

Archaeological remains of the 5th and 6th centuries AD in the area of the Imperial Palace and Hippodrome in *Sirmium*/Sremska Mitrovica

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The imperial palace area during the 4th century AD

The remains of *Sirmium*, a Roman colony and Pannonian metropolis, a city where numerous Roman emperors were born, resided or died, lies beneath present-day Sremska Mitrovica in Serbia, a small town on the plains skirting the left bank of the river Sava, around 70 kilometres north-west of Belgrade. The history of *Sirmium* encompasses six centuries, from the Roman conquest of Pannonia in the second half of the 1st century BC until its destruction by the Avars at the end of the 6th century AD¹. The most intensive building activity at *Sirmium* coincides with the first decades of the 4th century, as evidenced by a large-scale construction project. Nevertheless, the city's northern zone retained its 3rd-century boundaries and settlement structure, while major changes took place in the southern part of the city. In the zone of the palace, at its northern end, a hippodrome was erected². Thus, some sections along the city's southern boundary extended towards the Sava, as attested by remnants of a rampart dating to Late Antiquity encountered in a series of trial trenches. It is surmised that the eastern and south-eastern portions of the rampart now delimited a slightly larger area of around 74 hectares, although the city may well have extended eastwards in earlier times³. There is, however, evidence of continuity

in the central part of the city (Fig. 1), at the junction of the main thoroughfares, and the forum and public buildings in its vicinity remained unchanged.

Following the accidental discovery of a luxurious building in 1956, which has been assumed to be the remains of the imperial palace, systematic investigations (no. 1a: Fig. 2) were conducted between 1957 and 1960: a small portion of the palace's central area was excavated⁴. It was established that its 3rd-4th-century horizon included an earlier structure with walls of firmly packed clay and straw brick, painted with frescoes. The second half of the 3rd century saw building activity on a larger scale, when parts of the 2nd- and 3rd-century AD southern ramparts were incorporated into a new building. All the rooms of the newly-constructed palace in the part of the complex that has been excavated had a hypocaust system and floors covered in mosaics. The excavation of the palatial complex was resumed in 1968/1969 a little further to the north, at site 37 (Fig. 2), where Late Antique walls were encountered beneath a medieval layer⁵. Despite attention being diverted by the discovery of the hippodrome (Fig. 2, site 66), the Yugoslav-US excavations of 1970 confirmed the existence of the imperial palace in the southern part of *Sirmium*. More than three decades later, we were able to resume these investigations and uncover the whole area⁶.

¹ MIRKOVIĆ 1971; EADEM, *Sirmium*. In: M. Šašel Kos/P. Scherrer (eds.), *The autonomous towns of Noricum and Pannonia - Die autonomen Städte in Noricum und Pannonien. Pannonia II. Situla 42* (Ljubljana 2004) 145-156.

² POPOVIĆ 2013.

³ JEREMIĆ 2004, 6.

⁴ O. BRUKNER, *Iskopavanja u Sirmijumu 1957-1960 godine. Limes u Jugoslaviji I* (Beograd 1961) 77-81.

⁵ For research history and summary of the excavation of the palace, see POPOVIĆ 2011; JEREMIĆ 2016, 215-235.

⁶ POPOVIĆ/OCHSENSCHLAGER 1976, 156-181; JEREMIĆ 2016, 236-262.

