

CHANGES IN MORPHOLOGY OF COLONIST VILLAGE BANATSKO VELIKO SELO

Svetlana Madić¹

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ABSTRACT: *As part of Kikinda municipality is the village of Banatsko Veliko Selo. The village was formed by colonists in the 18th century. Initially three small villages were formed, Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville. During the Theresian colonization, those places were inhabited by the Germans and the French, while the French were Germanized over time. The settlements were built by plans, by order of the Viennese court, structured like fields on a chessboard with streets intersecting at right angles. Soltur and Charleville had a rectangular shape, while Sankt Hubert had a square shape. Separate villages existed until the mid-20th century. Colonist from Bosnia and Herzegovina came after World War II, although the demographics of the village completely changed. In 1947, Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville merged into Banatsko Veliko Selo. In this way the village received an atypical form for Vojvodina landscapes.*

Keywords: *Saint Hubert, Soltur, Charleville, colonization, Banatsko Veliko Selo*

INTRODUCTION

The most important moments in the history of the village are two large colonizations. In this way, the arrival of the colonists and their existence in this area predestined the further development of the village. During first Theresian colonization in these areas came the Germans and the French and then Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville were mentioned for the first time. During second colonization after the Second World War, the area was settled by colonists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Then key changes happened which have affected the shape of the village, as well as the further development of the village.

Banatsko Veliko Selo is a village in eastern part of the municipality of Kikinda, in the area between Kikinda in the west and the Serbian-Romanian border in the east. Cadastral municipality of the village borders the cadastral municipalities of Nakovo in the north, Novi Kozarci in the south, Kikinda in the west and the border with Romania in the east. It has a connection with Kikinda by an asphalt road and railway line (11

¹ Bulevar Despota Stefana 7a, Novi Sad, e-mail: madic_ceca90@hotmail.com



Map 1. Location of Banatsko Veliko Selo in respect of Kikinda, scale 1: 200000

Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Karta_kikinda.png

km) Kikinda-Jimbolia-Timisoara. Eastern periphery of Banatsko Veliko Selo is 2-3.5 km away from the border, and 4 km away from the first Romanian village of Mali Komluš to the south (Bugarski, 19966). Banatsko Veliko Selo is 13 km away from Kikinda.

Traffic situation is due to the distance from Kikinda and other major cities, unfavorable. The position in relation to rivers is also extremely unfavorable because the village is not located near big rivers. Only developed is local traffic that connects the villages with other settlements of municipalities of Kikinda and Nova Crnja.

EMERGENCE OF THE VILLAGE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE FROM BEGINNING TO 20TH CENTURY

In 1763, Maria Theresa issued a patent for colonization of Hungary. Land was rented to entrepreneurs who had the obligation to settle it. During the following years this attracted several thousand settlers from west and south-west parts of Germany. In 1772, a new population patent came into force which planned land to see how many more Germans should be settled in the Serbian and Romanian villages, to help them learn better farming methods and techniques. The colonists of this party came from Silesia, Moravia and Bohemia, and settlers were recruited from Alsace-Lorraine as well. Part of the settlers from the two regions was of French nationality. French with German population settled in the villages of Saint Hubert, Charleville and Soltur. The French eventually were Germanized and Magyarized, retaining only the French last name (Јањеговић, 2009).

Cameral land was settled firstly by retired officers and fired soldiers, up to four hundred families, with aim of relieving the state budget by abolition of their pensions. Oth-

er land would be rented to wealthy citizens with an obligation of colonization. Colonists had guaranteed tax exemption, for farmers for six and craftsmen for ten years, in addition they received materials for their houses and firewood on repayment. Those who settled the landed estates received guarantees for tax exemption for three years, and the cameral estates for four to seven years, according to the quality of the land. Each household was given the right to move freely. Duties were large and amounted to one forint, twenty pieces of fowl, two geese and ten pigs, besides, of agricultural products 1/10 on behalf of parochial fees and 1/9 or 1/8, depending on quality of the land, to landowners. A proportionate share of forest and meadow was assigned to each municipality on behalf of the community (Allmende). Craftsman received, besides house and cadaster, a parcel of arable land (Kukurutz-Acker) for breeding of pigs and poultry and parcel of meadow for one cow or two. Each house should be marked by a number. Each municipality should have a surgeon, or three, four smaller municipalities should share one surgeon. Upon arrival, each family received a piece of land (session), which amounted to 35 acres.. Everyone received house, seed, furniture and tools for agricultural labor, and merchants and craftsmen received 50 florins for required tools. All these debits colonists had in their Debit booklets (Schuldbuch) and had to return in six years (Jankulov, 1961).

