floor is also weakened. Nets are in order however revision is needed.

The movables including some unique icons are badly damaged, paintings are falling apart, wooden elements are cracked along with visible traces of wooden damaging insects activity. It is inevitable to build a new more aesthetic fence than the present one.

**Suggested measures:** Locally change damaged parts of the log construction, successively chemically treat the log construction. Complete /but minimum locally/ shingling and planking change. Fix the floor. Examine the nets. Get ready for the movables as well as free icons conservation and restoration.

**Description of the photos:**

- 1/ view of the church from the south
- 2/ view of the church from the north-east
- 3/ the nave and iconostasis
- 4/ empora and The Last Judgement
- 5/ altar



1



2



3



4, 5

**Ulichske Krive /Snina/** - the church of St. Michael was built in 1718 in a mild-raised cemetery area above the road in the middle of house-part. The area has a wooden beam fence with a gate around. The log partition along with a polygonal sanctuary is topped by a double shingle roof lacking any height gradation towards the west. However the floor plan gets wider. The roof considerably overlaps the walls and thus creates so called under-roof space that is partly used for sitting. Frame construction onion-like spire spreads out from the west roof. A small roof is situated above the sanctuary as well. The log upper part is shingled, the tower is planked. The ceiling in all rooms is straight, having shallow mirror frame in the nave and sanctuary. West wall emporia that joins the under-roof space above the hall is reachable by the ladder-like stairs. The nave is lighted up by four linked windows on the south, the sanctuary by three small windows. The church contents dating back to the original site is together with several older icons of a high value and quality.

**Condition:** The interior and exterior log construction is infected by wood damaging insects which may cause destruction of recently restored movables. Shingles are damaged locally. On the whole one may say interior is kept in order, nets including. Cemetery area is preserved as well. Wooden fence construction is damaged.

**Suggested measures:** The log construction must be chemically treated, frame construction of the tower must be conserved. Examine the shingles and change the wrong ones. Finish the restoration of solitary icons and zhertvennik. Change damaged fence elements and conserve older preserved beams.

**Description of the photos:**

- 1/ view of the church from the south
- 2/ view of the church from the west
- 3/ view of the nave northern wall
- 4/ view of the nave iconostasis
- 5/ view of the tower inside
- 6/ altar





Ulicske  
Krive

1



2, 3



Ulicske  
Krive

4



5, 6

**Vyshna Polianka** /Bardejov/ - the church of St. Praskev was built in 1919 on the slope over the village house row. The log building itself is not a large one. It consists of a small backdoor, nave and partly prolonged sanctuary. It rests on a stone base wall which levels the terrain. One may reach it by stone stair-like steps. Upper ridge roof above the nave is linked with lower one above the sanctuary and is topped by the small west tower cover by hipped roof. Wainscoting is shingled. Room ceilings are planked. The nave is lighted up by two windows, the sanctuary only by one. The movables date back to the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century and are not of a big value. Entrance communication along with the surroundings are kept in a very good order.

Suggested measures: Soon change the covering and thus prevent the building from leaking. Damaged parts of the roof construction must be treated locally.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view of the church from the west
- 2/ view of the church from the north
- 3/ view of the nave iconostasis
- 4/ altar

Vysna  
Polianka



1



2



Vysna  
Polianka

3



4

**Vyshny Komarnik /Svidnik/** - the Church of St. Cosma and Damian built at a cemetery quite far from other buildings in the village in 1924. The younger architecture without a type classification is a classical tripartite log building with a longitudinal nave. There is a western tower topped by an onion-like cupola over the nave. Smaller towers with hipped tin roofs are situated above the nave and sanctuary. The rest of the roof is made of shingles. The exterior is covered with boards. The hall ("babinec" – women's section) has a level ceiling and up the ladder steps you can get into the tower. The vaulted ceilings in the nave and sanctuary are of stars shape. The interior is lighted up from big semicircular windows which are not characteristic for wooden buildings of Eastern liturgy. The mobiliar from the period of the church construction is of average quality of Western character of paintings and Baroque carved decorations. The fence is in a very bad condition.

Condition: The church is in a quite good condition but mainly the wooden planking of the walls is worm- ridden. First indications of damage can be seen also on the roofing. The mobiliar with the exception of the zhertvennik are in a good condition.

Suggested measures: It is necessary to treat the places with visible activity of wood worms and to check the condition of the roofing, especially in the places of connection of the roof construction and the tower. The zhertvennik will need restoration. The fence enclosing the church area should be thought over.

Description of the photos:

- 1/ view on the church at a cemetery
- 2/ view on the church from the south
- 3/ view on the church from the east
- 4/ iconostasis
- 5/ altar
- 6/ zhertvennik

