

Name 1	KANOMLJA OR OVČJAK WATER BARRIER
Name 2	KANOMLJA OR OVČJAK WATER BARRIER
ID number	002.93.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	The administrator is not determined.
Ownership	Public
Owner	Republic of Slovenia
Local / Original ID Number	EŠD 506
Type of Object	Mine, Transport - other transport, Built heritage - other

DESCRIPTION

Short description	The Kanomlja “klavže” is a high, built water barrier. It is built on a carefully selected location. It is mounted on the riverside rocks and tightly embedded in the riverbed of the Ovčjak 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.
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Measures	The Kanomlja Water Barrier is located at an altitude of 541 m. At the crown, it is 34.5 m long and 8.1 m high. On the accumulation side, the wall is lowered 11 m into the creek's riverbed and at the delivery side of the barrier, the wall is slightly inclined and almost 20 m deep. The water flows out through two flow channels, which were 3.2 m wide, 4.5 m high and 13.7 m long.
Materials	Stone, mortar, shingle.
Dating	1813-1926
Author / Producer	Idrija Mercury Mine

**Picture
attachments**

Original use

Due to the absence of suitable forest roads and means of transport, the most suitable method of transporting the wood into the valley was to flood the wood down the natural water paths. The Mine needed large amounts of timber, therefore the water barrier was built. 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 would perform his work diligently. The accumulated water (capture up to 71000 m³), after opening the massive wooden door, flooded the timber through two flow channels into the valley to the special rake mechanism (180 m long). These were placed in Spodnja Idrija, right before the Kanomljica River flows into the Idrijca River. 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 Kanomlja klavže are the most aesthetically perfected among all of the Idrija’s water barriers. Due to the aesthetic construction, exceptional dimensions, age and operating principle, the water barrier is one of the most important preserved facility of the Idrija Mercury Mine. It is a unique culturally-historic and technical monument of European significance. The water accumulation after the renovated water barrier (renovated in 2005) is used for the needs of a small power plant HE Klavžarica. For visitors, the renovation also arranged the access into the left chamber, where the water barrier door and the entire mechanism for opening the door was renovated for the first time in the history of Idrija water barrier’ renovations. The renovation was a great example of cooperation between the private sector (Soške elektrarne Nova Gorica) and the cultural (Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia).

Original location

2355 Vojsko, lot no. 410/2, 411/9, building no. 323.

Present location No changes.

STATE OF CONSERVATION

History of conservation: Between 2003 and 2005, the Kanomlja Water Barrier was fully renovated and therefore received its original appearance. Authentic materials and techniques (mortar) were used for conservatory procedures. The entire barrier was repaired, the spillways were arranged on the crown, the roof was reconstructed for the water barrier caretaker and the hearth.

Present state good

Necessary activities: Performing regular maintenance services by the programme, including status control and preservation, security and presentation of the heritage. The dangers for the facility are mainly natural influences, such as flood and high water, frost and erosion, which can cause landslides and rockfalls.

DOCUMENTATION

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

- 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;
- Verbič, Marija. O lesu za idrijski rudnik, prvih idrijskih grabljah in klavžah. Idrijski razgledi, 15/2, 1970.

Submitted Mestni muzej Idrija

Submitted by Miha Kosmač

Date Submitted 2. 3. 2018

Date Edited Never
