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THE OBRENOVIĆ PRINCELY COURT IN POŽAREVAC

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Abstract. The princely court in Požarevac was built suddenly in just two months in early 1825 when Prince Miloš recognised that he had to visualise his presence and reaffirm his authority within the rebellious group of Serbian people who were at the strategic location both for the Principality of Serbia and the commercial affairs of the Prince. With the konaks and the church built, Požarevac started developing into the second capital of the Principality of Serbia, attracting many domestic people and foreign visitors. Shaped as typical konak, a residence of elite members of the Ottoman society, the court in Požarevac reveals Prince Miloš's representative strategy. The interior of both konaks outlines awareness of European trends in shaping the seat of the head of the state. The closeness of the church and frequent attendance of the members of the royal family and their official guests to the services point to the close and interconnected relationship between the state and the church in 19th-century Serbia.

Požarevac as a topos of heroism

The town of Požarevac was shaped as a prominent national and dynastic *topos* of the Obrenović dynasty during the first reign of Prince Miloš (1815–1839). Still, its prehistory and epic context came from being a key stronghold of the Braničevo region in eastern Serbia (Милићевић, 1876, pp. 1015–1089). Located among four rivers: the Danube, the Velika Morava, the Mlava and the Pek, below the hill Čačalica, Požarevac was for centuries regarded as a strategic defending position of Pomoravlje district against the enemy attacks. Moreover, since the Middle Ages, Požarevac was recognised as a symbol of heroic struggle as mentioned in many legendary deeds of Fiery Dragon Wolf, a hero of Serbian epic poetry known for his bravery and heroism (Jakobson, 2011, pp. 371–372). Furthermore, throughout history, Požarevac was a frequent place of bloody clashes and armistices, especially during the period of Ottoman slavery, witnessed by its name, which translates to “fire town”.

Požarevac went down in world history in 1718 (Каниц, 1985, p. 167), when it appeared in the narrative of the *Treaty of Požarevac*, an agreement signed there after the Austro–Turkish (1716–1718) and Venetian–Turkish (1716–1718) wars, with the mediation of the Netherlands and Great Britain, that had a significant and long-lasting impact not only regarding these three powers of the Balkans but the whole Europe (Heppner, 2019, pp. 87–95). This small city gained exceptional popularity and respect among Serbs during the First Serbian Uprising (1804–1813) when the town of Požarevac was part of the Karađorđe’s Serbia and when Serbian Revolutionaries Petar Teodorović Dobrnjac (1771–1831) and Milenko Stojković (1769–1831) showed their courage and heroic resistance against the superior Ottoman army (Ненадовић, 1883, p. 167; Милићевић, 1876, pp. 1039–1043; Манојловић, 2005, p. 10). After the rebellion led by Đorđe Petrović Karađorđe collapsed, Požarevac came briefly once more under direct Ottoman control. Miloš Obrenović was among the few leaders who remained in Serbia to face the brutal reimpose of the Ottoman rule. Thus, in 1815 Požarevac was again turned into a stronghold of the Serbian insurgent army heroic struggle for liberation against the Turks led by Prince Miloš. In the first fearless assault

on the Turkish fortifications in Požarevac, the flag bearer and the commanding officer of Prince Miloš's army, Jovan Vukomanović (1784–1815), was killed. He was the brother-in-law of Prince Miloš and the only brother of Princess Ljubica (Милићевић, 1888, p. 71; Манојловић, 2005, p. 31). After that battle, the town became part of the autonomous Principality of Serbia. To commemorate the place where her brother died, Princess Ljubica planted a poplar tree (Каниц, 1985, p. 168). The heroic death of Vukomanović, the locals' rebellious character, and their combat readiness largely determined further fate of the city of Požarevac that was soon to be turned into the second capital of the Serbian prince, Miloš Obrenović.

