



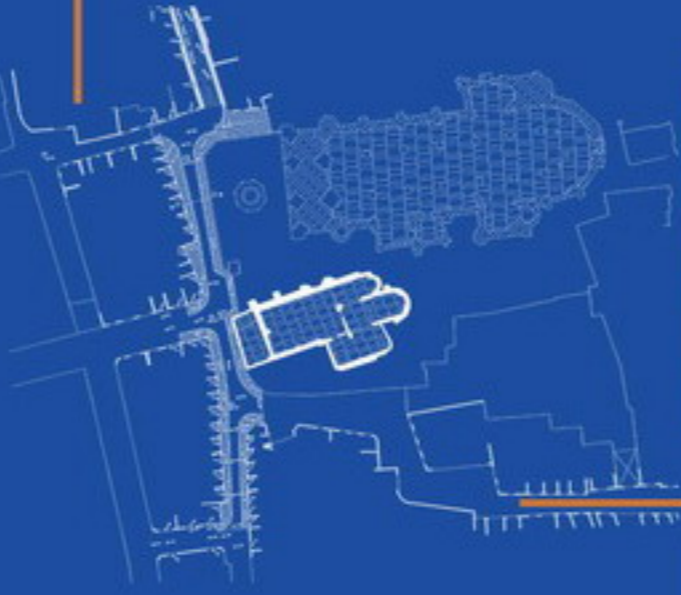
Gothic portico on northern facade before restoration, Selimiye quarter - 2003.



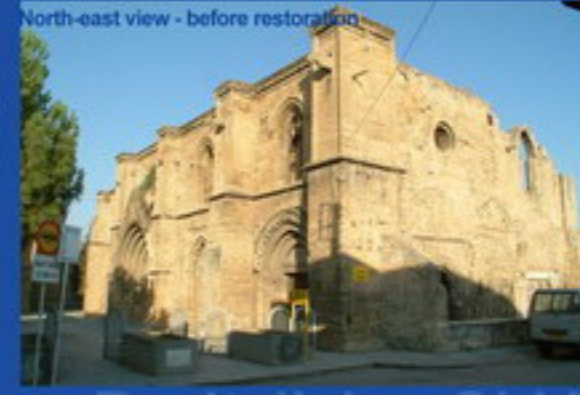
Apse before restoration, Selimiye quarter - 2003.



Stone pillar ruins, Selimiye quarter - 2003.



Before restoration



North-east view - before restoration



Selimiye and Bedestan east view - before restoration



Overall view of the Bedestan & Selimiye Mosque.



The EU funded Partnership for the Future Programme, in collaboration with the Nicosia Master Plan has initiated the preliminary studies for the restoration of the Bedestan (St. Nicholas Church).

The Bedestan is located in the Selimiye quarter, the heart of the historic Walled City with a southern border to the buffer zone. The most significant monuments of Nicosia are found in the vicinity such as the Selimiye mosque (St. Sophia Cathedral), Haydar Pasa Mosque (St. Catherine's Church), Chapter House, ancient Buyuk Khan, Kumarcilar Khan, Buyuk Hamam and from the British period, the Market.

According to the available historical resources, the Bedestan was originally built in the 12th century during the Byzantine era. The monument is a harmonious mix of architecture including Gothic style doorways and Renaissance overlays, additions made throughout the centuries. A carving of St. Nicholas found over the main doorway was a likely addition of the 15th or 16th century.

By the 16th century, the Church had become the orthodox Metropolis after being the Priory Church of the Order of St. Thomas of Canterbury. In the late 16th century, it was used as a "cover market" place.

Presently, the monument is closed to the public due to dangerous structural damage and a collapsed roof. The restoration of the Bedestan will contribute to the revitalisation of the Selimiye quarter, a focal point of the unique cultural heritage of the Walled City.

Existing conditions of the Bedestan Church, overall views, architectural gothic elements, details. 2003 - 2004.



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