

Name 1	PUTRIH WATER BARRIER
Name 2	PUTRIH'S WATER BARRIER ON THE BELCA CREEK
ID number	002.91.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Center, Bazoviška 2, SI-5280 Idrija
Ownership	Public
Owner	Republic of Slovenia
Local / Original ID Number	EŠD 593
Type of Object	Mine, Transport - other transport, Built heritage - other

DESCRIPTION

Short description	The Putrih “klavže” is a high, built water barrier. It is built on a carefully selected location, between steep walls, where the creek valley is narrowed and closed. It is mounted on the riverside rocks and tightly embedded in the riverbed of the Belca Creek. It is built of carved stone and has two outlet channels, which are hemispherical on the top. It is protected by a roof, which is covered with shingles.
Measures	It stands at an altitude of 578 m. The crown length is 44 m, it is 8.5 m wide, its construction height is 7.2 m. The riverbed of the Belca Creek is 12.6 m lower of the entrance of the barrier door.

Materials Stone, mortar, shingle.

Dating 1767-1769

Author / Producer Idrija Mercury Mine

**Picture
attachments**

Original use

The Putrih Water Barrier served as the supplement to the lower Brus Water Barrier on the Belca Creek. The Mine needed large amounts of timber, therefore the water barrier was built. It allowed the accumulation up to 20,000 m³ of water and thus floating up to 7000 m³ of timber at once. The method of construction and the principle of operation with the floodwave from the artificial lake behind the barrier were unique. The lever mechanism for opening the door was opened when the dam was full. Then, the rushing water floated the prepared timber under the water barrier towards Idrija. The special rake mechanism in the town, retained the timber, the water flooded the river banks and often caused the damage and was then drained. The water barrier caretaker (also known as "klavžar"), usually a landowner of a nearby homestead, was responsible for maintaining the facility and timber floating. He pledged his property, in order to prove that he will perform his work diligently. The water barriers were abandoned after the floods and the demolition of the special rake mechanism in 1926, due to the economic non-profitability.

Present use

The Putrih Water Barrier is being preserved, secured and presented as important mining heritage of Idrija with exceptional universal values. Due to aesthetic construction, exceptional dimensions, age and operating principle, the water barriers are one of the most important preserved buildings of the Idrija Mercury Mine. It represents a unique culturally-historic and technical monument of European significance. Due to its monumentality, the water barrier was named the Slovenian Pyramid. It is located in the protected area of the Zgornja Idrijca Regional Park and is easily accessible to visitors. The Slovenian Chamber of Engineers grants the Jožef Mrak Award for the innovativeness in the area of facilities' construction, named after the water barrier architect.

Original location 2356 Čekovnik, lot no. 934/3, 892/3, building no. 93.

Present location No changes.

STATE OF CONSERVATION

History of conservation: The renovation took place in 1980s and was finished in 1992. The works were aimed at stabilising the water barrier (rebuilding the deformed walls, filling the gaps between the joints, stabilising the foundations) and the roof structure and the roof were replaced. Since 2008, it has been a monument of national importance.

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:

- The Cultural Heritage Register;
- 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.

Submitted Mestni muzej Idrija

Submitted by Miha Kosmač

Date Submitted	2. 3. 2018
-----------------------	------------

Date Edited	Never
--------------------	-------