In the period 1769-1770, people settled these three municipalities. The settlers were of French nationality, most of them from Lorraine. Settlements from this period were built in cameral land according to plans of generals Neumann and Hidelbrand. The settlers have built three villages, and called them after names of their homeland in France: Saint Hubert, Soltur, Charleville.

Saint Hubert is a village located south of Soltur and southwest of Charleville. Its name comes from the name of village Saint Hubert, located near Metz (northeastern France). The documents show various forms of this name, French Saint Hubert, Germ. St. Hubert, Hung. Szent Hubert, and until 1922 its name is Saint Hubert. In 1772, 80 houses were built in Saint Hubert where lived 317 inhabitants, while in 1777, there were 82 houses with 415 inhabitants. According to data from a Hungarian document

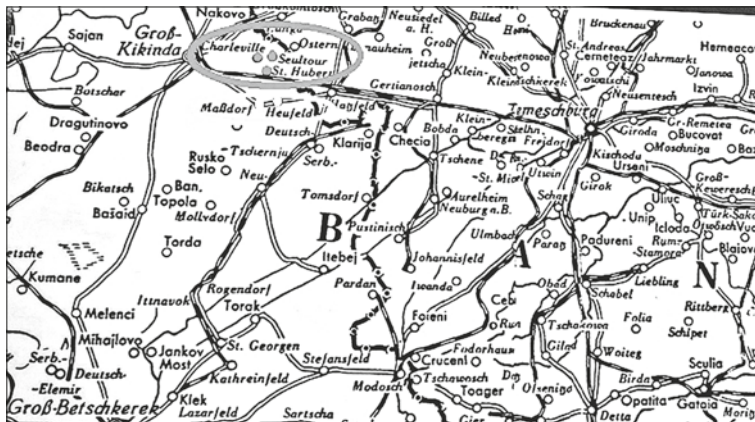


Figure 1. Location of villages in the Torontal County

Source: Vujin, 2014

at one moment in the village there were 976 Catholics, 44 Orthodox Christian and 14 Jews (Arsenijević, 1992). Saint Hubert had considerably higher number of members per household, than nearby villages, an average of 10.4. The reason for this is the tradition of German serfs old members stay with the young in the same house (Hegediš, 1987).

Soltur is a village that occupies the area north of St. Hubert. Name of Soltur comes from a lonely tower from the Ottoman period that served as a lookout, while the rest is deserted after the Turkish invasion. Documents show various forms of name, besides French name "la seule tour" (a lonely tower), we find the German version Soltur and Hungarian name Szentborbela, which is the official name of the village after the Austro-Hungarian agreement in 1867. In 1922, the village name changes into Soltur. In 1772, 60 houses were built where lived 283 inhabitants, and in 1777 it had 67 houses with 303 inhabitants, all of them were of French nationality. According to a Hungarian document in Soltur lived 706 Catholics, 24 Orthodox Christians and two Jews. Santa Barbara is mentioned as a patron saint of the village (Arsenijević, 1992).

Charleville is a village northwest of Saint Hubert. French settlers named their place after the town of Charleville near Metz. In 1772, 60 houses were built where lived 278 inhabitants, while in 1777, there were 67 houses and 270 inhabitants (Latinović, 2006).

The colonists settled in these villages came from the following places: Metz, Arakjur, Franševi, Mojanvik, Dorsi, Diez, Bergavi. Those French were joined by Germans from areas of: Mainz, Trier, Würzburg, Ingolstadt and Nassau (Arsenijević, 1992).

