

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE MEDIEVAL HETYE VILLAGE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ROM VÁNDOR (RUIN ROVER) PROGRAMME

GERE LÁSZLÓ¹ – KELEMEN BÁLINT²

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Hetye village was located on the outskirts of Ádánd village in Somogy County, southeast of present-day Ádánd, west of Ketye Stream. Today, only a solitary tower remains of its medieval church. In 1887, István Szabó found medieval antiquities among the ruins, which were transferred to the Hungarian National Museum. Despite this, there had been no archaeological excavations or historical monument research at the church up to our project. In 2025, Market Építő cPLC. implemented the conservation work on the tower and tidied its surroundings; it was the sixth location of its ROM Vándor corporate social responsibility programme. The following paper summarises the results of the related survey and research work.

Tags: Middle Ages, church ruin, monument, conservation

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The name of Hetye (or Ketye) village can be found among the estates of the Veszprém Chapter in 1082 as *Predium Kexa*. According to the papal tithe register, it belonged to the Archdeaconry of Somogy, and the priest Jakab paid 22 small *denarii* per year in 1333–34. In 1343, the patron saint of the church, Saint John, is also mentioned. A charter from 1427 mentions a parish priest named Nicolaus. The village of Hetye was depopulated during the Ottoman occupation. The ruins of its church are known as Törökhagyás ('Left by the Turks', i.e. Ottomans).

STATE OF THE RUIN BEFORE CONSERVATION, OBSERVATIONS ON BUILDING HISTORY

On a low hill east of Ádánd village, north of the marshy lands by the river Sió, stands a medieval, three-storey brick tower of a church, complete with the wall stubs of the former adjoining nave. The orientation of the tower is north-west to south-east, which also means that the orientation of the former nave was the same. The tower, which has an almost square plan, was connected to the nave at its north-western side. The south-eastern side of the tower is 3.78 m wide and the south-western side is 3.75m; its wall is 0.7 m thick.

The tower had no external, ground-floor entrance. Presumably, a vaulted ground-floor room could be accessed only from the nave, but no trace of that door has survived. Its first floor could be accessed through a door opening from the gallery.

At the height of the first floor, both the south-eastern and south-western walls were perforated by a slit window widening outwards and inwards. At the height of the second floor, two twin windows could be upward extension of the tower (*Figs 1 and 2*), while the north-western wall did not have an opening (*Fig. 3*).

The two slit windows on the first floor are completely identical in design; the small differences are due to minor damage that occurred over the centuries. The south-western window has survived in a better condition of the two; not only its arch, but also its northern jamb and part of its southern jamb below the impost have remained in original condition.

The narrow windows are vertical rectangles in shape, with a semicircular arch on the top, splaying outwards and inwards. The internal width and height of the south-eastern window could be determined as, after determining the angle of the wall plane and the jamb, the original window structure could be reconstructed.

