

ARCHITECTURE IN ŠAR MOUNTAIN VILLAGES

UDC 711.3

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Abstract. *The development of settlements in the area of Sredačka, Sirinička and Goranska parishes should be seen in the context of entire Šar Mountain, Kosovo and South-Western Balkans, where these high mountain parishes are located. We can record the development of settlements in these Šar Mountain parishes from its beginnings in this part of our country, since the Neolithic period, through the ancient and early Christian period, followed by the Middle Ages and up to the present day. There are visible traces of Pelasgic, Illyrian, Thracian, in some parts Hellenistic, Roman, Slavic and Turkish-Oriental influences and ethnic presence in these parishes. All these ethnic processes, in conjunction with the natural environment and the socio-economic circumstances, had their historical impact on the evolutionary development of the Šar-mountain rural settlements. Rural settlements, villages, were built on sites that permitted the production activity, with frequent cases of renewal of existing settlements and the establishment of the new ones in their immediate vicinity. The Medieval Serbian state led to strengthening of the existing settlements, founding of the new ones, expansion of the existing ones and the receiving specific tasks and obligations arising from the feudal social order. These commitments were given in a number of charters and grants of Serbian emperors, kings and nobles. These liabilities from the medieval period would result in the emergence and subsequent smooth development of "pečalbarenje" as a process that was very important for the development of rural settlements in the Šar mountain parishes.*

Key words: Šar Mountain, villages, type, effects, parish, "pečalbarenje".

1. INTRODUCTION

Words: village, hamlet and livestock apartment in the mountain are of the Serbian linguistic background. In addition to these words, in the area of Šar Mountain, the Albanian words for a village (fshat) and summer house (Katund or pasture) are also used. According to the Dušan's Code the latter implies a place for pasture and housing of several families during the summer period. Temporary livestock apartment has its own

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Aromanian (Vlach) name with two possible forms that are often used, which are: "bačilo" or "mandra". In the early medieval period, the concept of the village also referred to one house or village court where, in the context of cooperative community, a large number of household members used to live [21]. In the later period, the word village in the edict with a gold seal of King Dragutin and other members of the Nemanjić dynasty, implies a greater group of houses, and a small group of houses scattered around the larger villages was known as the common name: the hamlet. Under the concept of village settlement we mean a village with a larger population. In the Šar-mountain range there still is a great number of villages of which in Sredačka parish there are 13 rural settlements with 10.100 inhabitants. In other parishes there are 16 villages, with 12.601 inhabitants in Sirinička parish, while Goranska parish comprises of 17 villages with about 17.574 residents [22] (Figure 1).