In the villages and fields were wells, near the village pastures, vacant land, gardens and vineyards. Each village had school, municipal house, pharmacy and several municipalities shared one doctor ("felčer") and an inn ("birt"). In schools besides German, Hungarian language was introduced too, but not before 1890. Classes are performed in Hungarian until 1919 (Hess, 1927).

The villages had a common church in Saint Hubert. The villages had their forests, willow groves and mulberries. Along the roads and around the meadows, which surround the village, mulberry trees were planted for shade and growing silkworms. Rural areas were divided into three types of fields and next to these areas, there were meadows that were used for haymaking and livestock grazing. Fields were determined by field roads (Utak).

Soltur and Charleville have rectangle forms while Saint Hubert had a square shape plan with 800 m long sides. The villages had a larger square with a church in the middle surrounded by public buildings. The villages have been built by plans, by order of the Viennese court, like fields on a chessboard with streets intersecting at right angles. Longitudinal streets are oriented SE-NW. Houses have been grouped with straight longitudinal and transverse streets (Gassendorf) and with one municipal well for each street. The main streets are 18 to 20 fathoms wide (34 to 38 m), and side streets 6 to 8 fathoms (11.4 to 15 m), for easier transport, and in case of fire to create favorable conditions for its localization. Front of the house faces the street, barns and sheds are in the extension of the house, and certainly not at the front, where the fire would spread to neighboring houses. The first colonist houses were built by Serbs and Hungarians from neighboring villages, and later by the Germans themselves. Beside houses and land colonists got cattle and tools for work with deferred payment (Mandić et al, 1988).

Thanks to the official census data, contained in the book of Nicholas Hess from 1927, Josephine census data for the period 1784-1787 and demographic data of the Veliki Bečkerek county for 1850 and 1857 located in the Matica Srpska Library, one can monitor the number of residents in Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville.

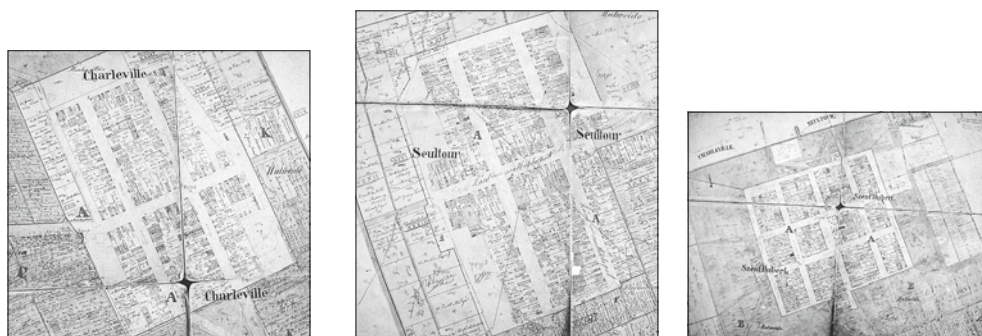
Table 1. Comparative review of population

Year	Saint Hubert	Charleville	Soltur
1772.	320	278	283
1777.	415	290	303
1787.	601	/	/
1792.	625	425	435
1821.	923	478	511
1836.	1.034	668	732
1846.	1.227	776	800
1850.	1.314	754	833
1857.	1.391	773	927
1870.	1.426	805	917

Source: Hess, 1927, Hegediš and Čobanović, 1991

Based on available data, it is evident that the population in all three villages increased. The highest population was recorded in Saint Hubert, 1,426 inhabitants. Since early censuses of the late 18th century until the second half of the 19th century it was Saint Hubert where was recorded the largest increase in population. The largest increase in population in Saint Hubert was recorded in 1821, when for almost 30 years, the number increased by 298 people. For the entire period of observation, Charleville and Soltur, each village individually did not have 1,000 inhabitants. That figure was approached most closely by Soltur in 1870, when it had 917 inhabitants.

