

MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES OF COLONIZED VILLAGE NOVI KOZARCI

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SUMMARY: *In the area of northern Banat, there is the village of Novi Kozarci, which is part of Kikinda municipality. The village was established in the 18th century, for the purpose of the colonists, two settlements were originally formed, Mastort, Heidfeld. Within Teresian colonization, the Germans and the French were inhabited, the French eventually were Germanized. The minority population in these settlements were of Serbian and Romanian nationalities. Separate villages existed until the mid-20th century. After World War II, new colonists came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the demographics of the village has completely changed. In 1947, the villages Mastort and Heidfeld merged into Novi Kozarci.*

Keywords: *Mastort, Heidfeld, colonization, Novi Kozarci*

INTRODUCTION

Unlike other villages that have regular square or rectangular shape, the shape of this village deviates from these rules. To answer the question of form of the village, it is necessary to pay special attention to two great colonizations that took place in the village. In the first Teresian colonization the Germans and the French came to these areas and then there were references to Mastort and Heidfeld for the first time. During the second colonization after World War II, colonists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia settled these villages. Key changes that took place which affected the current form of the village, but also the further development of the village.

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GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

Novi Kozarci is a village located in the southeastern part of Kikinda municipality. The area of Novi Kozarci borders with Romania, with Nova Crnja municipality and with three rural areas belonging to the municipality of Kikinda (rural areas of Banatsko Veliko Selo, Rusko Selo and Kikinda). The border with Romania is in the northeast, with Nova Crnja municipality in the east, southeast and south, rural areas of Nova Crnja and Srpska Crnja. In the west it borders with the rural area of Rusko Selo, in the northwest with rural area of the town of Kikinda and in the north with rural area of the village of Banatsko Veliko Selo. Shape of the rural area is irregular and elongated in a north-south



Map 1. Position of Novi Kozarci in relation to Kikinda, scale 1:200000

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

direction for about 10 miles, while its width is 4 km in a west-east direction. The village is situated in the northern part of rural area along communication of Rusko Selo-Novu Kozarci-Romania (Davidović, 1996b). The village occupies a border position in relation to other parts of the municipality. Novi Kozarci is 19 km away from Kikinda. Traffic situation is unfavorable due to distance from Kikinda and other major cities. The position in relation to rivers is also extremely unfavorable because there are no major rivers flowing through the village. Only local traffic is developed which connects the village with the other settlements of municipalities of Kikinda i Nova Crnja.

GENESIS OF THE VILLAGE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE FROM ESTABLISHMENT TO THE 20TH CENTURY

In 1763, Maria Theresa issued a colonization patent for Hungary, Transylvania and Banat. Land of Novi Kozarci was leased to developers who were obligated to populate it. During the following years this attracted several thousand settlers from western and

southwestern Germany. In 1772, it came into force a new population patent that predicted areas to see how many more Germans should settle in Serbian and Romanian villages, to help them learn about better agricultural methods and techniques. The colonists from this part came from Silesia, Moravia and Bohemia, and the settlers were also recruited from Alsace and Lorraine. Part of the colonists from these two regions was also of French nationality. The French were eventually germanized and hungarianized, retaining only French surnames (Janjetović, 2009).

The villages of Mastort and Heidfeld were established during Teresian colonization. The colonization of the Germans was conducted under the new precisely defined plan, a patent from 1763. Plan was to first inhabited cameral lands by retired officers and discharged soldiers, to four hundred families, to relieve the budget by abolition of their pensions. Other land would be issued to wealthy citizens with the obligation of colonization. Colonists were guaranteed exemption from taxes, to farmers for six and to craftsmen for ten years, in addition, they got structure for houses and firewood with deferred payment. Those who settled in landed states, were given the guarantees for the exemption from taxes for three years, and in cameral states for four to seven years, according to the quality of the land. Winegrowers had recognized right of free refills of wine for a quarter of the year (from Archangel Michael until Christmas). Each household was given the right of free migration, and the duties were great. They amounted to one forint, twenty chickens, two geese and ten pigs, besides, 1/10 of agricultural products on behalf of parochial fees and 1/9 or 1/8, according to the quality of the country, for sipahis. Colonist session has been established in at least thirty chains of arable land and ten chains of meadows. 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 pigs and poultry and a parcel of meadow for one or two cows. In order to every house has its own fuel, it should have on the street and in the yard at least twenty poplars, willows or other trees, and twelve mulberry trees in the garden for the cultivation of silkworms. Every house should be marked with a number. Each municipality should have a surgeon, or