Vysny  
Komarnik



1



2, 3



Vysny  
Komarnik

4



5, 6



**TABLET OF ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL CONDITION  
OF WOODEN CHURCHES IN THE YEAR 2002**

	I.	IIA	IIB	IIC	IID	IIE	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC	IIID	+	IVA	IVB	IVC	IVD	+
Bodruzhal	2	3	2	/	2	3	2	2	1	2	<b>2,1</b>	1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
Brezhany	3	2	/	3	1	1	/	2	2	2	<b>2</b>	/	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
Dobroslava	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	<b>1,8</b>	/	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
Frichka	3	3	3	/	1	2	1	2	2	2	<b>2,1</b>	2	3	3	3	<b>2,7</b>
Hrabova Roztoka	2	2	2	/	1	1	2	2	2	2	<b>1,8</b>	/	3	3	/	<b>3</b>
Hunkovce	3	3	2	3	2	3	/	/	/	3	<b>2,7</b>	/	/	/	/	/
Inovce	2	1	/	2	1	1	3	3	3	2	<b>2</b>	/	3	2	4	<b>3</b>
Jalova	/	1	/	1	1	1	1	/	/	1	<b>1</b>	/	/	/	/	/
Jedlinka	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	<b>1,6</b>	/	1	4	3	<b>2,7</b>
Kalna Roztoka	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	<b>2,1</b>	/	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
Korejovce	3	1	1	/	1	1	1	1	1	1	<b>1,2</b>	/	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
Kozhany	3	3	2	/	1	1	2	2	2	2	<b>2</b>	2	2	1	1	<b>2,5</b>
Krajne Chierno	2	1	1	/	1	2	2	2	3	3	<b>1,9</b>	2	1	1	/	<b>1,3</b>
Krive	3	4	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	<b>2,3</b>	2	4	1	3	<b>2,5</b>
Ladomirova	3	4	3	/	1	2	3	3	3	4	<b>2,9</b>	/	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
Lukov-Venecia	4	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	<b>3,2</b>	2	4	2	/	<b>2,7</b>
Miroľa	3	2	2	/	3	2	3	3	3	3	<b>2,5</b>	/	2	4	2	<b>2,7</b>
Nižný Komarnik	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	/	<b>2,8</b>	/	2	2	/	<b>2</b>
Potoky	4	4	4	/	3	3	4	4	4	4	<b>3,7</b>	5	5	1	1	<b>3</b>
Prikra	3	1	1	/	1	1	/	2	2	3	<b>1,7</b>	/	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
Ruska Bystra	4	2	/	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	<b>2,3</b>	/	2	2	1	<b>1,7</b>
Shemetkovce	2	2	1	/	1	1	2	3	3	3	<b>1,9</b>	5	4	4	3	<b>4</b>

	I	IIA	IIB	IIC	IID	IIE	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC	IIID	+	IVA	IVB	IVC	IVD	+
Shmigovec	4	5	5	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	<b>3,9</b>	/	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
Topola	3	4	/	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	<b>2,6</b>	/	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
Trochany	3	4	3	2	3	2	4	4	3	3	<b>3,1</b>	/	4	3	/	<b>3,5</b>
Ulichske Krive	2	3	/	3	1	2	3	2	2	2	<b>2,2</b>	/	1	1	3	<b>1,7</b>
Vyshna Polianka	3	4	3	/	1	2	1	2	1	2	<b>2,1</b>	/	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
Vyshny Komarnik	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	<b>2,1</b>	/	2	2	3	<b>2,3</b>

Based on a comprehensive study, the well-arranged table about the construction and technical state of separate churches and their mobilier (furnishings) divides the churches into three groups according to their restoration urgency. When determining the order of urgency it is necessary to differentiate between the construction type of work, restoration activities and independent activities performed by parishioners themselves (cultivation and preservation of the church surroundings). Despite of financially undemanding character, it is the condition of sights surroundings that seems, in majority of cases, to be the worst (see item I of the form). We will not deal with this area any further as there is the possibility of doing the works ourselves.

In the assessment of the construction and technical state, especially the statics of the object, its roofing material, log construction and the extent of damage caused by dry rot and wood worms have been taken into consideration. Architectural quality, age of the church, state and value of its installations, mainly the iconostasis which is always connected in construction with the building, have been taken as an auxiliary criterion. Sometimes there was not good co-ordination of the renovation procedure in the work done until now. Often bad construction condition has caused danger to the restored mobilier (Bodružal', Lodomírová).

Issuing from the mentioned criteria, we include these churches into the most endangered group in the following order:

Lukov – Venecia – due to the overall bad condition of the building because of re-raid of a dangerous wood dry rot (*Serpula lacrymans*). Also the mobilier is slightly damaged.

Topola - due to the static failure of the truss construction and the overall damage. The church has a great architectural, artistic and historical value.

Bodružal – due to the previous restoration of the mobilier which is endangered by the bad condition of the cover and roofing material. The church belongs among the oldest churches Slovakia.

Potoky – due to the very bad construction and technical condition and the damaged mobilier.

Trochany – as a remarkable building with valuable mobilier in a long-time disregarded bad condition, particularly of the log construction and roofing material in some parts.

Ladomirova – a building of a great architectural value, with restored mobiliar, but damaged roofing material.

The church in Shmigovec should be included into the above-mentioned group because its construction and technical condition is the worst one, unambiguously it is unfit for use. The value of the church and its mobiliar is lower, so the more valuable, though less damaged, churches should be saved first. Also an unused church in Hunkovce, the restoration of which has not been completed, belongs to this group. Even the mobiliar has not been installed.

The second group consists of the churches, not demanding an immediate construction or restoration intervention. They will need more attention and care in the near future – Krive, Kozhany, Frichka, Mirola, Ulichske Krive, Nizhny Komarnik, Brezhany.

Several buildings have undergone huge restoration, though majority of log constructions could not be preserved and integrated consistently. Dobroslava, Hrabova Roztoka, Inovce, Jedlinka, Korejovce, Krajne Chierno belong to this group. Even in some of these cases, restoration of the extensively damaged mobiliar will be inevitable (Shemetkovce, Inovce, Dobroslava).

The statistic table drawn according to the ground formulary, does not give a true picture of separate churches condition, as their architectural and artistic value have not been taken into consideration. Due to the above-mentioned reason the table can serve just for information.

