
Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery State of Conservation Report

National Agency for cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

May 2010

This Report on the State of Conservation of the *Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia)* has been prepared following the request of the World Heritage Centre (Ref: WHC/74/2269/GE/AS/FB) so that the World Heritage Committee may examine the state of conservation of the property at its 34th session in Brazil in 2010.

1. INTRODUCTION

State Party	Name of the Property	Date of Inscription	Criteria	Organization responsible for the preparation of the report	Date of Report
Georgia	Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery	1994	C (iv)	Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia, Georgian World Heritage Committee	2010

2. SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF STATE PARTY

Nikoloz Vacheishvili
Director General
National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 AS PROVIDED BY STATE PARTY IN THE NOMINATION DOSSIER

3.1.1 Gelati Monastery

Gelati ensemble is a well preserved historical ensemble. It is of special importance for its architecture, mosaics, wall paintings, enamel and metal work. Gelati was not only a monastery, but a scientific and educational centre as well. The academy established in the Monastery was one of the most important cultural centres of ancient Georgia. By virtue of its high architectural quality and the outstanding examples of artwork that it houses, Gelati Monastery is a unique treasure of Georgian culture, and a rare example of the world culture.

3.1.2 Bagrati Cathedral

The outer appearance of the building is monumental and grand, varied and dynamic. Ornamental decoration contributes to the picturesqueness of the cathedral. The building amazes and fascinates the viewer by perfect proportions, free and perfect execution of the mouldings, ornaments, arches, light constructions. Bagrati cathedral ornamentation makes it possible to trace the evolution undergone by Georgian architectural ornament in less than half a century; this ornamentation is an excellent sample of the world architectural plastics. High artistic value of Bagrati cathedral goes far beyond the local significance. It is one of the best monuments of the medieval Christian architecture.

3.2 AS PROVIDED IN ICOMOS EVALUATION

The two monuments presented in this report belong to the period of flowering of middle age Georgian feudal monarchy. Due to the strategic location on the crossroad of Eastern and Western worlds, the country created its own stylistic idiom. Both of the monuments represent the brightest outbreaks of this idiom in the context of the royal capital of Georgian kingdom.

[...] Detailed maps showing the areas proposed for inscription and the buffer zones, which had been omitted from the nomination dossier, were supplied to the mission. [...]

Recommendation: That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion iv:

Criterion iv: Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery represent the highest flowering of the architecture of medieval Georgia.

4. STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY/INTEGRITY

4.1 EVALUATION OF THE AUTHENTICITY AT THE TIME OF INSCRIPTION

Bagrati Cathedral nowadays is a ruin and may be considered *ipso facto* completely authentic. Gelati Monastery has been in continuous use since its construction, so it inevitably contains certain elements introduced before the modern philosophy of conservation was formulated. Nevertheless, its authenticity and integrity is generally preserved.

4.2 PRESENT EVALUATION OF THE AUTHENTICITY/INTEGRITY

4.2.1 Bagrati Cathedral

The laconic structure and neat architectural composition of the Bagrati Cathedral (XI century), is nowadays represented by the grand ruins. Most of the Cathedral was ruined in XVII century. Systematic conservation works during the XX century (1939-1992) have preserved the stability of the monument.

The lack of conservation and maintenance in 1990ies worsened the physical state of monument. However, the authenticity of monument has been preserved.

The research works were renewed in 2005 based on which the Bagrati Cathedral Rehabilitation Project was developed. First stage of the project was fulfilled in 2008, namely the Design of Reinforcement and Consolidation of the Load Bearing Structures of the Cathedral. The decision has been dictated by the damages reveled through monitoring of the structure that are as follows:

- a) Basements laid over different souls/grounds
- b) Several sections of the load bearing walls with no foundation at all;
- c) Creaks in the foundation structures;
- d) Weakened and destructed sections.

The whole external perimeter of the Cathedral foundation coupled with its internal sides all along the internal perimeter of western arm were consolidated in 2009. Reinforced concrete constructions arranged below the yard and the floor reference points were used for consolidation purposes. Following those activities hydro-isolation has been applied and land was rearranged to the original level.

For the purposes of rescue of the revealed archaeological remains of a structure earlier than the Cathedral itself special measures have been planned and implemented – all consolidation constructions were arranged under the revealed archaeological fragments.

Hence, any damage of archaeological remains during foundation consolidation was avoided and yard land surface and the cathedral floor levels were restored to their initial reference points.

For the purposes of assurance of full scale and long term sustainable rehabilitation of the monument and maximum allowable increase of the interior column load bearing capacities on the one hand and corresponding redistribution of load press from the walls of the construction 10-12 meter-deep reinforced concrete pillars were built in the soil dept. They are founded on the solid bedrock with their one end and hold the interior column base with another. The shortest distance between the current floor surface and the upper end of the underground pillar varies between 1.5-2.0 m.