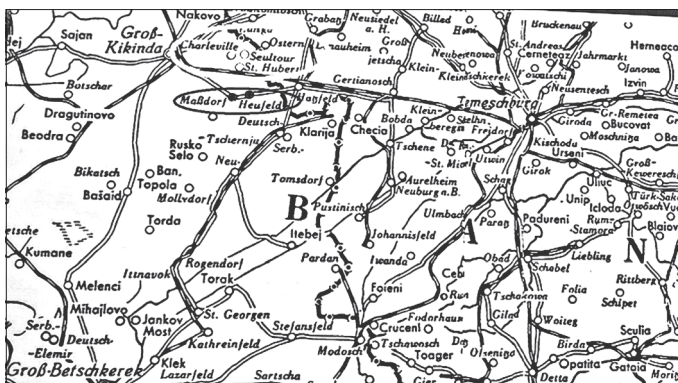


Figure 1. Location of settlements in the Torontal County

Source: Vujin, 2014

three, four smaller municipalities should share one surgeon. Upon arrival, each family received a piece of land (session), which amounted to 35 acres. Everyone is given houses, seed, furniture and tools for agricultural labor, and merchants and craftsmen were given 50 florins for the required tools. All these debits colonists had in their Debit booklets (Schuldbuch) and had to return in six years. Some households had eight chains of arable land, six chains of meadows, two chains of pastures, half chain of infield, half chain of garden, half to one chain of land for hemp (Jankulov, 1961).

Mastort was inhabited by Germans on the banks of the Rhine in the period 1770-1771. Settlement of Germans was carried out under the supervision of the Chief of Timisoara Neumann who built 78 houses for the settlers. Already in 1770 it had a primary school. The settlement then belonged to Torontal County based in Veliki Bečkerek. The county bordered with the District of Kikinda. In the early 19th century the village as a royal property was bought by Zichy-Ferraris family. After 1838 the village belonged to Victor Count of Zichy-Ferraris.

They had post and telegraph in neighboring Nagytoszeg (Heidfeld), and a railway station in Saint Hubert. In the municipality there was a dairy cooperative, a community center with café, libertarian society in 1848, glee club, volunteer fire department, the National Bank and the mill motor of Lapig Johan (Mandić et al., 1988).

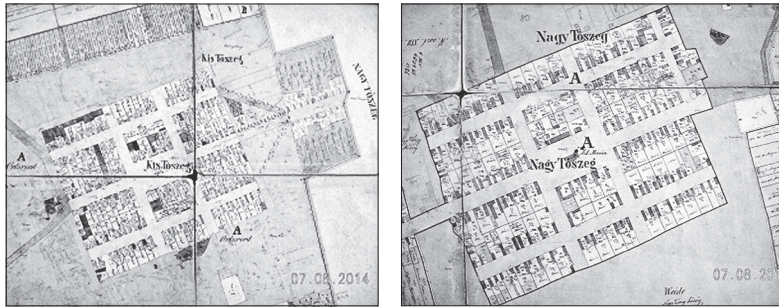
Heidfeld was settled in the period 1770-1771 under the direction of Count Clary, under the supervision of the Chief of Timisoara, Neumann. Then, as in Mastort, he built 78 houses and a primary school. In addition to the Germans, the French from Lorraine also settled it. The French colonists were eventually assimilated into the local Germans, only many French words and surnames in germanized version retained in speech of the Germans. This settlement, as previous one, belonged to Torontal County. In the early 19th century as a royal property was bought by Zichy-Ferraris family. Until 1838 Heidfeld was owned by Count Zichy-Ferraris Ferenz, when it was bought by a French prince Shombord and put him under supervision of Baron Billot Czirill (Mandić et al., 1988). Municipal Roman Catholic Church was built in 1816. But on 1 May 1840, the half of the municipality with church, parish and school were burnt. In 1850, rural area around municipality was devastated by locusts, and in 1873 there was an epidemic of cholera.

The population founded community center with café, craft, commercial and readership society, volunteer fire department, dairy cooperative, funeral association, libertarian society in 1848.

In Torontal County, villages were divided by districts. In the period from 1779 to 1790 Mastort and Heidfeld were within Ujpest district (Historical Archives of Vojvodina), and within the landed estates of Hubertus (Hegediš, 1987).

