

VRSAC



According to written data the town name first appeared in 1427 as PODVRSAV. At the end of 14th century there were several toponyms: VARSOCZ (VARŠOC), VERSECZ (VERŠEC), and VIRSICZA (VIRŠKA). In 1694 there was VERSOCZ (VERŠOC) and VARSACZ (VARŠAC) in 1707.

First colonies appeared in the Neolith, at the time of polished stone. There are archaeological sites (At) to prove this. Colonies permanently settled here at the time of the Slavs arrival (at the end of the Middle-ages). Before the Slavs the Thracian, Celtic, Skit, Dacian, Roman, Gepid, Avers tribes etc. had lived here.

Apart from economic development crafts and trade also began to develop and the town grew more and more into cultural and educational centre. During the second half of the 18th century it had the first pharmacy "Kod Spasitelja" (At Saviour's), the post office, the first Primary School was founded and the oldest part of the Vrsac Magistrate or "Municipije" was built.

Then in 1757 Eparchial residence was built, the Church of the Assumption (1766), the Great Synod Church (1785). Owing to extraordinary efforts of the bishop Josif Jovanovic Skabenta Vrsac got Grammatical School in 1790. First theatrical plays were played in Serbian in 1793, performed by Grammatical School students. Before that guest German theatres from Timisoara performed their plays.

Vrsac is situated in the Banat plain at the foot of the Vrsac Mountains, on latitude 45° 7' 30" North longitude and 29° 19' 30" East latitude. It is situated on the edge of the Panonian Plane, at the foot of the Vrsac Mountains, only 14km from the Serbian-Romanian border. The international railway Vienna-Budapest-Belgrade-Bucharest passes through Vrsac. Within the Vrsac Pilot Academy there is an airport used by smaller planes, air-taxi and aircraft of medium size.

There are 54.396 inhabitants living on the territory of Vrsac municipality and it is a multiethnic community with 16 different nationalities. The majority of them are the Serbs 39.418 (72.5%) then the Romanians 5.912 (10.8%) and the Hungarians 2.619 (4.8%).



COAT OF ARMS OF VRSAC

This coat of arms first appeared in the Trade Charter of 1804. The text on the edge of the shield inside the circle reads: SIGILLIUM PRIVILEGATE COMMUNITATIS VERSCHEZ, meaning "a stamp of the privileged Vrsac municipality". This stamp was in 1964 by this town's statute designated to be coat of arms of the town of Vrsac.

TOWN HALL



Vrsac got its town hall in 1795, when the two municipalities - Serbian Vrsac and German Vrsac, which had existed as two independent administrative units from 1717, united into a town. At the proposal of the Town's Head Aleksandar Stojakovic, the construction of the new Town Hall began in 1859. The new building was built in neo-gothic style and in its foundation a memorial, written in Latin and Serbian and signed by all prominent townsmen, was built into.

BANAT EPARCHIAL RESIDENCE



Upon return of the seat of Vrsac Eparchy from Karansebes to Vrsac in 1750 and owing to great efforts of Bishop Jovan Georgijevic (1749-1769), the building of Bishop's residence in Vrsac for residential needs of the Bishop of Vrsac started. On 8th May 1757 the corner stone of the house was consecrated and by the God's mercy and due to efforts of the town's benefactors as well as of the donator Bishop Jovan Georgijevic himself, the house was built in 1763 AD. The project was made in the baroque style.

Inside the residence there is a house chapel dedicated to St Archangel Michael's Synod. In the chapel there is also a miraculous icon of the Mother of God named Vincanska Bezdinska for the relief and protection of believers.

HOLY GOD MOTHER OF VINCA – BEZDIN



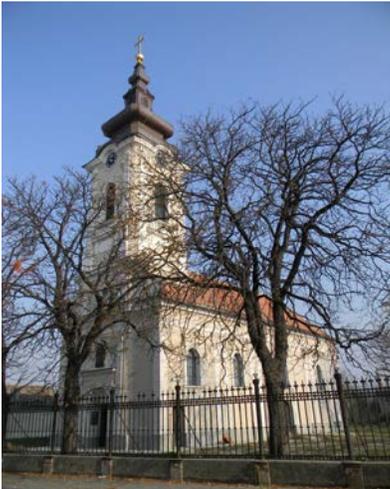
In the chapel of Banat Eparchy Bishop's Residence, by the iconostasis there is a miraculous icon of the Holy God Mother called God Mother of Vinca – of Bezdin. The icon was painted in Russia and belongs to the period between 15th and 16th century. Its original name was "God Mother of Vladimir". The holy face of God mother is engraved prayer of the Patriarch Arsenije IV Sakabenta.