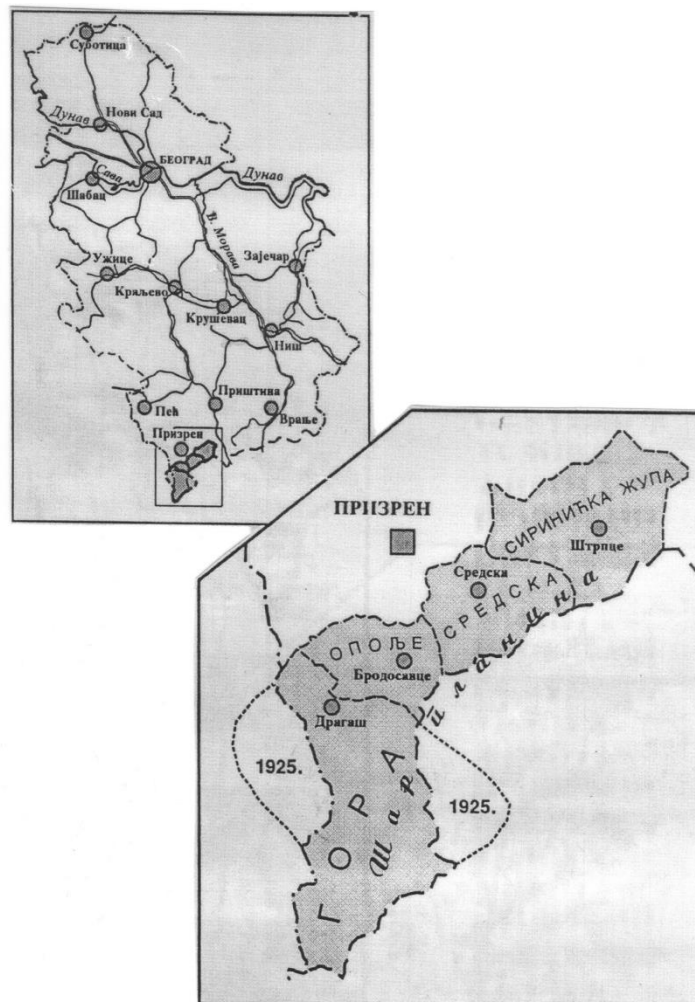


Fig. 1 Geographical position Šar Mountain and its parishes in Serbia

2. EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT AND AGE OF THE SETTLEMENT

About the origin of Šar Mountain oldest villages there are no written data or archaeological finds. According to tradition, the first settlement in the area of the high mountain parishes should be sought in the existence of numerous caves in which, during the last ice age, prehistoric people lived. These are the first possible habitats. The following sites: "large stones" above the village Planjane, "Marina dupka" above the village of Lower Ljubinja, "Peć" above the hamlet Pejčiči, "Vrbeštičke pećine" and "Kaluderov kamen" near Gora and Opolje, from ancient times were desirable shelter and the first place to live in for the numerous prehistoric community. Thanks to the natural environment that is rich in many resources there, the Paleolithic man and his animals were able to stay in this area for thousands of years. As a relic evidence of that favorable - thermal microclimate which was certainly essential for human survival in such environment, today there is an indigenous pine species "munika" and "visnata bukva" beech. They are a piece of evidence of the temperate climate which was present during the last ice age. Due to the exceptional and vast expanse of pastures, Šar Mountain is a provider of ideal opportunities for the development of livestock keeping and is inhabited since ancient times by those first "Alpine orogeny", its prehistoric inhabitants. Their homes in the later period were erected outside the caves, in the valley of the Dupnička river, the base and walls of these houses can be recognized under the rocky "okapnina". Because of the mentioned rich pastures and water Šara Mountain had attracted a lot of cattle breeders from the ancient countries. We have written information that the Pelasgians, the first ancient people who settled Šar-mountain and gave it the name of their deity, the goddess Ishara [12] and later the mountain got its present Slavonic name Šar Mountain. The people who used to stay on its wide space, founded their temporary (nomadic) or permanent settlement at the convenient locations. Even the significant altitude at which the villages were formed did not represent any obstacle in their emergence and development. The average altitude of the village Brod located in Gors is about 1,350 m [5]. Other permanent settlements - villages lie at an average altitude of about 800 m. Summer apartments - "bačilo" and "mandra", are located at much higher altitudes - from about 1700 m. The most famous "bačilo" are located at the foot of Ljuboten top and they are named after the nearby villages where they belong, so we have: "Firaja stan", "Bojevo", "Prevalačka or Šutmanska bačila". This is only a brief overview of the type and age of the villages themselves in the distant past, which is equally present in the high mountainous zone and the parishes. The mentioned zones determine their degree of continuity in terms of their use throughout the year, look (Figure 2 i 3).

Šar Mountain is accessible and passable in all directions. Thanks to the mountain "presedlina" (ridges), from Metohija basin and Prizren people could easily arrive in Polog and the Skopje valley. Over Sredska, Prevalac and Sirinička parish one way led to the Kosovo valley and the river Morava and the other direction, across Opolje, led to Gora and central Albania. As for the further development of the first permanent village settlements, we should bear in mind one important fact: in these areas, in particular at the site known as "Prehval" (Prevalac), there was the court or the Prince Ostrojilo's Palace. He is a ruler of pre-Nemanjić dynasty period who ruled in the sixth century [20].



Fig. 2 Šar Mountain



Fig. 3 Šar Mountain, village Sredska

The Slavic Christian "mogila" ("gromile") and "igrište" at the "Ravna gora" which is located near the village Vrbeštica in Sirinička parish also date from this period [4]. In the central part of Sirinić a tomb of a prince from the Bronze Age was detected, as well as several movable finds from the Iron Age, also in this parish. All this tells us of the continuity of settlement and housing in the Šar mountain parishes which lasts as a continuous process of evolution for thousands of years. Many rulers had their endowments and the villages in the parish - from the aforementioned Prince Ostrojlo, over emperors and kings, Samuel, Bodin, Milutin and to Dušan. Besides them, the founders of temples, but also managers of the villages, were the local dukes as Kaliniks [8]. The first villages on Šar Mountain, according to the surviving national legends, had existed even before the first written evidence originating from the XIV century. In the Emperor Stefan Dusan's edict with a gold seal from the monastery of the Holy Archangels a number of villages and churches, that he gave to his endowment - the mentioned monastery Holy Archangel near Prizren, were mentioned. The church of St. Petka, which is the boundary between the villages Sredska and Planjane, was also mentioned. Country churches were built of stone and could only exist in the villages, which had a larger population, and therefore greater economic and employment potential which would be one of the most important factors for the appearance of masonry craft in the villages of Sredačka parish. Such natural conditions, but also the material evidence referred to above and the toponymy tell us that today's villages in the Šar mountain parishes are at the same locations where they used to be in the past, during the medieval period. Their continuity was not lost even during the five centuries of the Ottoman rule, having endured and grown at the same locations [18]. During this period, especially after the First Austrian-Turkish war in 1689, there was a significant migratory movement of the population with partial, and in some villages collective-islamization of the indigenous Serbian population. This process of religious transformation - converting of the population, would undoubtedly lead to the changes in the urban structure of the rural settlements, but nevertheless, to this day there are numerous elements, primarily of the social rural communities, that bear witness to of the rich ethno-cultural, customary, legal and architectural heritage of our Šar-mountain parishes.

