

1. Turda's Salt-chamber

2. Salt is known and emphasized since the Prehistoric Age; it insured Turda's inhabitancy from the antiquity. The mining began in form of above the ground chambers in the Roman Times.

3. In the Middle Ages they switched to deep extraction. The documents which justify the mining can be traced back to 1271.

4. The salt which was extracted in Turda was transported on the Arieş and Mureş Rivers to Szeged, and from there to all over Europe.

5. Legally the salt-pans and the salt commerce constituted state ownership, the extraction of salt, the transportation and the exploitation was administrated by Salt rooms.

The building of Turda's Salt-chamber already existed in the 14th century; it was the first institution falling under the royal treasury. The first sources about this building are relatively from later times; the documents mentioned it first in 1524. In 16th century when an agent of Fugger Bank visited Transylvania, mentioned that this building was in a ramshackle condition.

6. The building is in Otorda's historical center next the Reformed church, but once it was located southwest from the town center. The building is one of Transylvania's medieval magisterial building which survived until now and in the same time it is the most valuable architectural monument of our town.

7. 8. 9. The building is two - storied, has a basement, 2 parallel tracts, a longer east wing and a smaller west wing, was built in several stages, and belonged to the ecclesiastical building complex, which is mentioned by many art historians and from this building complex has survived the current Reformed church too.

10. The building's oldest component is the southeast corner, a tower. On the east frontage floor, Lux Kálmán exposed a stone window frame, which has gothic characters

The Salt-chamber served as the king's quarters, and later during parliamentary sessions it served as the Transylvanian prince's quarters.

11. We have certain information from the time of the refurbishment in the Renaissance between 1581-1594; under prince Báthory Zsigmond's rule.

12. On the west they attached two more rooms to the already existing ones, and probably they built another floor to it which is proved by the Renaissance elements.

13.14. During this time, stonemasons from Cluj worked on this Salt-chamber: Brassay Ambrus, Keomies Dabo Lőrinc, Kurty János, Képíró Péter- the painter,

and Italian Genga Simon. The double or triple Renaissance window frames are from this period. The second floor's window frames' are decorated with serrated sills and we can find similar doorframes inside the building as well.

15. From the following centuries we have just a few information about this house.

16. In 1818 they renovated the building, and it's inscription about the work can be found in the museum.

After the 1848 revolution the Salt-chamber was moved from Turda. The building was rented for merchants while its condition was gradually deteriorating.

17. In 1887, there were some preservation works done however the balcony with pillars disappeared.

18. In 1902 Turda town received the plot with the buildings. 1909 – 1912 a colossal restoration took place based on Lux Kálmán, builder's plan. They have changed the board ceiling with beamed ceiling, and they consolidated the walls with iron.

19.In the following period the building functioned as a Culture House and maintained its role even after the First World War. Some rooms were used as a museum and the main hall a Romanian casino.

20.In 1955 according to a decree of the Ministers' Council, the building was added to the list of national monuments in Romania, as Turda's Mansion - Fiskus house – Museum.

Recently, the renovation of the building was finished, thanks to this, the ancient building will be our town's gem for good few years to come.

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