Following the tried and reliable practice utilized during the foundation consolidation, all pillars were arranged beneath the revealed cultural layers. Prior their stationing on the solid bedrocks all interior columns actually erected as late as in 70-80-es of the last century were libeled and their coating has been removed entirely with extreme care. After posting the pillars to the destined points all stones were returned to their original places.

Within the scope of load bearing structure consolidation activities western arm southern wall upgrade has been designed. This particular wall lacks both internal and external facing stonework and the survived internal layer made of pebble and mortar mixture is thinned and weakened to some extent. Several cracks and voids are noticeable there.

According to the wall consolidation design that envisages the obligatory reference on the sketches of the preserved stone settings performed prior the design drawing, an iron mash was arranged and anchored into the wall internal layer and the facing stonework has been attached to that reinforcement. On this particular section of the Cathedral works are completed only partially.

In parallel to arrangement of the new facing layers all survived parts of the original XI c window framing decoration should be restored as well.

All the aforementioned activities are being carried out on the bases of the Cathedral Load Bearing Structure Consolidation and Upgrade Design, which on its turn is based upon the data derived from the calculations of sustainability and firmness of the entire structure.

4.2.2 Gelati Monastery

The authenticity of the Monastery is preserved. The Rehabilitation Project elaborated in 2008 enabled to implement crucial works such as the restoration of the Gelati Academy building and the Gate buildings, carry out consistent archaeological excavations. The project provides full set of documentation and research material to plan long term restoration of the interior and exterior of the churches of the ensemble and to develop adequate infrastructure for visitors, taking into account the demands that the restored monastic life, increased number of clergy and the congregation poses to the utilization of the ensemble. It should be noted t present that neither the monastery infrastructure can not cope with the challenges of increased visitation. Correspondingly the issue of the rehabilitation of this monument and prompt provision of adequate infrastructure are one of the most critical. The Gelati Monastery Complex Rehabilitation Project provides solution for the above challenges, guaranteeing the preservation of the authenticity of the monument, restoration and rehabilitation of all its components and the same time its presentation to visitors and its utilization by the clergy.

The Gelati Monastery Complex Rehabilitation Project was provided to the WHC for evaluation in December 2009.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The protection of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery is provided by the Law of Georgia “On Protection of the Cultural Heritage”. According to the Georgian Tax Legislation, the reconstruction, rehabilitation and conservation works, as well as archeological excavations on national monuments and WHS are not liable for VAT.

According to the Concordat concluded by the State and the Georgian Orthodox Church, all the buildings for public worship within the State, including Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery have been transferred to the Church.

5.2 MANAGEMENT PLAN

No management plan has been established for the property.

5.3 NATIONAL INSTITUTION

Since 2008 the National Agency for cultural Heritage Preservation has been established as an entity of public law under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport. The Agency is responsible for management and monitoring of national monuments and World Heritage Sites in the country and for granting permits for conservation and rehabilitation project for these monuments. The Agency is also responsible for protection the inventory and promotion of movable and immovable cultural heritage objects, scientific research, consulting and expertise in the field of cultural heritage.

Since 2009 the UNESCO and International Relations Unit has been established in the Agency. The unit oversees the implementation of the recommendations of the WH committee, advises the Directorate of the Agency on the World Heritage issues, ensures preparation of the reports and documents requested by the WHC and provides advice to other units of the Agency on the WH regulations.

Address of the institution:

National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation
Director General: Mr. Nikoloz VACHEISHVILI
N27a Atoneli str, 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia

5.4 MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The local management agency is the Kutaisi-Gelati Museum Reserve. It was established in 1981. Following the institutional reform in the field of cultural heritage in 2008, the Kutaisi-Gelati Museum-Reserve along with other museum-reserves in the country has become a structural division of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation.

Address of the institution:

Kutaisi-Gelati Museum-Reserve
Director: Mr David GABUNIA
7, Nazarishvili St., Kutaisi, Georgia

6. NATIONAL INVENTORY

The Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery are registered as Listed Properties according to the Georgian Legislation. Following the detailed inventory the Registration Card and Certificate for the site were developed, which are the mandatory documents for Listed Properties provided by legislation. They contain information on the state of conservation of the monument, location, description, etc.

7. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

- The negative influence of natural conditions;
- Lack of integrated management plan;
- Despite significant increase of financing in recent years, the financial resources are not sufficient for adequate conservation.

