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The endangered platform partition at the Vyšehrad railway station Nr. 86 in Prague

ANNOTATION

The aim of this material study is not the arts and crafts evaluation of the dispatcher building, but description and spatial definition of a documented platform partition. This requires a mention of the building development and a marginal description, at least of its architectural form and arts and crafts fittings, of its interior and exterior. The station became redundant in the early 1960s and slowly deteriorated since that time. Some arts and crafts fittings have irretrievably disappeared unfortunately, which is the reason for documenting a glassed panelled partition of a platform connected to the south façade of the building. This feature is unusual in the Prague centre and its future preservation is uncertain.

SUMMARY

The Vyšehrad railway station is a unique example of an individually designed dispatcher building of a very high architectural quality with a large number of authentically preserved original arts and crafts features. Quality of the project as well as its realisation is similar to the Prague main stations. Unfortunately the building has been deserted for a long time resulting in the decay of many authentic features. After several years of negotiations between the owner and the heritage management there has been no movement towards saving this cultural monument, to the contrary a half-timbered waiting block has been already demolished without permission.

The author of this material study evaluated a glass panelled partition adjacent to the south façade as one of the most endangered and most unusual features of the joiner's art. This partition has been documented, drawn at the scale of 1:10, with details of 1:1 and a simplified survey of the historic colouring was undertaken. This documentation can be used in the future as a base for a replica of the original wall.

Fig. 1. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. General view of the railway station from Svobodova street (photo J. Růžicková, 2004).

Fig. 2. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Copy of the original plan of the street façade of the building from 1904 (archived in the documentation funds of NPÚ ÚOP PR, digitalisation and editing by the author, 2015).

Fig. 3. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Copy of the original plan of the south façade of the building oriented to the railway, 1904 (archived in the documentation funds of NPÚ ÚOP PR, digitalisation and editing by the author, 2015).

Fig. 4. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. View from the platform to the half-timbered waiting block demolished in 2007 (photo J. Růžicková, 2007).

Fig. 5. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Window of the 1st floor of the street façade with a voluted suprafenestra, on the photograph the window to the west from the median risalit (photo by the author, 2011).

Fig. 6. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. The last original window in the staircase situated on the 1st floor of the east façade of the street median risalit (photo by the author, 2011).

Fig. 7. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. The door of the entrance from Svobodova street into the utility railway office on the ground floor of the west wing (photo by the author, 2011).

Fig. 8. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Panel with Bohemian coat of arms on the segment vaulted attic gable end of the street risalit (photo J. Růžicková, 2002).

Fig. 9. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Wreath with unrolled pelmet boughs with fringed curved edging (photo J. Růžicková, 2002).

Fig. 10. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Balustrade staircase joining the entrance vestibule on the ground floor and the check-in hall on the first floor (photo M. Kracík, 2013).

Fig. 11. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. The check-in hall on the first floor with a balustrade staircase and richly decorated ceiling timber (photo M. Kracík, 2013).

Fig. 12. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Sintered floor tiling of the check-in hall designed in ochre and black tone with a decorative border (photo by the author, 2011).

Fig. 13. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. View into the check-in hall from the corridor to the waiting blocks. Visible are profiled supraportas and cassette doors of the entrance to the staircase and into the office of the stationmaster (photo by the author, 2009).

Fig. 14. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Part of a hanging staircase from the ground floor into the attic viewed from the landing of the 1st floor (photo by the author, 2012).

Fig. 15. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Detail of cast iron banister of the flying staircase with the spindles anchored into the sides of the stone steps (photo by the author, 2012).

Fig. 16. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Three entrance doors from the check-in hall onto the platform. Side glass panes are decorated by etching (photo J. Maloušek, 2000).

Fig. 17. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Interior of the station master flat in the south wing of the 2nd floor with apparent enfilade (photo by the author, 2013).

Fig. 18. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. The back (outer) face of the east platform glazed partition, view from the railway (photo by the author, 2011).

Fig. 19. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Front face of the east platform glass panelled partition, view from the platform (photo J. Růžičková, 2002).

Fig. 20. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Back face of the centre fanlite of the east platform glass panelled partition, half swivels on vertical friezes for attaching to the frame of the partition (photo by the author, 2015).

Fig. 21. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Detail of a central strip on the door wings and identical decoration on the jamb of the fanlites, front face of the east platform glass panelled partition (photo by the author, 2015).

Fig. 22. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Drawing of the frame construction of the east platform glass panelled partition at scale of 1 : 10 (drawing and digitalisation by the author, 2016).

Fig. 23. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Drawing of the general view of the front face of the east platform glass panelled partition at the scale of 1 : 10 and detail of the ledge moulding of the door wing, the peripheral moulding of the panelling in the bottom part of the side fields, and of the door central strip in 1 : 1 (drawing and digitalisation by the author, 2016).

Fig. 24. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Drawing of a detachable glass panelled frame of the side fields and the fanlite of the east platform glass panelled partition at the scale of 1 : 10 including details of the rung and frame moulding at 1 : 1, partial section between the bottom panelled construction and the fixed frame for the attachment of detachable glass panelling (drawing and digitalisation by the author, 2016).

Fig. 25. Prague 2-Vyšehrad, No. 86, Svobodova 2. Drawing of the back face of the double winged door at 1 : 10 including moulding details of the rung, frame and cassette panels at 1 : 1 (drawing and digitalisation by the author, 2016).

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