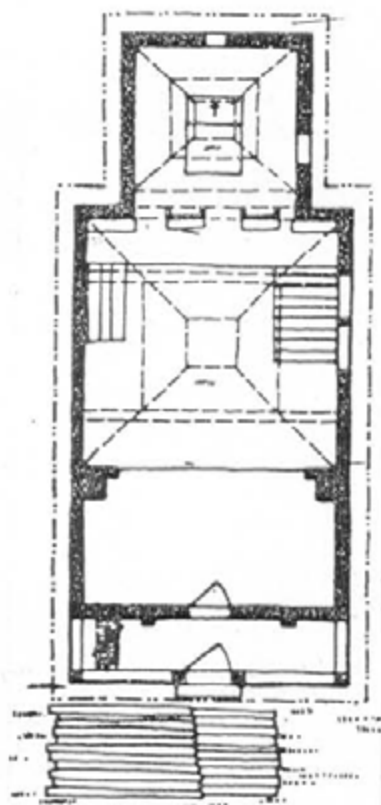
## HUMIDITY OF THE WOOD IN CHURCHES IN THE YEAR 1998 AND 2002 /%/

	1998	2002
Bodruzhal	16	16-17
Brezhany	6-14	18-20
Dobroslava	14-15	13-15
Frichka	12-13	14-19
Hrabova Roztoka	-	14-22
Hunkovce	-	-
Inovce	10-15	13-16
Jalova	-	18-31
Jedlinka	12-16	21
Kalna Roztoka	/objekt in „furcoat“ - covered by plaster/	
Korejovce	14-21	14-15
Kozhany	18	14-17
Krajne Chierno	16-17	17-20
Krive	15-16	20-22
Ladomirova	-	14-17
Lukov	15-16	17-19
Mirola	12-15	16-19
Nižny Komarnik	8-23	12-14
Potoky	9-15	16-19
Prikra	14-17	16-18
Ruska Bystra	17	15-17
Shemetkovce	14	22-25
Shmigovec	-	16-18
Topola	10-14	16-17
Trochany	14-15	18-20
Ulichske Krive	12-14	14-15
Vyshna Polianka	-	16-18
Vyshny Komarnik	-	15-20

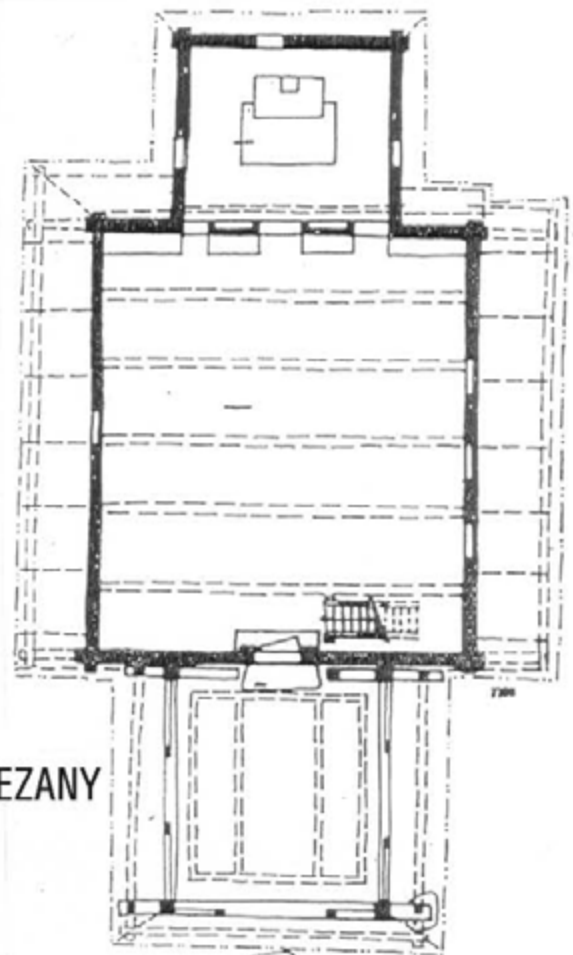
Despite of the limited number of measurement, dampness conditions of wood could be compared with the data on dampness from 1998 collected by the staff of the Monuments Institute. Concerning the different seasons in which the measurements were taken (summer 1998, beginning of winter 2002), the results are not demonstrable. The interesting results can help to assess the condition of churches in the future.

Greek catholic wooden churches are a unique phenomenon of Central European folk architecture, the cultural heritage of remarkable value of notice, as well as a construction and art fund extremely demanding for preservation and responsible approach to their use. Despite of the previous efforts, still there is a huge piece of hard, but wonderful work awaiting the owners and the whole cultural public.

