

OLD INNS IN TIMIȘ COUNTY

VĂLUȘESCU DANIELA¹, ARMAȘ ANA GINA¹, VĂDUVA LOREDANA²,
ȚIBRU IOAN¹, PETROMAN IOAN^{*2}

¹*Development Research Station for Raising Sheep and Goats, S.C.D.C.O.C. Caransebeș*

²*University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara,
Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Timișoara, Romania*

*Corresponding author's e-mail: i_petroman@yahoo.com

Abstract: *The list of historical monuments in Timiș County mentions only four old inns: in the Village of Comloșu Mare (Commune of Comloșu Mare) (from the 18th century), in the Village of Coșava (Commune of Curtea) (from the 18th century), the Nikolaus Lenau House, former post's inn, nowadays a museum in the Village of Lenauheim (Commune of Lenauheim) (from the 18th century), and the Post's Inn in the Municipality of Lugoj (from 1726). The authors present these old inns focusing on their features and on their attractiveness as tourism destinations, as well as old inns that are not listed as historical monuments, but equally important.*

Key words: *old inn, Timiș County, features, attractiveness, tourist destination.*

INTRODUCTION

The old inns of Timiș County hold significant historical and cultural importance:

- Cultural heritage: inns embody the local traditions, offering insights into the hospitality customs, lifestyle, and social interactions of the region; [13]

- Economic hubs: historically, inns were vital economic centres where merchants and travellers could exchange news, rest, and trade, a role which made them crucial for the local economy;

- Historical landmarks: inns have been witnesses to centuries of history, providing a direct connection to the past and preserving the architectural styles and craftsmanship of bygone eras; [4,20]

- Social gathering places: inns served as social hubs where people gathered, facilitating cultural exchange, and fostering community bonds;

- Tourist attractions: today, these historic inns attract tourists, providing a unique glimpse into the region's history and contributing to local tourism and the economy. [14,15]

These inns are treasured not just for their utility, but also for the stories and memories they hold, making them invaluable to the cultural fabric of Timiș County.

Medieval inns and eateries were followed, after 1522, by Turkish coffee shops, tea shops and caravanserais, and, after 1716-1718, by other inns and/or eateries with "golden" names (The Golden Crown) or with "coloured" names (At the White Lamb). [1,2,3,5,18]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material used in this paper consists on books and articles on the old inns declared or not historical monuments in Timiș County, aiming at suggesting a tourist circuit. The method used is descriptive, a method that accurately and systematically describes a situation or phenomenon, answering what, where, when and how questions, but not why questions.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The study of the references directed to the conclusion that there are two categories of old inns: listed and not listed historical monuments.

1. Old Inns Listed Historical Monuments

The list of historical monuments in Timiș County mentions only four old inns [9].

1.1. The Village of Comloșu Mare (Commune of Comloșu Mare) (18th c.) The current settlement dates from 1743 when people from Oltenia settled there. N 1781, the Macedonian noble Nako bought the domain and brought colonists from the Holy Empire. In the 19th c., the postman used to come from Vienna to Timișoara stopping in front of the old post's inn to drop or take travellers. That inn survived to our days, but was subjected to improper renovations in 2012, though it is a historical monument, when turned into a cultural centre (kitchen and toilets, inside; façade, outside) [10,17]. It is close to both the Greek-Catholic and the Orthodox Churches in the centre of the village.

1.2. The Village of Coșava (Commune of Curtea) (18th c.) The village was first attested in 1405. The post's inn was built in the 18th c. Prince Al. I. Cuza (1820-1873) stopped there in 1866, when he took the path of exile Heidelberg (Germany). [11,12]

1.3. Municipality of Lugoj (1726) The building of the old *Post's Inn* on 20 Decembrie 1989 St in Lugoj (Figure 1) was built in 1726. It was built in a functional architectural style. At the beginning, it was used as a post's inn, but it was donated to the orthodox church. It is a historical monument and the headquarters of the Lugoj Orthodox Deanery and Parish. [6]



Figure 1. The Post's Inn in Lugoj (1726)

Source: [6]

1.4. The Village of Lenauheim (Commune of Lenauheim) (1775) The Village of Lenauheim, named after German-language Austrian Romantic poet Nikolaus Lenau (1802-1850) who was born there, hosts, in the former post's inn, the Nikolaus Lenau Museum (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Nikolaus Lenau Museum in Lenauheim – yesterday and today

