

## Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by national/regional working party of SECTION BASILICATA-PUGLIA



### 01. Picture of building

Depicted item: Borgo La Martella

source: Quaroni Archive

date: 1953

### 1. Identity of building

#### 1.1 current name of building

Borgo La Martella

#### 1.2 variant or former name

-

#### 1.3 number & name of street

Via Vesuvio, Via Monte Rosa, Via Arno, Via Pollino, Via Isonzo, Via Volturno, Via Etna

#### 1.4 town

Matera

#### 1.5 province/state

Matera/Basilicata

**1.6 zip code**

75100

**1.7 country**

Italy

**1.8 national grid reference**

40°40'46.3"N 16°32'23.6"E

**1.9 classification/typology**

Urban centre

**1.10 protection status & date**

NTA (Norme d'attuazione) in the Piano Regolatore Generale 1999 of the city of Matera

**2. History of building****2.1 original brief/purpose**

Urban centre

**2.2 dates: commission/completion**

1951/1954

**2.3 architectural and other designers**

Engineer Federico Gorio, Architects Ludovico Quaroni, Michele Valori, Piero Maria Lugli, Luigi Agati

**2.4 others associated with building**

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**2.5 significant alterations with dates**

-

**2.6 current use**

Urban centre

**2.7 current condition**

Good

**3. Description****3.1 General description**

The rural village of La Martella was born as an agricultural district 5 km far from Matera, as part of the process of displacement and rehabilitation of the Sassi districts (law.n. 619/52), in an active political-cultural climate influenced by the action of Adriano Olivetti (President of the INU and vice-president of the UNRRA-Casas institute). It is the first example of an integrated landscape-agricultural design.

### **3.2 Construction**

The village, designed and built between 1951 and 1954 by the group coordinated by the architect Ludovico Quaroni (architects Michele Valori, Piero Maria Lugli, Luigi Agati and engineer Federico Gorio), was founded following a stellar scheme of centripetal development, concentrating services and public spaces (church, kindergarten, theatre, clinic, schools and square) in the centre and distributing the residential buildings along neighbourhood-streets that branch off outwards. The bell tower of the church is the central point of reference. The planning of the new houses for the peasant inhabitants is based on the study of the neighbourhoods of the ancient Sassi's quarter through an anthropological and sociological investigation, developing traditional distributive aspects (house and stable) and considering some typological solutions of the ancient centre.

After a period of abandonment of the village, a completion of a non-built neighbourhood-street was proposed, on the basis of the original planimetric and volumetric project, in 1989 for the international competition European 1. The project, by architect Mauro Saito, involves the construction of some buildings similar to those of the original project. The new building types, made in tuff and cement structure (1999-2001), are inspired both by the original residential models of the modern village and by the typological and constructive tradition of the Sassi. Other analogical completions of the village were realized subsequently.

### **3.3 Context**

The rural village of La Martella is an agricultural district 5 km far from Matera. As it happened for the nearby villages of Venusio and Torre Spagnola (unrealized), the village rises on a slight relief in the Bradano valley near Monte Timmari, at a time when the artificial lake of San Giuliano had not been realized yet.

## **4. Evaluation**

### **4.1 Technical**

The neighbourhoods-streets are developed as an aggregation of two-level houses that can be arranged in various ways and they are built with a continuous tuff structure. Depending on the slope of the neighbourhood-streets, different morphological solutions are used in planimetric and altimetric terms: where it is possible, the difference in height is solved by placing adjacent buildings at different heights; in cases where the slope is greater, it is solved by placing different portions of the same building at different heights. Common bakeries conclude the perspective of some streets.

### **4.2 Social**

The village had a very good impact on the evacuated population, that inhabited the village immediately. It is currently inhabited by the original proprietaries or their descendants and it is a suburban district near the industrial area, but it has widespread elements of degradation, partly due also to choices made during construction, partly to the poor maintenance of buildings.

### **4.3 Cultural & aesthetic**

It is remarkable the simplicity of the village and the attention in using local materials, characteristics of the vernacular models considered for the project. In this way, the village embodies particularly a neorealist style widespread in those years. A style that reflects the change of life's conditions and of the feeling towards the everyday life.

#### 4.4 Historical

The rural village was born during the process of displacement and rehabilitation of the Sassi districts. It followed the publication of the famous cover of *Life* that portrayed the inhabitants of the Sassi districts in their small houses, dug in the rock, sharing the domestic space with their own courtyard animals.

#### 4.5 General assessment

The village of La Martella is still considered a valid example of integrated planning in the landscape of Matera's countryside that should be better protected through a detailed urban planning oriented to the restoration of the original project.