8. MONITORING

8.1 BAGRATI CATHEDRAL

List of Project Documentation and Design Works in 2008-2010

1. Documentation: archaeological and architectural measuring and sketches: plans, layouts, cross-sections, facades and architectural details of the Cathedral;

Several architectural details found in different years: up to 519 details are being found, sketched and libeled in total, each provided with the respective explanatory-descriptive annotation.

2. The Applied Engendering and Geological Studies and Land Survey:

- Topographical mapping of the entire territory of the Cathedral;
- Drawing of foundation cross sections;
- Drawing of all borehole cross-sections;
- Drawing of geological cross-sections of the area;

Issues studied through the interdisciplinary researches:

- Geological solidity of the Cathedral territory;
- Structural capacities and properties of the rocks and soils on the Cathedral Territory;
- Exact outlines and shape of foundations and their solidity;
- Bedrock design values;
- Mean density of rocks.

The respective conclusions and recommendations were worked out on the bases of the research results and their analyses;

3. Archeological Survey

Engineering-Geological activities were preceded buy the archaeological survey of the area. All revealed cultural remains were excavated is strict observation of the existing stratigraphy of the layers. As a result:

- Cultural layers were detected and
- in-situ artifacts were found.

Comprehensive photo, video and graphical coverage and documentation of all artefacts has been carried out.

4. Bagrati Cathedral Physical and Technical Integrity Survey

Prior to application of survey activities the entire internal and external surface of the Cathedral walls has been divided into separate research zones. The works carried out subsequently were as follows:

- On-site and laboratory testing of facing stones, fill-up pebble, foundation cube and mortar solidity and definition of necessary physical and mechanical properties of all structural material;
- Detection of all wall cracks and understanding of their dynamics;
- Detection and study of all cavities and voids in wall deep layers and elaboration of the respective recommendations;

5. Art Historical Study

- Artistic and stylistic analyses of the cathedral;
- Proportionate and metrological analyses of other monuments contemporary of the Cathedral;
- Chronology of suffered damages and destructions;
- Retrospective of the Cathedral restoration and consolidation rounds;
- History of the Cathedral registration and studies applied;

Several preliminary recommendations were introduced on the bases of the obtained results;

6. Design Preparation

- Drawing of the Cathedral full-scale rehabilitation draft;
- Drawing of the Cathedral load bearing structure reinforcement design;
- Design drawings of architectural, constructional, engineering components of the Cathedral Rehabilitation Design;
- Scope of work and draft estimate;

7. The Cathedral registration card and certificate were prepared.

Research results and design documentation of Bagrati Cathedral Rehabilitation Project has been submitted to and approved by the Scientific - Methodical Board of the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia.

List of Preparatory Works:

- Provision of power, water and gas supply systems to the Cathedral yard and arrangement of sewage pipe-work;
- Conduct of all necessary works for provision of telephone and internet connection;
- Construction of temporary buildings and sites (warehouses, sanitation points, shelters for workforce and foremen meeting room, dining facility, cloakroom, material storage, etc);
- Fencing of the Cathedral yard and material storage;
- Arrangement of access roads to the Cathedral and material storage, as well as of by-pass roads around it and their finish with grit cover;
- Arrangement of architects offices and meeting room for their working sessions in one of the Cathedral spaces;
- Dressing of the Cathedral in the protective net;
- Demolition of the former Seminary building for the purposes of searching for original stones of the Cathedral, measuring, libeling and storing of all found ones;
- Measuring, labeling and storing of all stones found in the Cathedral yard and on the adjoining territories ;
- Putting into operation of devices and machinery necessary for stone treatment on-site.

8.2 GELATI MONASTERY

Complete scope of design works and researches implemented from 2008 onwards (maps/layouts, project and research activities carried out are attached to/listed in the earlier report that has already been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, so they are omitted herein).

The works performed in from 2008 up to the present:

Gelati Academy

The Academy building (so called Gelati Academy) located in the western section of the monastery complex was rehabilitated in 2008 in accordance with the respective request of the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia. This particular structure is the original one construction of which started in 1106, during the reign of the King David the Builder.

The structure is a huge rectangular in shape grand hall oblong towards south-north axes with the area of 300 m². It was in heavy damages. Masonry walls with lime mortar in between the stonework are the essential load bearing structures of the building. Before commencement of rehabilitation activities the entire roofing system of the Academy was missing.