Having recognised the irreconcilable character of Požarevac's inhabitants and their rebellious nature, the Belgrade vizier Marashli Ali Pasha used the opportunity of Miloš Obrenović's unpopular act of reorganisation of the city governance, so in spring 1821, he easily instigated a short-lived uprising against the prince, an event better known as Abdullah's Rebellion (Ranke, 1853, pp. 225–226). Since Požarevac was of crucial importance in another revolt against the local authorities led by Miloje Đak in 1825, Prince Miloš recognised that he had to intervene and thus decided to establish a more substantial presence of his authority in the city, especially having in mind that Požarevac was the most populated district of the Pashalik of Belgrade (Манојловић, 2005, p. 34) and that it was the city of particular significance for his commercial business with Austria, i.e., export of livestock and agricultural products to Austria via ferries on the River Danube. Therefore, it was done right after the end of Đak's Rebellion in winter 1825 when the princely complex was quickly built, and the members of the Obrenović family moved in (Манојловић, 2005, pp. 54–55). After many state institutions were transferred to Požarevac and important national events were organised there, this city became the second capital of the Principality of Serbia, a vital stage of political power and an active manifesto of the ruler's iconography.

The Princely Complex in Požarevac

The princely complex in Požarevac was built in the area opposite the former central city park and in a place that later, at the end of the 19th century, would be occupied by a monumental palace of the District Administration and the Court of Justice. As the decision of Prince Miloš to build a new capital there was made abruptly and without a previous plan, the princely complex in Požarevac was built, understandably, far more frugally and relatively modestly in relation to the princely complex in Kragujevac. Due to the difficult conditions when it came to acquiring the building materials and meeting the tight construction deadlines, builders mainly used bricks from the destroyed church from a nearby village, and some were partly made in Kovin and partly in Požarevac itself (Несторовић, 2006, p. 52). Following the model of the capital in Kragujevac,

the complex of princely courts in Požarevac was also separated by a palisade. Likewise, inside the courtyard around the konaks, paths were paved with cobblestone (Вујић, 1901, p. 50; Фелдић, 1992, p. 36; Пирх, 1899, p. 55). Like in Kragujevac princely compound, Prince Miloš adopted the Ottoman elite residential concept in Požarevac courts, which was reflected, among other things, in a clear definition of the public and private spheres, i.e., in this case, the physical separation of selamlik and haremluk into two separate houses (Митровић, 2008, p. 59). The Konak of Prince Miloš was used as a public area with reception rooms reserved for men as opposed to the Konak of Princess Ljubica. At this family residence, she lived with her children Milan and Mihailo, female-only maids and entourage made up of wives and widows of reputable individuals. As per the description of Joakim Vujić, a dozen buildings were built as part of the princely complex in Požarevac (Вујић, 1901, p. 51). The Konak of Prince Miloš, the Konak of Princess Ljubica, and the military barracks stood out by their size. Besides the two monumental residences of the princely couple, there was an additional smaller house built in 1826 for the two princes, used as their school (Манојловић, 2005, p. 57). In addition to the above mentioned, the princely complex in Požarevac comprised the following buildings: a building for court officials, clerks and servants, a building for guards, a kitchen, a stable, a gunpowder magazine, and a treasurer's house (Милићевић, 1876, pp. 1062–1063).

The court property in Požarevac was the vital and most extensive real estate of Prince Miloš. It consisted of numerous estates near the town, and from there, the princely complex was supplied with food and drink (Манојловић, 2005, pp. 71–72). Agriculture and livestock played an essential role in the income of Prince Miloš, and the proximity of the estates was crucial for the economic support of such a sizeable princely complex like in Požarevac. Inventories of the princely estates in Požarevac report barns brimming with wheat, corn, and other grains, cellars full of stocks of fat, oil, wine, and salt, and stables filled with cattle, pointing to the patriarchal character of Prince Miloš's authority. In the village of Morava, half an hour's walk to the princely complex, Prince Miloš bought a large farm property, which Princess Ljubica nominally managed. Later, in April 1860, Prince Miloš issued a decree proclaiming this land the state property where the Morava stud farm was founded with the aim of selective horse breeding in Serbia. Finally, on the initiative of Prince Mihailo, this stud farm was renamed Ljubičevo in 1866 in honour of his mother, Princess Ljubica (Милићевић, 1876, p. 1066).