¹ Archeologist; e-mail: gere.laszlo57@gmail.com

² Architect, KÖZTI cPLC; e-mail: kelemen@kozti.hu



Fig. 1. South-western facade of the tower



Fig. 2. South-eastern facade of the tower



Fig. 3. North-western facade of the tower



Fig. 4. North-eastern facade of the tower

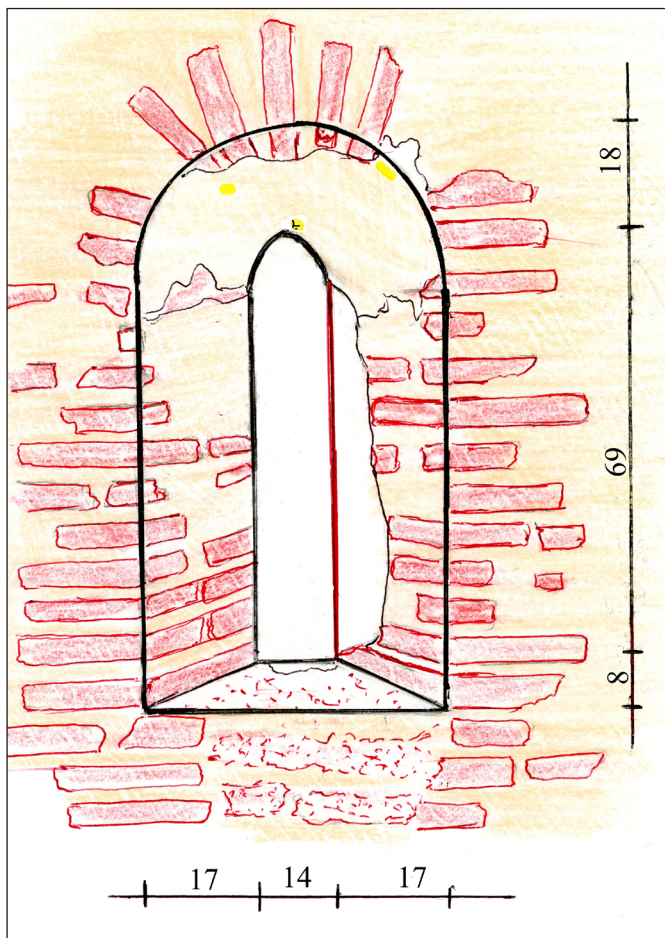


Fig. 5. Survey of the upper floor window on the south-western facade

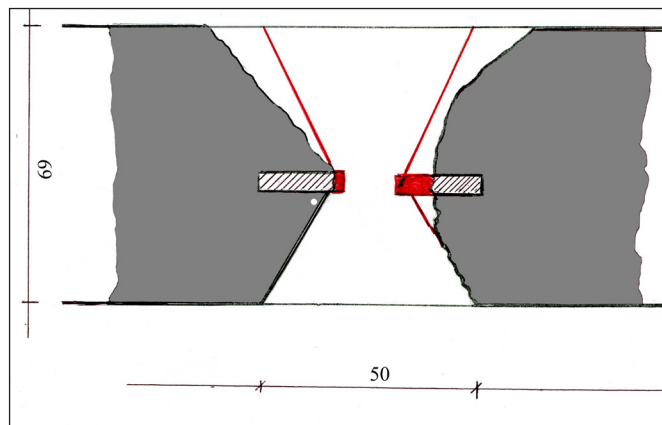


Fig. 6. Section of the window



Fig. 7. External view of the second-floor window on the south-western facade



Fig. 8. Mullion after exploration

The inner half of the window is heavily damaged, exposing a course of bricks set on their short side in the central part of the wall core, which separated the external and internal oblique planes of the jamb and formed an internal horizontal plane between them. A wooden panel or wooden frame that covered the opening could be attached to this surface (Figs. 5 and 6).



Fig. 9. Detail of the vault after research

The bricked-up twin windows on the second floor are identical in size to the ones on the first floor. On the external wall face, the two windows are separated only by a 14 cm-wide pillar, while the same pillar on the internal wall face is 25–28 cm wide. The original design of these pillars could be explored: the outer, 13–14 cm-wide front part was completed by 8 cm-wide grooves on the sides, 8 cm inward from the wall plane. An *in situ* detail of the sill has survived on the south-western façade, at the northern jamb of the northern window opening of the twin windows on the second floor (Figs. 7–9).

The third floor of the tower is clearly the result of a later upward extension. Here too, a large window breaks through the wall in its central axis. A fragment of one of the jambs and the sill have survived in the window opening. The sill originally sloped outwards, just like the jamb. Both stones are heavily worn and damaged. Several courses of brick have fallen out below the window sill from the nave-side part of the wall (Fig. 10).

A row of Romanesque arches with truncated surfaces runs above the twin windows on the south-eastern, south-western and north-western facades. The arches spring from the eighth course of bricks above the semicircular arch of the twin windows and it are three courses high. The row of arches can be followed across the entire width of the facade. Only vertical bricks with damaged surfaces have survived of the arches; the distance between them is 29–30 cm. The top of the row of arches is at 9.44 m above ground level. This is where the Romanesque church tower ends and the spire starts.



