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130 YEARS OLD STAMBOLOV'S BRIDGE ON YANTRA RIVER: THE SYMBOL OF MODERN DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL INNOVATION OF VELIKO TARNOVO

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ABSTRACT

The construction in 1892 of the prefabricated single-span arched open-spandrel steel /wrought iron riveted bridge in Veliko Tarnovo of total length of 81600 mm during the government of Stefan Stambolov symbolized the first step towards the modern development of his hometown within the newly created Bulgarian state. The revision of the data of the designer and producer of the bridge complements the detailed description of the specific spatial construction of the bridge deck, that is used to serve the two-way pedestrian and vehicle traffic to the railroad station, in revealing the innovative character of its technical characteristics and its overall historical importance in the history of Bulgarian infrastructure development 130 years after its installation over the Yantra river.

Keywords: statically determinate truss, single-span arched open-spandrel iron riveted bridge, Veliko, Tarnovo historical environment, FEM model

1 INTRODUCTION (HISTORICAL CONTEXT)

Stambolov's bridge which is listed as cultural monument, dominates the picturesque panoramic view of the historical town of Veliko Tarnovo and in the end of 1970s and the beginning of 1980s become an inherent and scilfully incorporated element of the ensemble around the Yantra gorge together with the brutalist volume of the Interhotel “Veliko Tranovo” and the reconstructed art gallery by the acclaimed Bulgarian architect Nikola Nikolov as well as the “Assenev brothers” monument by the renowned sculptor Krim Damianov. (Kirova-Delcheva, 2022)

Construction of the innovative road facility in 1892 interconnected the town with the still forthcoming railroad station and become a symbol of the modern infrastructure and industrial development of Veliko Tarnovo, the former medieval capital and important revival hub, elected in 1879 as ceremonial capital along with the administrative capital Sofia, that used to focus the political and public life of the autonomous Bulgaria until the end of the 19th century.