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An Expert Opinion on the Great Synagogue in Rashkov

The Great Synagogue in Rashkov is a unique monument of history and architecture. This edifice, presumably built in 1749, is a prominent and distinctive example of Eastern-European baroque. The synagogue has been seriously damaged in the 1930s during the Soviet anti-religious campaign, but was not razed during the Holocaust.

According to the evaluation criteria used for the Jewish built heritage, which were developed by the Center for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Great Synagogue in Rashkov is a monument of European significance, one of the twenty most valuable synagogues preserved throughout Eastern Europe.

It is important that not only the Great Synagogue is preserved in Rashkov, but its urban environment – the *shulhoyf* (synagogue compound), including three more former synagogues and a communal water well – is preserved as well.

According to the opinion of the researchers of the Center for Jewish Art, the Great Synagogue in Rashkov needs an urgent conservation effort and partial restoration, which will stop its further deterioration and make the site secure for the visitors. Conservation of the synagogue will attract public attention and convert it into an object of interest among the local citizens as well as tourists.

Sincerely,

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