Fig. 10. South-eastern window on the third floor before restoration



Fig. 11. Door to the gallery

Basically, the north-eastern facade has to be divided into two parts, since the lower two-thirds of the wall is actually the south-western wall of the nave, and only the upper one-third rose higher than the ridge of the roof above the nave. This was where the barrel-vaulted ground-floor room of the tower could be accessed through a door under the gallery, and the upper part of the tower could be accessed through the gallery door. The existence of the gallery is also clearly proven by the surviving springing in the southern half of the wall. The lower north-western third of the northern wall of the nave is completely missing, akin to the entire north-western half of the ground floor and part of the gallery north-west from the gallery door. Despite that, the arch and the southern jamb of the gallery door have survived. Every dimension of the door is known: the height of the jamb between the threshold and the impost is 149 cm, the arc of the opening rises to 32 cm above the impost, and the width of the door



Fig. 12. Remains of the second-floor vault of the Romanesque tower

measured at the impost is 70 cm (Fig. 11).

The north-eastern wall of the tower also serves as the western wall of the nave (Fig. 4). The south-western wall of the nave is topped by an arch made of bricks laid upright. This arch is not a load-bearing one built for the tower; it can be detected under the tower, but it also continues towards the north-west and south-west. The wall below the arch also has a semicircular closure, even the springing can be recognised. The courses of bricks on the tower above the arch are curved, following its line, and become horizontal again after several rows. All this proves that the tower and the vault of the nave were built at the same time. The ground floor area of the tower was covered with a barrel vault ceiling that sprung from the north-western and south-eastern walls. The bricks of the vault were also connected to the south-western wall, so the vault can be drawn accurately. The barrel vault above the springing was covered with a fill of brick fragments and lime-grained yellow mortar. The vault on the top of the tower marks the place of the former vault from before the upward extension: originally, the tower was capped by a barrel vault similar to that of the ground floor room. The remains of the springing and the vault are clearly visible in the south-western wall (Fig. 12). The original height of the wall can be determined very precisely from the height of the vault, the positions of the springings, and the row of arches made from truncated bricks on the external facade.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH DURING CONSERVATION

A structural assessment was necessary due to the tilt of the tower towards the south-west. The necessary probing was carried out under archaeological monitoring, including subsequent documentation. An uneven wall face was found in the sondage trench opened at the central axis of the south-western facade of the tower, with bricks with irregular and fragmented edges. The wall did not show any characteristic of a foundation; in fact, it – at least its explored part – ended at a depth of about 130 cm from current surface. We did not reach the medieval ground level around the tower in this trench.

Another sondage trench was opened at the south-eastern facade of the tower in search for the foundation of the tower at the missing eastern half of the wall. Thus, we practically obtained a full profile of the southern wall and the fill next to the outer part of the wall and within the tower. Fig. 13 illustrates well that the external and internal facings, the bricks of which were arranged in a regular pattern that continued on the

