



**OPEN-AIR ETHNOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM,  
SZENTENDRE  
REGION OF THE NORTHWESTERN HUNGARIAN  
PLAIN**

(A Szabadtéri Néprajzi Múzeum, Szentendre  
Kisalföld tájegysége c. diaposzítívek  
angol nyelvű változata)

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Budapest, 1985

The second group of houses that can be visited in the central Open-air Ethnographical Museum, Szentendre, gives a picture of the 18th –19th centuries' rural culture of former Moson, Győr and Sopron counties, that is of the plain in Northwestern Hungary. This region had a share in the Central European current of feudal commodity production and trade as early as the 18th century. Because of convenient transport and nearby sale possibilities the excellent products of the Hungarian and German peasant farms of this area (produced by stabling animal husbandry, agricultural monocultures ect.) reached Burgenland (Austria) and Bohemia at a high price.

The buildings transferred to the museum furnish evidence of wealth, division of labour, social differentiation and culture change. The farm-steads and the auxiliary buildings of the eight complexes presented here follow the structure of a so-called "spindle-village" (characterised by houses built along a single road that broadens out at the center of the village, thus giving a spindle-like form) as it was typical in this area. At the end of the belt-like plots there are the barns and communal and ecclesiastic buildings.

### **1. The museum street**

The north-eastern road consists of a series of houses from the villages of Magyarfalva, Mosonszentpéter, Bogyoszló and Süttör. The living houses together with their attached stables, pantries and wine cellars form the so called "long houses". They are made of bricks, with good carpentry and tile roofing.

### **2. The front room of a house from Bogyoszló**

This house was built by the Megyesi family in 1874. Representing the Rábaköz district, it acquaints the visitors with the way of life of three generations of a farming family. The locally made canopy-bed and painted cupboard and the glaze-tiled stove from Röjtök reflect well the atmosphere of the end of the last century.

### **3. Back room of a house from Süttör**

The furniture was made in the 1860-ies. Here we can admire the skill of local craftsmen (joiners, furniture painters) and peasant weavers and embroideresses.

#### **4. Kitchen of a house from Magyarfalva**

This house represents the housing conditions of Lutheran Germans. Their houses consisting of a single room and a kitchen were built in a row one after the other, thus forming a long house at the end of which there were the stables and the pantries. Though they cooked on open fire in their kitchens, they used copper vessels. The earthenware plates reflect a middle class taste.

#### **5. Barns and auxiliary buildings**

In the barns at the end of the so called "long houses" well-to-do peasants used to keep cereals and hay. This served not only for their personal needs but also for sale. The barns with brick walls and tiled roofs or with reed walls and reed thatching took in both locally thrashed-out cereals and hay.

#### **6. Interior of a cattle driven mill From Mosonszentmiklós**

This mill (1805) is a remarkable monument also from the point of view of technical history. On its huge, obliquely placed revolving wooden wheel buffalos or cattle were made to tread. This made the mill work. Its production was 500–600 kilograms per day. Its wooden framework and reed thatching were reconstructed on the basis of detailed documentation.

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The Open-Air Ethnographical Museum is in Szentendre, on the Szabadság-forrás Road. Means of communication: by car along highway no.11, by district railway (HÉV) starting from the Batthyányi Square in Budapest. From Szentendre railway terminus there are buses leaving about every hour going to the Museum to 4,5 kilometers distance.

From April 11 till October 31 the opening hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day except Monday. Tickets are available for 5 forints until 4 p.m. On demonstration days tickets cost 15 forints. Children, students and soldiers may visit the Museum free of charge. Groups can apply for a guide in advance (phone number 06-26-12-304).