The French have settled with their families. Each family had an average of 8 to 12 children, and some even 15. However, epidemic diseases, which then dominated in these



Figures 2, 3, 4. Plans of villages Charleville (left), Soltur (center) and Saint Hubert (right), 1875

Source: Real Estate Cadaster of Kikinda

villages, killed many children, so that in the majority of families with 10-12 children, most 3 or 4 children lived to ten years. The fiercest was cholera in 1831 and 1873. Since then, it occurred rarely and to a less degree. Out of fear of the disease, many settlers have returned to the old homeland.

Around 1860, there were several older women who spoke French with each other. The last Frenchman who settled in Banat from Loren and who spoke French, died in 1866 (Pravda, 1936, p. 7).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGES IN 20TH CENTURY

In the early 20th century, the situation in the villages was not changed essentially. Saint Hubert, Charleville, Soltur continued to exist as separate villages. The majority of the population was still German. Large-scale changes came after World War II.

According to the Census from 1921, the first census in Vojvodina within the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, these villages were within the district of Jimbolia while changes came in the later period, as according to the Census of 1931, these villages belonged to the county of Jaša Tomić.

Table 3. Comparative review of population in Saint Hubert, Soltur, Charleville

Village	Year	Male	Female	Total
Saint Hubert	1921.	664	731	1.395
	1931.	729	748	1.477
Soltur	1921.	441	504	945
	1931.	449	475	924
Charleville	1921.	379	397	776
	1931.	360	376	736

Source: Federal Statistical Office

According to the census of 1921, it can be noted that Saint Hubert had the largest population. Until the next census in 1931, the situation had not much changed, the largest population is observed precisely in Saint Hubert, 82 inhabitants more than at the last census. In Soltur and in Charleville in this period it is observed population decline. In all three villages at the time of the census it was recorded a greater number of females.

Of industrial facilities in almost every village there were a brickyard and a mill. In Saint Hubert were a motor mill of “Brothers Kang” and a brickyard of Jacob Musonge. In Charleville also existed a brickyard of Jacob Musonge, as part of group M. Bohn et Co. In Soltur also existed a brickyard but of owner Jozef Wuhl and vinegar factory of Janos Oberding. The villages had certain associations, in Saint Hubert existed Singing Society and the German reading room. In all villages there was the Red Cross (Historical Archives of Vojvodina).

In Banat in 1919 and 1920 the largest population was of German nationality, which enjoyed benevolent attitude of the state authorities. Until April 1941, these municipali-

ties belonged to the county of Jaša Tomić. During the war domestic Germans organized their volunteer units called “Deutsche mannschaft”, they had their police power in order to put all their forces in the service of Nazi Germany (Mandić et al, 1988).

After the Second World War, the demographics of the village have completely changed. The Germans, who were allies of Nazi Germany were executed or taken to camps throughout Banat. A large number of German population after release from camps, moved to Germany and other countries, leaving the empty the entire households.

These villages have begun to re-settle again in 1945, for the second time in their history. The colonist this time came mainly from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The colonists found houses which were built of solid materials, fenced and landscaped yards with all outbuildings for agriculture and livestock breeding, so they had no need to build new facilities. Even today, a large number of the population in Banatsko Veliko Selo live in the old “Swabian”¹ or more precisely, the German houses, except local communities and surrounding buildings, there are few new buildings in the villages. In 1947, these three villages merged and formed one bigger village. Merging of Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville has created Banatsko Veliko Selo.

FORM AND STRUCTURE OF THE VILLAGE

Characteristic for the villages in Vojvodina is that they have been built as colonist settlements, during the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The villages were built according to plans, with a predetermined form of the village, street width, appearance of houses and appearance of the central part of the village. Villages of Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville (Banatsko Veliko Selo) are planned settlements with regular form.

By maps from 1875, we can see the regular square shape of the village of Saint Hubert, while villages of Soltura and Charleville have proper rectangular form. In the central part of the village were located church (only in Saint Hubert), school, municipal house and all other important objects.

By merging the villages new roads have been built which connect these three parts of Banatsko Veliko Selo. Thus, after last houses between Soltur, Charleville and Saint Hubert there are gardens and fields.