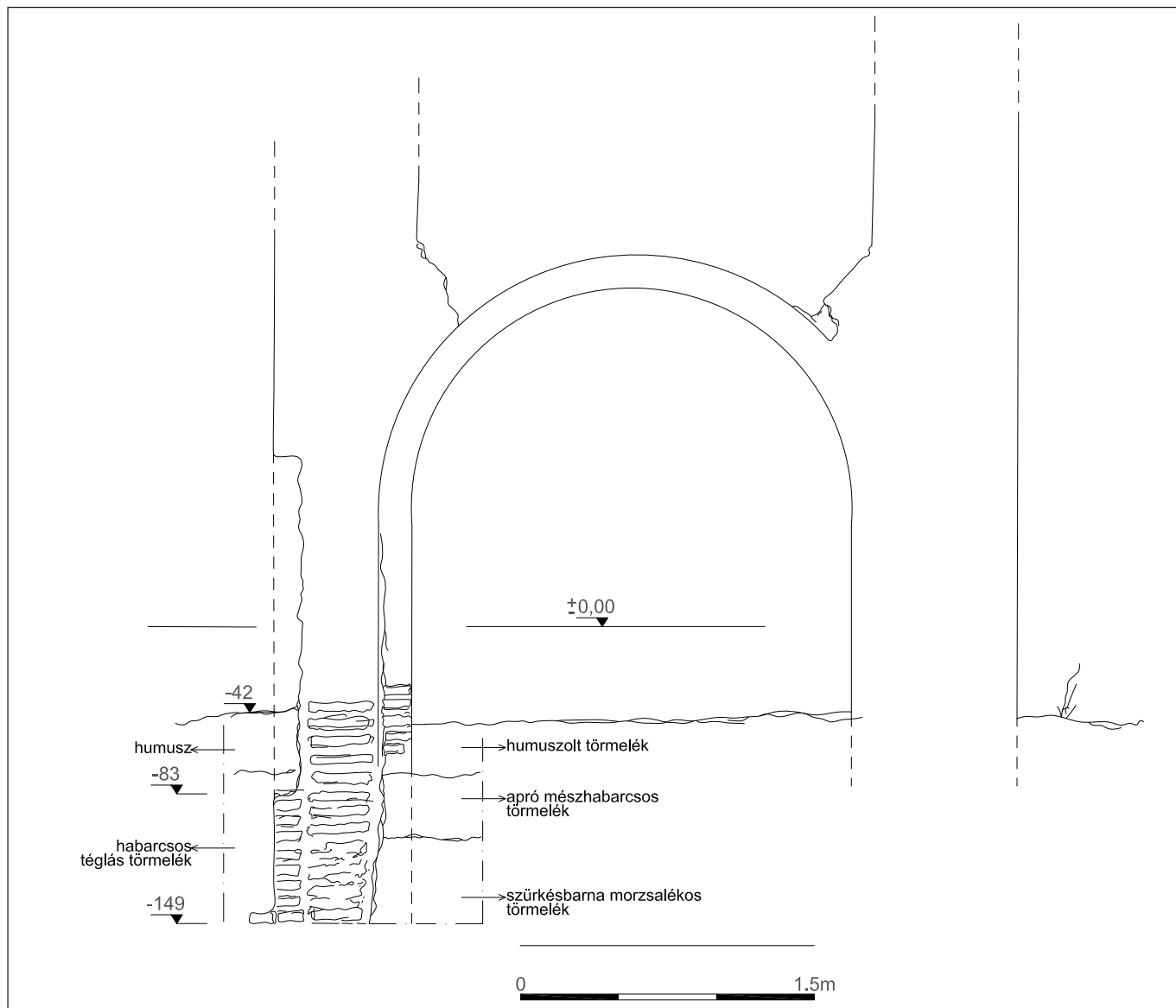


Fig. 13. North–south wall section, including the foundation of the south-eastern wall

joining walls, were removed from the lower part of the wall, and practically only the wall core remained on the western side of the south-eastern wall. The outer wall face was found 40 cm below the current surface, but no features associated with a foundation could be discerned. However, as clearly visible on Fig. 13, neither the foundation of the wall or the lowermost course of bricks was exposed. Bricks and courses of bricks laid less regularly, integrated with the outer wall face but slightly protruding – indicating perhaps the start of the foundations – were found at a depth of 149 cm.

A third sondage was opened at the eastern end of the north-west wall of the tower. We did not reach the medieval ground level there either. The foundation of the northern wall remained unclear: on the one hand, there are plaster remains on the wall, which suggest that this part of the wall was once above ground level; on the other hand, however, the wall ends at a suspiciously shallow depth compared to the southern and western walls, only 55 cm below surface.