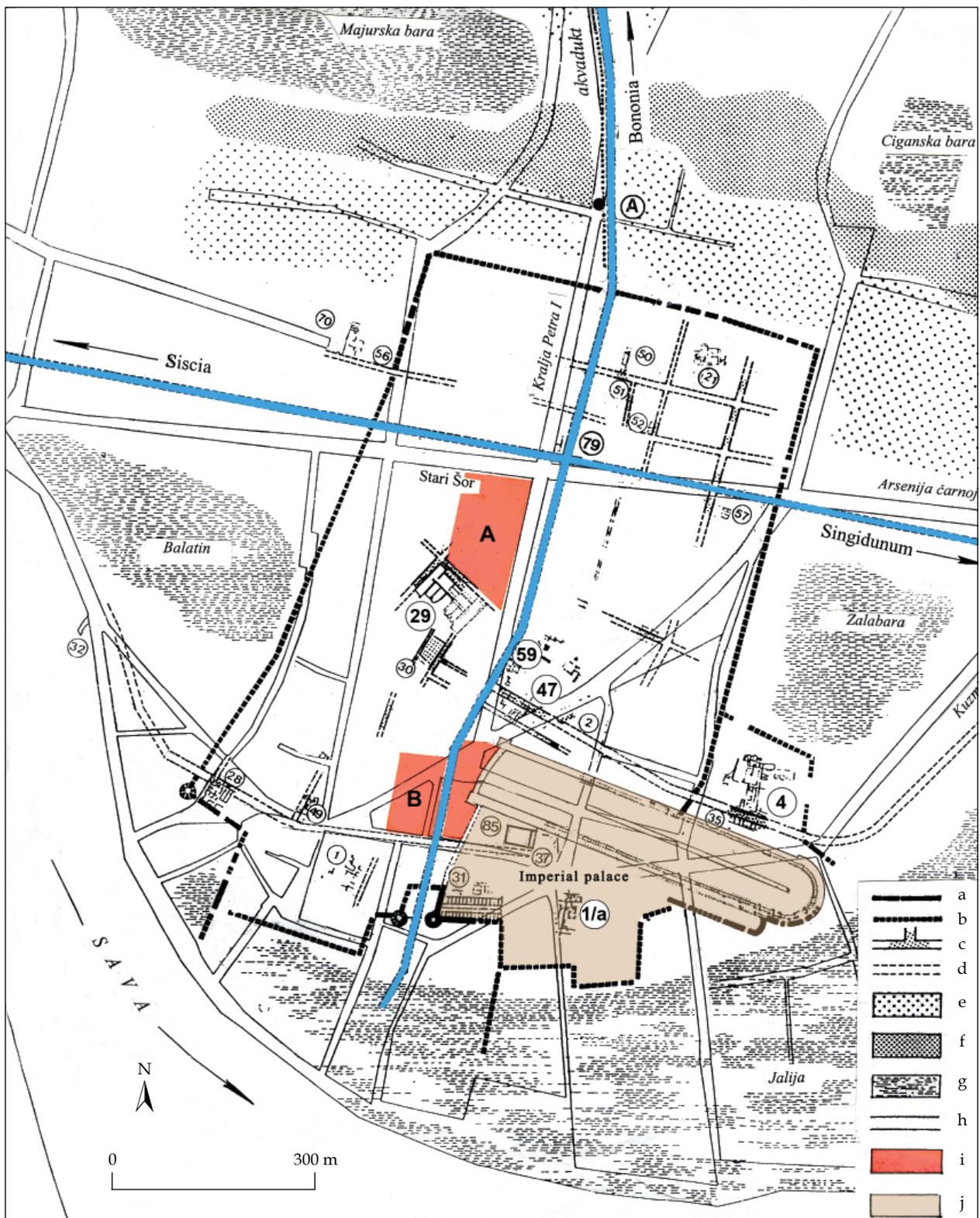


Fig. 1 Sirmium in the 4th century: **a** city rampart; **b** supposed location of the rampart; **c-d** main streets and roads; **e-f** cemeteries; **g** marshland and ponds; **h** present-day streets; **i** forum (A: original forum, B: supposed location of the second forum); **j** palatial complex. The numbers refer to individual sites: **1a, 37, 85** - palace; **31** - horreum; **1** - villa; **28** - craftsmen's quarter; **29** - *thermae*; **30** - horreum; **59** - city basilica; **47** - pagan temple (?); **4, 35** - *villae urbanae*; **79** - intersection of the main thoroughfares, the *cardo* and *decumanus*. - After JEREMIĆ 2009, fig. 1.

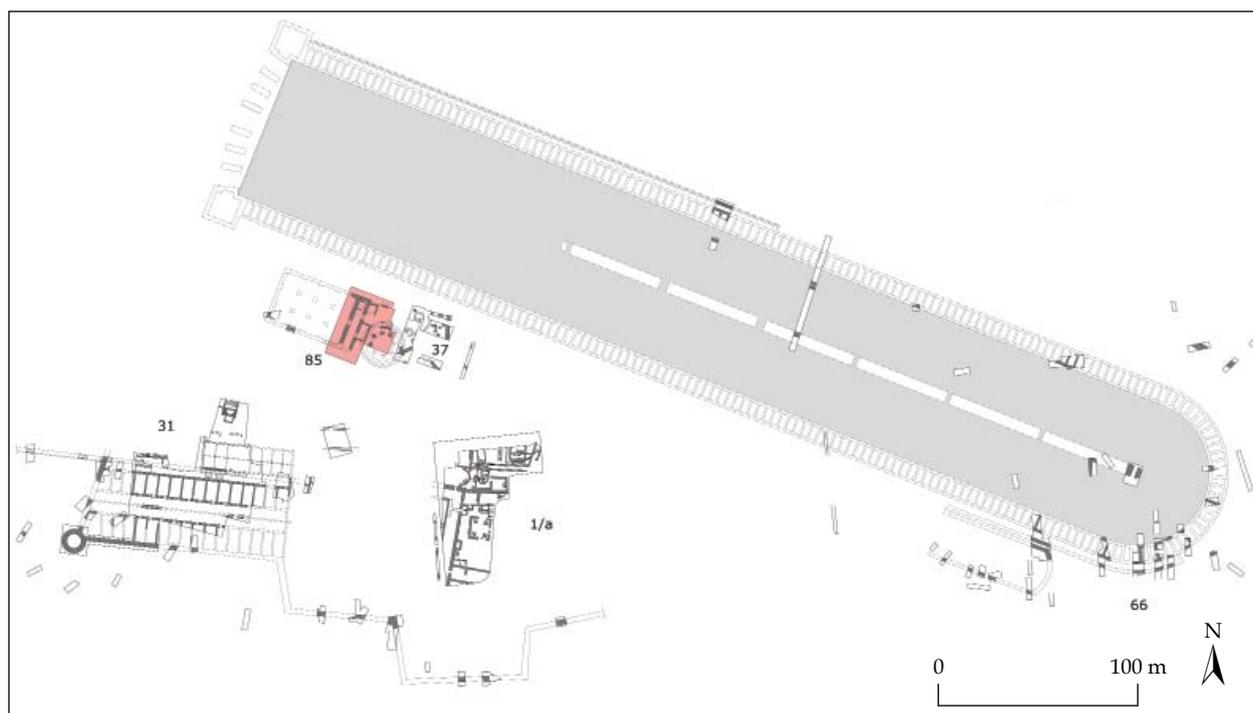


Fig. 2 Sites investigated within the palatial complex. – Graphic: B. Popović.