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT

The development of the settlements in the area of Sredačka, Sirinička and Goranska parishes should be seen in the context of the entire Šar Mountain, Kosovo and South-Western Balkans, where these high mountain parishes are located. The development of settlements in these Šarland parishes can be recorded from its beginnings in this part of our country since the Neolithic period, through the ancient and early Christian period, followed by the Middle Ages and up to the present day. There are visible traces of Pelasgian, Illyrian, Thracian, in some parts Hellenistic, Roman, Slavic and Turkish-Oriental influences and ethnic presence in these parishes [13]. All these ethnic processes, in conjunction with the natural environment and the socio-economic circumstances, had their historical impact on the evolutionary development of the Šar-mountain rural settlements. Rural settlements, villages were built on sites that permitted the production activity, with frequent cases of renewal of the existing settlements and the establishment of new ones in their immediate vicinity. The Medieval Serbian state strengthened the

existing settlements, founded the new ones, expanded the existing ones and assigned specific tasks and obligations arising from the feudal social order. These commitments were given in a number of charters and grants of our emperors, kings and nobles [2]. And during the Turkish rule, in the new social conditions new settlements were founded and new houses were built. Especially at the end of the XIX century the Srečani people stood out, when they started to come out with their new big houses out of the streams in which they hid their small plain houses. During this period, therefore, they began to build new, bigger houses with a view and on flatter areas [17]. Sredačka and Sirinička parishes became refuge and the only possible settlement for a large number of Serbian population families fleeing from their immediate surroundings from Arnaut and the Ottoman Turks from the region of Prizren, Tetovo, Montenegro, Western Macedonia, Skopska Crna Gora and Metohija and Northern Albania (Surroj, Skadar) [7].

Lively activity on the construction of rural settlements occurred only in the second half of the XVIII and especially during the XIX century. This is a time of real reconstruction, so that a greater number of villages at that time obtained their final rural structure that we can see in the Šar-mountain villages. In the attachment (Figure 4) we can see the structure of a rural hamlet of the Sredska village, which has all urban elements for understanding the village structure in the given period of great renewal in the Serbian villages of Šar Mountain.