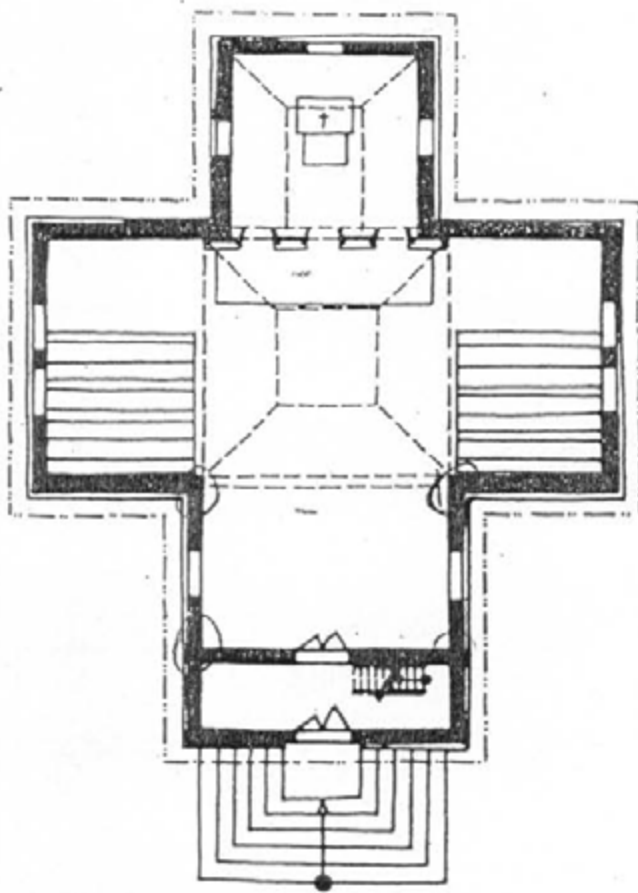
## **GROUND PLANS OF THE CHURCHES**



BODURAZ

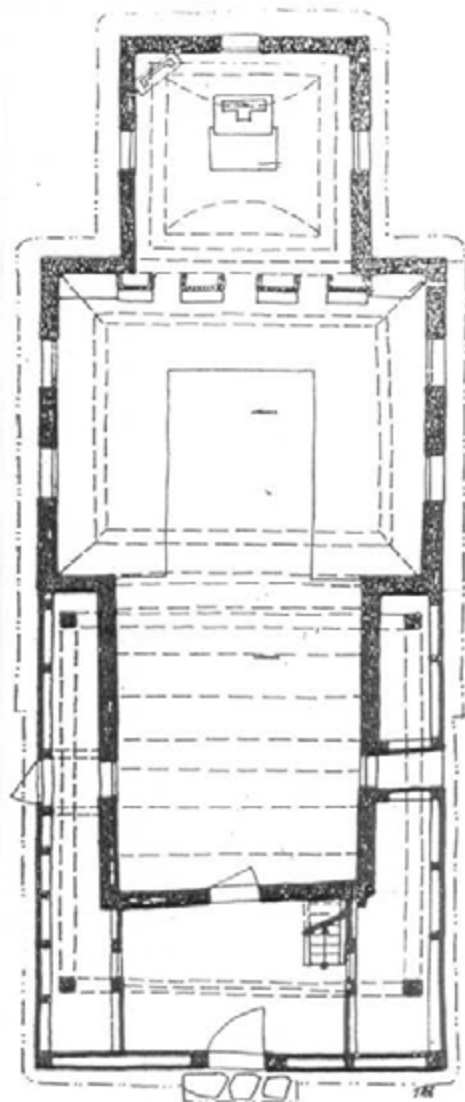


BREZANY



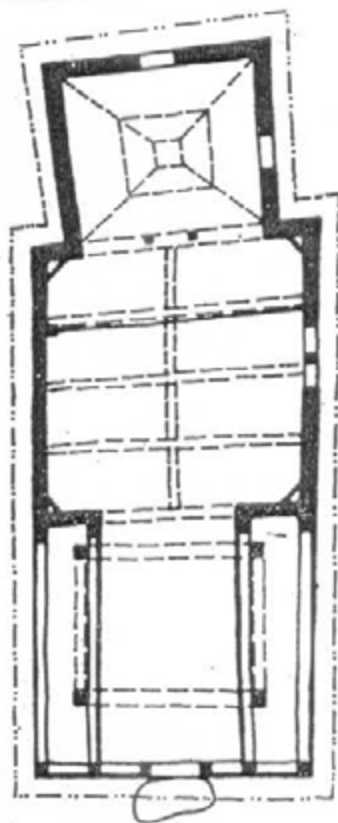
DOBROSLAVA

FRICKA

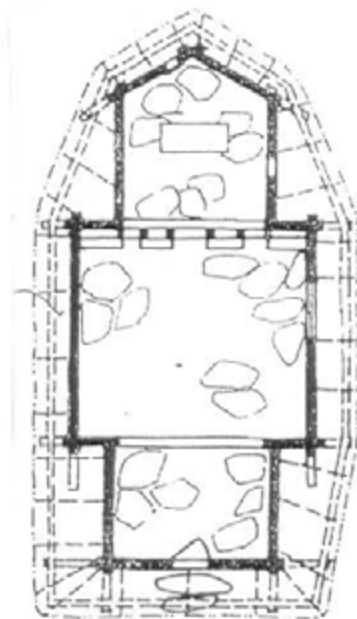




HRABOVA ROZTOKA