The Konak of Prince Miloš in Požarevac

The Konak of Prince Miloš in Požarevac was located at the spot presently occupied by the building of the Main Post Office, towards the Small Sports Stadium. It was built in less than two months, starting from mid-April to 11 June 1825

(Манојловић, 2005, pp. 55–56, 58). It was torn down as early as 1844 due to, presumably, inferior building materials and highly damp grounds, which was often flooded, causing the disturbance of the building's statics (Фелдић, 1992, pp. 36–37). There is a well-argued assumption (Милићевић, 1876, p. 1063) that the Konak of Jovan Obrenović in Čačak, the brother of Prince Miloš, was made as a copy of the Konak of Prince Miloš in Požarevac, which allows for the cautious reconstruction of its original appearance. When it comes to the Konak of Prince Miloš in Požarevac, it is known that this one-storey free-standing building was built in a system of construction consisting of timber framings filled in with brickwork and plastered both outside and inside (Манојловић, 2005, p. 55). Construction supervisors were Vule Gligorijević and Mitar Josifović, while the leading builder was master Veselin (Несторовић, 2006, p. 52).

According to Vujić's description, the seat of Prince Miloš was a typical konak building with all the characteristics of urban houses of the Balkan-Oriental style (Бујић, 1901, p. 51). Prince Miloš wisely decided to act as a loyal vassal of the Ottoman Empire. Thus, he did not want to disturb that impression with the Ottoman authorities regarding his official seat—at least not at this stage of his rule during the negotiations for acquiring a written acknowledgement of Serbian independence by the Porte. As expected, the Konak of Prince Miloš in Požarevac was similarly organised as its counterpart in Kragujevac. The facade reflected strict symmetrical spatial organisation of the interior. The ground floor housed the official premises, the dining room, the office, and several rooms. Apparently, the first floor was reserved exclusively for Prince Miloš and a restrictive number of privileged attendees. It comprised a spacious and representatively decorated *divanhana* (a reception room).

Everyday life at the princely court succumbed to a well-organised routine carried out by the numerous employed staff which underwent strict supervision. The first court manager of the princely complex in Požarevac was Arsenije Andrejević, a loyal supporter of the Obrenović dynasty (Манојловић, 2005, p. 67). During his visit to the princely court in Požarevac in 1828, Otto Dubislav von Pirh made a record in his travelogue (Пирх, 1899, pp. 61–63) about the courtiers he found there: Dimitrije Davidović, the first secretary, Aleksa Popović, the second secretary, Vasilije Popović, the Princess's cousin and the head of the Požarevac district, Archimandrite Melentije Pavlović, the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the Principality of Serbia, Sima Milosavljević Paštrmac, the Prince's constant companion and participant in both the First and the Second Serbian Uprisings, and Dr Jovan Stejić, the Prince's personal physician. Pirh also left the first-class note about Miloš's residence in Požarevac, which gives us an insight into the way living at the princely court of the Obrenovići and proves our thesis that modern Serbian rulers understood the value and symbolic capital of princely palace and used it as a public manifesto of the state, national, and, moreover, dynastic power. Pirh also noticed the coexistence of folk and oriental

heritage with the upcoming Central European influence, which was convincingly outlined in the konaks' interior design. A double line of guards stood in front of the main entrance with ceremonial changing of the guard, being a visual indication of the safety and carefreeness of princely court life and a visual marker of the ceremonial and institutional character of the space (Пирх, 1899, pp. 50, 70).

