

*Momcilo Andjelkovic*

*From the Home of King Alexander I for the pupils of secondary schools, to the Archives of Yugoslavia. Background history of the building of the Archives of Yugoslavia*

*Summary*

The building housing the Archives of Yugoslavia, situated in Belgrade, at Topcider Hill, 33 Vase Pelagica Street, was built as a home for pupils of secondary schools, in accordance with the Law on Deployment of the Main School Fund, passed by King Alexander Karadjordjevic, on November 20, 1930. The land plot for construction of the Home was bestowed as a gift of the Municipal Board of the City of Belgrade. Architect Vojin Petrovic designed the building. The construction works commenced during the year 1930, and were completed in the second half of 1933, when the building was handed over to tenants. The building was constructed as a very spacious one and was having, for that time, all the most modern facilities and equipment necessary for the boarding school and different activities of the young cadets. In the beginning, the building was a Home in the form of a boarding school for pupils staying there and attending high school which was opened in accordance with the decree issued by King Alexander of April 6, 1933, under the name "King Alexander I Senior High School for Boys in Belgrade". Several years later, a special building was constructed in the immediate vicinity and the senior high school was housed there, while its pupils were borders in the Home where they were staying, studying and conducting various extra-curricular activities. During World War Two the Home was used by the occupation forces for their own needs (Abver, Gestapo). In the post-war period the building was mainly used as a teaching and boarding facility for the Military Political School, Higher School of Politics, Higher Party School of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia "Djuro Djakovic", and as a teaching center for workers employed in the interior affairs. The building of the Home, together with all the appurtenant facilities, by the Decision issued by the Federal Executive Council of March 27, 1969, was allocated for housing of the Archives of Yugoslavia, with the aim to create better work conditions and better facilities for storing of the archives material and records of the Federation, although the building was neither in the construction sense nor in its intended function, built for such utilization. For this reason, Archives of Yugoslavia were making and still are making efforts to harmonize the building with its present intended purpose. The building is registered in the records of the Institute for Protection of the Monuments of Culture of the city of Belgrade.