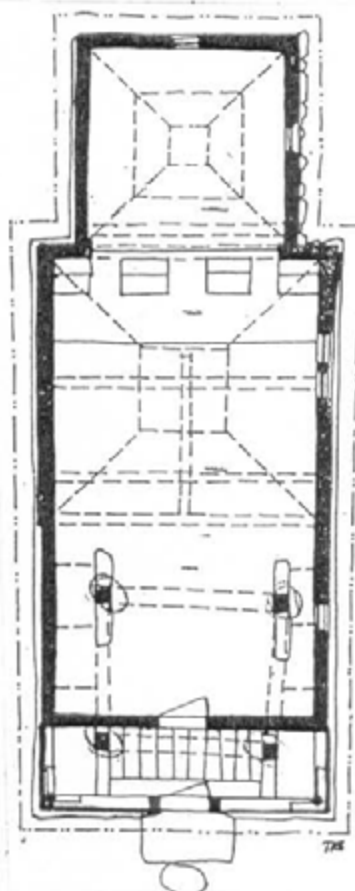
HUNKOVCE



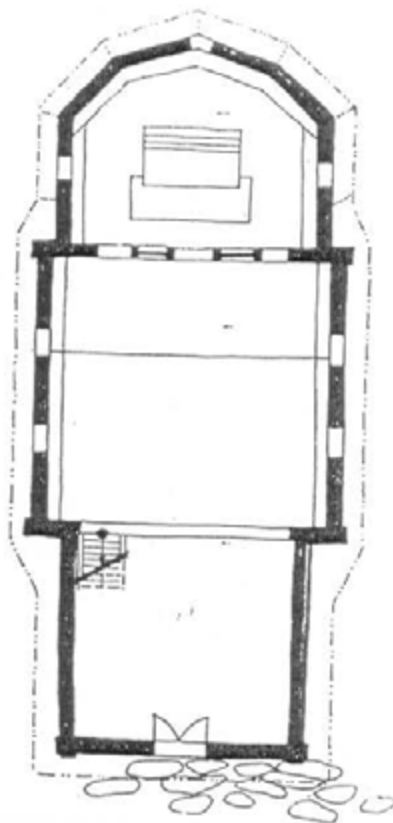
INOVCE



JALOVA

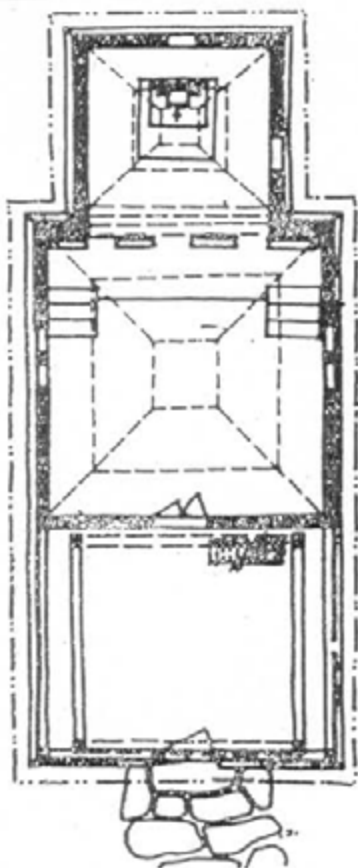


JEDLINKA

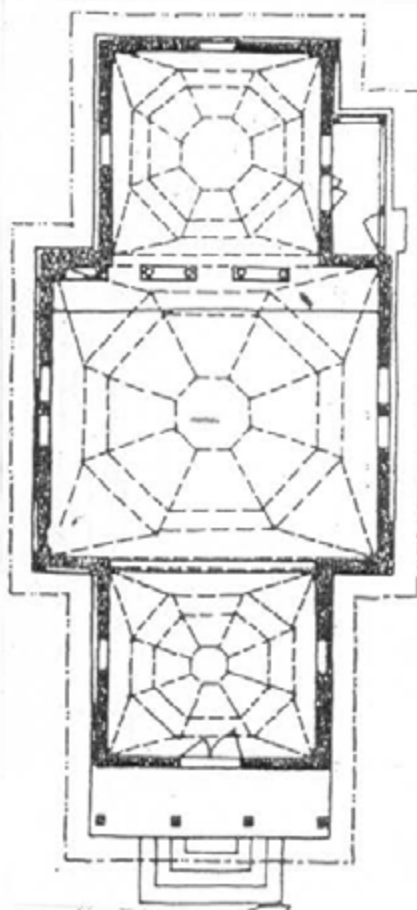


KALNA ROZTOKA

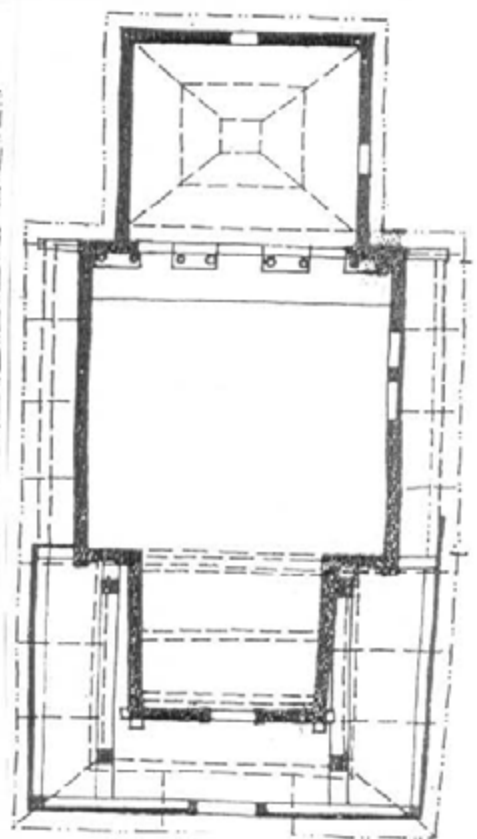




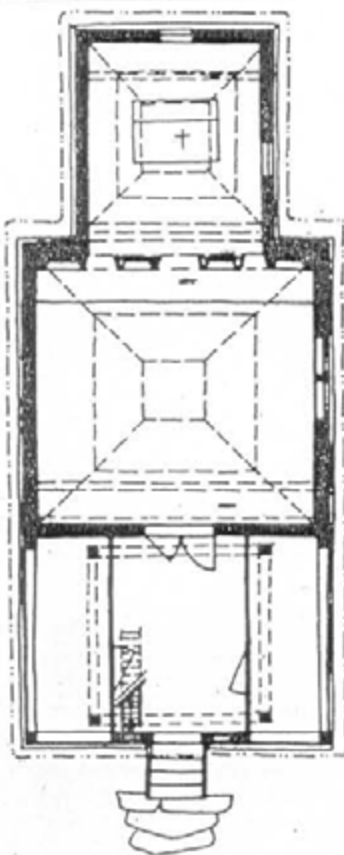
