

Name 1	THE SMELTING PLANT OF THE MERCURY MINE (PART 1: THE SORTING PLANT)
Name 2	/
ID number	002.77.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Center, Bazoviška 2, SI-5280 Idrija
Ownership	Public
Owner	Republic of Slovenia
Local / Original ID Number	Part of EŠD 7460
Type of Object	Mine, Smelting

DESCRIPTION

Short description	<p>The sorting plant facility was built according to the terrain slope, each following floor is offset depending on the terrain inclination. It contains the cellar, the ground floor, six floors and mezzanines constructed of armoured concrete. The excavated part of the facility was protected with coated walls and drainage openings. The front, visible side is equipped with concrete windows with leaves. It is covered with corrugated fibre cement roof sheets. The crushing machines are placed between the floors. The transitions between the floors are connected with iron assembly stairs and a protective pipe fencing. The serpentine concrete stairs lead to the facility.</p>
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Measures Length 35.60 m, width 10.96 m.

Materials Armoured-concrete, wood

Dating 1957

Author / Producer Idrija Mercury Mine

**Picture
attachments**

Original use

In 1957, the modernisation of the area of transport and ore crushing was implemented. The sorting plant was also a part of this modernisation. It was built next to the unloading station of transporting cableway and was connected with it through the sliding channels. The ore was transported from the loading station of Joseph's shaft to the area of the sorting plant by using the transportation cableway. Every minute, a wagon with 800 kg of ore arrived in the sorting plant (40-50 tons ore/hour), which was then intercepted by a qualified worker. The ore was then poured into the intended receiving bunkers. From here on, the ore was regulatively directed onto the crushing device.

Present use

The sorting plant is being preserved, secured and presented as important mining heritage of Idrija with exceptional universal values. In the middle, under the sorting plant and near the rotary furnaces facility, the new visitors' centre came to life. There, the permanent exhibition "From Ore to Mercury Drops" is displayed. Within the mentioned exhibition, the sorting plant represents the method of crushing and ore sorting. All the facilities and the machines on the smelting plant area have great historical value. This area represents a final stage of development in the 500 years long history of mining and tradition of smelting, since its devices and objects were operating all until the mine was closed.

Original location

The Smelting Plant of the Idrija Mercury Mine

Present location

Hg Smelting Plant (From Ore to Mercury Drops), Arkova 50, SI-5280 Idrija

STATE OF CONSERVATION**History of conservation:**

2017: The facility of the sorting plant was renovated within the first phase of the arrangement of the entire smelting

plant complex and the revival of the activities in it. The sorting plant renovation and the construction of new visitors' centre cost EUR 2,322,810.

Present state good

Necessary activities: Performing regular maintenance services by the programme, including status control and preservation, security and presentation of the heritage.

DOCUMENTATION

Addresses / collections / links etc. where further in-depth information is accessible:

- CUDHg Inventory Book;
- The Cultural Heritage Register of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Ordinance on the proclamation of the technical heritage in the Idrija and its surroundings for cultural monuments of national importance. Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 66/01, 55/02, 16/08;
- Cultural Heritage Protection Act - ZVKD-1. Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 16/08, 20/09;
- Čar, Jože, Terpin, Rafael. Stare žgalnice živosrebrove rude v okolici Idrije. Idrijski razgledi, 50/1, 2005, p. 80–105;
- Kavčič, Ivica. Živo srebro: Zgodovina idrijskega žgalništva. Založba Bogataj, Idrija, 2008.

Submitted Mestni muzej Idrija

Submitted by Miha Kosmač

Date Submitted 2. 3. 2018

Date Edited Never