### 5. Documentation

#### 5.1 Principal references

TAFURI, Manfredo, Ludovico Quaroni e lo sviluppo dell'architettura moderna in Italia, Edizioni di comunità, Milano 1964  
GORIO, Federico, Il villaggio La Martella a Matera, Apollon, Roma 1953  
SÀITO, Mauro, La chiesa di Quaroni a La Martella. Restauro di un'architettura contemporanea, Edizioni Clear, Roma 1991  
FABBRI Marcello, "Il pane e il sale", Controspazio n. 3, 1991  
AYMONINO, Carlo, Matera: mito e realtà, Casabella n. 231, 1959  
MURATORE, Giorgio, et al., Guida all'architettura moderna. Italia: gli ultimi trent'anni, Zanichelli, Bologna 1988  
ROSSELLI, Paolo, Antica città moderna. Vedute contemporanee di Matera, Libria, Melfi 2000  
PAGLIUCA, Antonello, SÀITO, Mauro, 9 itinerari x 100 architetture del '900. Basilicata e Puglia, Gangemi Editore, Roma 2019

#### 5.2 visual material attached

Fig.01 – Design plan (Quaroni Archive)  
Fig.02 – General view from the road to Matera, 1955  
Fig.03 – View from the church  
Fig.04 – The church (Quaroni Archive)  
Fig.05 – Buildings, 2019 (photo by Pierangelo Laterza)  
Fig.06 – Buildings, detail, 2019 (photo by Pierangelo Laterza)  
Fig.07 – Buildings, detail, 2019 (photo by Pierangelo Laterza)  
Fig.08 – Completion of the district, plan and sketches (Mauro Sàito Architetti Archive)  
Fig.09 – Completion of the district (Mauro Sàito Architetti Archive)

#### 5.3 rapporteur/date

Federica Bonerba, April 2020

### 6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments:

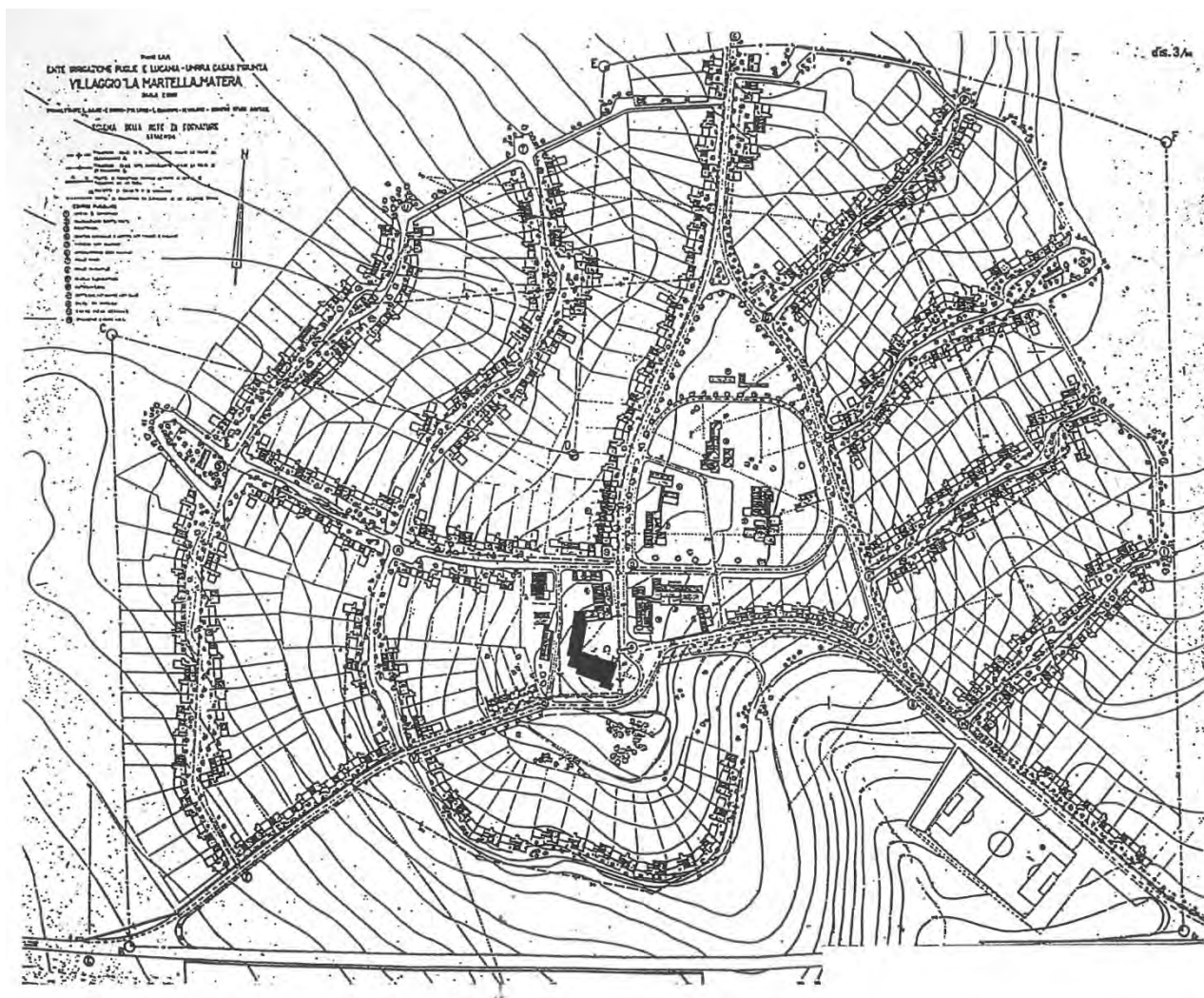


Fig.01 – Design plan (Quaroni Archive)





Fig.02 – General view from the road to Matera, 1955



Fig.03 – View from the church





Fig.04 – The church (Quaroni Archive)



Fig.05 – Buildings, 2019 (photo by Pierangelo Laterza)



Fig.06 – Buildings, detail, 2019 (photo by Pierangelo Laterza)



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