After trial excavations in 2002, systematic investigations of the complex started in 2003 in a section where the palace and the hippodrome were expected to coincide. Excavations were carried out at site 85 (Fig. 2), west of site 37 excavated earlier. The medieval cathedral of Dmitrovica was uncovered, together with its surrounding large cemetery with burials spanning several centuries. The remnants of a large structure dating to Late Antiquity were discovered under this sacral-funerary complex. Judging by its sturdy walls with pilasters, it must have served as a granary (*horreum*). In the 4th century, two annexes were added to this structure; they were richly decorated with marble architectural sculptures and their floors were covered in mosaics with geometric patterns⁷.

In sum, since the discovery of the monumental structure at site 1a and the start of systematic excavations at Sremska Mitrovica, several structures have been investigated to a greater or lesser extent. They formed part of the palatial complex at *Sirmium*, sprawling over an area of around 20 hectares in the south-eastern corner of the city's fortifications (Fig. 1). The archaeological evidence recorded so far provides an insight

into the physical composition of this complex and the purpose of the individual structures, bearing in mind that the palatial complex must have included accommodation for the court administration and guards, the performance of cultic ceremonies, as well as catering and personal hygiene facilities (Fig. 3)⁸.

Even though the palace complex at *Sirmium* has not been fully explored, it is possible to identify its functional zones. Structures of economic character (buildings A and B at site 31, and probably the recently investigated structure at site 85) and thermal facilities (partially explored at site 31) were concentrated in the western section of the complex, while the residential zone was situated in the central section (sites 1a, 37 and some recently excavated structures at site 85). A recreational area with a stadium and gardens was located east of the residential zone⁹. The hippodrome was erected north of these three zones (Fig. 3). As a virtual "city within the city," the complex was accessed from the west, most probably through a monumental gateway, which may have been adorned with a statue of the city's goddess, the Tyche of

⁷ JEREMIĆ 2009, 490.

⁸ POPOVIĆ 2011; EADEM 2013; JEREMIĆ 2016, 222–235.

⁹ JEREMIĆ 2016, 222–235.

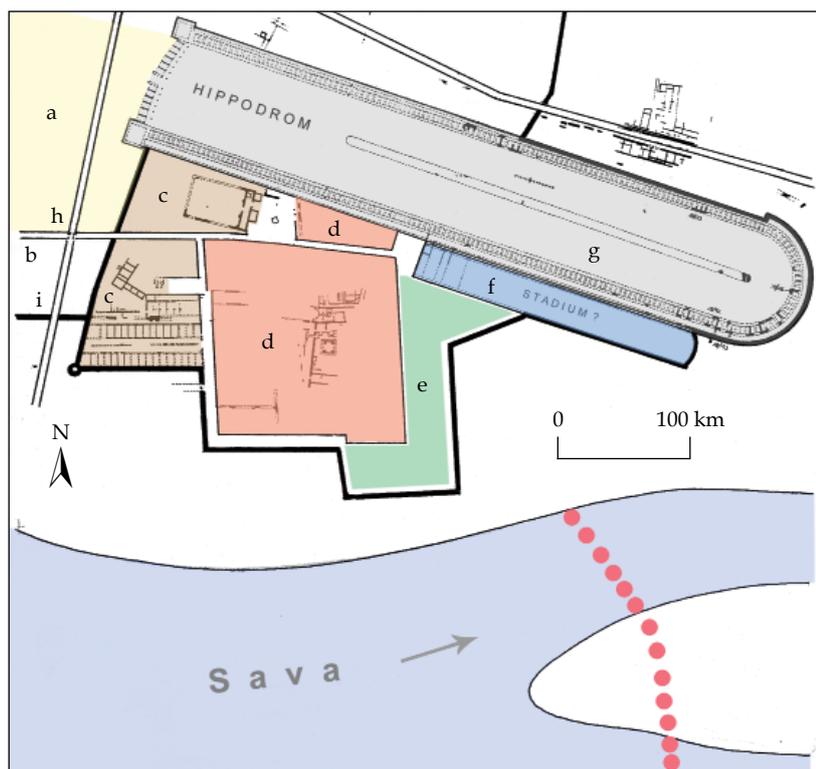


Fig. 3 The palatial complex at *Sirmium*: **a** second forum; **b** southern street; **c** zone of economic and thermal facilities; **d** residential area; **e-f** recreation area – gardens and stadium; **g** hippodrome; **h** supposed location of the *tetrapylon*; **i** supposed location of the southern city gate. – After JEREMIĆ 2009, fig. 28.

Sirmium. Her marble head was discovered in a secondary context during excavations in 2005, not far from the supposed entrance to the palace complex¹⁰.