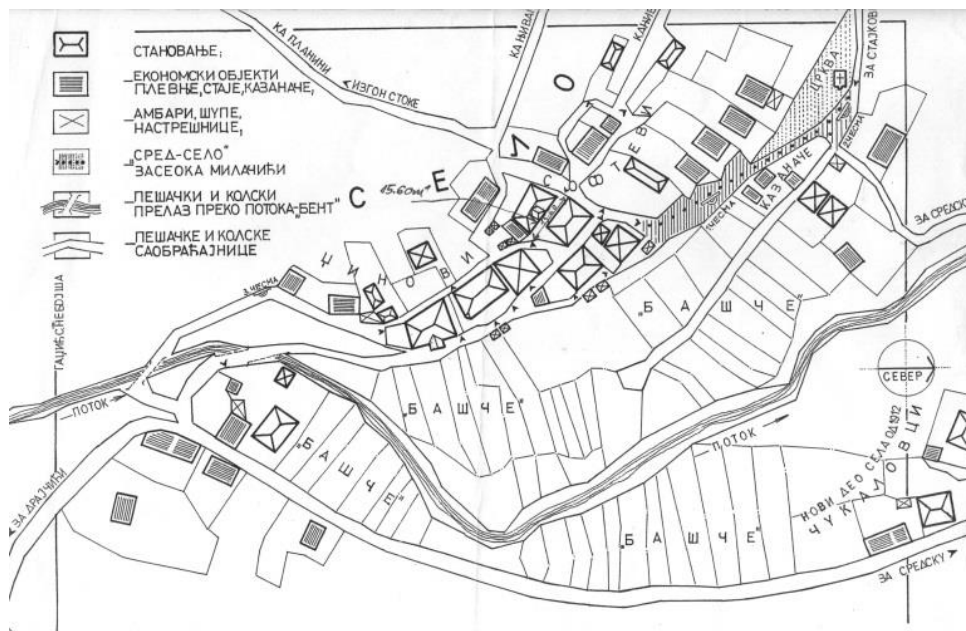


Fig. 4 Šar mountain, village Sredska, structure of a rural hamlet Milačići

With the occurrence of "čifčijski" system within the Turkish rule the so-called "čitluci" appeared which were formed by the agas and beys, who had snatched land from the people of Sredačka and Sirinička parishes. But "čitlučenje" could not have given results because the population was fairly free, so they even collected the tithe [7] themselves, and they kept most of their land in their possession although their dominant occupation was not farming but cattle breeding. The cattle breeders managed to retain some economic independence through the period of the Turkish occupation, unlike the farmers who, in large numbers, became "čifčije" (day-labourers and landless people) on their own land. By the independence and autonomy of the cattle breeders from the Šar-mountain parishes, the phenomenon of such rich architecture of the villages, houses and other buildings can be explained. And the autonomy was being created and built for centuries, primarily through the existence of a large cooperative in Serbian villages which could, at any moment, respond to economic challenges. The tithe was collected from the small cattle breeding (sheep and goats), but the size of the herd and family cooperatives could provide the accumulation of goods and capital. Herds of sheep in some big Serbian cooperatives numbered over 3000 [5], and therefore the tithe for this number was less painful, because in the end the surplus of goods and capital had appeared. By the mid-nineteenth century the main cattle breeders were the "Baš-Šara" were Serbian family cooperatives from Sredska, Sirinić, Gora and Tetovski Polog. After this period, everything changed for the benefit of the Arbanas people from the Ljumanska villages [7]. In the period since the mid-nineteenth century until the outbreak of World War II the status of the village changed radically. Cattle breeding was not the primary branch any longer. "Gurbetluk" or "pečalbarstvo" (going to work in the neighboring regions and foreign countries) became the primary interest of the greater part of the population, primarily from the Sredačka parish. Then in the villages of the parish, which still retain their traditional dense urban grid, impressive houses of the "pečalbari" were built, similar to those in the Kosturska area, northern Epirus and the border area between Albania and Macedonia [14]. Based on such typological characteristics, they can be classified into a separate group of the Šar-mountain "pečalbarskih" houses. Some individual houses or entire ensembles of residential buildings from this period particularly stand out in the following Šar-mountain villages: Sredska, Mušnikovo, Gornje Selo, Planjane, Štrpce, Gotovuša and Brod. Residential capacities in these villages are a part of the indigenous architectural heritage which cannot be seen anywhere else in our country. In other words, the area of these Šar Mountain parishes is the only area where such monumental village houses can be found. Those houses are built in the traditional spirit of the region in which they were made and they represent its unbroken continuity that was cherished and lasted for centuries. They were created under certain influences of medieval fortification architecture whose details are communicated and woven into residential rural architecture, especially in the parish Sredačka. Those who are responsible for its appearance are its builders, especially the Sredačka builders, who are the key transmitters of certain knowledge and skills over many centuries, not only on the ground of the Šar-mountain villages, but also on the Metohija villages (Junik and Dečani) [9]. But, it is not only the heritage which is present here, we must bear in mind the significant impact which the "pečalbari" themselves brought from the countries where they had been working for years, which, without doubt, affected the rural architecture [21] (Figure 5, 6, 7).



Fig. 5 House of Softić, Sredska



Fig. 6 House of Radivojevića, Sredska



Fig. 7 House of Ristić, Sirinić

In the period after the end of World War II, the villages of Sredačka, Sirinička and Goranska parishes experienced great changes. These parishes would become a large migration area that would particularly affect the working-age population. Great migration also led to disorders of the national structure of the population in the parishes. A large part of the Serbian population moved to Prizren or other nearby cities, and one part went to the central Serbia [15]. Serbian villages and hamlets of the parish Sredačka (Sredska, Drajčiči, Živinjane, Planjane, Mušnikovo and Lokvica) and, to a lesser extent in the Sirinička parish (Đurinci, Viča, Mariće) - remained deserted and were doomed to decay. In the 1980s there already started a gradual return of a large number of the emigrants, during the summer, who used to spend vacations in their villages. Thus the Sredska villages experienced another transformation - they began to be used for recreation. In the 1980s led to the restoration of old houses and started some economic activity. Besides the old houses some new ones were being built, with the use of modern building materials and functional solutions, created under the influence of the city. Now the purpose of these new houses was not like it used to be - they became the facilities for temporary residence, the so-called "cottages". They do not fit into the already established villages of the Sredačka, Sirinička and Goranska parishes either by urban planning, nor physically, functionally or by their appearance and they represent their discontinuity in every respect. The latest period in the development of the villages of the Sredačka parish starts at the beginning of the 21st century, after the arrival of the international forces in Kosovo and Metohija in 1999, and therefore the area of Šar Mountain. During this period, immediately after the arrival of the foreign troops, began the expulsion of its Serbian population from the Sredačka parish, and partly from the Gora. The Sirinička parish remained compact and has kept its population and architectural heritage. Serbian villages in the parish

Sredačka were particularly at risk. Whole parts of some villages (Lokvica, Planjane, Sredska, Gornje Selo and Živinjane) disappeared under the onslaught of raging Arnaut gangs of robbers and arsonists. Everything disappeared in a firestorm and the millennium traces of the existence of a small Sredačka entity, that belonged to, and was an integral part of the Serbian national corpus, were deleted. Therefore, the Gorani, with the Sredačka Serbs and the Serbs of the Sirinička parish, form a specific, unique ethnic, cultural and geographical community of the Šar-mountain area.[11] And not only that: this area is a unique architectural rural ethnological park, which under the Šar-mountain villages kept extremely rich architectural heritage, largely preserved to this day. In recent years, intensive measures for the restoration of the destroyed buildings have been carried out and the return of the displaced Serbs and Gorani to their homes has been worked on. The activities of the return are carried out by the international community and Serbian state authorities in charge of the return.