MIROLA



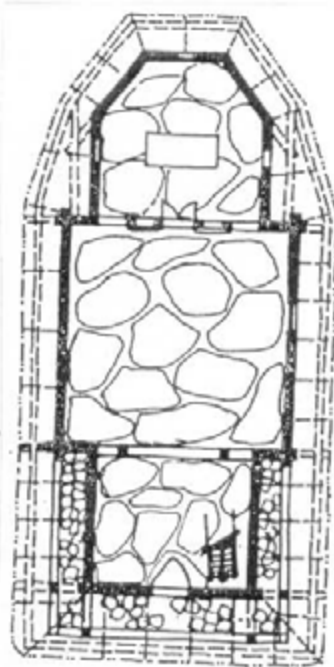
NIZNY KOMARNIK



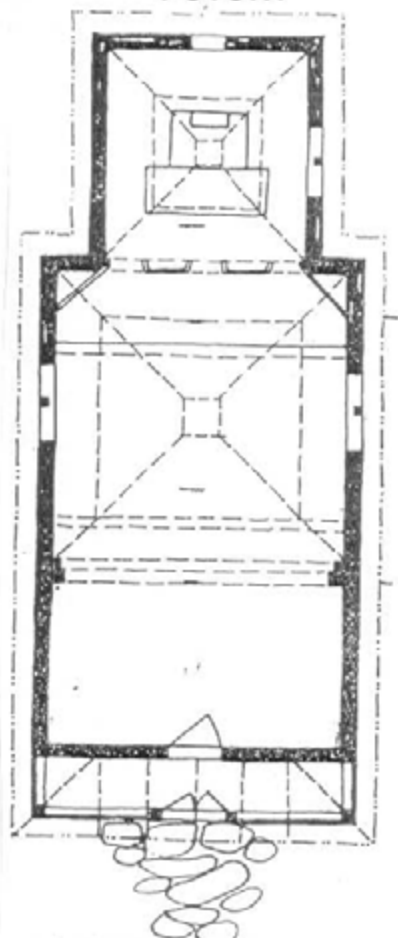
POTOKY



PRIKRA



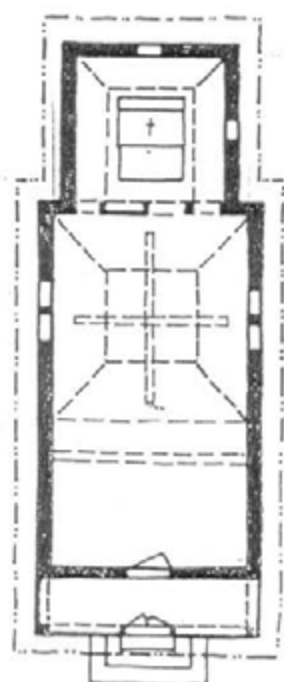
RUSKA BYSTRA



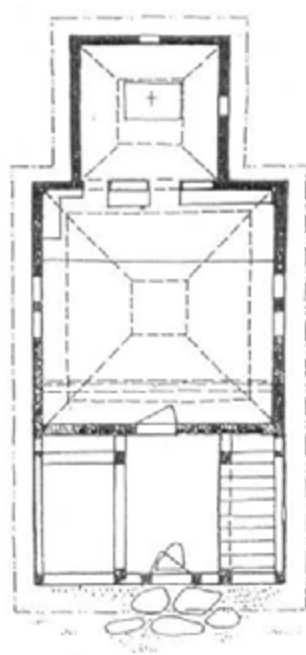
SEMETKOVCE