The palace retained its function until the last quarter of the 4th century. In AD 359, Constantine's son Constantius II and his troops spent a considerable amount of time in the city, preparing for war against the Quadi. After Constantius had defeated them, he celebrated his triumph at *Sirmium*¹¹. Constantius' rule did not meet with approval from the city's residents, who rebelled and sided with Julian, known as the Apostate, the emperor who wanted to restore pagan customs. Having defeated Constantius in 361, Julian organised celebrations in the imperial palace and chariot races at the hippodrome. Soon afterwards, he left the city and headed for Constantinople¹². The emperors who subsequently stayed at *Sirmium* were the brothers Valentinian I and Valens, who came to an agreement for a new division of the Empire. In 371, Valens used the city as his military base in his war against

the Sarmatians. In January 379, *Sirmium* witnessed the crowning of Theodosius I, who met Gratianus the following year in *Sirmium*. Like their predecessors, the two emperors held negotiations in the city on the division of power in the state¹³. In all likelihood, the imperial celebrations and agreements made by the co-emperors took place in the area of the palace, whose last restoration, judging by the finds of coins beneath its upper mosaic layer, was undertaken during or shortly after the reign of Valentinian I Valentinian (364–375 AD). However, at the time of Theodosius' crowning, the porphyry sculptures were broken, using heavy implements; these fragments were found inside and around a polygonal structure, built on site 85 in the time of Trajan's reign¹⁴.

¹⁰ MIRKOVIĆ 1971, 39 f.

¹¹ O. BRUKNER, Прилог проучавању урбаног развоја Сирмијума. Просторија 16 «царске палате» у Сремској Митровици (A Study of the Urban Development of *Sirmium*. Room 16 of the "Imperial Palace" in Sremska Mitrovica). Грађа за проучавања споменика културе Војводине XI-XII, 1982-1983 (1983) 5, 21, 43; I. POPOVIĆ, Polygonal Structure in the Northern Part of the Imperial Palace in *Sirmium* (site 85) and similar Buildings in Balkan Roman Residential Complexes. In: I. Popović/S. Petković (eds.), *Illyricum Romanum. Studiola in honorem Miloje*

¹⁰ JEREMIĆ 2009, 470–491, fig. 9, 28; I. POPOVIĆ, Mermerne skulpture. – Marble sculptures (Belgrade, Sremska Mitrovica 2012) 6–13, 110–112.

¹¹ MIRKOVIĆ 1971, 33–44; EADEM 2008, 61–81.

¹² MIRKOVIĆ 1971, 33–44; EADEM 2008, 61–81.



Fig. 4 Postholes of a house dug into the floor of a Late Antique structure at site 85. – © Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade.

The transformation of the city

Already at the end of the 4th century, the former imperial buildings comprising the palace and hippodrome, *villae* and other structures lost their original function¹⁵. At that time, the arches of some rooms in the substructure of the hippodrome were seriously damaged¹⁶, and the ruins of a small temple (*fanum*) at site 1a became a source of building material for repairing damaged walls or poorly-constructed buildings made of stone and fragments of bricks, bonded with clay and erected in abandoned areas of the peristyle yards, as attested in the hippodrome arena¹⁷.

Vasić. Inst. of Arch. Monogr. 73 (Belgrade 2020) 146–160.

¹⁵ I. POPOVIĆ, *Sirmium. Residenzstadt der römischen Kaiser und Heilige Stätte der frühen Christen*. In: U. Brandl/M. Vasić (eds.), *Roms Erbe auf dem Balkan. Spätantike Kaiservillen und Stadtanlagen in Serbien* (Mainz 2007) 17–32; EADEM 2011, 179–185; EADEM 2013, 108–115; EADEM, *Polygonal Structure in the Northern Part of the Imperial Palace in Sirmium* (site 85) and Similar Buildings in Balkan Roman Residential Complexes. In: Eadem/S. Petković (eds.), *Illyricum Romanum. Studiola in honorem Miloje Vasić*. Inst. of Arch., Monogr. 73 (Belgrade 2020) 146–160 here 153–155.

¹⁶ POPOVIĆ/OCHSENSCHLAGER 1976, 177, 181.

¹⁷ JEREMIĆ 2003; IDEM 2004; IDEM 2009, 497, fig. 30; O. HEINRICH-TAMÁSKA, *Civitates et castra* im Lichte der Kontinuitätsforschung: zwei Beispiele aus Pannonien (5.-7. Jh. n. Chr.). In: O. Heinrich-Tamáška/H. Herold/P. Straub/T. Vida (eds.), *„Castellum, Civitas, Urbs“ Zentren*

After the Hunnic destruction in AD 441, new structures were built where the representative buildings once stood, but using other techniques. The construction of such features is best seen inside the hippodrome (site 66), in the area of the imperial palace (sites 1a, 37 and 85), and at the site of the peristyle of the so-called *villa urbana* (site 4)¹⁸.