4. TYPES OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

The type of villages in Šar Mountain is the final result of the natural characteristics of the geographical environment in which it is located, but also economic and social, cultural and historical factors and influences that it has been exposed to, over the centuries. First of all, two main categories of rural settlements in the area of Shar Mountain can be distinguished: temporary and permanent.[19] On (Figures 8 and 9), Kosovo Agency for Geodesy orthophoto shots two Šar mountain villages: Planjane and Brod are given.



Fig. 8 Planjane - ortofoto (KAG, 2012)

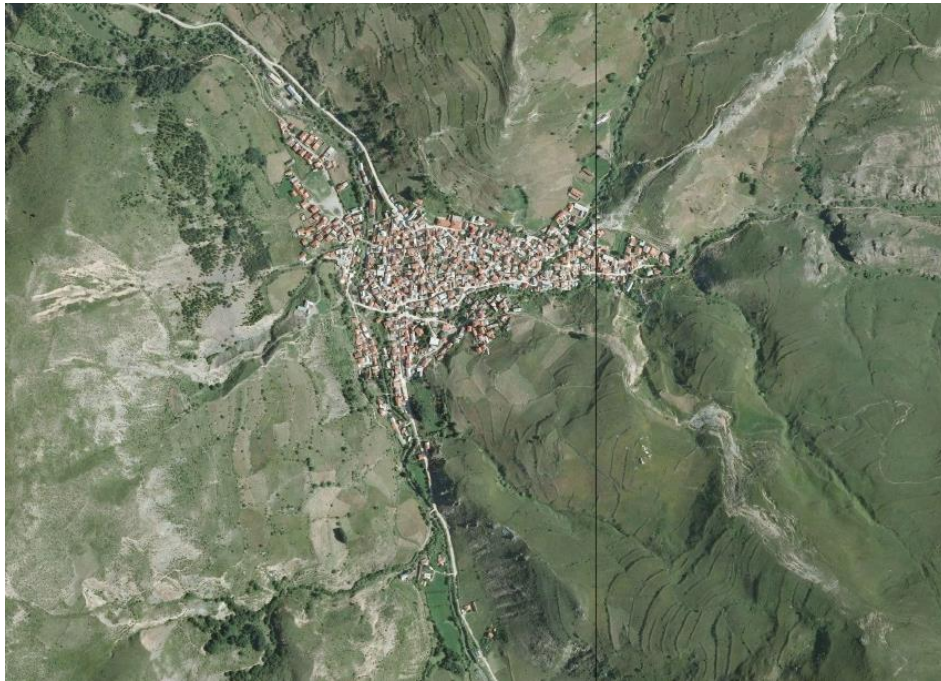


Fig. 9 Brod, ortofoto (KAG, 2012)

The remains of old Balkan and Mediterranean civilizations, which are intertwined had a major impact on the origin and type of villages, and as an end result we have a very dense type of a village which is the most prevalent in this area. All the villages in the Šar mountain parishes can be divided into two basic groups: compact and scattered, and these scattered villages consist of "maala" ("mahala"), which are also of compact type. Except the village Sredska, all other villages in the Šar area belong to, in terms of typology, a compact "mahala" type. The mentioned village Sredska, with its seven parts (hamlets), at the distance of 250 to 1600 m, stands out as the only village of scattered type [5]. The Šar Mountain villages were built spontaneously and they have irregular shape that can be regarded as round and oval [6]. The overall appearance manifests the specific conditions that affected the development of the village, it is distinguished by uniqueness and originality and it is close to the villages throughout the Šarland-Pindos mountain-system. In this high mountainous area there are identical geographical, climatic and social conditions, and therefore other similarities occur, whether it is the type of settlement or professional interest of its people [14]. The Šar mountain villages are, by their type, similar to many villages on Pindos, Gramos, in the region of Reka, in the area of Mat, the Kostur area and in northern Epirus [14].

The dense structure of the rural settlements in this area came from the need of rational use of land, landscapes, common defence, and use of land for its cultivation and pasture. The social space of the village, and thus the type of the village, was under enormous influence and was organized on the basis of customary law which was applied and deeply grounded in this region of our country [19]. Accordingly, the compact structure of the village is a result of a strong - crowded social community based on cooperative patriarchal life of its people and the common law. Only in this way it was able to maintain a small rural community that had been under a great number of problems - from the Turkish taxes to the Arnaut ruthless plundering. Living in large cooperatives at that time was a possible model for survival. It also created an ingenious model of growth and development of a house under one roof or chimney, which is manifested by using "jenparvatanska" and "dvaparvatanska" functional solutions for house foundations. With the construction of such model of a house, the structure of the Šar Mountain rural settlements was becoming stronger and denser. In this way, the houses became more and more developed in the horizontal and in the vertical plane and therefore directly affected the dense structure of the villages. There was a Turkish law under which the newly built houses were required to pay taxes and the implementation of the above mentioned solutions, this tax was avoided, and the house itself had received an extension of the living space. The mentioned villages got its very dense structure back in the Middle Ages, because the country was then the property of the landowner. It was he who governed and who was the owner of the rural land, hence the small lots on which the house was located. And this element has certainly had an impact on the compressing (joining together) the village itself, or on its type.