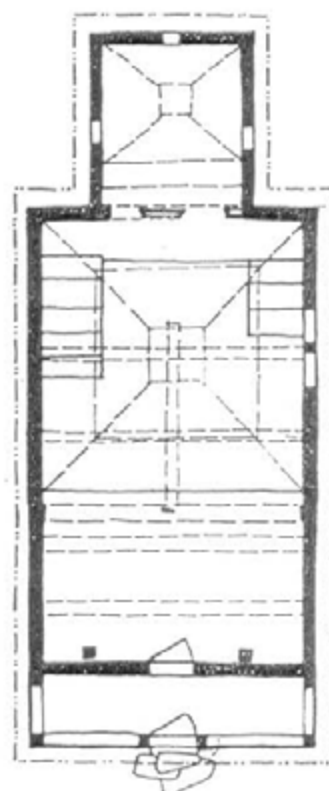




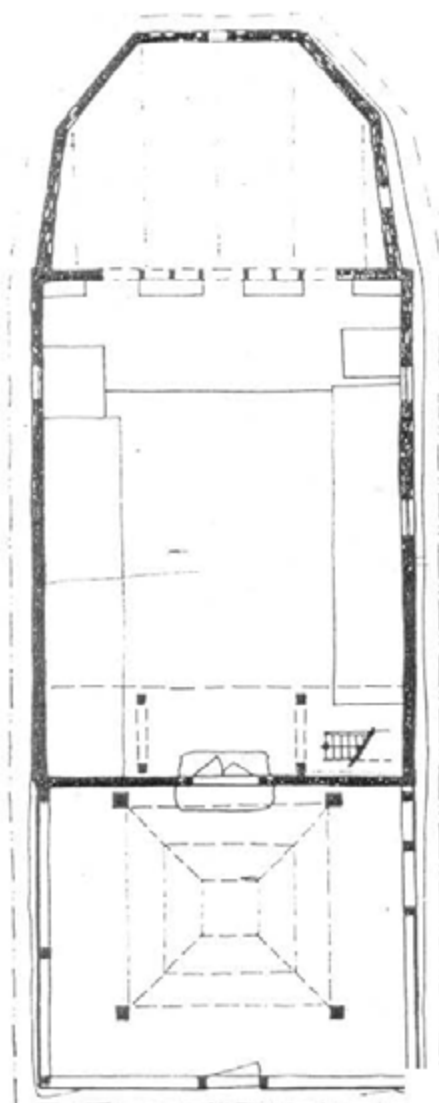
KORESOVCE



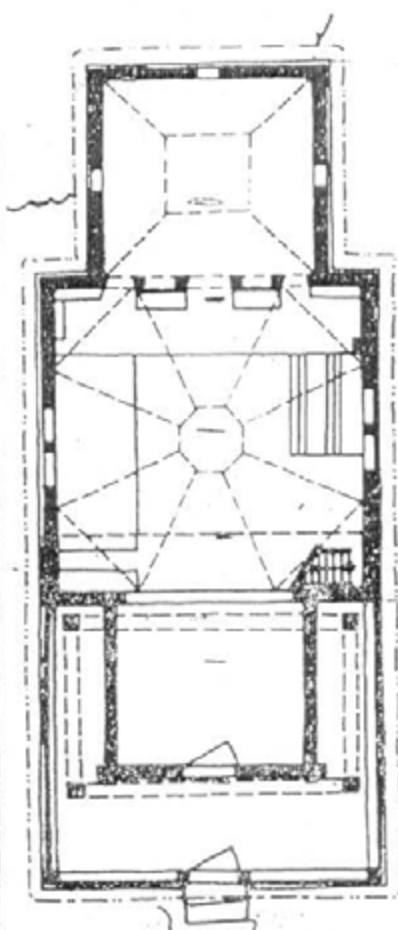
KOZANY



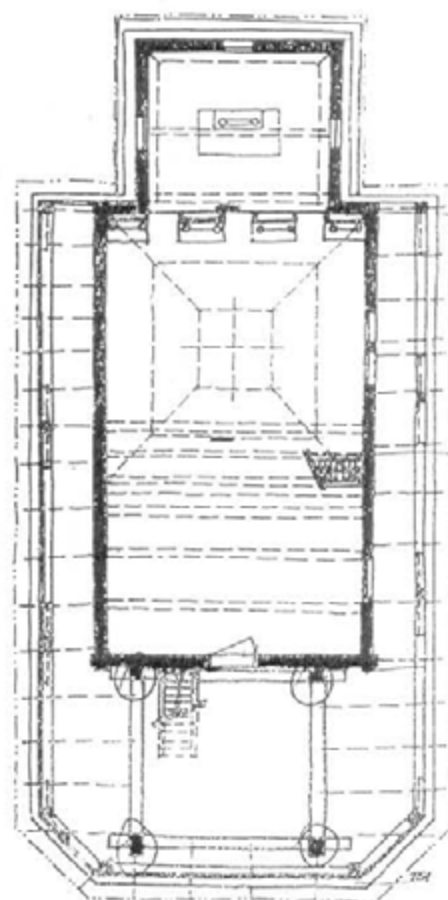
KRAJNE CIERNO



KRIVE

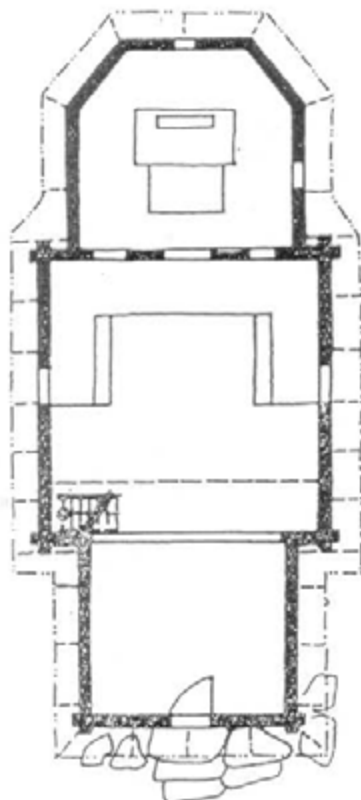


LADOMIROVA

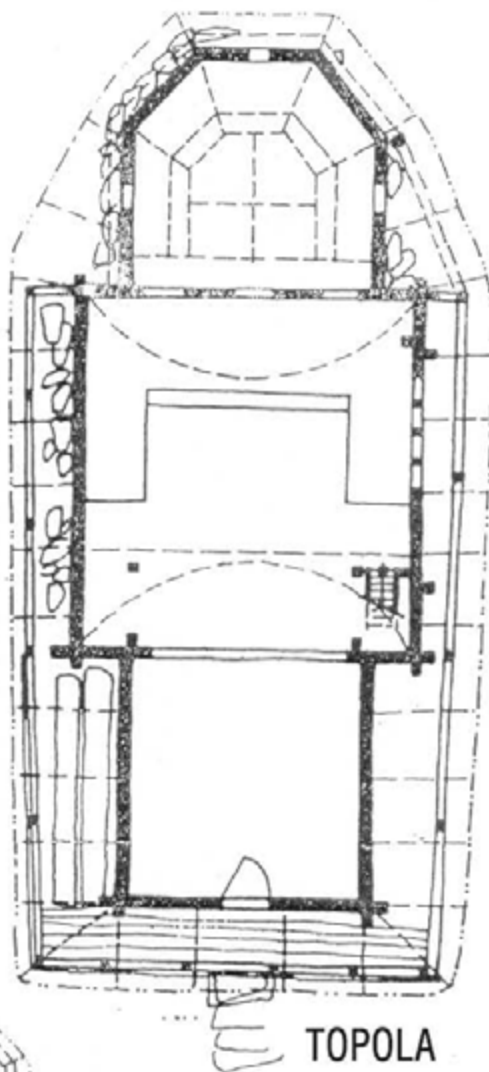