Source: [7]

2. Old Inns Not Listed Historical Monuments

At the end of the 19th c., each district of Timișoara has its own stories, which have something in common: hospitality. Mehala and Ciarda Roșie used to host merchants and travellers in their inns for instance – while the outlaw Sándor Rózsa protected them from other outlaws for a proper fee! (*Fiecare cartier cu povestea numelui său, la Timișoara!*) *The Scarlet Inn* in Ciarda Roșie (end of the 19th c.) (Romanian *Hanul Cărămiziu*; Hungarian *Vörös Csárda*) got to be so famous that it gave its name to the entire neighbourhood (district). [16]

2.1. At the Elephant Inn (1785) *At the Elephant Inn* (Romanian *Casa cu Elefant*) (Figure 3) dates from 1785, when it was owned by master glassmaker Mathias Simon. From an architectural point of view, it fits into the eclectic, historicist style, with baroque elements. There are pilasters on two levels that decorate the façade on the second and third floors. The gate and the entrance portal are decorated and built in the Baroque style. In 1828, it was owned by Elisabetha Dadany (Gadanyi) and housed the most famous restaurant and inn of the times – *La Elefant* [8]. During the communist period, it housed the construction trust from Timișoara. Between 1980 and 1981, it was modified according to the plans of the architect Șerban Sturza, and the façade was modified in an eclectic, historicist style. It is in Union Square (Romanian *Piața Unirii*) in Timișoara. [7, 8]



Figure 3. At the Elephant House

Source: [3]

2.2. At the Seven Electors' Inn (1752) The building of *the Seven Electors' Inn* (Romanian *La cei șapte electori*) in Union Square (Romanian *Piața Unirii*) (Figure 4) dates from 1752. It was owned by Leopold Kayser, a baker, followed by others, until the 19th c., when it was turned into an inn and restaurant. At the beginning of the 20th c., it turned into a hotel and, later, into Nikolaus Lenau High School (1960). It was built in the Austrian Baroque, rebuilt in the Art Nouveau / Secession, deprived of its decorations, and re-modelled in the simplified Historicist style [7].



Figure 4. At the Seven Electors' Inn

Source: [own sources]

2.3. At the Trumpeter Inn (1752) *At the Trumpeter Inn* (Romanian *La Trompetistul / Trâmbițașul*; German *Der Trompeter* [18] is close to Union Square (Romanian *Piața Unirii*) (Figure 5). It draws its name from one of its owners, Major Anton Seltman, a trumpeter in the Holy Empire Army. Its name was turned into Cafe Cuza to remind that the first Prince of the Romanian Principalities Alexandru Ioan Cuza (1820-1873), exiled, slept there before leaving the country forever in 1866. First Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, Croatia, and Bohemia, Francis I (1768-1806), Archduke Franz Karl Joseph of Austria (1802-1878), Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, Franz

Joseph I (1830-1916) were also among the guests of this inn / hotel. Another important guest was Romanian Romantic poet Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889).



Figure 5. At the Trumpeter Inn: a. The symbol of the inn; b. The inn; c. The plaque.

Source: [own sources]

2.4. At the Moroccan's Inn (19th c.) *At the Moroccan's Inn* (Romanian *Hanul Marocanul*; German *Der Marokkaner*), located in Trajan Square, had its first owner, Gorge Liota, in 1851. Liota was followed by János Pecol at the beginning of the 20th c., by Anton Vilsmayer between 1913-1914, and by trinket shops. In the interwar period, it turned into a hotel-restaurant called *Marocanul*. [5, 19] After 1959, it was used as office of the Ministry of Agriculture. Built in the Historicist / Eclectic style, it is privately own and in very bad shape now (Figure 6).



Figure 6. At the Moroccan's Inn (19th c.)

Source: [own sources]

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we would like to suggest the inclusion, in the old inn tourist circuit:

- All four old inns listed as historical monuments in The Village of Comloșu Mare, in The Village of Coșava, Municipality of Lugoj, and in The Village of Lenauheim;
- All four old inns not listed as historical monuments: At the Elephant Inn, At the Seven Electors' Inn, At the Trumpeter Inn, and At the Moroccan's Inn.