Several constructional and architectural interventions were to be made during the restoration and reconstruction of the building that were as follows:

- Construction of the Academy roofing wooden frame provided that the structure itself and its steel elements with functional load are partially visible;
- Thermal isolation of the roof through provision of sub-tile isolation layer and arrangement of traditional tile cover over it.
- Preservation of the original stonework in the interior, cleaning of wall surfaces and filling-up of all cavities with lime solution;
- Alteration of the internal shelf of the building's cornice and provision of consolidation anti-seismic belt;
- Reconstruction of the porch cornice damaged sections (through utilization of stone inclusion methodology);
- Provision of stone floor in the hall according to a sample preserved in the southern portico of the building
- Preparation of wooden doors and window frames and their installation;
- Reconstruction of the shelf arranged in the wall thickness and provision of wooden finish;
- Removal of iron carcass of glass framing arranged in western portico during last reconstruction and provision of the respective wooden frame for stained glass window;
- Reconstruction of damaged sections of the porch cornice (through utilization of stone inclusion methodology);
- Consolidation and reconstruction of the existing stone slab floor in the porch;
- Replacement of portal corrugated iron cover with traditional Georgian tile roof;
- A wine-cellar with an attached room has been excavated beneath the floor level, in northwestern corner of the Academy building that has consecutively been restored so that currently the structure can be observed and visited from the Academy as well;

As a result of the aforementioned activities the Academy building has regained a functional use. The building is now open for public uses such as presentations, seminars, conferences, official meetings, etc.

Eastern Porch

Restoration activities carried out in 2009 were applied at the Eastern porch currently used as the main access point to the Monastery courtyard. The porch is built of multi-size rough rubble-stone. Stonework bears footprints of two basic construction periods; however several traces of minor repairs are also noticeable.

- New wooden frame and lathing was provided during restoration activities and traditional Georgian tile roof was arranged instead of the old one made of corrugated iron;
- All cracks and weathered seams detected on the floor and wall masonry were filled up with lime mortar;
- All damaged cornices were restored with newly hewn local sandstone cubes;
- Western facade facing stones were entirely re-arranged and entrance arch was fully restored;
- All weathered and shapeless stones of the wall masonry were re-arranged;
- Walls and pediments were heightened till the designed reference points;
- The shelf-shaped cornice made of local sandstone cubes was arranged on the whole of the building perimeter duplicating preserved original samples;
- Copper sheet gutters were arranged
- All stains caused by natural processes or other reasons were cleaned off wall surfaces.

Southern Porch

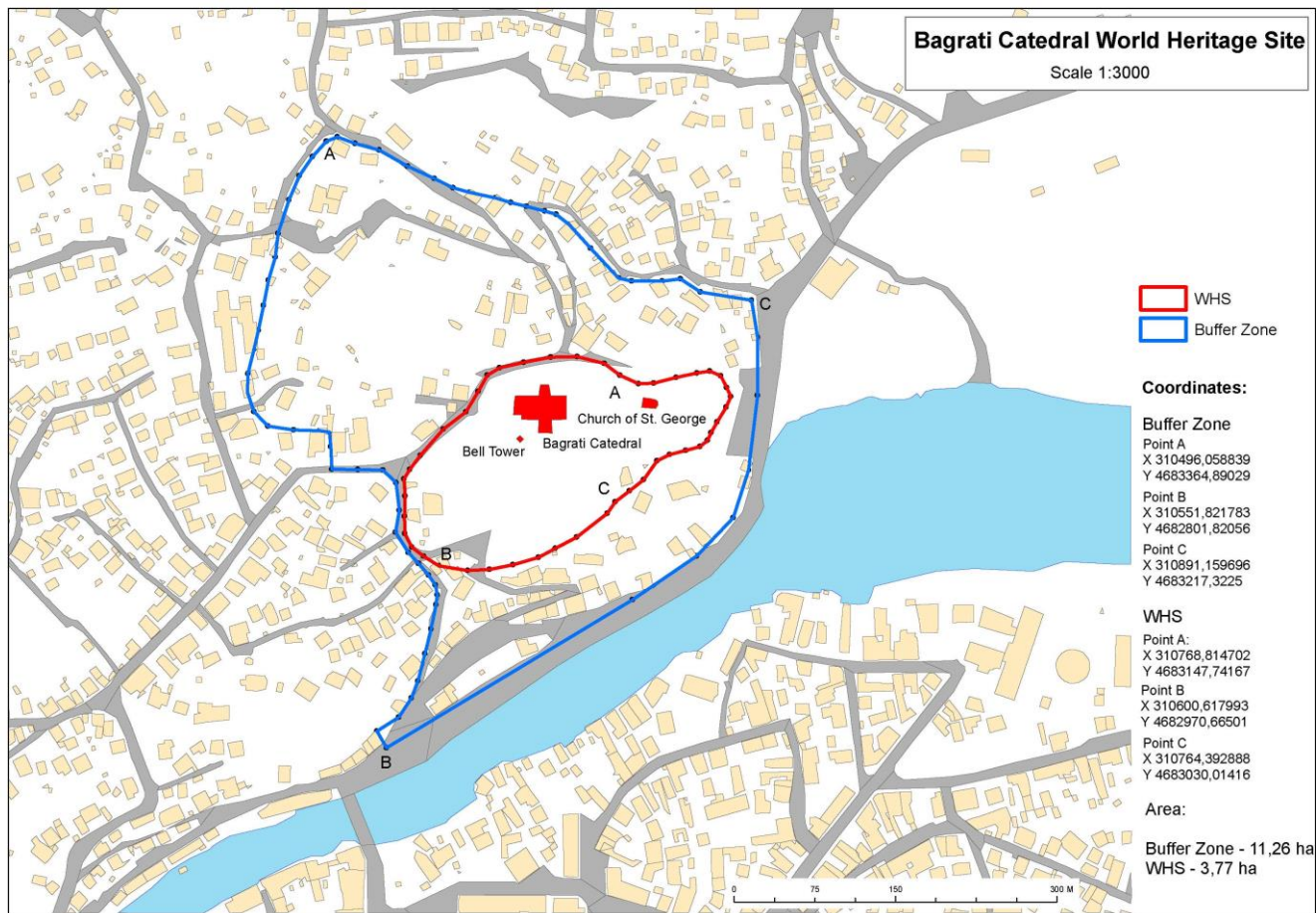
Restoration of southern porch is still in progress. Obviously the structure has undergone several rounds of reconstruction when every builder had tried to leave his indelible footprint on the structure, thus making perception of its initial architectural features extremely complicated. Works already carried out on the porch are as follows:

- Heavily damaged facing layer in southwestern corner was restored;
- Up to 80% of strongly weathered eastern wall facing masonry that had been re-arranged several times in the past was repeatedly re-arranged coupled with the entire first floor section of the northern wall facing;
- Facing stonework of the porch western wall was restored;
- Heavily damaged attachment to the main building was disassembled and rebuilt;
- All deformed vaults were re-arranged;
- All wall cavities and voids were filled-up with lime mortar
- All door and window openings were restored;
- Damaged and weathered stones were replaced by rough new stones;
- Preparation of profiled sandstone cornice cubes is underway;
- Preparation of the roofing frame rafters and lathing timber underway;

9. PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

9.1 PROTECTION ZONES

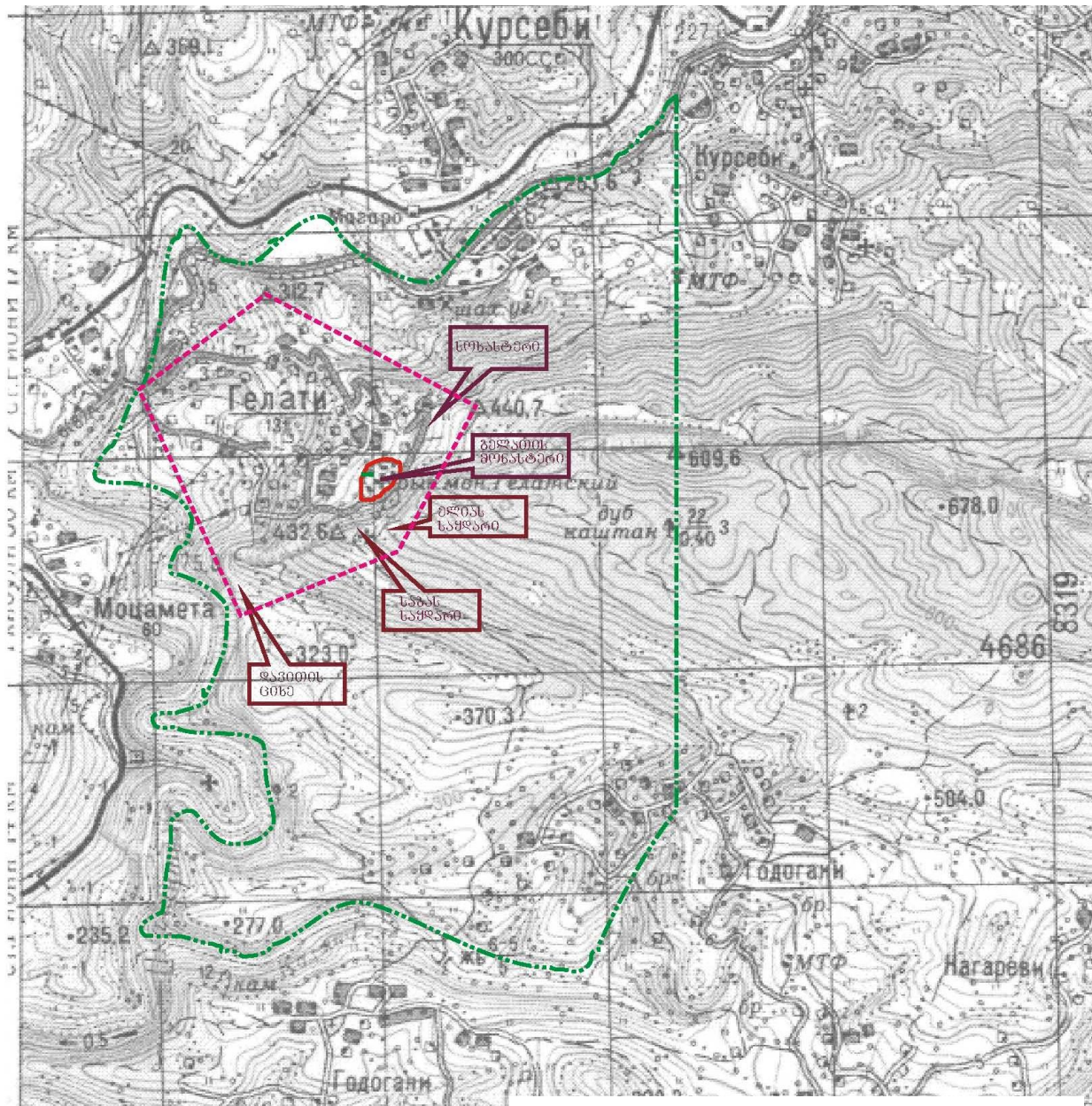
In 2009 the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation submitted the updated cartographic documentation on the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery as requested by the Retrospective inventory project.