The southern part of the village is the area of the former village of Saint Hubert. This sector is still called by its original name. North of it is the sector of Soltur and northwest in the direction of Kikinda is the sector of Charleville. Through it passes most of traffic, because it is the closest to Kikinda. North of the area of Saint Hubert, before turning from the area of Charleville toward the area of Soltur is the center of today’s village. There is located the community building, school, park, traditional house, swimming pools.

Structure of the village is represented by its interior organization or structure. These are primarily widths and directions of streets, road network density, squares and undeveloped areas. Based on direction of streets we can there are linear, radial, latticed, reticulate and mixed structure.

¹ a term used in Vojvodina, in the villages, which were previously inhabited mostly by Germans.

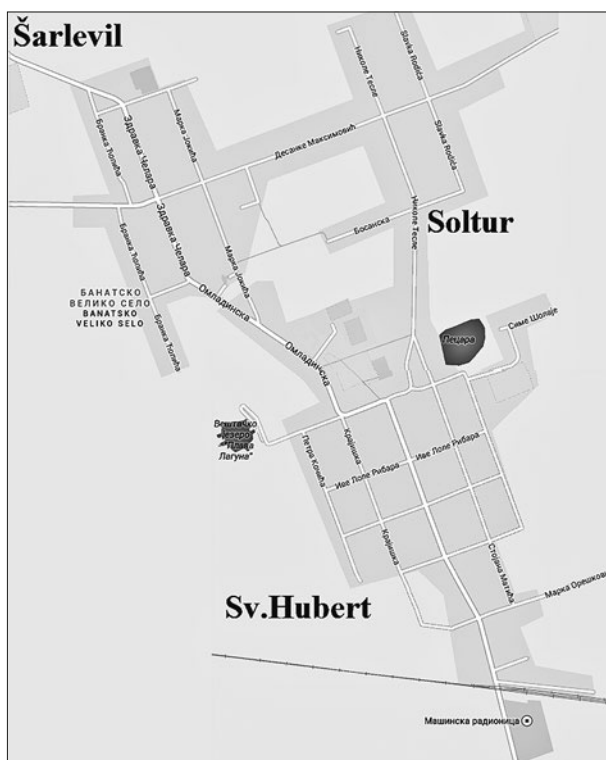


Figure 5. Map of the village of Banatsko Veliko Selo

Source: google maps

The old villages of Saint Hubert, Charleville and Soltur had a typical latticed structure ie. the structure of the chessboard. It is characterized by straight and parallel streets intersecting with side streets at right angles. This construction requires relatively flat topographic surface without major obstacles. In Vojvodina, more than half of the villages have this structure (Čurčić, 1992).

In Banatsko Veliko Selo, internal structure of sectors is not undermined. Settlers have built smaller streets on the outskirts of sectors and streets that would connect these areas. With the arrival of the colonists streets were named after national heroes. All streets have sidewalks and asphalt roads.

The total length of streets is 21 km. The longest street is the main street, 3.6 km long. Through it leads the way to Nakovo and Kikinda. The village has a total of 22 streets, 10 longitudinal and 12 transversal. Second longest street is the street of Desanka Maksimović, which used to be called the street of “Moša Pijada”. Its length is 1.5 km and is the only street that connects the sectors of Charleville and Soltur. These streets were built in 1962, over bricks, which were built by Germans, asphalt has been put (Latinović, 2006). The sectors of Charleville and Saint Hubert are connected by the Omladisksa Street. The sectors of Charleville and Soltur are connected by the street of Desanka Maksimović. The sectors of Soltur and Saint Hubert are connected by the street of Nikola Tesla.

The street of “Branko Kudriš” has changed its name into “Nikola Tesla”. Smaller, peripheral streets such as “Vojvođanska”, “Branko Ćopić”, “Pana Đukić”, “Petrovača” in the area of Charleville, “Bosanska” street and “Nikola Tesla” in the region of Soltura, street of “Sima Šolaja” toward the lake of Laguna and on the opposite side of the area, “Marko Oresković” and “Železnička” in the region of Saint Hubert are either extended or constructed afterwards arrival of colonists.