On the sites of this late building phase, the new residential buildings were built in a different manner. Open hearths were discovered on many floors of the former imperial palace (site 1a), and the mosaic in the newly-built room east of the northern part of the *horreum* at site 85 was damaged by the postholes of a timber-built house (Fig. 4)¹⁹. In the area south of the hippodrome, at sites 85 and 37, above the structures of the second half of the 4th century, remains of new structures, like postholes and remnants of slim walls made of reused bricks were found. Six features have so far been fully or partly uncovered. They consist of small postholes forming rectangular or semi-circular lines, in some cases over a yellow clay floor level. Unfortunately, part of the area between sites 85 and 37 is not available for excavation because the cellars of a medieval

und Eliten im frühmittelalterlichen Ostmitteleuropa – Centres and Elites in Early Medieval East-Central Europe. *Castellum Pannonicum Pelsonense 6* (Budapest et al. 2015) 45–69 here 58–65; POPOVIĆ 2017a; POP-LAZIĆ 2017.

¹⁸ POP-LAZIĆ 2017.

¹⁹ POP-LAZIĆ 2017, fig. 1.



Fig. 5 Postholes of different houses and early Byzantine stone walls at sites 85 and 37. – After POP-LAZIĆ 2017, plan III.

building at site 37 removed these deposits and potentially destroyed a Late Antique layer. In the north-western part of the imperial palace, sunken-floored buildings (*Grubenhäuser*) were discovered, indicating that the complex lost its primary function. The space was used in a new manner, with post-built houses erected inside the rooms with mosaics²⁰.

Some new walls were nevertheless made of reused bricks. An example of such a structure, oriented east-west, was recorded in the northern part of site 85 and does not conform to the earlier layout (Fig. 5). Outside its north-eastern and south-eastern walls, a rough layer of broken bricks was observed, probably indicating that some parts of the building were destroyed (Fig. 6). The inner side of the walls were built in regular rows of bricks above a single row of stone. In the south-eastern part, two niches have been recorded. The entrance was along the western wall, where one niche is also documented. The use of this building may be dated by coins of Justin II (AD 565–578) found immediately above the floor²¹.

Within the 4th-century granary (*horreum*), a few inhumation burials were found, with finds of the second half the 5th century²². A recurring phenomenon should be emphasised at this point. New settlement features are all found in open spaces, i.e. in yards or in the granary's lateral annexes. By contrast, the burials with grave goods, which consist of finds of "Germanic" origin, were dug into the rubble inside the rooms of Late Antique buildings, e.g. the granary, the eastern annexe at site 85, the palace at site 1a, and in sector D of site 85²³. At present, it is not possible to establish a clear chronological relationship between the new settlement features and the burials, i.e. whether they are synchronous or sequential. If they are synchronous, then the burials of this period used areas where the quantities of rubble were thick enough for deep burial pits and which were less amenable to expanding the settlement. The new dwellings were erected near the ruined stone buildings, but in open spaces outside them²⁴.

²² POPOVIĆ 2017a, plan I, 67–69.

²³ POPOVIĆ 2016, plan VI; EADEM 2017a; M. KAZANSKI/A. MATYSKOVA, Objets en métal. In: POPOVIĆ/KAZANSKI/IVANIŠEVIĆ 2017, 157–182.

²⁴ POP-LAZIĆ 2017.

²⁰ POP-LAZIĆ 2017, plan III.

²¹ POP-LAZIĆ 2017, plan III.



Fig. 6 Early Byzantine stone wall at site 85. –
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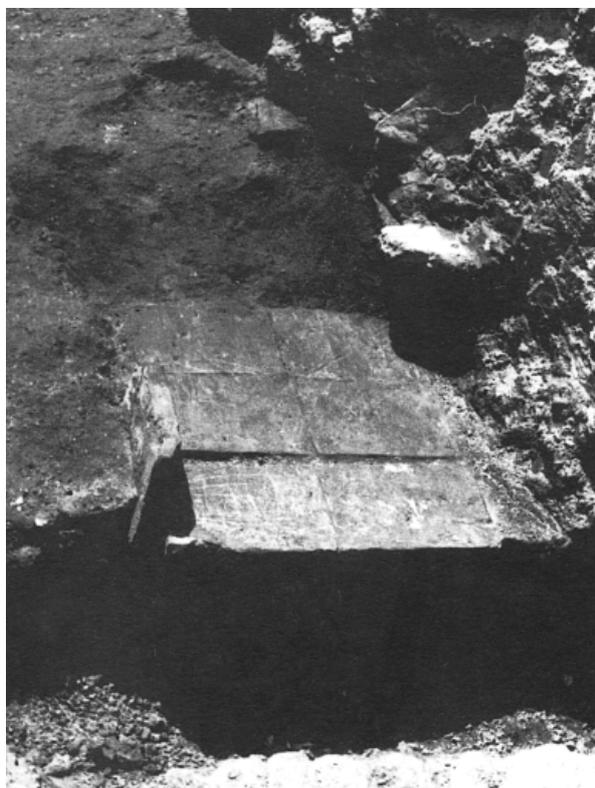


Fig. 7 Base of a hearth in the hippodrome arena. –
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A similar situation is visible in the hippodrome. Inside its walls, on the southern side, timber houses were built. More rarely the walls were made of bricks and stones, bonded by clay. The structures have square hearths lined with bricks (Fig. 7) and in some instances, the hearths were renewed. The cryptoporticus of the hippodrome was used for waste disposal²⁵.

²⁵ POPOVIĆ/OCHSENSCHLAGER 1976, 174–179.