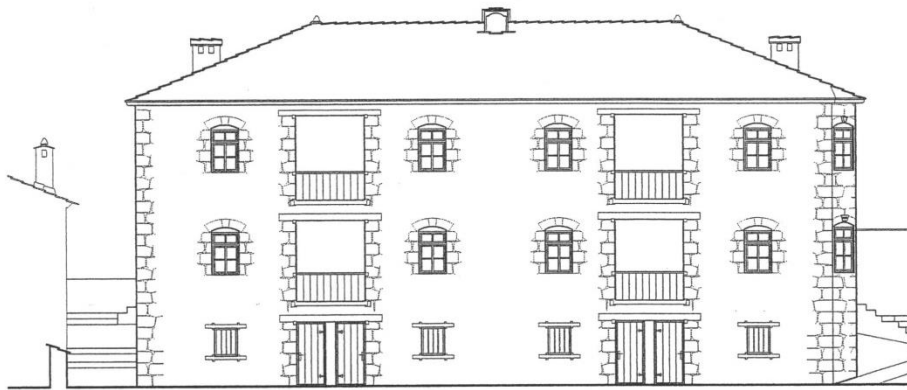
5. TEMPORARY RURAL SETTLEMENT TYPE

Temporary villages are present in the mountainous area of extensive livestock production, where, as already mentioned, they occur in the form of summer apartments, "katuna", "bačila" and "mandra". They extend to the dry places - the pasture-land, and are characteristic for all of the Šar Mountain villages. Type of the temporary settlements may be twofold: "bačilo" ("mandra") and "košara" ("pojata") [16]. It is of great importance for the population and economy that there is a large pasture belt in the Šar-mountain area that stretches with the length of about 80 kilometers and covers an area of about one hundred thousand hectares [3]. The Šar-mountain livestock is related to this part, but also the existence of the temporary cattle breeding villages. In the medieval period, livestock production was most common in Gora and Opolje. According to the Holy Archangel Edict with the gold seal of Emperor Dušan, the chief cattle breeders of the above mentioned Monastery of the Holy Archangels were the Brođani who were paid for and free from all other obligations. Cattle breeding as an obligation arising from the Archangels Charter, in relation to the villages, is less present in the Sredačka and Sirinička parishes. Therefore, the people from those parishes were obliged to work hard ("kuluk") for the Archangels prior, mainly masonry work, twice a week [3]. "Bačila" are located at great heights: on Prevalac they are at an altitude of 1600-1800 meters, at the foot of Ljuboten (Firaja apartment and Bojevo) at an altitude of over 1700 meters, in Dupnica (the Sredačka parish) at 1650 meters and on Gora - up to 1800 meters. "Bačila" or "mandre" are located in

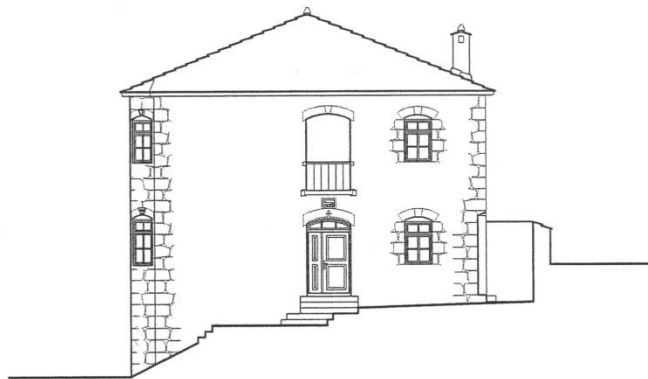
the contact zone between the high mountain pastures and the forest belt, where there are springs or water from glacial lakes (Šutmanska bačila). The main building of "bačila" is the largest and it was built of materials which were found in the immediate vicinity, and they were: stone, wood, thin sticks and straw. The building of "bačila" was up to ten meters long, six meters wide, and two to two and a half meters high. It has a four-sided roof, which is made of wooden rafters set steeper and covered with rye straw. The walls are about fifty centimeters thick, without mortar, with a height of about a meter and a half, as it is the height of the entrance. In the villages of Gora, "plevnje" and "košarišta" are located near the village, although there are fewer than in the mentioned parishes. In Gora "košara" is the same as "plevnja" and it serves primarily for storage of hay used to feed sheep during the winter period. Cattle breeding has been the dominant economic sector in the mountains for centuries and in Brod and Restelica, before the end of the eighteenth century, there were up to 100,000 sheep per village. At the same time the poorest houses had 500, and the richest - "čaja" ("čehaja") up to 10,000 sheep. Unlike the large "bačila" the "baskets" could accommodate up to two hundred sheep.[3] When we take into account such a large number of sheep, as well as the position of "plevnja" and "košarišta", we can conclude that the structures could only be located there (outside the village). Thus it was for another very important reason - the easier control of "malas" (cattle as a commodity) by the nobility in the medieval period, but in the later, Turkish period, by the landowners, whose herds de facto were. There is another form of temporary cattle breeding apartment "zimovnik" or "kšla" [16] which is located around Dojran, Veles, Larissa, Thessaloniki Bay, Drama, Kavala and other cities on the shores of the Aegean Sea. Livestock was transported by the sea to Smyrna and Asia Minor. It used to spend winters there and was sold.[10] From the architectural point, the Firajska, Sopotnička and the "bačila" of Sirinički Brod, used to stand out and they were located on the eastern slopes of Ljuboten. They were, according to Dusan Krivokapic, made of wood, had two floors and in general were reminiscent of the Slovenian "bajta" [1] [3]. He resided in this area in 1953.