In the center of Banatsko Veliko Selo, (which is located between three sectors) is one of two parks, FC “Kozara” and stadiums, open swimming pools outdoor traditional house. In the village exists an artificial lake called “Laguna”, which is designed for rest and recreation.

Colonists from Bosnia and Herzegovina found in each of these villages an empty school, after merging the villages, old school buildings were destroyed. The new school building was built in the central part of the new larger village, near the building of the local community.

The highest building in the village is an Orthodox church, which construction started in 2007. Until 1952, Banatsko Veliko Selo has a Roman Catholic church, when it was obtained a building permit for demolition. The chosen location for construction of the temple is near the spot where once existed a Roman Catholic church. The village has two Orthodox cemeteries, located on the outskirts of the area. In Banatsko Veliko Selo, Catholic cemetery was destroyed. It was situated north of Saint Hubert, near the Catholic church. It is thought that in this place today is a park.

PHYSIOGNOMY OF THE VILLAGE

Physiognomy is a heterogeneous morphological characteristic of a village, it is a trait that is most visible for the observer. These are silhouette of the village, height, age and distribution of buildings, width and directions of streets, squares and other undeveloped areas, used construction material, roof structures, other architectural solutions, distinctive building, width of the horizon in the village, building colors, green and others. All these elements can be divided into two major groups, those that can be observed only from a distance and those that are viewed inside the village, ie. outer and inner physiognomy (Ćurčić, 1992).

The only verticals in the villages are the church, fire station, grain tank and lonely chimney of a former brick factory on the outskirts of Banatsko Veliko Selo. The village have typical Vojvodina’s low houses.

TYPES OF HOUSES

In old German houses we can see so-called transverse houses or houses on the furrow, which extend transversely to the direction of the street. And longitudinal houses or along the way, which extend in the direction of streets. The houses are built of adobe and bricks.

Transversal German house has four windows to the street and is quite bright. The door adjacent to the hallway is the entrance to the house. While a wooden gate and a small fence separate one house from another. Way from the hallway leads into the kitchen, behind the kitchen is a pantry or “špaiz” and way from the kitchen leads into rooms (it was often the two rooms). Yard not wide, but it is long, the width of the yard is about 10 m, but the length is about 50 m. It is often divided into two parts, first yard or upper one and second yard or lower one. Upper courtyard is landscaped, paved, and with flowers, while the lower yard is economic part of the house with stables for livestock and food. There is no garden or it is very small.

Longitudinal German house to the street with two or three windows, the entrance to the house can be from the street and down the hall, and also from the yard. To the street is one room, next to it is kitchen then other room, with way from the kitchen to the pantry. There is another room in the yard. The appearance of the yard is the same as in the previous house. These houses have always a basement. Modern house type is different from other types by the appearance, size, internal layout and building materijals (Božičković, 1981).

CONCLUSION

Banatsko Veliko Selo deviates from typical Vojvodina’s villages by its physiognomy. Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville were created as typical colonist settlements in the 18th century, mainly inhabited by the German population. As separate villages, these settlements existed more than a century. During that time, settlements have been affected by various changes. The population constantly increased, the original French population disappeared slowly. In Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville, the French language was spoken until the second half of the 19th century. Instead of French language, in the villages the official language became German. There are only a French surnames and customs that indicate the true origin of the colonists. Hungarian population increased, while the Serbs and Romanians formed minority in the villages.

Although small, the villages were well organized and equipped. The structure of the village was latticed, like a chessboard. In the center of the village there were all the most important institutions of the village.

The most important changes in these settlements occurred after the Second World War. The entire German population was expelled, or fled to Germany. Their houses, households and fields, the state gave to new colonists, who came from Bosnia and Herzegovina (and a small number from Croatia). In 1947, villages of Saint Hubert, Soltur and Charleville merged and since then these villages exist as Banatsko Veliko Selo. Today, the majority is of Serbian origin, and minorities are Hungarians and Roma.

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