One structure, whose remains were excavated north of the hippodrome (site 66), is of a different quality, as illustrated by the way it was built and the manner the space was articulated. This building had several rooms, independent of the walls of the Roman hippodrome (Fig. 8). On the floor of one of its rooms, at the northern side, the remains of the small pilasters of a hypocaust were recorded (Fig. 9)²⁶.

Later adaptations at the hippodrome and inside the peristyle of the so-called *villa urbana*²⁷ include new structures of the 5th and 6th century in some parts of the buildings. The Late Antique walls were erected over levelled earlier Roman walls, retaining the same orientation. Structures in former unbuilt urban areas were, however, also erected, following a new layout²⁸.

The building with a hypocaust system next to the northern wing of the hippodrome was built in Roman tradition, in contrast to other structures of that period, which are of lesser quality and reuse older walls. This building was next to an important commercial street in Late Antique *Sirmium*, connecting the so-called *villa urbana* (sites 4, 35) with the central part of the city (Fig. 10). That street kept its significance in the 5th–6th century, even though, at this time, the new temporary settlement structures and the graves around them were concentrated in the southern part of the city, closer to the river Sava. The existence of a “residential quarter”, with architectural elements exceptional for this time, located next to the artery that crossed the city from east to west²⁹, may be linked to other archaeological evidence, e.g. luxurious building decoration and various gold artefacts, including a gold belt³⁰

²⁶ JEREMIĆ 2003; IDEM 2004, 8–10.

²⁷ M. PAROVIĆ-PEŠIKAN, Excavations of Late Roman Villa at Sirmium – Part I. In: V. Popović/E. Ochsenschlager (eds.), *Sirmium II. Archaeological Investigations in Syrmian Pannonia* (Belgrade 1971) 15–49, 30, pl. XIII.

²⁸ JEREMIĆ 2004, 10; POPOVIĆ 2017a, 69–73.

²⁹ POPOVIĆ 2017a, plan I.

³⁰ I. POPOVIĆ, Golden Avarian Belt from the Vicinity of Sirmium (Belgrade 1997); EADEM 2017b, 217–235; O. HEINRICH-TAMÁSKA/H.-U. VOSS et al., Goldene Pseudoschnallengürtel in der Avaria (7. Jh. n Chr.): Studien zu Konstruktion, Herstellungs- und Verzierungstechniken sowie zum Material. In: H. Eilbracht et al. (eds.), *Über dem Glanz des Goldes und die Polychromie: Technische Vielfalt und kulturelle Bedeutung vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Metallarbeiten*. Koll. zur Vor- und Frühgesch. 24 (Bonn 2018) 125–250 here 231–248.

