

THE ST. PETKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

General information about the monument

The represented cultural monument is the “St. Petka” Church. It is an orthodox church and it was built after the Liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke in 1888-1890. The church is located in the central part of the town of Plovdiv, the second biggest town in Bulgaria. The church is composed of a main building and a high bell tower, attached to it. The church has two domes with big iron crosses on them. One of the domes is on the roof of the main building and the other one is on the top of the bell tower. The orthodox church was built in honour of St. Petka Venerable of Bulgaria who was called as well Epivatska. She was born in II century in Epivat, her parents were Bulgarians. She was buried in the town of Yash – Rumania. Her memory is commemorated on 14 October

Size, materials

The “St. Petka” church is presented to you as a relief image in a greatly reduced size. The relief image is 200 times smaller than the actual size of the church. The church is situated on an area of over 1000 square metres. The length of the main building is 28 metres, the width is 15 metres. The topmost part of the cross on the bell tower is the highest part of the church and it is 25 metres above the ground. The church is brick-built; it is revetted with limestone from Vratza; its columns are of cast concrete; the roof is tiled; the dome is of lead edging; the crosses are iron. The relief image of the Church that is in front of you is made on a special kind of paper, called micro granulated paper.

Description

Put your hands on the image. Trace the relief. Find the straight relief line that is at the bottom side of the image. This is the contour that encircles the ground where the Church is. The main part of the Church is presented to you lengthwise on the relief image. Two of the adjoining to the main building constructions are here too. The two domes of the Church and the crosses on them are represented. The first dome is on the high bell tower that is three-leveled, attached to the Church and is to the left of the relief image. The other dome is on the roof of the main building and is almost in the center of the relief image. It is the lower one and bigger in size as well. Find the relief spot that is at the top of the relief image. It is closest to the upper edge of the sheet of paper and is to the left of the relief image. These are the outlines of the cross that is on the dome of the bell tower and marks the highest part of the Church. Go a bit downwards and follow the oval shape of the dome that the cross is on. Go to the right and find the other high part of the relief image. This is the second cross of the Church. It is on a bigger and wider dome that is constructed on the main building. Go a bit downwards and follow the oval shape of this wider dome. Go downwards across the whole relief image and reach the lowest straight line. This relief line outlines the ground around the church in the form of a rectangle. Follow the contour that is on the close to you side of the sheet. Find the point of intersection of the two sides of the rectangle. This is the corner that is closest to the bottom edge of the sheet. Follow the longer side of the rectangle, moving from the corner to the left. A bit upward in the image, parallel with this side, is the main building of the Church that is lengthwise. Follow the contour of the longer side of the rectangle to the left and you will see relief images that are very close to the contour. These are the outlines of the protruding part of the church that resembles an outhouse. This outhouse is contiguous to the long side of the main building. It is rectangular. There is a similar protruding part on the other, opposite side of the Church. It is a mirror image of the one that is in front of you, but it cannot be seen on the relief image. Follow slowly from the bottom upwards the outhouse that is in front of you. At its bottom part you will go across the concave spots which are the door and the windows. Going upwards you will reach the roof of the outhouse that is at the level of the roof of the main

building and borders on it. Go back a bit downwards on the outhouse. Then go slowly to the left and you will reach a relief cross contour that outlines the end of the long side of the main building of the Church. Go a little to the right on the outhouse again. Go to the right of the outhouse. You will go across several relief outlined windows on the long side of the main building. All windows of the Church are rounded at their upper part. There are quadrangular columns between the windows, supporting the solidity of the building. Keep on moving to the right until you reach a big, smooth, rounded spot. It shows that you have already passed across the fore long side of the main building and you are alongside the church, from the side of its shorter side. There is the other outhouse of the Church. It has a rounded shape that distinguishes it from the other two outhouses that are quadrangular. Study the big, smooth and rounded spot. That is the rounded wall of the outhouse. Go slowly upwards; there a relief outlines the roof of the outhouse. The roof is rounded too. Going upwards, you will see an oval concave spot. This is a cross-shaped window, which is on the sidewall of the main building. It is above the adjoining point of the top of the roof of the side outhouse and the main building of the Church. Keep on going upwards from this window and you will reach the top most edge of the roof of the main building. Under this edge you will see an uneven surface that represents the roof of the main building. Go from the right to the left across that uneven surface until you reach the end of the relief image. This way you cover lengthwise the roof of the whole main building of the Church. Go back again to the right most side of the roof. Follow the upper edge by moving slowly to the left. Thus you reach the lower and bigger dome, which is on the roof of the main building of the Church. Study the dome and find again the upper rounded part and the cross. Then go down across the left hand side of the dome and reach the edge of the roof. Follow this edge leftwards and you will reach another jutting up point. This is the bell tower that on this specific relief image is on the left hand side of the Church. The roof of the main building ends at the bell tower. The bell tower is built in three levels. Every upper level steps on the lower one and at the top most part is the bell tower and the four bells. A special inner staircase reaches the bells. The bell tower ends in a dome and a cross. A part of the second and the whole third level can be seen on the relief image. The main building of the church covers the bottom part of the bell tower. Go from the edge of the roof up across the bell tower. You will discern a thicker cross relief contour. This is the tile stone, separating the second from the third level. Go up and find the rounded dome and the cross. Thus you reach the top of the Church once again. Now let's look at the relief image from above downwards. Feel the cross and the dome of the bell tower. They are on the left hand side of the relief image. Go down the bell tower and reach the upper edge of the roof of the main building of the Church. Follow the edge and the rough roof to the right until you reach the other lower and bigger dome. Study the dome and find its rounded upper part and the cross. Go back again to the roof and move slowly to the right until you reach the oval concave spot. This is the cross-shaped window, which is at the upper part of the sidewall of the Church. Go down from this window and you will see the roof of the outhouse, jutting out of the church. Go still a bit down and you will discern the rounded shape of the outhouse. Continue the tracing to the left and you will pass across the longer side of the main building of the church. The thicker relief outlines that you can discern in the middle are the windows. Moving to the left, you will reach the quadrangular outhouse, attached to the main building of the church and protruding to you. Go a bit to the left. You will reach the relief cross edge, outlining the end of the main building. Go back to the quadrangular outhouse, move your hands downwards and find the contour, outlining the ground, where the church is. Follow this contour.