THE SYNOD CHURCH



This is the oldest Orthodox Church in Vrsac built in 1785 during the office of Bishop Nikola Dimitrijevic. The interior of this temple was painted by famous Serbian painters and artists. The iconostasis was painted by Pavel Djurkovic , and Aksentije Markovic did wood engraving around throne of the Mother of God, pulpit and choir. Wall paintings and the arch were painted by Simeon Jaksic and Mihajlo Popovic. Nikola Neskovic was the creator of the kissing icons. One of the most distinguished painters, Paja Jovanovic, donated to the church two, extraordinary valuable both in artistic and aesthetic sense, paintings: St Nicolas Saving the Condemned and St Angelina.

THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION



It was built in 1768 during the office of Bishop Jovan Djordjevic and it was consecrated in 1775 by Bishop Vikentije Popovic. The church is dedicated to the Assumption of the God Mother and the local people call it “Mala crkva” (The Small Church). Benefactor was a rich merchant from Vrsac hajji Aleksa Nikolic . The iconostasis was painted by Arsenije Teodorovic and wood engraving was done by Pantelejmon Nikolajevic.

ST THEODORE OF VRSAC



One of the dearest values to the citizens of Vrsac is the fact that one of their forefathers was declared a saint bearing the name of the town – St Theodore of Vrsac, who was canonized in 1994, Bishop Teodor Nestrovic led the people of Banat into uprising against the Turks, holding the banner of St Sava. The Bishop was caught by Timisoara Pasha and skinned to death. He was canonized on 29th May 1994 in the presence of the Patriarch and great number of Arch – priests. A church dedicated to this saint was sanctified on the Hill of Vrsac in 2002.

THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Due to efforts of the priest Trajan Oprea and Romanian bank Director Dr. Petar Cepeniaga, as well as by financing by 80 benefactors, in 1913 the Romanian Orthodox Church was built. It is dedicated to the Assumption of God. The church was painted by Virdjie Simionesku and the wood engraving was done by brothers, Nistor and Josif Bosiok.

THE MESIC MONASTERY



It was most probably erected by someone from the Brankovic's family in 15th century. At the benefactor's place in the monastery church there is a fresco with a portrait of Jovan Brankovic. The church was built in the traditional Raska style as a single nave building with a dome and rectangular choirs, influenced by Morava building style. Today's appearance the monastery acquired in 18th century when the residence was built in the classicistic style, and the church was added a new exonarthes and the baroque belfry. Wall painting consists of three – layers of frescos created from 16th to 19th century. Apart from all the other icons treasured in it, Mesic Monastery is known to

have one which is believed to be miraculous and it can be found on the God Mother's throne. It is known under the name of God Mother Worthy Is (Bogorodica Dostojno jest); it originates from Ethos and was brought into this monastery in 1803.

HOLY GOD MOTHER WORTHY IS



It is not widely known that the Monastery Mesic is under protection of Holy God Mother's Face from miraculous icon Holy God Mother Worthy Is. Up to the present day many sagas has been connected to this icon, its healing power by which it healed refreshed, protected, defended people and foretold the events, just like today. It was painted in style Levantine Baroque relaying on Byzantium showing magnificent character enlightenment, extraordinary gentle, imbued with heavenly grace.

THE SREDISTE MONASTERY



The original monastery building was built in 15th century as pious endowment of Jovan Brankovic. By the Emperor Regulation in 18th century together with several other monasteries from the former Eparchy of Vrsac it ceased to exist. Renewal of this monastery started in 1995 with the blessing of His Excellence, the Episcopo of Banat Mr. Hrizostom. It is dedicated to the Great Wisdom of God.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL



A magnificent Roman – catholic dedicated to St Gerhard was built in 1863. Under the supervision of Ernst Svoboda the church was built in Neogothic style by architect Jovan Bibl and the works were performed by Franc Brandais, a local man. Karl Geiger from Vienna, painted the altar of St Trinity in 1869. Wall decorations were done by Antal Sirmai, a painter from Budimpesta.

THE CHAPEL OF HOLY CROSS



The oldest Roman Catholic Church in Banat is to be found above Vrsac, at the Misa Hill. Apart from the Tower it is the oldest preserved building in the town. It was under construction from 1720 to 1728. In autumn of 1739, the Roman Catholic flock decided to build a votive chapel dedicated to St Rok, the protector from plague. After many years of the Turkish ravaging in that year the town was hit by an outbreak of plague. In 2007 a belvedere was made commanding a magnificent view of the town and its surroundings.

