

SIBIU COUNTY COUNCIL
„ASTRA” NATIONAL MUSEUM COMPLEX SIBIU
„ASTRA” MUSEUM OF
TRADITIONAL FOLK CIVILIZATION SIBIU

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**„ASTRA”
MUSEUM OF
TRADITIONAL
FOLK CIVILIZATION
(Dumbrava Sibiului)
Catalogue**



Publishing House „ASTRA MUSEUM”
Sibiu, 2008

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„Wax Cakes” Presser's and Candle Maker's Homestead

Sebeșu de Jos, Sibiu County

This exhibit, from Sebeșu de Jos in Sibiu County, contains the homestead of the wax cake presser and a candle-making workshop from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The cottage was reconstructed at the museum in 1966 while the barn and candle-making workshop were added in 1968.

The complex here consists of a house, barn and stable, candle maker's workshop and pigsty, surrounded by a fence made from stone masonry and fir boards. The house is built on a slope with a stone foundation that also forms the walls of the cellar and the entrance is in the side-front.

The walls are built using the traditional technique of intersecting horizontal beech-beams. The walls are plastered inside and outside with earth and then painted in a very strong blue that is specific to houses in Transylvania. The roof is high, with two slopes, and covered with tiles, which, by the second half of the 19th century, had replaced the traditional roofing of shingles or dried corn stalks.

The floor plan of the house is traditional, with three rooms including the front room, vestibule and pantry. The vestibule, placed in the middle, serves as a storeroom and workplace. It also houses the bread-oven, various household utensils, and is the entrance to the loft.



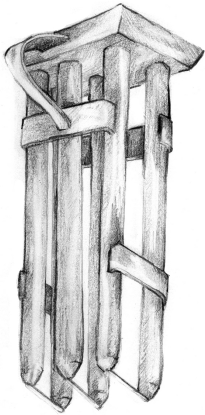
Transporting the wax to the fair



Wax and candle maker's covered wagon



Installation for making candles by dipping



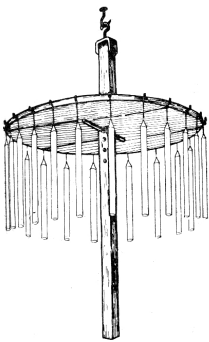
•Installation for pulling candles

The pantry, mainly used as the living quarters and kitchen, is placed to the left of the vestibule and is the center of the family's daily activities. The front room, facing the street, also serves as living-quarters but its main function is to showcase the decorative elements of the household-inventory including textiles, painted furniture, pottery, and stained-glass icons.

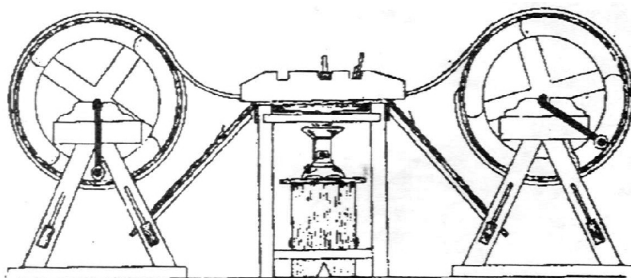
The candle maker's workshop is located opposite the house. It is a rectangular building that resulted from the transformation of an old shed. The shed's fir piled, tiled, two-sloped roof has been preserved. The brick walls have two big windows with three casements and inside can be found the various utensils used for candle making.

This process for candle making could be varied by three techniques including the molding of forms, dripping, and bathing methods. In the bathing technique, two winding-cylinders were used to wind the cotton yarn that served as the wick. The yarn was wound alternately up on one cylinder and then on the other while passing through a wax bath.

The resulting candles were of various sizes according to the duration of the process. The inventory of the shop also comprises a long workbench, the molding-installation, a tool-rack, and a stove. The wooden barn is of the old type with a single table. The walls are made of square beech-beams plastered with earth. There is a roomy barnyard, enclosed in the front and the back by a high gate and boarded up at the sides with planks.



Hanging candle disk



Installation for making candles by dipping

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