



Heritage building conservation in Ebonyi State

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Heritage buildings showcase the cultural identity and architectural history of a people. In Nigeria, and particularly in Ebonyi State, many traditional and colonial-era structures are deteriorating due to poor maintenance, neglect, and modernization pressures. This research work was carried out to know the heritage buildings present in Ebonyi State, assess the condition of the selected heritage buildings, identifying the causes of their deterioration and the steps suitable for sustainable conservation of these buildings. Citing the steps used in other countries and comparing them with the steps used in the State with the respective laws and regulations that should be put in place to regulate their excesses. By examining the architectural, historical, and cultural importance of these buildings, the research aims to explore the current state of heritage building conservation in Ebonyi State, the challenges hindering conservation efforts; through structured questionnaire and interview, findings revealed that there are no archival records of these buildings in Ebonyi State, insufficient funds for the conservation of these structure leading to abandonment of some of this structures in their poor and dilapidated state which can lead to the eventual loss of the buildings. The study recommends the creation of public awareness campaigns to educate on heritage value, develop technical guidelines and training for conservation professionals, promote adaptive reuse of heritage buildings for sustainable purposes, community participation, and government policy support for sustainable heritage conservation. Heritage buildings have a strong link with the people it serves, conserving it through regular maintenance, effective management and proper security, tends to prolong the life of these buildings for future reference, cultural identity and educational purposes.

Keywords: Heritage buildings, conservation challenges, architectural preservation, cultural heritage management, Ebonyi State.