THE TOWER OF VRSAC



This magnificent edifice is the symbol of the town and its area. It was, most probably, built by the orders of despot Djuradj Brankovic in 1439. It was built on 399 meters high hill. Apart from the preserved defensive tower there was a smaller tower in the shape of semicircle. The outer walls are 19.85 meters tall with the sides 13.8 and 11 meters wide. By the Treaty of Karlovac in 1701 the destruction of tower began so that it could not be used for the military purposes any more.

THE TOWN MUSEUM



The first public exhibition was opened in 1898 in the building of “Konkordija” (Concordia), and two years later gathering of historical material started. Today, museum’s archeological, art and natural history departments have priceless treasures in their keeping. It can be proud of separate memorial collections ”In the memory of Paja Jovanovic”, “Health Cultural Museum”, placed in the old Pharmacy on Stairs.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE “STERIJA”



The students of the Folk School in Vrsac, led by Master Krekic played in September 1792 in three comedies. This date is officially recognized as the date of the commencement of theatre life in Serbia. During the 19th century Germany theatre troupes from Timisoara performed plays, as well as traveling troupes from Vienna, Budapest, and Arad. The first professional theatre in Vrsac, which is still active today, began to work on 2nd January 1945. The first play was performed on 10th February 1945 and it was Sterija’s play “Tvrđica” (Scrooge). A traditional festival of theatre classic plays.

“Vrsac theatrical autumn” is held every autumn in this theatre.

THE TOWN LIBRARY



As a public and school library it was founded by Felix Mileker in 1887. This library is one of the oldest in the country because it is a continuation of the work of Serbian Club (1838) and Serbian Reading – room (1840). The book fund of 40, 000 books, during all those years, have risen to 200,000 books. The library is including into central electronic catalogue COBISS, so that its book resource could be available to all.

THE FARMACY ON STAIRS



The building originates from 18th century and there the first Vrsac pharmacy “Kod spasitelja” (At the Saviour’s) was opened in 1784.

THE TOWN PARK



This is one of the oldest parks in Serbia. It was declared a Natural Monument in 2000 as it belongs to the category of very important natural goods. It spreads on the area of almost 6ha and has been designed in a heterogeneous style in which influences of the French method of designing round flower beds mixes with free English style in arranging trees, lawns and bushes.

THE PEDESTRIAN ZONE



Centuries old meeting place of the townsfolk has many times changed its appearance, purpose, etc. It used to be a market place, a square, an execution site, the main road through the town centre. Today again it is a square, a modern pedestrian zone, paved, with three fountains, old oaks, many cafes, the town clock and a beautiful white cross in the very centre of it.

”VINTAGE DAYS”



Is the oldest performance of the kind in the century, and it originates from the distant past because the wine grape has been cultivated here since the time of the Dacians and the Romans. As Vrsac is known for its wine, each year during the third weekend of September, for all wine and grape lovers there is an event called “Grozdjebal” (Grape ball). In these days a visitor can attend numerous cultural and sport events as well as different grape and wine exhibitions. You can accompany us on the well-known “Wine Journey”.

VINEYARDS OF VRŠAC



The area of Vrsac is ideal for vine – growing. The ancient Dacian and Samit tribes were familiar with the grapevine at this terrain and it sure that the Romans had their vineyards here. The treasurer of Hungarian king Laszlo II paid a barrel of Vrsac wine ten and half gold coins in 1494. Turkish traveler and writer Evlija Celebija, traveling through this region wrote”...in the eastern part of this town, going upwards to the old town there are hills planted with wine grape. The grapes in the colour of a ruby are very delicious...”

MILLENNIUM SPORT CENTRE



It is unique example of a sports and business complex. The sports hall in an area of 4000 square metres and the playground with dimensions of 50x30x14m, enables organization of all cultural and promotional events (concerts, fashion shows, fairs). The hall capacity is 3600 seats. The Congress and Musical hall was designed and built according to the world standards, as a multifunctional hall with 530 seats, in two levels and the total area of 3080 square metres, with the most advanced audio and video equipment, suitable for organization of congresses, seminars, opera plays, theatrical and cinema shows, concerts of classic, jazz, ethno, pop music, etc.

THE TOWN LAKE



According to the analyses of Serbian Health Protection Institute sea water from the depth of 200 meters flows into the lake. Water is rich in iodine, sulphates, magnesium and calcium and has a constant temperature of 25°C. The spring is regenerating, never-ending resource, and the water is sterile and of extraordinary quality, without any bacteria. It dates from several million years ago.