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BULGARIA ALLOCATES \$70,000 FOR RESTORATION OF TWO CHURCHES



The Bulgarian state has allocated nearly \$70,000 for necessary restoration work at two historic Church sites.

As part of the state's Preservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage program, the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture decided to allocate \$36,200 (58,215 lev) for the restoration of the frescoes at the Church of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel in Haskovo in southern Bulgaria, reports Dobrotoliubie.

The request for financial assistance was submitted by Fr. Zlatko Delchev, and approved as part of the same Preservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage program.



The church was built in 1861, and experts consider its frescoes as an impressive example of the mastery of the Greek ecclesiastical school of painting of the mid-19th century. The rich wood carvings of the iconostasis, the bishop's throne, and the analoy stand are the work of the famous mastery Yane Spirov.

The church was declared a cultural monument in 1972.

Another \$33,195 (53,380 lev) were also allocated for conservation and restoration works at the Church of St. George near Asenovgrad in central southern Bulgaria, including reconstruction on the bell tower, the kitchen, and outbuildings.

The funds were granted at the request of His Grace Bishop Zion of Velichka, the abbot of Bachkovo Monastery.

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