THE NAVE AND THE APSE. A GEORADAR SURVEY

There is no historic data concerning the nave and the apse. Most information about the floor plan of the church has been provided by a georadar survey carried out by Salisbury Archaeological Ltd in 2023 (Ádánd–Hetye church archeological geophysical survey).

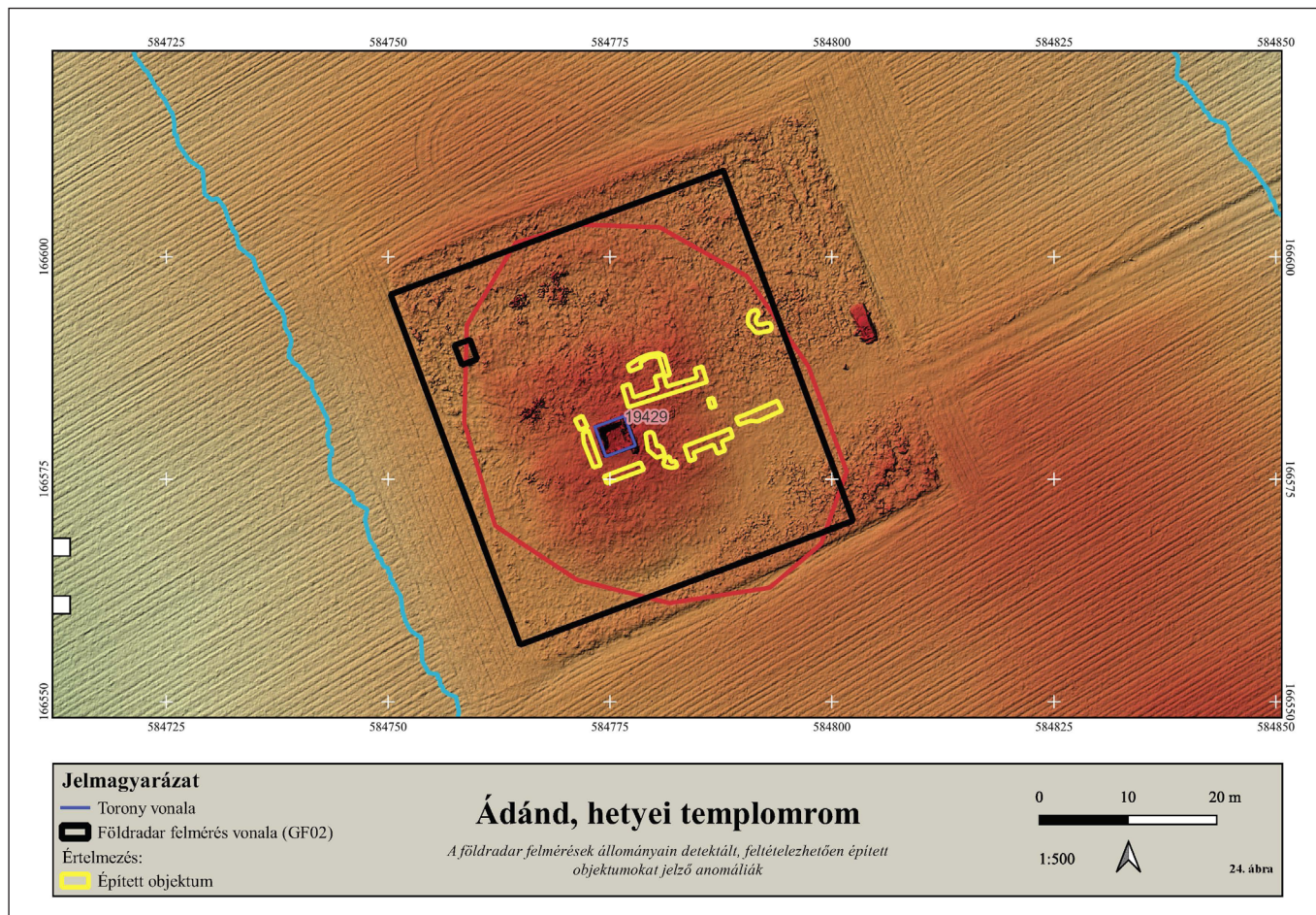


Fig. 14. Ground plan of the church as reconstructed from the georadar survey

Based on the wall remains determined by the georadar survey, the ground plan of the late Romanesque church could be reconstructed as a single-nave building with a straight-walled apse and buttresses, complete with a three-story tower located in front of the western wall (Fig. 14). According to the survey, the length of the nave is 9 m, its width is 5.8 m. The apse is 6.5 m long and 3.5 m wide. The nave and the apse together are 15.5 m long, and the total length of the church, including the tower is 19.3 m.

The georadar survey also shows walls whose function is difficult to interpret. Such are, for example, the walls parallel to the south-eastern and south-western sides of the tower. By expanding the sondage trench of the south-western wall, the previously excavated foundation trench of the wall, indicated by an anomaly on the survey map, could be found; it was filled mostly with brick rubble. The connection between the outlined walls can only be determined with extensive excavation. The former ground levels at the tower and in the nave could not be determined because of numerous plunder pits visible even in 2009. Only in 2015 were they filled as part of major landscaping around the church tower.

It is interesting to overview how this church, with the above described plan, is related to village churches of the second half of the 13th century. A search for parallels must start with the tower, since that is what we know the most about. Three church towers with three or four floors and twin windows on the upper floor can be mentioned: the churches of Csempeszkopács, Egregy, and Óriszentpéter have towers with a similar design. In these churches, the ground floor part did not serve as an entrance hall, but their twin windows have columns with stone capitals and they are also somewhat narrower. In terms of size and floor plan of the tower, the church of Egregy is the closest parallel to the one in Hetye.

In terms of the twin windows, the Roman Catholic church of Zalaegerszeg-Andráshida can be considered one of the best analogies. The apse of this church has not survived, thus the exact length of the nave remains unknown. The tower in front of its western facade has wide, brick-mullioned twin windows and