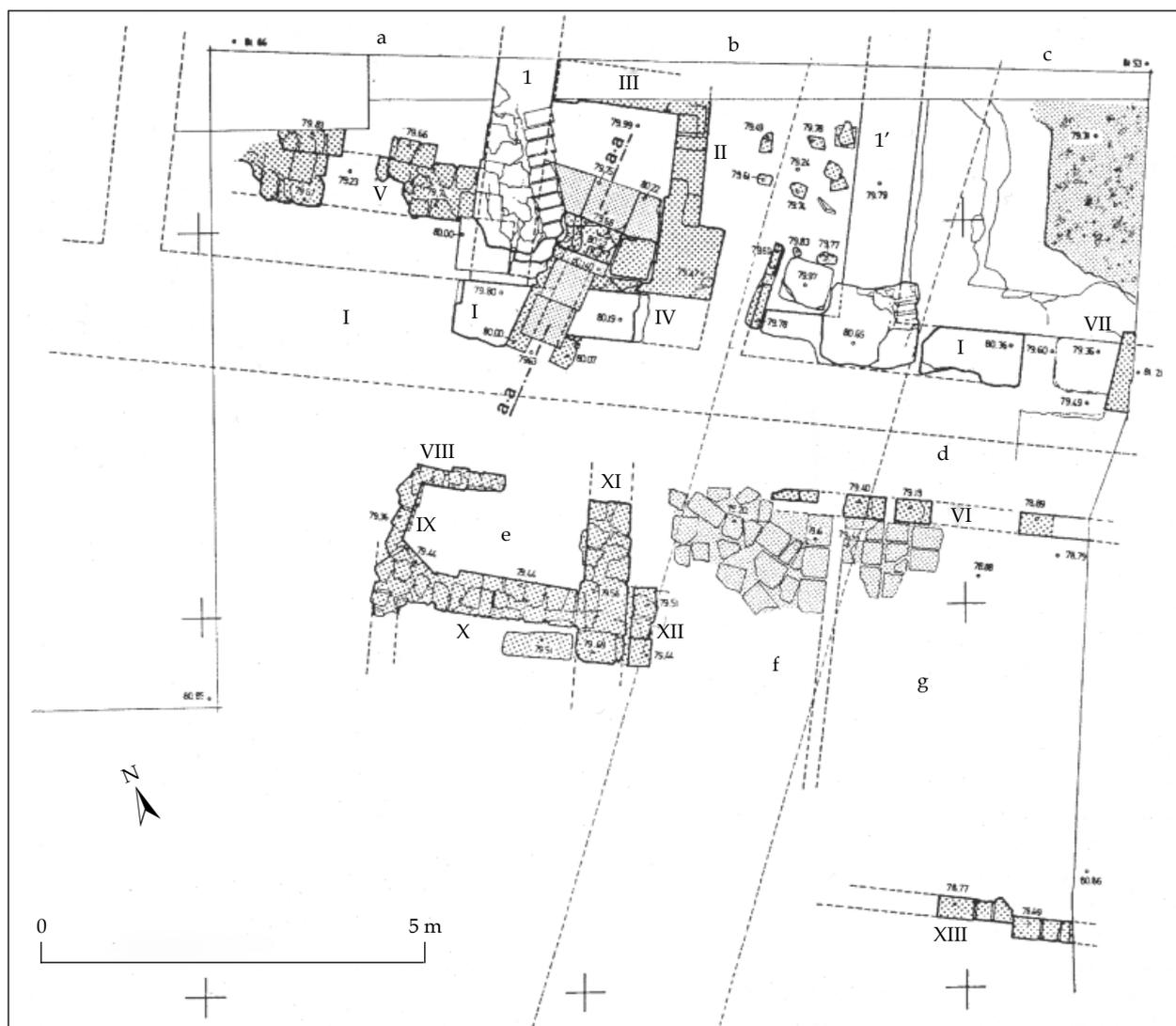


Fig. 8 Excavation plan of the remains of a residential building north of the hippodrome. – After JEREMIĆ 2004, fig. 13.

and an agraffe in Byzantine style³¹.

The discovery of a comfortable dwelling along this street goes towards resolving the question of the urban development of *Sirmium* during the early Byzantine period. Earlier theories suggested that the site of Mačvanska Mitrovica – today on the right bank of the Sava but probably an island during Late Antiquity – was the centre of *Sirmium* at this time, although excavations between 1966 and 1970 did not confirm this³². Furthermore, Menander's story about the

inhabitants of *Sirmium* watching the arrival of an Avar envoy from the high *thermae* (probably those recorded at site 29) suggests that Byzantine *Sirmium* was located within present-day Sremska Mitrovica and not in Mačvanska Mitrovica³³.

The contraction of the city's territory to its southern part already began in the early 5th century. The only 5th-century monumental building so far known, an early Christian basilica, was erected in this zone, south of the forum³⁴.

³¹ I. POPOVIĆ, Agrafe en or paléobyzantine de Sirmium. In: M. Mirković (ed.), *Römische Städte und Festungen an der Donau. Akten der regionalen Konferenz Beograd 16-19 Oktober 2003* (Belgrade 2005) 107-118; EADEM 2017, 215-217.

³² POPOVIĆ 1971, 131.

³³ POPOVIĆ 1971, 131.

³⁴ V. POPOVIĆ, Die süddanubischen Provinzen in der Spätantike vom Ende des 4. bis zur Mitte des 5. Jahrhunderts. *Die Völker Südosteuropas im 6. bis 8. Jahrhundert. Südosteuropa Jb. 17* (Berlin 1987) 95-139; POPOVIĆ 2012; EADEM, *La nécropole de la basilique ur-*



Fig. 9 Hypocaust pilasters in a room of a building located north of the hippodrome. – © Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade.

All this suggests that the east-west commercial street mentioned above was *Sirmium's* main communication route within its reduced territory (site 43) (Fig. 10).

In the vicinity, about 30 meters west of the postholes and hearths uncovered on site 47, in the area of a cemetery dated to the second quarter of the 5th century (site 43), a row of shallow pits was excavated, perhaps the floor level of sunken-floored buildings (*Grubenhäuser*)³⁵. The archaeological assemblage includes ceramics with burnished and stamped decoration. Altogether, these elements seem to indicate a process of “barbarization”, which took place at a rapid pace after the second quarter of the 5th century³⁶.

The newly-built structures recorded in the southern zone of the former city periphery are not homogenous and do not follow any urban planning. The only exception, indicating elements of a Roman urban tradition, is the building next to the northern wing of the hippodrome. The façade of this edifice faced the street, which was becoming the main axis of communication between the eastern and central parts of the city.

baine à Sirmium. *Starinar* LXII, 2012, 113–135; EADEM 2017a, 42–47.

³⁵ POPOVIĆ 2017a, 50–55.

³⁶ K. DAVIDOVIĆ, La céramique. In: POPOVIĆ/KAZANSKI/IVANI-ŠEVIĆ 2017, 125–156.

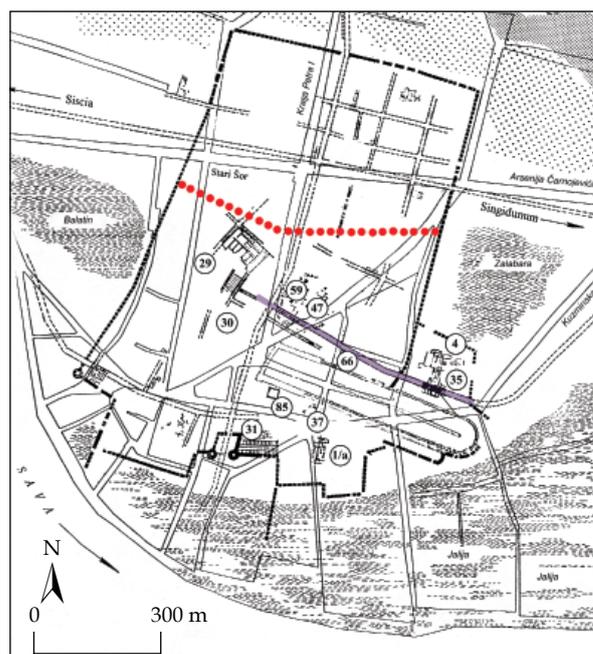


Fig. 10 Traces of the supposed inner rampart of *Sirmium* during the early Byzantine period and the course of the street that connected the *villa urbana* with the central part of the city. The residential building shown in Fig. 8 was built along this street, north of the hippodrome. – Combined plan after JEREMIĆ 2006, fig. 1; IDEM 2009, fig. 1.

