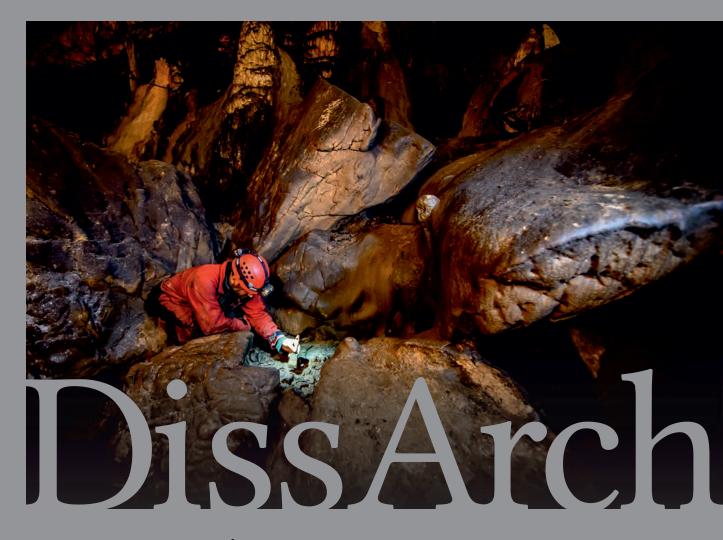
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ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae



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Yellow Pottery in the Late Avar Period

A Late Medieval House in Mosonmagyaróvár

Archaeological and Architectural Research of the Cselley House

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Abstract: The late medieval origins of 19 Fő Street, or as it is often called, the Cselley House, have been investigated during the reconstruction of the Old Town of Mosonmagyaróvár in 1974; the works brought to light several in situ details. Ferenc Dávid excavated the building's walls on multiple occasions as the renovations progressed, while Rezső Pusztai and Péter Tomka led archaeological excavations to explore earlier building phases of the street wing of the building complex. My BA thesis discussed the building's history between the 13th and the mid-18th centuries. The late medieval reconstruction was a major one when the house got the basics of its current façade and layout. Also, this was perhaps the time when it had the highest prestige. The house was a two-storey building with a reverse L-shaped ground plan, a ground floor divided by a vaulted doorway, and an enormous cellar in the courtyard wing. Based on analogies and excavations, the related building phase can be dated to the second half of the 15th century (probably around AD 1470-1480) or the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries at the latest. The house was special because of its exceptional size, the ornate openings, and the great ceremonial hall with two bay windows on the upper floor. The building is also important as the original inner division is still visible today, providing the research on medieval houses with a valuable source.

Keywords: Mosonmagyaróvár, Late Medieval Period, residential building, bay window, Cselley House

Introduction

I surveyed the archaeological and architectural history of the building under 19 Fő Street, also called Cselley House, a significant monument in the Old Town of Mosonmagyaróvár, as my BA thesis for the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University. The study was prepared under the supervision of associate professor Dr Maxim Mordovin. The town is situated in the middle of the Little Hungarian Plain (Kisalföld), where the River Leitha (Lajta) joins the Danube. The area was first inhabited in Roman times; also, several minor settlements existed there later, preceding the emergence of the town. Magyaróvár, the Old Town of today's settlement, is divided by two wide, almost parallel streets running southwest-northeast: the narrow Magyar Street on the eastern and the wider Fő Street on the western side. The main square, with the Roman Catholic church, is located between the two. The plot under 19 Fő Street, akin to its neighbours, has a wide street front and stretches deep until the Bástya Promenade. The Városháza Street starts across the

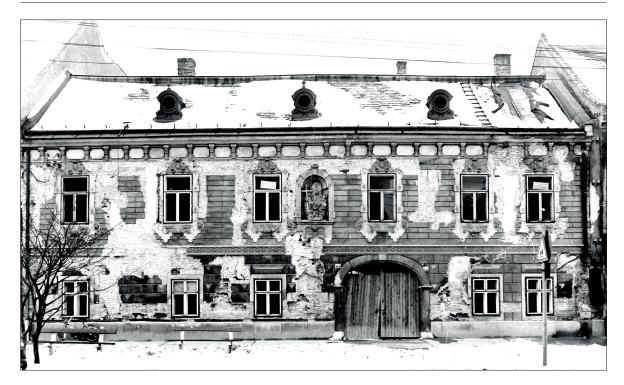


Fig. 1. Street façade of the building at the time of the wall research campaign (Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629).