The daily routine of Prince Miloš consisted of a series of activities that took place according to the arranged schedule. It must have been, by all accounts, with minor deviations, a kind of protocol that was valid for all residences (Гавриловић, 1908, p. 701). Getting up early in the morning was implied, and all the scheduled activities were completed by six o'clock in the afternoon except in special cases. In the summer, Prince Miloš used to get up before dawn, and in the winter season around six o'clock (Пирх, 1899, p. 69). We can assume that the routine of morning prayer and breakfast preceded the working part of the day, as it was the case in the princely court in Kragujevac (Митровић, 2006, p. 290). Secretaries, clerks, and servants were waiting for him in the yard very early in the morning. Emphasising the carefree character of the daily routine at the court in Požarevac and the praised virtue of the ruler's familiarity with his subjects, Pirch pointed out that the prince would firstly address his subjects nonchalantly with a joke and then gradually moved on to serious tasks and daily issues needed to be resolved. The prince was thoroughly informed about the current affairs and the daily issues. Letters and appeals to him would be read and he would distribute orders to the heads. Also, many people waited to meet with Prince Miloš in person and address him for a specific problem.

The most solemn part of the day was a one-hour lunch which, as eyewitnesses conveyed, was announced by a bell and served at eleven o'clock starting with a ritual hand washing and a prayer (Гавриловић, 1908, p. 701; Пирх, 1899, p. 69). Prince Miloš would always be seated at the head of the table in a highly positioned and significantly larger chair. It is worth mentioning that according to the Serbian patriarchal family rules, Princess Ljubica and their daughter Jelisaveta stood on both sides of Prince Miloš and served him and the guests. Just before 1833, Princess Ljubica started sitting with the prince during the lunchtime (Милићевић, 1876, p. 1065). The heir to the throne, Milan, sat on his left side, and on the right was the younger prince, Mihailo. Archimandrite Melentije usually sat next to Mihailo and the first secretary Dimitrije Davidović next to Prince Milan, followed by Sima Paštrmac and Vasa Popović if there were no other important guests at lunch. After lunch, all the guests would once again wash their hands, after which a footman would bring tobacco pipes and coffee. The music of the Gypsies often added to the relaxed mood and leisurely atmosphere. Afterwards, everyone would take a short rest and, at those periods, absolute silence was ordered. Later, a prayer would announce the continuation of business activities with an obligatory tour of the princely compound and the estates (Гавриловић, 1908, pp. 703–704). The working day ended with

a card game or billiards, during which someone would read to Prince Miloš articles from the current European newspapers such as *Petersburger Zeitung*, *Augsburger Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Oesterreichische Beobachter*, and *Constitutionnel* (Манојловић, 2005, p. 63). On Sundays and holidays, when Prince Miloš resided in Požarevac, the gathered subjects would dance *kolo* in front of his konak, acknowledging his bond with the people and his folk origin. Dinner was served at eight o'clock, while the princely family members and the courtiers used to go to bed at nine o'clock.

We can also notice that the virtues of modesty, the orderliness of the ruler's daily routine, and the prince's self-discipline are emphasised in the records of the eyewitnesses. Having visited the princely court in Požarevac, travel writers recognised and appreciated these highly esteemed courtly qualities highlighting that Prince Miloš was deeply aware of current ideas about the ruling elite's imagery and ideology in Europe at the time.

Close to the Konak of Prince Miloš was a *menzilhane*, a post station for resting or exchanging horses. Near the *menzilhane* was the little konak that, as we mentioned earlier, served as a school for the princes. It is recorded that Prince Miloš took great care of the education of his children and that he insisted on the European model of learning at the time (Манојловић, 2011, p. 164). Princes Milan and Mihailo learnt the French language, while Princess Jelisaveta studied Italian and piano lessons. Prince Miloš and Princess Ljubica frequently attended the exams of their children.

