

STRUCTURI ARHITECTURAL-ARHEOLOGICE DIN CENTRUL ISTORIC BUCUREȘTI *

Virgil Apostol, Ștefan Bălici **

Keywords: Historic Centre of Bucharest, Zlătari Inn, Greci Inn, Șerban Vodă Inn, Constantin Vodă Inn, enclosure of The Old Court of Bucharest (Curtea Veche), 19th century urban structure, medieval structures, wooden street decks.

Abstract: The archaeological research undertaken on the occasion of the rehabilitation project for the infrastructure of the Pilot Area of the Historic Centre in Bucharest has brought to light elements of built structures or features dating to medieval, modern and contemporary times, either transformed along the centuries or radically retrofitted following the destructive events of the first half of 19th century or consequence of the intense building activity of the end of 19th century.

The important information brought by the research undertaken between 2007 and 2009 can be divided in two major categories. On the one hand, it has provided archaeological evidence of the transformations to the street network which had been partly recorded by building regulations and it has precisely located important inns (commercial buildings called *han*) and other edifices recorded by cartographic documents drawn at the end of 18th century and during the 19th century. It has also documented detail elements, previously known by written evidence, such as the structure of the wooden street decking (on Smârdan, Lipsșani or Gabroveni St.)

On the other hand, the archaeological research has provided new information regarding the limits of important urban ensembles (the north side of the enclosure of Curtea Veche – The Old Court, the main residence of the rulers of the country from mid 15th century until the end of 18th). The same research made the reconstruction of street segments decked with wood possible (the south stretch of Smârdan St., the middle segment of Gabroveni St.) or unveiled previously unknown medieval structures (the palisade of the north side of the precinct of the Old Court, the 17th century building on Tonitza St., the 18th century building on Zarafi St. or the cellars of Șerban Vodă Inn)

I. Smârdan St.

The archaeological excavations have unveiled important evidence to the history of the Centre: streets paved with wood (the medieval decks), a street paved with cobblestone (modern), buildings dating back to the 18th century or to the turn of 19th century, or elements of the sewage system from the end of 19th century.

II. Lipsșani St. The segment between Calea Victoriei and the National Bank (area of Zlătari Inn)

The archaeological research, focused mainly on the surface at the intersection of Lipsșani St. and Calea Victoriei, unveiled structures of Zlătari Inn which defined the south front of the old street, and a series of foundations which indicate fragmentarily the north front of the street, to which another inn, Filipescu, might have belonged.

III. Lipsșani St. The segment between Carada and Smârdan St. (the area of Greci Inn)

The archaeological research resulted in the discovery of structures belonging to Greci Inn, which used to define the south front of old Lipsșani St. and the west front of Smârdan St. Structures of Șerban Vodă Inn (the inn of Voievode Șerban, named for Șerban Cantacuzino, who ruled over Walachia between 1678-1688) which used to stand in the north front of the street, have also been discovered, as well as a series of foundations, structures and features previous to the building of the inns, along with important traces of the wooden street decking.

IV. Franceză St.

The archaeological vestiges discovered on the segment of Franceză St. (French St.) between Calea Victoriei and Poștei St. (Post St.) give an impression of the urban ambiance previous to the building, at the end of 19th century, of The Post and Telegraph Palace (1894-1900). The archaeological structures discovered across the segment between Post St. and Smârdan St. draw the outline of the street previous to the present configuration and describe, fragmentarily, the course of the wooden deck which survived probably down to the first half of 19th century.

V. Poștei St. The segment between Franceză and Sf. Dumitru St.

The archaeological research on Poștei St. – between Franceză and Sf. Dumitru St. – were meant to excavate the building situated at the intersection with Poștei St., which had been identified but partly during the excavations on Franceză St. In the space

* Acest articol reunește rapoartele de cercetare de arhitectură realizate pentru fundamentarea Proiectului de reabilitare a Centrului Istoric al Bucureștiului. Rezultatele preliminare ale cercetării de arhitectură pentru străzile Smârdan, Lipsșani – Hanul Zlătari, Lipsșani – Hanul Greci, Franceză, Sf. Dumitru, Pictor N. Tonitza, Poștei, Pasajul Francez au fost publicate în format electronic în anul 2008. (Apostol, Bălici, Apostol 2009). Colectivul de cercetare de arhitectură a fost compus din M. Mărgineanu Cârstoiu (coordonator), V. Apostol, Șt. Bălici, C. Mușter și P. Mortu. Prezentarea reprezintă o dezvoltare a comunicării *Vechiul București. Fragmentarium*, susținută în cadrul Simpozionului *Arhitectură. Restaurare. Arheologie (ARA/9)*, 2008. Publicarea exhaustivă a acestor studii va fi făcută după finalizarea cercetărilor de pe suprafața întregului spațiu public al Centrului Istoric vizat de proiectul de reabilitare a infrastructurii.

** Virgil Apostol: Muzeul Național de Istorie a României; Ștefan Bălici: Catedra de Conservare și Restaurare, Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism „Ion Mincu”.