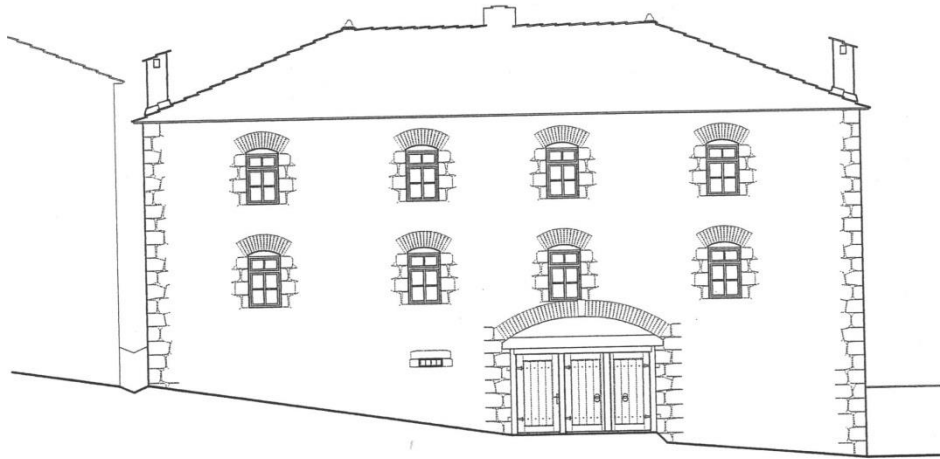
Summer-pasture camps ("katuni") or sheds and "košare" that were located close to the villages, sometimes became the germ of a new village. This proved to be so in the case of the village Sredska that according to the census of 1571, was whole and compact only to be transformed into the village composed of seven helmets, mainly due to the Turkish plunders or arsonists. Baskets ("košare") have done their part and helped the inhabitants to get on a faster way to transform rurally and to adapt to new conditions on the ground. The compact village of a packed structure is more sensitive to the problems of protection. It is either ruined entirely or the greater part of it is ruined, as opposed to small villages that are tougher and less destroyed. And in this case, thanks to the rural dispersion which formed a new village, by adapting to the new circumstances and ensuring his safety, we can see the skills of the national mason of the Sredačka parish.

Šar Mountain Architecture (Figures 10, 11, 12)



