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The Šturmajce Homestead

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The Šturmajce homestead is situated in the valley of the Kanomljica river, in Gorenja Kanomlja, a small community in the Municipality of Idrija. The valley, nestled between the plateaus of Vojsko and Krnice, runs along the well-known Idrija fault. Kanomlja was first mentioned in writing in 1335, when the patriarch of Aquileia donated the land to a noble family from the Italian town of Cividale. The description of the feudal property also mentions 10 farms in Kanomlja. Considering its position close to an important pilgrimage route which led from the Kanomljica valley across the Trnovo Forest Plateau to the Goriška region, it is quite probable that one of these farms was the isolated, but prosperous Šturmajce homestead, which at the time belonged to an affluent farmer. In 1986, the homestead, a great example of well-preserved cultural heritage, was proclaimed a local cultural monument.

Both the inside and the surroundings of the homestead, along with all the associated buildings, meadows, orchards and fields, are well-preserved and constitute an important ethnological monument of this region.

In the past, the self-sufficient homestead comprised of more than 100 hectares of land. From the beginning of the 20th century onward,

however, the estate was divided into smaller parts. Before World War I, approximately 70 people lived and worked at Šturmajce. Today, some of the most important functional parts of the homestead still stand, such as the granary, the roofed double hayrack, the stable, the watering hole, the hayloft, the meadows, the orchard with old varieties of fruit trees, etc. All this makes Šturmajce an extraordinary addition to cultural heritage both locally and nationally. In the past, the homestead also included guest houses, a fruit drying house, a smithy, a mill and earth houses (zemljanke), which no longer exist today.

Socio-economic changes also changed the lifestyle of the people living at the homestead. Many moved to urban centres, and today, the only people still living at Šturmajce are Julijan and Milka Petrič, who after an earthquake in 1976 built a new house close to the old Šturmajce farm house. It is mostly thanks to them that the Šturmajce house retained the appearance of a farm house from the first half of the 20th century.

Even today, the farm house still keeps its original appearance and architectural design. The ground floor consists of a black kitchen (a kitchen with no chimney), a bedroom, a vestibule, a cellar and the main living space with a masonry stove, a beautifully carved wooden ceiling, and a number of objects and tools used in everyday life on the farm in the past. The upper parts of the house contained bedrooms and a living room for

the extended family or guest workers. The inside of the farm house allows the visitor to experience the everyday life of this once prosperous homestead and to get to know the stories of the people who once lived there.

The façade of the farm house is decorated with beautiful rural frescoes, which some say were painted in 1802 by Frančišek Kobau, a local folk artist. The figural compositions are featured on the façades of the gable (where they represent the crucifixion of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a scene from the legend of Saint Anthony of Padua, titled The Witness from Hell) and the entrance (which, according to oral tradition, once featured the frescoes of Saint Florian and Saint Agnes). Painted decorations can also be seen on the corners of the house and under the projecting roof, as well as above the windows, where floral bouquet patterns are featured.

The homestead, its history, its architectural characteristics, decorative frescoes and extraordinary landscape cultivated in the spirit of sustainability by numerous generations throughout the centuries offer an unforgettable experience to every single visitor.



The PratiCons project has fostered transfrontier cooperation between Slovenia and Italy in terms of cultural heritage conservation, improving the approaches to the conservation and restoration of architectural heritage. Using project funds, the Municipality of Idrija has purchased the Šturmajce homestead and used the building in a pilot project to test the sustainable restoration techniques and technologies developed as part of the PratiCons project. The pilot project included a series of restoration procedures implemented on the façade (restoration of painted surfaces and reconstruction of missing decorative elements) and in the main living space of the farm house (restoration of the masonry stove).

A tip for visitors

The Šturmajce homestead is open to visitors. We invite you to come discover and experience the gems of the cultural and natural heritage of Kanomlja.

The Šturmajce Homestead
Gorenja Kanomlja 43, Spodnja Idrija, Slovenia