

## Minimum Documentation Fiche

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



### 01. Picture of building

Depicted item: Magazzino di sofisticazione Sali (Salt sophistication warehouse)

source: Saline di Margherita di Savoia Archive / Antonio Riondino Archive

date: 1933-'36 / 1954

### 1. Identity of building

#### 1.1 current name of building

Magazzino NERVI (NERVI warehouse)

#### 1.2 variant or former name

Magazzino Sali (Salt warehouse)

#### 1.3 number & name of street

Direzione delle Saline, via Barletta

#### 1.4 town

Margherita di Savoia

#### 1.5 province/state

BAT (Barletta-Andria-Trani) / Puglia

#### 1.6 zip code

76016

#### 1.7 country

Italia

## **1.8 national grid reference**

41°22'29.1"N 16°08'38.2"E

## **1.9 classification/typology**

Industrial building

## **1.10 protection status & date**

MIBACT - Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali e per il Turismo (DDR del 10/03/2011)

## **2 History of building**

### **2.1 original brief/purpose**

Industrial building

### **2.2 dates: commission/completion**

1934 / 1954

### **2.3 architectural and other designers**

Ing. Arch. Pier Luigi Nervi

### **2.4 others associated with building**

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### **2.5 significant alterations with dates**

Few alterations

### **2.6 current use**

Decommissioned in 2019, it is currently being consolidated for future refunctionalization at museum

### **2.7 current condition**

Critical conditions

## **3. Description**

### **3.1 General description**

The *salt sophistication Warehouse* is the result of two different interventions designed and directed by Pier Luigi Nervi: the construction of the first part of the building between 1934 and 1936 and its prolongation in 1954, because of production needs. Nervi was appointed by the Saltwork of the State Monopoly of Margherita di Savoia, to design a building whose aim was to gather and safeguard the salt against the weather.

### **3.2 Construction**

The warehouse is made up of two buildings closely connected to each other: the building for the sophistication of salt and the technical tower.

The Salt warehouse is characterized by a longitudinal "single nave". It was originally composed of thirteen "paraboloidal arch" spans, set on modules of 5.00 and 3.65 meters. The net width is 20.90 meters, the overall length is 60.21 meters and the height is 16.00 meters. Fifteen years later, the warehouse was expanded with the addition of six new spans, bringing the overall length to 91.60 meters.

The technical tower plays a fundamental role in the composition of the architectural organism, acting as a landmark. An emblem of the productive-landscape condition of this place. Starting from a

rectangular base of 20.00 x 9.00 meters, the tower takes on a "tapered" shape, developing in two orders of floors (the first at 15.55 meters, the second at 7.30 meters) and reaching the overall height of 22.85 m. Originally located at the head of the building, after the extension of 1954 the tower took on its current central position with respect to the warehouse.

### **3.3 Context**

The building is located in the Saltwork of Margherita di Savoia, within the area formerly occupied by the Salapiae lagoon - then Salpi- transformed by the Bourbons into a salt production plant from the second half of the 1700s. Located in front of the first industrial buildings built at the end of the 19th century, it is located today in direct correspondence with the city, in an ideal position as an opportunity for new cultural functions.

## **4. Evaluation**

### **4.1 Technical**

The main theme of the warehouse is the experimentation on the "expressiveness of the structural apparatus", based on the paraboloidal arch in reinforced concrete. It is a static-constructive system used by Nervi to ensure maximum use of the internal space, without obstacles. The result is an iterated / pseudo-vaulted space, based on the sequence of large spans of 20 meters that bear the struts necessary to support the pitches of the roof; the pitches follow the geometry of the arches, "tapering" the facade in three parts, corresponding to the heights of 6 - 9 - 14 meters.

The building is entirely plastered and painted in polychrome form and shows the hierarchies of its building envelope, highlighting the non-load-bearing walls with white color, and the structural parts with gray color.

### **4.2 Social**

Originally used as a salt container, in 2011 the building was declared "Cultural heritage" under the direct protection of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities. In October 2019, the safety work began, which will be followed by structural consolidation and final reuse as a Museum of Contemporary Art of the Puglia Region, sponsored by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and for Tourism.

### **4.3 Cultural & aesthetic**

The *paraboloidal* system in reinforced concrete that characterizes the building is the result of a technical and syntactic reformulation, carried out by Nervi, starting from the masonry tradition that from the Gothic age led to stereotomic science, up to the early 1900s. It is an experiment (Nervi's first on this theme, then revised for the Saltworks of Cagliari and Cervia) which was further evolved and varied in post-war Italy through the construction of the first big production buildings, contributing substantially to the definition of the language of industrial architecture. On the strictly aesthetic level, it stands as an extraordinary example of the "plastic" use of reinforced concrete and the transliteration of the principle of structural organicity into architectural organicity.