Bagrati Cathedral World Heritage Site boundaries and a buffer zone



Gelati Monastery World Heritage Site boundaries



-  Strict Protection Zone
-  Built-up Area Regulation Zone
-  Landscape Protection Zone

The draft project of the protected zones was developed according to the national legislation. The project envisages establishment of the Strict Protection Zone, Built-up Area Regulation Zone and a Landscape Protection Zone for the site. It is proposed that the protection zones and regulations provided by the Law on Cultural Heritage within their boundaries will ensure protection of the Gelati World Heritage site and its surrounding area, including the Gelati village and adjacent landscape.

9.2 CONSERVATION WORKS IN BAGRATI CATHEDRAL

Conservation Works Implemented on Bagrati Cathedral in 2008-2010

- The walls of the Cathedral were treated with pesticides and cleaned of vegetation and fungi;
- All loosened and damaged stones of internal and external facing layers and cornice were removed, cleaned, labelled and stored separately till their return to original palace;
- For the purposes of consolidation and reinforcement of load bearing columns all facing stones and pebbles were labelled removed and stored separately till their return to original palace,
- Five piled armored concrete foundations were constructed for five out of 10 interior columns of the temple, with their length varying between 10-20 meters respective to the distance till the bedrock layer;
- The same armoured concrete foundations were raised till the project reference points and finished with facing stones removed earlier;
- All piled armored concrete foundations were interconnected through underground armored concrete beams laid 50-60 cm deep beneath the land surface;
- The whole perimeter of the temple façade foundation was consolidated with armoured concrete layer attached and affixed to the existing foundation;
- The original foundation and the consolidating layer of armoured concrete both were covered with water resistant clay film;
- The aforementioned technology has been utilised regarding 70% of the interior section of the temple foundation;
- Full scale of temple foundation consolidation activities were conducted with no damage to the archaeological remains (concrete coating was arranged beneath the cultural layers)
- For the purposes of prevention of pebble and mortar mix wall internal layers from further damaging, 92 m² of wall surface was covered with new coating;
- For prevention of water penetration through stonework layers all loose and weathered sections of mortar were removed at a depth of 5 sm. and new substance was applied instead, with texture and colour maximally close to the original.

List of the Recommended Rehabilitation Actions

- Construction of piled foundations for the remaining 5 interior columns of the temple and their interconnection through underground armored concrete beams;
- Increase of height of all ten interior columns till the project reference points and their finish with facing stones;
- Completion of consolidation of the interior section of the temple foundation;
- Consolidation of walls with armored concrete belts;
- Construction of vaults and sub-dome square with armored concrete and their finish with the reused and newly hewn stone facing; The structures will be rested over the ten interior columns

- Finish of the columns with facing stones;
- Arrangement of armored concrete structure for the temple dome and its finish with reused and newly hewn facing stones;
- Restoration of the remaining parts of the temple cornices and construction of the missing sections with newly hewn stones;
- Arrangement of the dome sphere-shaped armored concrete roofing and finish of its surface with facing tones;
- Provision of waterproof layer over the dome crown and vaults;
- Arrangement of roofing farms and application of glazed tile roof;
- Manufacture of wooden windows and doors for the temple openings and their installation in due places;
- Cleaning of preserved façade facing stones;
- Provision of waterproof layer over façade facing stones and their conservation;
- Leveling of the temple territory and arrangement of drain and water divert channels;
- Developing of the area;

9.3 CONSERVATION WORKS IN GELATI MONASTERY

List of Research and Conservation Activities Carried out in 2008 - 2010

Within the scope of Rehabilitation of the Academy Building additional archaeological excavations were carried out on the territory of the monastery complex. As a result, medieval wine-seller with the attached space, so called cooler/refrigerator has been revealed beneath northwestern part of the building and its immediate surroundings.

