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REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Necropolis of Sant'Andrea Priu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The Byzantine tombs of Sant'Andrea Priu

In the 8th century A.D, the so-called “Tomba del Capo” in the necropolis of artificial grottoes in Sant'Andrea Priu was used as a church.

The internal narthex (or endonarthex, fig. 1) reuses the semi-circular room of the prehistoric domus, where there are two pit tombs in the floor, left of the entrance, lined up with the north-east wall and facing east-west, datable to the High Medieval age, with a low head cushion in the west end and the hole for housing the cover slabs. The south tomb is 1.94 metres long, 0.66 metres wide in the middle and about 0.5 metres deep. The north tomb is 1.87 metres long, 0.61 metres wide and 0.45 metres deep (fig. 2).

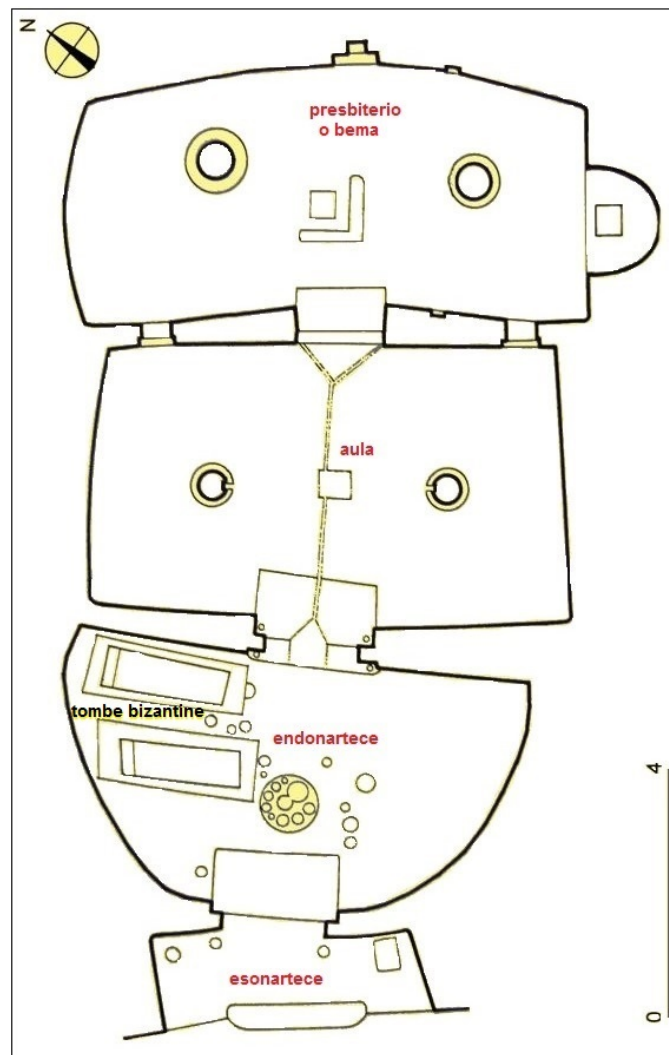


Fig. 1 - The Byzantine tombs in the inner narthex of the rock church (by Caprara 1986, p. 51).



Fig. 2 - Byzantine tombs dug into the inner narthex floor of the rock church (photo Unicity S.p.A.).

Opposite the entrance to the rock church, there is a large block of trachyte, about 8 metres long and 3 metres wide, on the top of which a tomb has been dug out, while in the south-east part stairs are cut out of the rock (figs. 3-4). This tomb, with pulvinus, is on a northwest-southeast axis, is 188 cm long (6 Byzantine feet), about 55 cm wide and 35 cm deep at the pulvinus and 70 cm on the opposite side. There is a recess about 10 cm wide around the tomb that was used to rest the cover stone on. It is dated to the High Middle Ages, as are the two tombs dug out of the floor in the endo-narthex, that it is similar to in type and make.



Fig. 3 - S. Andrea Priu, the tomb outside the rock church (by Area di Bonorva).



Fig. 4 - S. Andrea Priu, the tomb outside the rock church (photo by M.G. Arru)

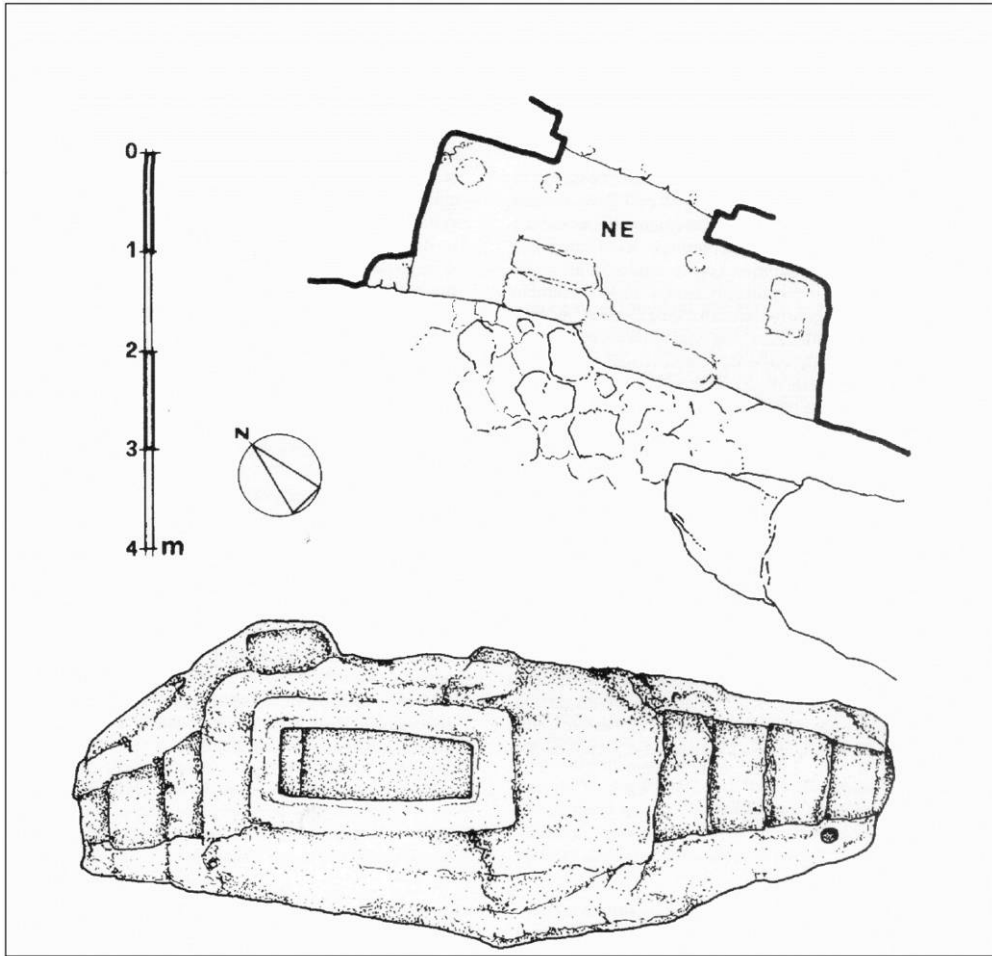


Fig. 5 - S. Andrea Priu, map of the tomb outside the rock church (by Caprara 1986, p. 55).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru and Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

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