### **4.4 Historical**

The building has maintained its original function for 83 years (from 1936 to 2019). Mainly technical-scientific studies have been dedicated to it. The interest by the Superintendency of Archeology, Fine Arts and Landscape towards the protection and recovery dates back to 2002, thanks to a study conducted by the Faculty of Architecture of the Polytechnic of Bari.

The reuse project aimed at promoting the building as a Museum of Contemporary Art is currently underway.

#### **4.5 General assessment**

The "museum" reuse project is the result of an approach based on the reinterpretation of the historical-documentary data, rigorously confirmed in its technical and linguistic characteristics. It provides for "scientific restoration" and the introduction of "sustainable" set-up systems, based on the introduction of "non-invasive" elements (such as glass panels and paratactic elements), useful to avoid linguistic overlaps with the architectural identity of the artefact.

### **5. Documentation**

#### **5.1 Principal references**

PICA, Agnoldomenico, Pier Luigi Nervi, Editalia, Roma 1969

AA.VV, Cantiere Nervi. La costruzione di un'identità. Storie geografie Paralleli, Skira, MILANO 2012, pp. 42 – 45 (atti di: Cantiere nervi. La costruzione di un'identità, Parma-Ferrara-Bologna, 24-25-26/11/2010)

MODICA, Marcello, SANTARELLA, Francesca, Paraboloidi: un patrimonio dimenticato dell'architettura moderna, Edifir edizioni, Firenze 2014

RIONDINO, Antonio, Il linguaggio tecnico della modernità italiana. Il Magazzino Sali di Pier Luigi Nervi a Margherita di Savoia. In: DO.CO.MO.MO Italia - Basilicata|Puglia. 9 itinerari x 100 architetture del '900. pp.290-292. Gangemi Editore, Roma 2019

#### **5.2 visual material attached**

Fig. 01 - Aerial photo of the intervention site

Fig. 02 - Nervi project, front elevation, 1954 (Saline Margherita di Savoia Archive)

Fig. 03 - Nervi project, side elevation, 1954 (Saline Margherita di Savoia Archive)

Fig. 04 - Nervi project, cross section, 1954 (Saline Margherita di Savoia Archive)

Fig. 05 - Interior of the building with salt deposit (photo by Antonio Riondino 2019)

Fig. 06 - Interior of the building with salt deposit (photo by Antonio Riondino 2019)

Fig. 07 - Photo of the interior of the building on the date of desusing as a salt container (photo by Antonio Riondino 2020)

Fig. 08 - The front of the building (photo by Antonio Riondino 2020)

Fig. 09 - The side face of the building (photo by Antonio Riondino 2020)

Fig. 10 - The technical tower (photo by Antonio Riondino 2020)

#### **5.3 rapporteur/date**

Antonio Riondino, 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 – Foto aerea del sito di intervento

