



THE TOWER OF THE OLD ORTHODOX CHURCH

1727

The tower was built in 1727, as evidenced by the inscription on the tower, which has now been removed: "Scris-am eu Todor zidar, valeat 1727 Mai 20 (I, Todor the mason, wrote this on May 20, 1727)."

The tower is the only remaining intact part of the church built between 1640 and 1645. Permission to build the Orthodox church was granted only under certain conditions imposed on the Romanians, one of which concerned the height of the church, so the lower area of the Romanian quarter "Pe Vale" (On the Valley), today's Călugăreni Street, was chosen.

In 1650, the church was damaged by a fire, and at the beginning of the 18th century, it was radically renovated with the support of Ban Gheorghe Cantacuzino of Oltenia, son of Prince Șerban Cantacuzino of Wallachia. The work was completed in 1727 when the tower was erected on the west side of the church.

In the mid-19th century, the church was in poor condition, so in 1865 it was demolished and the stone was recovered and used for another place of worship.

This church was the first in Deva to introduce Romanian as the official liturgical language in the second half of the 17th century, following the order of Metropolitan Sava Brâncovici to replace Slavonic in all Romanian churches in Transylvania.