

Stepan Shahumyan (1878-1918)

Writer and revolutionary Stepan Shahumyan's house museum, at Stepanavan Square in Stepanavan, was founded in 1923. In 1973, during the reconstruction of the central square of Stepanavan, and to conserve the original house, it was encased in a new construction. Since the 1988 earthquake, it has hosted the local museum collection as well, and has been renamed as a Culture and Recreation Center.



The house was originally the ancestral home of Shahumyan's wife, Ekaterina Ter-Grigoryan. It was in this house that Shahumyan launched the first Marxist organization in Armenia.

Located at 4 Njdeh Street, the collection has about 800 items. Included are his personal belongings, household items and documents. In addition to recreating the environment in which Shahumyan and his family lived, the museum also retells the history of the community in Stepanavan through historical artifacts, some of them excavated at Lori Fortress nearby.



The collection also includes a model of the underground press Shahumyan used in Tbilisi, where he secretly printed revolutionary leaflets. Shahumyan had been appointed by Lenin to organize the Baku Commune in 1918, which he headed.