Several other remains of medieval buildings were revealed on the excavated plot, however, they all need additional researches and studies. These new findings have caused considerable changes of the initial restoration and conservation plan. As it has already been mentioned the construction found beneath the Academy floor level consisted of wine caller and a supplementary space was restored in a manner that allows the building to be seen directly from the Academy. As for the other remains, at this moment they are under temporary cover and researches are in progress with the final aim of preparation of the conservation project and their incorporation and integration into the site presentation scheme.

Several shreds of glazed tile used for the monument roofing purposes were revealed during the excavations on the territory of the complex. This became the focal point for elaboration of the concept for the rehabilitation of the roofing of the entire ensemble. The use of glazed tile to cover churches and monasteries was widely spread in Georgian architecture contemporary to Gelati. Same kind of tile roofing are utilized in cases of some Georgian monasteries Ishkhani, Khakhuli, Parkhali, all three located on the territory of Turkey.

List of Conservation Activities Recommended by the Gelati Rehabilitation Project

The list of activities below primarily concerns the architecture of the ensemble, the recommendations for restpration of wall paintings and conservation of excavated areas will be provided separately.

Temple of the Virgin's Birth (the Main Temple) :

- Removal of the cement platform on the whole perimeter of the temple ;

- Stripping of extra soil around the temple and ground leveling ;
- Arrangement of scaffolds on the whole perimeter of the temple with the load bearing capacity and height enough for provision of temporary cover protecting the building, particularly its exposed vaults against penetration of atmospheric precipitations;
- Removal of the existing zink roofing;
- Labeling of the existing cornice stones and their reconstruction ;
- Hewing of new cornice stones and their setting in the existing edges ;
- Examination of the church facing stonework ;
- Extraction of all loosen stones, their cleaning, removal of the weathered lime mortar, return of the stones to their original location ;
- Filing up of stonework gaps;
- Cleaning of the vault rear sections and consolidation of all loose segments ;
- Arrangement of roofing;
- Provision of sub-tile isolation layer ;
- Manufacture of copper rainfall run- off gutters and embossed corbels ;
- Fixing of gutters on the roof ;
- Tile laying ;
- Plastering of the build-up window facades with lime solution;
- Manufacture and installation of new window frames ;
- Temporary removal of the existing doors, their cleaning and refurbishment ;
- Installation of the refurbished doors to its original place ;
- Fill up of vault gaps and cracks ;
- Provision of special consolidation meshes at the opening connecting western attachment and the gallery;
- Installation of point handrails in gallery lending;
- Dismantle of scaffolds ;
- Arrangement of water divert channels ;

St. George Church :

- Removal of the cement platform on the whole perimeter of the temple ;
- Stripping of extra soil around the temple and ground leveling ;
- Arrangement of permanent scaffolds on the whole perimeter of the temple with the load bearing capacity and height enough for provision of temporary cover protecting the building against penetration of atmospheric precipitations, particularly its exposed vaults;
- Removal of the existing zink roof ;
- Labeling of the existing cornice stones and their restoration
- Hewing of new cornice stones and their setting in the existing edges
- Examination of the church facing stonework

- Extraction of all loosen stones, their cleaning, removal of the whole masses of sanded and weathered lime mortar, return of the stones into their original places ;
- Filing up of stonework gaps;
- Cleaning and consolidation of the vault rear sections;
- Re-arrangement of the vault in western annex;
- Plastering of the vault internal surface with lime mortar
- Arrangement of roofing farm and lath ;
- Provision of sub-tile isolation layer ;
- Manufacture of copper gutters and embossed corbels for rainfall run- off;
- Fixing of gutters;
- Tile laying ;
- Thinning of the window build-up layer
- Removal of old window frames ;
- Manufacture and installation of new window frames
- Manufacture and installation of new doors;
- Installation of the refurbished old doors
- Dismantle of scaffolds ;
- Arrangement of water divert channels ;

St. Nicolas Church :