Fig. 15. The restored and conserved tower with the new corner pillar



Fig. 16. Interior of the tower with a bench, a cassette for the ruin booklet, and an information board

windows on the top floor, like the tower at Hetye. Ilona Valter dated the building of the church to the mid-13th century. The surviving Romanesque nave of the Andrásida church is also longer than 10 m, which, besides the design of the twin windows, is another similarity between two churches.

RECONSTRUCTION

The Ádánd church ruin is the sixth renewed monument in the ROM Vándor (Ruin Rover) programme of Market Építő cPLC, and the fifth that has been conserved based on KÖZTI's design (lead architect Bálint Kelemen). The primary goal of the intervention carried out within the framework of the programme is to protect the remaining architectural-historical monuments. The intervention at Ádánd, similarly to the other ROM Vándor projects, was minimalist, focusing on the remaining tower, and its concept was based on professional conservation and a contemporary addition designed around a single concept (Fig. 15). As the tower tilted, the north-eastern wall gradually separated from the walls joining it at a right angle; the resulting cracks were repaired with hidden, dry wall seams using stainless steel spiral rods. The tower was stabilised by injecting synthetic resin under the foundation,

and the damaged wall surfaces were conserved using professional methods. The brick pillar built in the 1940s was demolished and a supporting wall was built at the northern corner. The bottom of the tower was paved with frost-resistant clinker bricks. An anthracite grey, powder-coated steel information board was added to the new wall section on the side of the northern corner pillar facing the former wall opening, while the cassette of the ruin booklet (guestbook) was built into a bench. A small bell to be rung by anyone was mounted on the tower wall.

The newly built elements, the cladding of the northern corner pillar, the floor paving, and the bench were made of the same material: basalt-coloured, structured, combed clinker bricks, thus creating a contrast with the various original brick surfaces. All new additions (pillar, floor, bench, and information board) are limited in scale and designed to fit the monument (*Fig. 16*). The area around the ruin was graded to enhance the draining of precipitation, and it was re-grassed.

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