The military barrack housing 200 people had an important and prominent place within the princely court complex in Požarevac. Previously mentioned events (Abdullah's Rebellion and Đak's Rebellion) featured by the alarming rebellious spirit of the organised revolt against the current government influenced the Prince's decision to make Požarevac the place where the largest part of the Serbian army was located and where the first regular army was introduced (Вујић, 1901, p. 50; Манојловић, 2005, pp. 89–96). It was a public manifesto of power, military spirit, a demonstration of force, and an active 'recommendation' to the subjects for showing loyalty to the ruler and the dynasty. Furthermore, a military school was established in Požarevac, which paved the ground for the future Military Academy.

In light of all the problems mentioned earlier that frequently appeared in the territory of Braničevo, Prince Miloš moved his family to Požarevac very early (in 1825) to establish the visible control and impression of his presence. The Prince's physical absence due to the current state issues and all the work needed to be done in the fragile period of forming the Principality of Serbia and acknowledging its independence by the Ottoman authorities, his family members residing in Požarevac were powerful representatives of his symbolic presence. In that context, the princely court in Požarevac symbolically represented the Prince's omnipresence and served as an active agent of identifying the people with

the ruler. Although, when it comes to state affairs, Prince Miloš was mostly in Kragujevac, he would use every single opportunity to present himself in a positive light. Thus, he would have “gladly joined his family and people in Požarevac to celebrate Slava², Easter or Christmas” (Каниц, 1985, p. 168). In addition to the commemorative ceremonies that have been documented in official newspapers, travel writers—such as Otto Dubislav Pirch and Joakim Vujić, who were hosted and received by Prince Miloš—left us a valuable testimony that the princely court in Požarevac was a place of active meetings with diplomats and politicians both local and foreign. Among Prince Miloš’s guests in Požarevac were: Count István Széchenyi, a Hungarian politician, Count Charles Joseph Edmond de Bois-le-Comte, a French politician, Dimitrije Gligorijević-Filipesku, a member of the Wallachian parliament, Baron Petar Ivanović Rickman, a Russian diplomat, Sir George Lloyd Hodges, the first British consul to Serbia, and many Ottoman dignitaries (Манојловић, 2011, pp. 172–174).

The Konak of Princess Ljubica in Požarevac

The Konak of Princess Ljubica occupied once the central space of what was presently the courtyard of the City Assembly of Požarevac (Фелдић, 1992, p. 38). The construction of the Konak of Princess Ljubica in Požarevac lasted from 1827 to 1829 (Манојловић, 2005, p. 63). It was torn down in 1887 to make the space for the building which would house the Požarevac District Administration and the Court of Justice in two years. The leading builder was again master Veselin, and he was assisted by Nikola Đorđević and Anđelko Ivan – Ćosa (Коларић, 1959, p. 19).

Only a few photographs of the Konak of Princess Ljubica taken on November 12, 1883 have been preserved, and they are presently kept in the National Museum in Požarevac (Манојловић, 2011, p. 158). However, in the absence of other visual sources, they do not provide sufficient material for interpretation and thorough reconstruction of the building. Nevertheless, judging by those photographs, we conclude that not so much has changed in terms of construction and design compared to the Konak of Princess Ljubica in Kragujevac (see Митровић, 2006, pp. 276–277). It was a spacious, free-standing, one-story building built in the Balkan-Oriental style with typical use of half-timbering. It had a symmetrical, almost square-shaped foundation and simply plastered facades with a striking bay window towards the courtyard. Covered with a characteristic hipped roof, the konak had characteristic decorative chimneys with protective caps. During his visit to Požarevac, Otto Dubislav Pirch, a meticulous Prussian captain, especially praised the cleanliness and tidiness of the

² Orthodox Christian families celebration of family saint patron’s day.

princely court where Princess Ljubica lived. Princess Ljubica's sister Bosiljka Vukomanović was in charge of organisation and supervision of the housemaids who used to live at the basement, she was also responsible for the hygiene maintenance of the konak (Манојловић, 2011, p. 91). Pirch also left a written record that the interior of the Konak of Princess Ljubica was arranged and decorated according to the current European fashion (Пирх, 1899, p. 50).

