

## Lime-kiln in Kamna Gorica

IRN 8786

Location	Ljubljana
Time of origin	1895
Time of restoration	1993–1995
Chief Conservator	Aleš Florjanc with assistants Dr. Anton Ramovš, Irena Vesel-Kopač

The lime-kiln was built in a similar way to the one in Podutik and was also of similar size. It was erected by Alojz Vodnik, son of Albert Vodnik, probably in 1895. It was built later than the lime-kiln in Podutik and was more important due to the larger quantities of lime baked in it. Lime-making reached its heyday in the period after the disastrous earthquake in Ljubljana in 1895 and before the First World War. At that time about 15 lime-kilns were constructed annually, sometimes even more.

On account of increased costs the production of lime deteriorated in the period between the wars. The leading role in the production of lime devolved with the industrial plants in Zagorje and Kresnice. The last lime-kiln was used in 1959.

The lime-kiln in Kamna Gorica was fuelled partly by firewood and partly by coal. About 70 cubic metres of firewood or two and a half wagons of coal were necessary for one lime-kiln. In the heyday of lime-making the baking of lime usually began at the end of March and continued until the end of October or was prolonged even until November.

Local lime was baked in Kamna Gorica as well, and it was quarried in the hill directly behind the lime-kiln. Originally the lime-kiln was inclined on the hill which is no longer near it at present.

Urgent restoration works on the lime-kiln were performed in 1995. The kiln was strengthened by additional stone blocks so as to prevent further dilapidation of the structure. The surrounding area of the monument was cleared and basic equipment for its public presentation was installed.

The lime-kiln was filled with rubbish. It was also filled with superfluous earth all around, so that access to it was obstructed. The fill was probably a remnant of extensive excavation work for the construction of a local road.

Before the beginning of construction works access to the lime-kiln had to be cleared of overgrown vegetation so as to make it visible again. The work had to be performed manually, similarly as in case of the lime-kiln in Podutik. Smaller plants were pulled out, larger ones cut out and their roots burnt with a strong fire. The grout was cleared to its firm base. The lime-kiln had to be dug out to the level of the local road so that access to it was unobstructed again.

In the process of clearing the upper part of the lime-kiln and the reconstruction of the internal wall certain stone blocks

had to be temporarily removed, properly marked and returned to their original positions after the completion of the restoration. Missing blocks had to be replaced by new ones cut in the neighbouring quarry. Steel ties that were removed before the renovation were subsequently replaced.

The square ground plan of the lime-kiln and the stone blocks on the top formed according to it facilitated the fabrication of a completely concealed ferro-concrete slab. This was necessary in order to bind the two separate layers of the lime-



Renovated lime-kiln in Kamna Gorica. "Strong and thick bushes have overgrown the lime-kiln and its surroundings. A tree grew out of this lime-kiln as well..."

kiln: the internal pot made of silica sandstone and the external wall made of blocks of clay limestone.

The external wall was built of extremely large stone blocks, therefore it was impossible to mend the damaged grout with cement. It was more practical to fill the large holes with smaller pieces of quarry stone.

The bottom of the lime-kiln was cleared to the level of the external terrain and the fireplace was reconstructed with baked brick in its original form. The badly damaged stone vault above the entrance was mended with new ashlar of indigenous clay limestone.

A grate with a suitable grid and rod thickness was installed on top of the lime-kiln so as to enable visitors to have a safe view of the kiln. The entrance was protected by a door in the form of an iron grate.

The monument was finally marked with a board containing basic information about the function and historical importance of the lime-kiln.

ALEŠ FLORJANC