Mastor and Heidfeld were similar villages due to their proximity, so the managing and the way of life in the villages were very similar.

Distribution of areas of rural land of Heidfeld and Mastort corresponds to the implementation of colonization carried out according to the plan of Baron Kotman. Before the settlement, measurement of the land was made. High places are intended for villages, preferably in the middle of rural area. In the villages and fields there were wells, near the village were pastures, vacant land, gardens and vineyards. Each village had a school,



Figures 2, 3. Plan of the village of Mastort (left) and Heidfeld (right), 1875

Source: Real Estate Cadaster of Kikinda

a municipal house, a pharmacy, and several municipalities had one physician (“felčer”) and an inn (“birt”). They had a common church (temple) in Heidfeld. According to Kotman’s plan every house got a garden for fruits and vegetables. The villages had their forests, willow and mulberry trees. Around roads and around pastures surrounding the village, mulberry trees were planted for shade and cultivation of silkworms. Rural areas were divided into three types of fields, on the edge of rural area there were meadows that were used for mowing and livestock grazing. Field parcels were determined by field roads (Utak).

Villages are in the form of a rectangle, with a larger square, while in the middle is a church, and public buildings around it. Houses are divided into blocks with straight longitudinal and transverse streets (Gassendorf) and with one municipal well for each street. Main streets are wide 18 to 20 fathoms (34 to 38 m), and side streets 6 to 8 fathoms (11.4 to 15 m), which works to facilitate traffic, and in the event of fire, to create favorable conditions for its localization. Front of the house faces the street, barns and sheds are behind the house, and by no means at the front, where the fire would be spread to neighboring houses. The first colonist houses in Heidfeld and Mastort were built by the Serbs and Hungarians from neighboring villages, and later by the Germans themselves. The colonists next to a house and land got cattle and tools for work with deferred payment (Mandić et al., 1988).

Josephine census data for the period 1784-178 and data on population of the district of Veliki Bečkerek for 1850 and 1857 are located in the Matica Srpska Library. Thanks to these data, population in Mastort and Heidfeld in that period can be monitored.

Table 1. Comparative review of population

Year	1878	1836	1850	1857
Mastort	558	936	1032	1179
Heidfeld	551	978	1117	1221

Source: Antal, Čobanić, 1991

Based on the available censuses that reach the second half of the 19th century, it is noted a steady increase in population in both villages.

The French settled with their families, each family had an average of 8 to 12 children, and some even 15. However, epidemic diseases, which then dominated, killed many children, so that in the majority of families of 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 in a lower level. Out of fear of the disease, many settlers have returned to the old homeland. As a representative of the authorities did not know French, the names were sometimes written phonetically, so the original French names were changed after the arrival, deliberately, but mostly because the population was illiterate. Clerks recorded surnames in German, while French gradually was lost and replaced by German. Germanisation of the French was successful. The French who remained eventually assimilated into the Germans.

School was operational from 1771, and education was compulsory for children aged 9 to 15 years. Schooling lasted two to three years, depending on the success of students. After completing primary school it was compulsory to attend so called povtorna škola¹ for a period of two years. The teacher had a combined salary of 25 florins a year in cash, 2-3 fathom of straw, 2-3 carts a corn cob, wheat, corn and candles. All this was collected from the people in the form of contributions.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENTS IN 20TH CENTURY

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

According to the Census of 1921, the first census in 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 Mastort and Heidfeld

Settlement	Year	Male	Female	Total
Mastort	1921	426	446	872
	1931	458	486	944
Heidfeld	1921	543	595	1.138
	1931	545	595	1.140

Source: Federal Statistical Office

According to the census it can be noted that Heidfeld had a larger population. By the 1931 census, a significant population growth is observed in Mastort. Censuses show an approximately equal number of males and females in the villages.

Of industrial facilities in every village there was a mill, and only Mastort had a brickyard. In the village of Mastort there were a mill of Kadi Nikolaus and a brickyard of Ja-

¹ Povtorno translated from Bulgarian language means again, continuing education

cob Musonge, who was from Mastort. In Heidfeld there was a mill of Bayerl Johann from Heidfeld and power station “Laping Anthony”. In the villages there was the Red Cross, as well as the company “Adriatic Guard”, which for the villages annually from the budget gave 1000 dinars (Historical Archives of Vojvodina).

