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Old Inns in Timiș County

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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.*

• 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;
- 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;
- 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.

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) (Buruleanu & Medelet, 2015) or with "coloured" names (At the White Lamb).

• Material and method

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.

• Results and discussions

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.

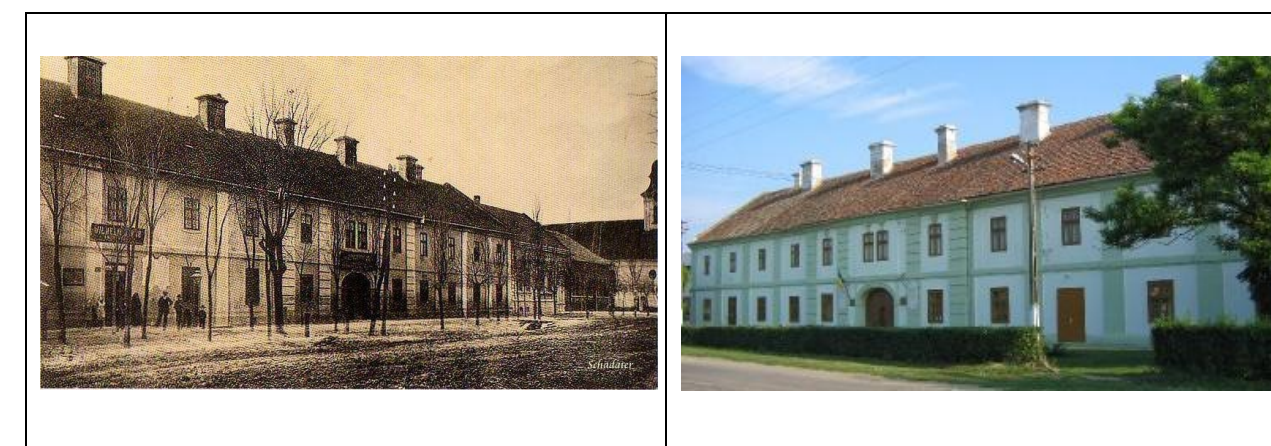


Figure 1. Nikolaus Lenau Museum in Lenauheim – yesterday and today

At the Elephant Inn (1785) At the Elephant Inn (Romanian Casa cu Elephant) (Figure 2) 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 (Licuriceanu, 2022). 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.



Figure 2. At the Elephant House

• 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.