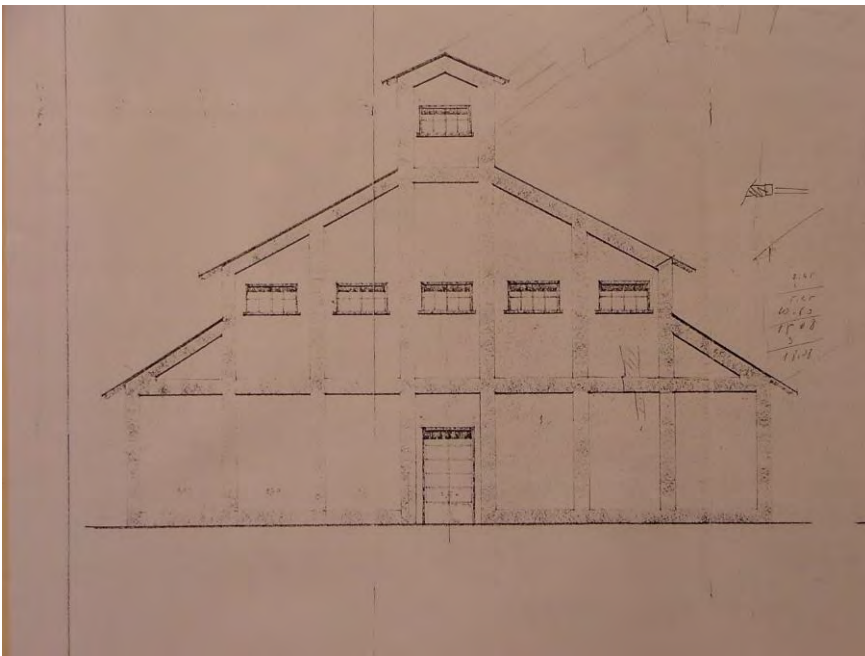


Fig.02 - Progetto Nervi, prospetto frontale, 1954

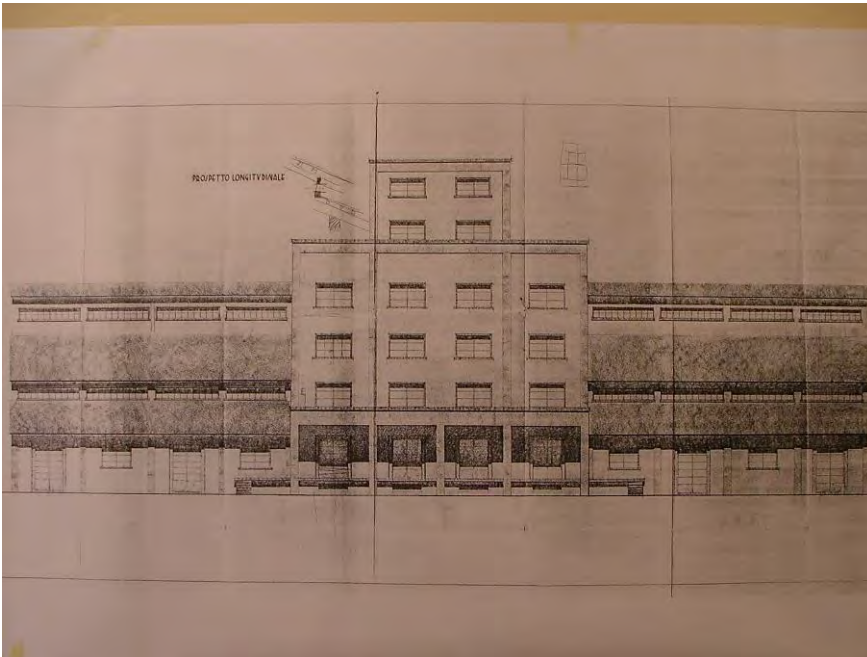


Fig.03 – Progetto Nervi, prospetto laterale, 1954

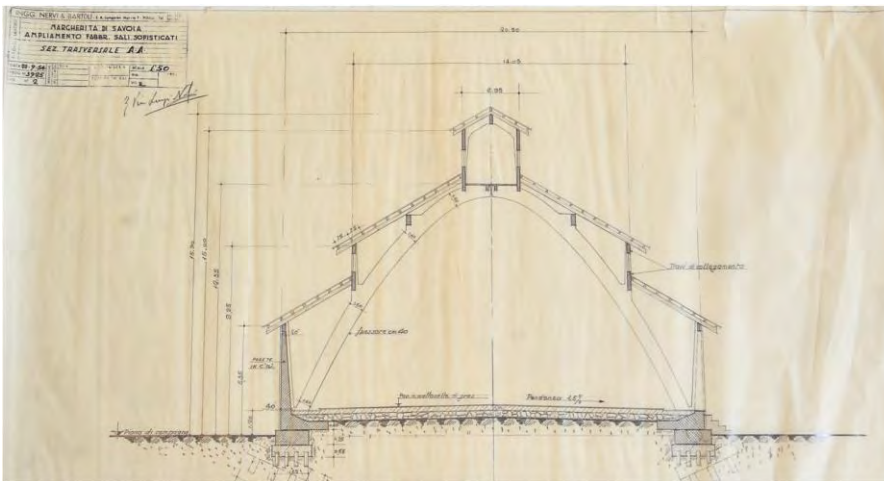


Fig.04 – Progetto Nervi, sezione trasversale, 1954



Fig.05 – Foto dell'interno del manufatto con deposito del sale (Antonio Riondino 2019)



Fig.06 – Foto dell'interno del manufatto con deposito del sale (Antonio Rioldino 2019)





Fig.07 – Foto dell'interno del manufatto alla data di dismissione di deposito del sale (Antonio Riondino 2020)



Fig.08 – Foto del fronte di testata dell'edificio (Antonio Rioldino 2020)



Fig.09 – Foto del fronte laterale dell'edificio (Antonio Riondino 2020)



Fig.10 – Foto della torre tecnica (Antonio Riondino 2020)