The Konak of Princess Ljubica was the residence of Prince Miloš's family members until 1831 when they moved to Belgrade. After 1844, it was used to house the Požarevac District Administration and the Court of Justice, and before its demolition in 1877, it was briefly used for the Post and Telegraph office (Манојловић, 2011, p. 160).

The Princely Court Church in Požarevac

Like in Kragujevac, a parish church was built early in Požarevac, too. In 1819, Prince Miloš gave an order to build a church there dedicated to the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel (Милићевић, 1876, p. 1065; Лазић 2010, p. 274). The church was built strategically under the hill where the prince's vineyards were located (Манојловић, 2005, p. 97). Situated far away from the old Turkish *bazaar*, Miloš could have easily turned it into the centre of soon to be Serbian town. There are no more precise data and preserved sources about the appearance and construction of the church, and numerous changes that were made later, complicate even further any detailed reconstruction of its original appearance. It is assumed, with the right amount of caution, that the Belgrade Metropolitan Agathangelus of Constantinople consecrated the church in Požarevac on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1823 (Фелдић, 1992, p. 26; Лазић, 2010, p. 276). Like the other churches of the period (such as those in Jagodina or Kragujevac), the Požarevac church was a typical single-nave building with a central altar apse located on the east and choir apses on the north and south sides. The conches were semi-circular on the inside and polygonal on the outside, thus resembling a trefoil floor plan. (Несторовић, 2006, p. 125). It is assumed that the head builder was master Todor from Požarevac, although there are disagreements among the researchers about the builders of the church in Požarevac (cf. Несторовић, 2006, p. 125.; Фелдић, 1992, p. 31; Лазић, 2010, p. 275). The church was built in massive material with brick vaults and was covered with a steep gable roof (Манојловић, 2005, p. 97; Вујовић, 1986, p. 110). The stone for the construction of the church was brought from the nearby Ram Fortress, and some remains of the destroyed mosque from the village of Ćirkovac were also incorporated into the walls (Несторовић, 2006, p. 125). Originally built without a bell tower, the church would be added a modest wooden bell tower in 1830, and the brick tower on the west side in

1856 (Манојловић, 2005, pp. 98–99). It is also known that in 1824 Prince Miloš commissioned the first icons for the iconostasis from Aksentije Janković, a painter from Vršac (Фелдић, 1992, p. 26; Лазић, 2010, p. 289).

Since 1825, the temple of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel had acquired a function of a court chapel when, with the arrival of the princely family, the members of the Obrenović dynasty started regularly attending Sunday services (Лазић, 2011, p. 137).

In addition to the court in Požarevac, the church was of great importance in the representation of Prince Miloš, reflecting the strong bond and relation that existed between the church and the state in 19th century Serbia. Visits of foreign representatives, celebrations of political-diplomatic successes, and commemorations of the important church or family holidays of the ruling family would necessarily begin with thanksgiving ritual or attendance to the service in the Požarevac church. The festivities were accompanied by mass participation of the people. Consequently, they had an essential role in the national pedagogy, which essence was the inviolable authority that everyone should be obliged to respect. After the service, the festivities would continue in the princely court complex. Placing the celebrations within the framework of court life and connecting the space of the princely court with the sacred space of the church through feasts, Prince Miloš highly emphasised the symbolic connection of these two vital ideological points. All these events were utterly ceremonious and brimmed with political connotations.

Instead of Conclusion

Despite the apparent structural simplicity, the konaks in Požarevac were, in a given time frame, a completely legitimate symbol of state power in a powerful system of representation. Furthermore, the strength of the princely court did not rely on its size or shape but on the ruler's developed awareness of the ambiguity and multidimensional aspect of the court and the necessary feedback between the chosen person and the representative space.

