

GERMAN HERITAGE IN BANAT VILLAGES

-THE ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT, AND MODALITIES OF THE COUNTRY HOUSE WITH YARD-



RECOLONIZATION OF THE BANAT CHARACTERISTICS OF GERMAN HOUSEHOLDS IN THE EIGHTEENTH AND EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

In the eighteenth century Habsburg monarchy was inhabited territory of the Banat, in order to modernize and homogenize the area in political, economic, and civilization sense. One of the main goals of colonization was to increase the German population in the southern parts of Hungary. About German dominance in Banat, until the Second World War, today testify a rich tangible and intangible rural heritage. Already in the main instructions about population (*Impopulatione Hungarodolensium*), Maria Theresa was defined shape, appearance and dimensions of public and private buildings, in order to unify the diversity in every field of life. Rural yard is a fundamental element of the planning lowland villages. The primary function of rural yard is to unite different built structures, areas and devices necessary for the peasant's life and work. The longitudinal yard, by narrow side oriented towards the street, was divided into three parts – housing and keeping cattle area, grain processing area and orchard. Original functions of rural yard remained unchanged to the present day, but its contents, shapes, spatial relationships have changed.

This paper is structured as a review of the historic and social framework, toward reinterpretation of the origin, development, analogy, and modalities of country house, barn, corn attic, and draw well in Banat villages. The aim of research is consideration of the specific German rural heritage and determination of its place and importance in the history of rural architecture in Vojvodina. Socio-political changes and new demands of the population have partly changed character and image of villages, which is evident in former German villages in Banat. It is understandable that former glory of German villages cannot be restored, because the wheel of time could not be returned. In contemporary, multi-ethnic environment, such as the Banat, the most important is that people respect achievements of past generations, ancient cultures and traditions, trying to establish harmony between past and future. The former German villages even today, more than half a century after the deportation, have numerous traditional, well preserved buildings, that resist the post-war trends. One strong ethnic group has almost disappeared from this region, but its strong cultural tradition, particularly visible through the material, rural heritage is preserved to this day. Swabian house represents even today a symbol of Banat villages. Even post-war Serbian rural architecture has been conceptually based on traditional German architecture.



TRANSFORMATION OF GERMAN HOUSEHOLDS FROM THE MID-NINETEENTH TO THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY



PRESENT STATUS OF GERMAN HERITAGE IN THE BANAT



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