In 1919 and 1920, in Banat German nationality was the largest, who enjoyed benevolent attitude of the authorities. Until April 1941, the Germans from Mastort and Heidfeld were loyal citizens of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Until April 1941 these municipalities belonged to the county of Jaša Tomić. During the war domestic Germans organized their volunteer units called “Deutsche mannschaft”, they had their police powers in Heidfeld in order to put all their forces in the service of Nazi Germany, wanting to Banat become an integral part of its territory. Shortly after the occupation, control in Banat was taken by domestic Germans (Mandić et al, 1988).

After World War II, the demographics of the village were completely changed. The Germans, who were allies of Nazi Germany were executed or taken to camps across the Banat (there was a camp in Heidfeld). Almost the entire German population in Vojvodina was sent to the camps. A large number of German population after release from the camp, moved to Germany and other countries, leaving empty the entire households.

These villages have begun to re-settled in 1945, for the second time in its history. The colonists this time came mostly from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moving in the Swabian houses, where everything was built, they had no need to build new facilities. Over 80% of the population in Novi Kozarci still live in the old Swabian houses, except local community and surrounding buildings, there are few new buildings in the village.

In 1947, the villages merged. Joining of Mastort and Heidfeld generated Novi Kozarci. In 1955, the local community of Novi Kozarci received a building permit for the demolition of Roman Catholic Church.

FORM OF THE BASIS OF THE SETTLEMENT

Characteristic of the settlements in Vojvodina is that they were built as colonist settlements, during the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The settlements were built according to plan, with a predetermined form of the village, the width of streets, look of houses and appearance of the central part of the village.

By maps from 1875, there is a regular rectangular shape of the settlement of Heidfeld and regular square shape of the settlement of Mastort. The streets are rectilinear; intersect at an angle of 90°. Along the street there are houses built next to one another, yards are big and wide on the back side, where is reserved place for the auxiliary agricultural facilities. Maps show numbers drawn inside the household, they marked the number of the house (black numbers) and number of parcel in rural area (red numbers). Houses were received sequence number by the time of construction. First built house in the village had number one, etc. In the center of the village are concentrated all the important function, a church (only in Heidfeld), school, park, municipal house, important trade.

Merging these two settlements into Novi Kozarci, distribution within the settlement has not changed much, colonists built a new road connecting the two settlements. The

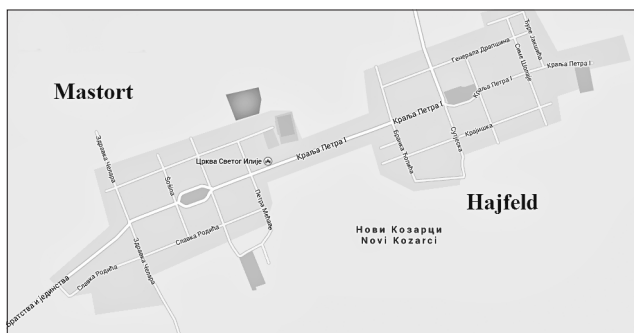


Figure 4. Plan of the village of Novi Kozarci, the second half of 20th century

Source: Real estate cadaster of Kikinda

construction of the houses along this road created the street, which is today the main street of the village.

In the area behind the house, along the main street, gardens and fields were placed, because there has been no construction of new streets, and the village was given an atypical form for this region. At the end of area of Heidfeld, toward the region of Mastort, the central part of the village is located. A community building, gallery, parish hall are located there, and further along the main street are health clinic, church, park, fire station.

CONCLUSION

Novi Kozarci by physiognomy of settlement deviates from the typical settlements of Vojvodina. It was created as typical colonist settlements in the 18th century, inhabited predominantly by German and French populations. Undisturbed life and development of Mastort, Heidfeld lasted more than a century. During that time the villages had various changes. The population had constantly increased; the original French population had slowly disappeared. Number of Hungarian population increased, while the Serbs and Romanians constituted a minority in the villages.

Although small, the villages were well organized and equipped. The structure of the village was latticed, like a chess table. In the village there were all the most important institutions in the village. The most important changes in these settlements occurred after the World War II. The entire German population was expelled or fled to Germany. Their houses, households and fields were given by government to the new settlers, who came from Bosnia and Herzegovina (and a small number of Croatia). With many changes, life in the villages continued to go on. In 1947, the villages of Mastort and Heidfeld merged and since then they exist as Novi Kozarci. Today, the majority is of Serbian origin, minorities are represented by Hungarians and Roma.

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