- The existing corrugated iron roof should entirely be removed
- Re-opening of all blinded windows;
- Cleaning, re-arrangement and consolidation of cornice;
- Cornice restoration: filling up of all minor broken-up sections with lime solution and restoration of all large missing sections through insertion of new peaces of compatible rocks provided that original profile is necessarily replicated;
- Restoration and consolidation of facade and interior facing stonework;
- Removal of the existing build-up section of the western door tympanum and restoration of its original shape with the compatible rock;
- Removal of the existing railing with traces of later reconstruction and installation of new simple cross-shaped one;
- Socle cleaning and filling up of all revealed cracks with lime solution;
- Laying of tile cover over the applied lime solution layer;
- Replication of the first store flooring on the ground floor;

Bell Tower :

- Removal of the present roofing ;

- Restoration of cornice damaged sections;
- Removal of cement plaster layer;
- Removal of all stones of northern facade imitating the cornice
- Replacement of all weathered and damaged stones with new ones;
- Laying of tile cover over the applied lime solution layer;

Southern Porch :

- The project envisages arrangement of the roofing farm and laying of traditional Georgian tile roof;
- High quality timber should be purchase and treated according to the particular technology indicated within the project;
- Conservation of the original defensive stone wall;
- All facade and floor stonework crakes should be filled up with lime mortar solution (0.5 – 1 cm deep in case of facade surface)
- All wall penetrating cracks should be injected in strict observation of the respective long-tried method, i.e. initial clean out of all cracks with consequent injection of pressured lime mortar;
- Stone floor in southern section of the porch should be replaced;

Bishop Gabriel Kikodze’s Residential House :

It is recommended to give to the building the function of guesthouse for the Patriarch and other high rank clergy visiting the monastery complex; the scope of work includes:

- Renewal of southern veranda ;
- Replacement of wooden window frames with metal-plastic twinned-glass windows ;
- Restoration of doors;
- Arrangement of toilets, sanitation points and a kitchen;
- Arrangement of tile roof;

Traditional West Georgian Wooden Residential House –Oda

The wooden building with tile roof and open veranda is rather damaged. Lapse of time and undue care have considerably deteriorated almost all load bearing beams of the structur.

- Temporary removal of the tile roof, consolidation of the existing load bearing elements and replacement of the most worn out samples ; re-arrangement of old tile roof ;
- Lifting of the entire house by means of special self-propelled crane. Preparation of basements for stone poles and placement of the house on those poles at an altitude of 0.5 m above the current ground level ;
- Arrangement of steel mash underpen and its placement on stone poles so that the mash collides with the damaged load bearing beams. Wooden beam injection and conservation;
- Removal of all non-authentic elements from the interior and exterior, cleaning and repair of all original parts ;
- Cleaning of all twinned fireplaces and restoration of chimneys ;
- Repair of the existing balusters and restoration of all missing ones;
- Arrangement of new stone steps;

10. PREVIOUS WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

10.1 DECISION

Decision: 32 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Strongly urges the State Party to immediately start preventive conservation work on the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Complex, as well as to develop, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a long-term programme for the systematic conservation of the mural paintings and mosaics with the involvement and collaboration of international specialists in this domain;
4. Also recalling the earlier discussions among the Advisory Bodies, international experts and the World Heritage Committee, notes the State Party's intention to prepare a new reconstruction project for Bagrati Cathedral in order to recreate its initial religious use and functions, and underlines that in accordance with Paragraph 86 of the *Operational Guidelines* the reconstruction of historic buildings is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances;
5. Requests the State Party to provide assurances that no reconstruction work shall commence until the State Party has provided complete and detailed documentation concerning this project for review by the World Heritage Committee;
6. Also requests the State Party to urgently prepare, approve and provide to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, the management plan of the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Complex, including the boundaries clarification document clearly indicating its buffer zones;
7. Encourages the State Party to organize an awareness-raising campaign for all World Heritage properties in Georgia;
8. Invites the State Party to prepare relevant documentation in order to initiate an international donors conference designed to address the major problems identified for all World Heritage properties in Georgia;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report, including the complete and detailed documentation concerning the new reconstruction project for Bagrati Cathedral, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

10.2 IMPLEMENTATION BY STATE PARTY

Rehabilitation of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery is a cultural priority. The performed works mark the initial stage of the conservation. The 2009 budget resources allotted for the conservation of the monuments highlight the State policy regarding the preservation of the cultural heritage.

11. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions presented below are aimed at contributing to the analysis which will facilitate to the Advisory Body and the Secretariat the preparation of the Committee draft decision.

Strengths

- Creation of a new agency focusing on the national cultural heritage and the monuments on the UNESCO cultural heritage list
- The due performance of the multifunctional works

Weaknesses

- Insufficient experience – a new management plan and scarcity of the staff.