Conclusions

This brief overview of activities in the area of the palatial complex at *Sirmium* at the time when it lost its representative function shows that the settlement processes at the palace site south of the hippodrome and in the latter's arena differed from those in the area north of hippodrome. Some graves with few or modest finds, mostly of “Germanic” origin, were recorded in a rubble layer of the destroyed palace, whereas, in the open spaces inside the palatial complex, the postholes of timber buildings were uncovered. Few stone and brick structures were excavated within and south of the hippodrome. An entirely different articulation of the space is evident north of the hippodrome: the façades of the houses were not facing the hippodrome but the commercial street, which connected the newly-built structures and the *villa urbana* with the central parts of the city. In sum, during the 5th and 6th century, the axis of the Late Antique city moved from the palace area to the north of the abandoned hippodrome.

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Summary

The remains of ancient *Sirmium* lies beneath present-day city of Sremska Mitrovica at the left bank of the river Sava, around 70 kilometres north-west of Belgrade. The history of *Sirmium* encompasses six centuries, from the Roman conquest of Pannonia in the second half of the 1st century BC to its destruction by the Avars at the end of the 6th century AD. The most intensive building activity at *Sirmium* coincides with the first decades of the 4th century, as evidenced by a large-scale construction project. The city's northern zone retained its 3rd-century boundaries and settlement structure, while major changes took place in the southern part of the city: a palace and at its northern end, a hippodrome were erected. All these buildings lost their representative function after the 4th century.

The features of the 5th-6th centuries suggests that the change in settlement at the palace site south of the hippodrome and in the latter's arena on the one hand were distinct from those north of hippodrome on the other hand. Some graves, mostly displaying "barbarian" influence, were recorded in a rubble layer of the destroyed palace, while, in the open spaces inside the palatial complex, the post-holes of timber buildings were uncovered. Few stone and brick structures were excavated within and south of the hippodrome. An entirely different articulation of the space is evident north of the hippodrome: the façades of the houses did not face the hippodrome but the main street, which connected the newly built structures and the *villa urbana* with the central parts of the city. All these elements show new processes during the 5th and 6th centuries: the axis of the Late Antique city moved from the palace area to the north of the abandoned hippodrome.

Zusammenfassung

Archäologische Befunde des 5. und 6. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. im Bereich des Kaiserpalastes und des Hippodroms in *Sirmium*/Sremska Mitrovica

Die Überreste des antiken *Sirmium* liegen unterhalb der heutigen Stadt Sremska Mitrovica am linken Ufer der Save, etwa 70 Kilometer nordwestlich von Belgrad. Die Geschichte von *Sirmium* umfasst sechs Jahrhunderte, von der römischen Eroberung Pannoniens in der zweiten Hälfte des 1. Jahrhunderts v. Chr. bis zu seiner Zerstörung durch die Awaren am Ende des 6. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. Die intensivste Bautätigkeit in *Sirmium* fand während der ersten Jahrzehnte des 4. Jahrhunderts im Rahmen eines groß angelegten Bauprojektes statt. Der nördliche Teil der Stadt behielt seine Grenzen und seine Siedlungsstruktur aus dem 3. Jahrhundert bei, während sich im südlichen Teil der Stadt größere Veränderungen vollzogen: Ein Palast und nördlich davon ein Hippodrom wurden errichtet. Alle diese Gebäude verloren nach dem 4. Jahrhundert ihre repräsentative Funktion.

Die Befunde des 5. bis 6. Jahrhunderts deuten unterschiedliche Entwicklungen zwischen dem Palastgelände, südlich und in der Arena des Hippodroms einerseits und dem Areal nördlich des Hippodroms andererseits an. In einer Schuttschicht des zerstörten Palastes wurden einige Gräber entdeckt, die zumeist einen „barbarischen“ Einfluss erkennen lassen, während auf den freien Flächen innerhalb des Palastkomplexes die Pfostenlöcher von Holzbauten freigelegt wurden. Wenige Stein- und Ziegelbauten wurden innerhalb und südlich des Hippodroms ausgegraben. Nördlich des Hippodroms zeigt sich hingegen eine völlig andere Erschließung des Raumes: Die Fassaden der Häuser waren nicht dem Hippodrom, sondern der Hauptstraße zugewandt, die die neu errichteten Gebäude und die *villa urbana* mit den zentralen Teilen der Stadt verband. Alle diese Elemente zeigen neue Prozesse während des 5. und 6. Jahrhunderts: Die Achse der spätantiken Stadt verlagerte sich vom Palastbereich nördlich des aufgelassenen Hippodroms.