ДУЖИНА ФАСАДА, КУЋЕ МАНДУШИЋА

**Fig. 10** Sredska, house of Mandušić



УЛИЧНА ФАСАДА, КУЉЕ БИЛИБАЈКИЋА



Fig. 11 Mušnikovo, house of Bilibajkić

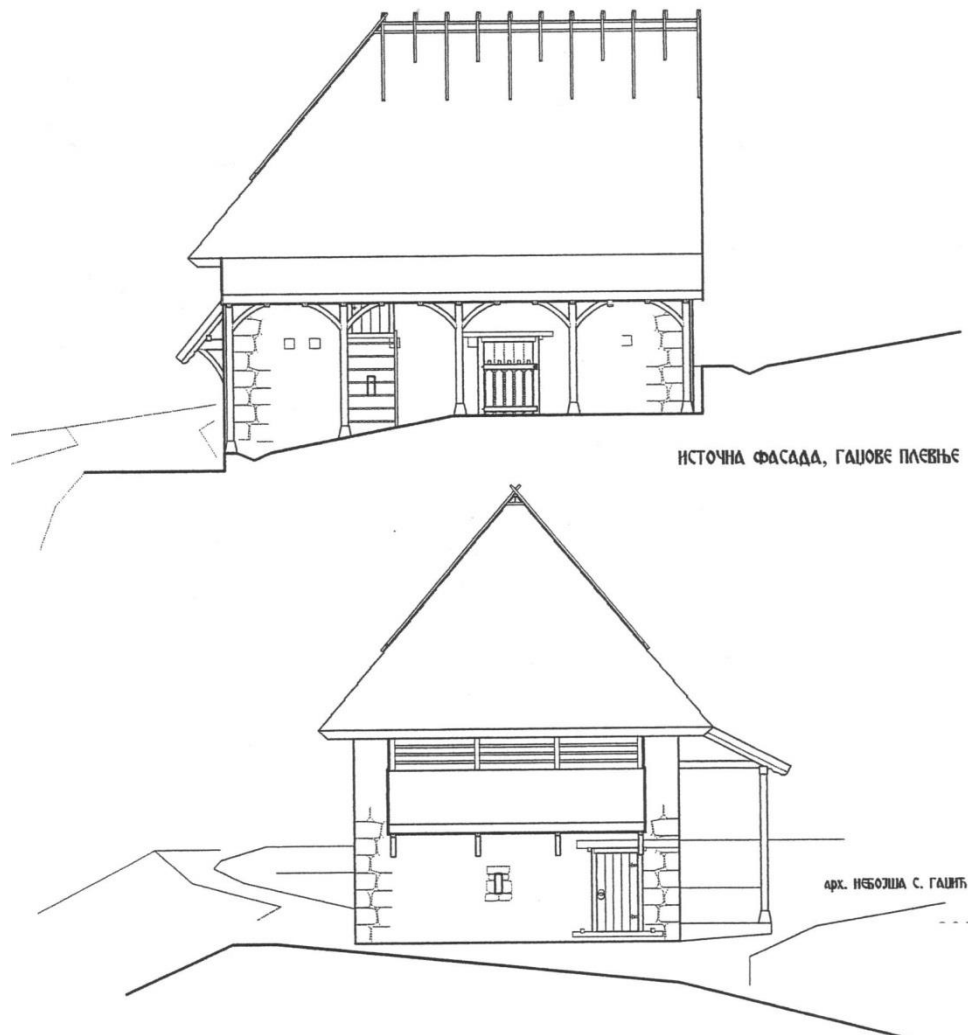


Fig. 12 Sredska, plevnja

6. CONCLUSION

Rural and village areas on Šar Mountain, primarily in the Sredačka, Sirinička and Gora parishes, reveal to us the millennium long presence of the Serbian people in this region, through immobile property of extraordinary architectural beauty. The mentioned rural areas with their different types of settlements contribute to the attractiveness of rural settlements in general, and the entire area of Šar mountains. The attractiveness of this area is particularly affected by both, specific and autochthonous architecture, in general and in detail, as well as by the significant dynamics of the natural environment, in which these villages and settlements were developed and located. In the appealing rural environment

of Šar Mountain, villages and houses have been preserved, on the basis of which, their development over the centuries can be recorded. The architecture of the Šar Mountain villages is unique and it was created as a result of "pečalbarski" masonry craft occupation of its inhabitants over many centuries. The mentioned craft, which is specially cherished by the masons from the Sredačka parish, had a strong impact on the evolution and development of architectural expression in rural areas of the other parishes of

Šar Mountain, but also on the urban environment of Prizren. For this reason, among other things, the Gorani together with the Sredačka Serbs and the Serbs from the Sirinička parish, form a specific, unique ethnic, cultural and geographical community of the Šar-mountain areas. This area is a unique architectural-rural, ethnological park, which within the Šar-mountain villages keeps the extremely rich architectural heritage, largely preserved even today.

With all these characteristics, the autochthonous architecture of the village on this high mountain deserves our special attention and immediate protection of existing facilities in order to prevent further destruction and disappearance. Also, this architecture needs to find its place with the modern builders who, by good knowledge and discovering its value, could establish a link between the quality of the existing heritage and the need to build new villages in this area.

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ARHITEKTURA SEOSKIH NASELJA NA ŠAR-PLANINI

Razvitak naseljenih mesta na području Sredačke, Siriničke i Goranske župe treba posmatrati u kontekstu čitave Šar-planine, Kosova i Metohije i Jugozapadnog Balkana, gde se i nalaze ove visokoplaninske župe. Razvitak naseljenih mesta u ovim šarskim župama pratimo od njegovih početaka u ovom delu naše zemlje, još od neolita, pa preko antičkog i ranohrišćanskog perioda, zatim srednjeg veka i sve do naših dana. Vidljivi su tragovi pelazgskog, ilirskog, tračkog, u nekim delovima i helenskog, romanskog, slovenskog i tursko-orijentalnog uticaja i etničkog prisustva u ovim župama. Svi ti etnički procesi, u sadejstvu sa prirodnim okruženjem i društveno-ekonomskim prilikama, imali su svog istorijskog uticaja na evolutivni razvoj šar-planinskih seoskih naselja. Seoska, ruralna naselja grade se na mestima koja omogućavaju odvijanje proizvodnih aktivnosti, sa čestim slučajevima obnavljanja već postojećih naselja i formiranja novih u njihovoj neposrednoj blizini. Za vreme srednjevekovne srpske države dolazi do jačanja postojećih naselja, nova se formiraju, postojeća proširuju i dobijaju konkretne zadatke i obaveze koji proističu iz feudalnog društvenog uređenja. Te obaveze date su u brojnim poveljama, hrisovuljama i darovnicama naših careva, kraljeva i vlastele. Navedene obaveze iz srednjevekovnog perioda imaće za posledicu pojavu i kasniji nesmetani razvoj pečalbarenja kao procesa koji je bio jako bitan za razvoj seoskih naselja u šar-planinskim župama.

Ključne reči: seoska naselja, tip, uticaji, pečalbarenje, Šar-planina