With the construction of the princely complex, Požarevac became one of the most essential dynastic and state *topoi* in the Principality of Serbia. The experience of building the princely court complex in Kragujevac played a significant role in shaping the state headquarters in Požarevac. The shape features of both konaks in Požarevac, the organisation and use of space, the separation into privileged public and private areas, as well as undisguised consumption of leisure time in Oriental manner such as smoking, afternoon nap, or long coffee drinking, reveal that Prince Miloš adopted the recognisable living style within the elite Ottoman circles. On the other hand, the European influence is noticeable, particularly within the interior of the konaks, some of

their furniture, kitchen utensils, and many other manifestos within the private identity. Therefore, in Požarevac, both the Ottoman and the European cultural models coexisted equally in the system of the representation of Prince Miloš.

The growth of Požarevac into a capital of the Principality of Serbia with the princely court complex at its core was accompanied by population growth, primarily through the continuous settlement of the state officials who took on various jobs dictated by new needs such as scribes, secretaries, translators, servants, interpreters, jurists, teachers, etc. The growing population needs and frequent stays of domestic and foreign guests in the capital caused a vital economic development, increased building activities and the transformation of the old oriental town, which provided Požarevac with a significant urban transformation.

Having built the church and the princely court, Prince Miloš staked his claim to the town of Požarevac, filling its symbolic urban foundation with the ideological aspects of the Obrenovićs dynasty and its founder in particular, so that later it would be abundantly used as part of the Obrenovićs representative politics.³

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³ See more about the later use of symbolic capital of Požarevac in the representative politics of the Obrenovićs in Borozan (2016).

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Кнежевски двор Обреновића у Пожаревцу

Резиме

Мапирање Пожареваца као истакнутог националног топоса извршено је за време кнеза Милоша, али је имало своју предисторију и епски контекст као кључна тачка браничевског региона. Бунтовни карактер становништва, борбена спремност и стратешки положај обележили су овај град и подарили му још од средњег века симболичну вредност места херојске борбе и отпора. Период Српске револуције донеће овом, у то време, невеликом месту огромну славу,

а посебно место у патриотској мапи Пожаревац задобија 1815. године када се показао одсудном тачком херојске борбе за ослобођење под устаничким барјаком Кнеза Милоша, након чега улази у састав Кнежевине Србије. Будући да је у Абдулиној буни и буни Милоја Ђака, Пожаревац имао пресудан значај, кнез Милош доноси одлуку да интервенише и успостави јаче присуство власти у овом граду поготово што је Пожаревац представљао најнасељенију нахију Београдског пашалука и био важан град за трговачке послове које је Кнез Милош обављао преко Дунава. То је веома брзо и учињено хитром изградњом дворског комплекса 1825. године, пресељењем његове породице, те одмах потом активнијим владарским манифестовањем и преношењем бројних државних послова и институција у Пожаревац. Изградњом комплекса у Пожаревцу, Кнез Милош је успоставио другу престоницу. Пожаревачки комплекс сачињавали су: Кнежев конак, Кнегињин конак, касарна, коначић за кнежевиће, зграда за дворске службенике, писаре и послугу, зграда за момке, кухиња, барутана, благајникова кућа и мензулана. Упркос структуралној једноставности, кнежевски комплекс у Пожаревцу функционисао је као снажни симбол владарске моћи и место легитимизације власти Кнеза Милоша у оквирима развијеног система политике репрезентације. Смештањем владарског двора у средишту Пожаревца, овај град се развио постајући политичко и економско средиште Кнежевине и моћан династички топос династије Обреновић.

Кључне речи: Пожаревац; кнежевски двор; Кнез Милош; династички топос; Конак кнеза Милоша у Пожаревцу; Конак кнегиње Љубице у Пожаревцу.



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