Such a circuit is feasible in a one-day or in a one day and half tour.

REFERENCES

- [1]. **CRISTACHE-PANAIT I., 2000**, Arhitectura de lemn din județul Hunedoara, Editura ARC 2000, București.
- [2]. **BĂLTEANU D., 2023**, Umbra lui Alexandru Ioan Cuza la hanul ‘La Trompetistul’ de la Timișoara. 157 de ani de când orașul l-a găzduit pe domnitor în drumul său spre exil.
- [3]. **BURULEANU D. N., MEDELEȚ F., 2015**, Timișoara. Povestea orașelor sale, Editura Solness, Timișoara.
- [4]. **DOBREI F., 2010**, Bisericile ortodoxe hunedorene, Editura Eftimie Murgu, Reșița.
- [5]. **FOSTUL HAN MAROCANUL**. <https://heritageoftimisoara.ro/cladiri/Fabric/adresa/Traian/>
- [6]. **GRECEANU E., 1983**, Tehnică și măiestrie în arhitectura de lemn a județului Hunedoara, Monumente Istorice și de Artă, I, pp.59-65.
- [7]. **IONESCU M., 2023**, Povestea unui renumit han din Timișoara care a devenit școală de top. Clădirea i-a aparținut unui maistru brutar. Available at: https://ghidulbanatului.ro/povestea-unui-renumit-han-devenit-scoala-de-top-cladirea-i-a-apartinut-unui-maistru-brutar_17328.html
- [8]. **LICURICEANU A., 2022**, Casa La Trei Husari și Casa la Elefant.
- [9]. **LISTA MONUMENTELOR ISTORICE, 2015**, Județul Timiș. Available at: <http://patrimoniul.gov.ro/images/lmi-2015/LMI-TM.pdf>.
- [10]. **PĂUN L., 2016**, Povestea fascinantă a comunei Comloșu Mare, întemeiată de olteni și colonizată de germani. Cum a descris-o un cunoscut cărturar. Available at: <https://www.pressalert.ro/2016/01/povestea-fascinanta-comunei-comlosu-mare-intemeiata-de-olteni-si-colonizata-de-germani-cum-descris-o-un-cunoscut-carturar-foto/>
- [11]. **PETRESC D., 2011**, Ocișor, un străvechi sat românesc din Țara Zărandului. Monografie istorică, Editura Polidava, Deva.
- [12]. **PETROMAN I., PETROMAN CORNELIA, 2010**, Agritourism and its forms, *Lucrări Științifice Seria Agronomie*, 53(2).
- [13]. **PETROMAN I., PETROMAN CORNELIA, MARIN DIANA, GABRIS DELIA RAMONA, CIOLAC RAMONA, VĂDUVA LOREDANA, 2013**, Kitsch and cultural tourism, *Scientific Papers: Animal Science and Biotechnologies*, 46(2).
- [14]. **PETROMAN I.M., VĂDUVA LOREDANA, 2021**, Forms of active tourism, *Ouaestus* 271-279.
- [15]. **POPA DANIELA, PETROMAN I., PETROMAN CORNELIA, LALA V., PAICU D., HEBER LOREDANA, MARIN DIANA, 2010**, World European and National Policies in the Field of Cultural Tourism. *Scientific Papers Animal Science and Biotechnologies*, 43(2), pp. 433-433.
- [16]. **RAȚA GEORGETA, PETROMAN I., PETROMAN CORNELIA, 2013**, The English of tourism, Cambridge Scholar Publishing.
- [17]. **ȘTEFĂNESCU OVIDIU, Să continuăm împreună proiectele începute la Comloșu Mare**. Available at: <https://www.tion.ro>
- [18]. **TOMOV C., 2019**, Legendele Timișoarei: Emblema hanului “La Trompetistul.” Available at: <https://renasterea.ro>
- [19]. **VĂDUVA LOREDANA, PETROMAN C., PETROMAN I., 2018**, Ways to practice Islamic tourism in Banat, *Lucrări Științifice Management Agricol*, 20(1).
- [20]. **VĂDUVA LOREDANA, PETROMAN CORNELIA, 2017**, Ecumenical tourism in Banat Timiș County, *Lucrări Științifice Management Agricol* 19(3).