LUKOV - VENECIA

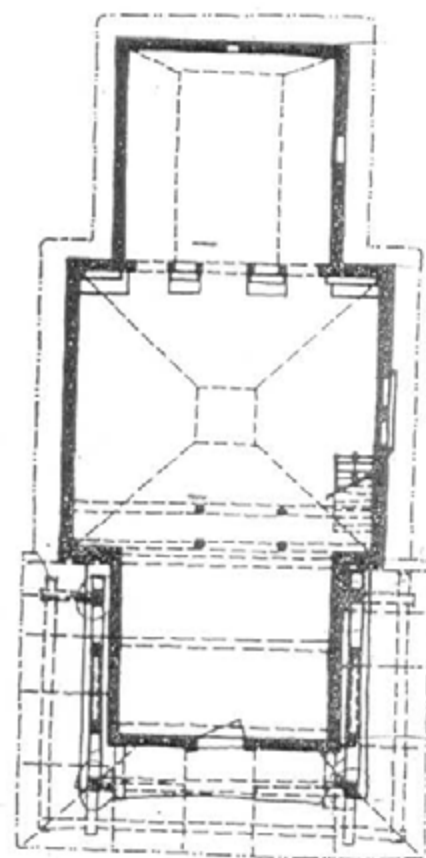




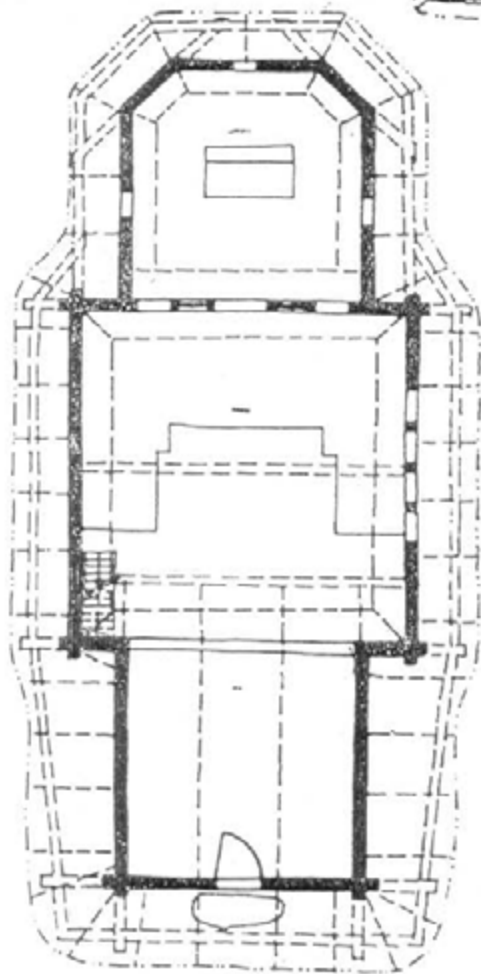
TROCANY



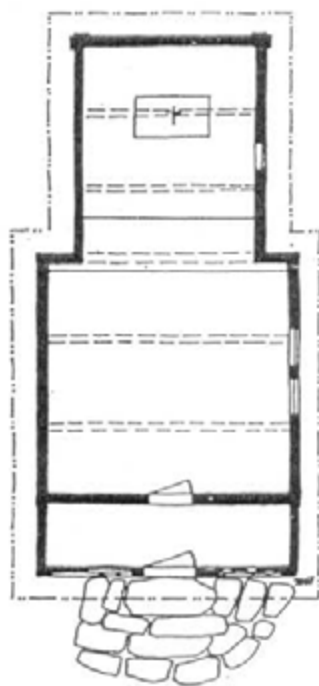
TOPOLA



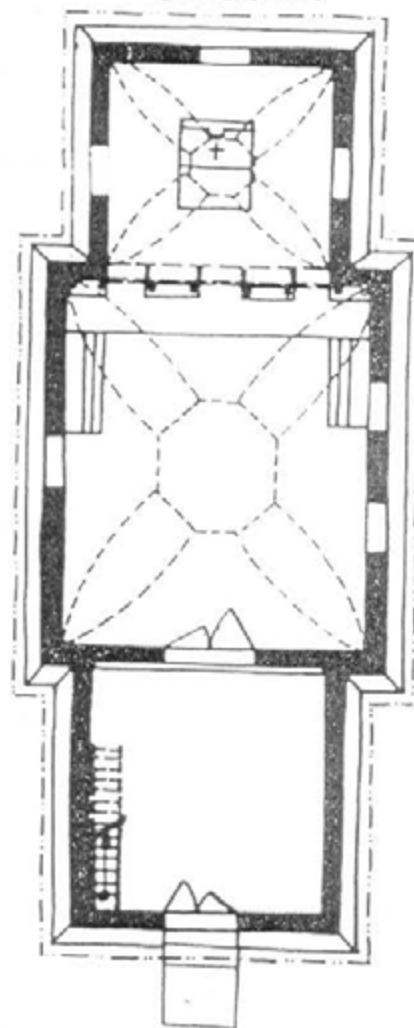
SMIGOVEC



ULICske KRIVE



VYSNA POLIANKA



VYSNY KOMARNIK