Cselley House and connects Fő Street with the main square.¹ The plot is entirely built-in nowadays. A building complex comprising a two-storey building, with a street wing facing the Bástya Promenade and a courtyard wing, and a separate lean-to was erected on the north-western/western side of the plot. The ground floor of the street wing is divided by a gateway. The northern end of the courtyard wing is connected to the southern end of the courtyard wing of the other building on the plot, facing Fő Street on the south-eastern side, and the two form a C-shaped structure. Inside the C, the lean-to is attached to the north-western wall of the neighbouring building. My research has focused on the building facing Fő Street, consisting of a street and a courtyard wing, the latter stretching toward the inside of the plot. The street wing has two floors, while the courtyard wing has one and a half. The house also includes a basement and a cellar. The vaulted entrance is positioned asymmetrically on the street façade; thus, its northern side is shorter and the southern side considerably longer. The roof of the street wing runs parallel to the street, while that of the courtyard wing is perpendicular, attached to its south-western end.

The medieval origin of the house was unknown for a long time; it was described as an 18th-century structure even in 1966. The reconstruction of the building, a private property then, started in 1974–75, and the works brought to light medieval openings and other kinds of *in situ* details in both wings (Fig. 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6). Art historian Ferenc Dávid investigated the relics and established the medieval origin of several parts, including the attic. Thus, the reconstruction continued under the surveillance of the National Inspectorate for Monuments (Országos Műemléki Felügyelőség), with the (by then, altered) purpose of turning the building into a place suitable for a museum. Wall research was extended to the interior to better understand the building phases. At the same time, museum director Rezső Pusztai (and later, archaeologist Péter Tomka with Pusztai's assistance) explored the

- 1 DÁVID 1976, 6; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 5; DIMÉNY 2018a, 7-8, 13; DIMÉNY 2018b, 22-24.
- FOLTÁNYI 1973, 1; HUJBER 1973, 1; DÁVID 1976, 1; SEDLMAYR 1976a, 1; SEDLMAYR 1976b, 1, 2; PUSZTAI 1976; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 1–2.

area around the gateway in a probing trench in 1976 to reveal more of the monument's history and determine the depth of its foundations. The attempt proved successful, as the excavation yielded traces of earlier building phases.3 The subsequent excavation, between 9 May and 12 June 1977, was both more large-scale and challenging. The final field season was in 1980, shortly before the end of the reconstruction works, when Rezső Pusztai conducted a rescue excavation in a small area and found a well. Following the end report in 1982, Angel Radukov cleaned and preserved the plastered medieval and post-medieval wall parts in 2002-2003.4

The current research was based mainly on the considerable excavation and reconstruction documentation, completed by information from the data archives of the Hungarian National Museum, the Museum of Hungarian Architecture, and the Hanság Museum,5 and available analogies. I also visited the place to improve my knowledge of the house, take photos, and measure some parts. As the thesis focused on the building, not the finds, the main aims were to determine building phases and the functions of the spaces. The plot was first built in approximately 700 years ago, and it was possible to distinguish at least ten phases in its building history

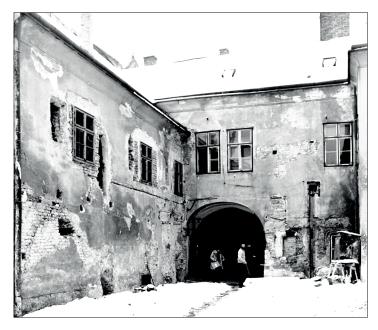


Fig. 2. Courtyard façade with the exposed medieval openings and other details (Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629).



Fig. 3. Openings XXa and XXb with the painted plastered wall between them (Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629).

from the mid-13th to the mid-18th century.⁶ Buildings of exceptional size, design, and shape could be linked to several of the phases, indicating a high-status owner (phase VII: Late Gothic, phase IX:

- 3 SEDLMAYR 1976, 3; PUSZTAI 1977, 62; TOMKA 1977b, 1, 20; ARHERN 1983, 4; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 2.
- Pusztai 1977, 62; Tomka 1977b, 1, 16, 19–20; Pusztai 1980, 2; Pusztai 1981a, 107; Balázs 1982, 3; Radukov 2003, 1, 5.
- 5 I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of all three institutions for their assistance.
- As later building phases are relatively modern and the available information on them is rather scarce, they are not discussed here.

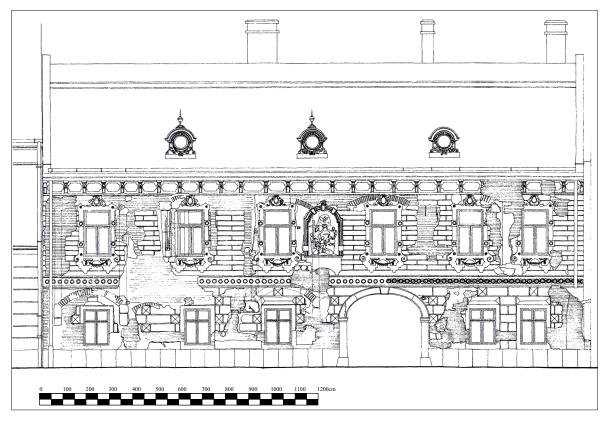


Fig. 4. Street façade of the building at the time of the wall research campaign (after Strohmayerné 1976, 05; Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631).

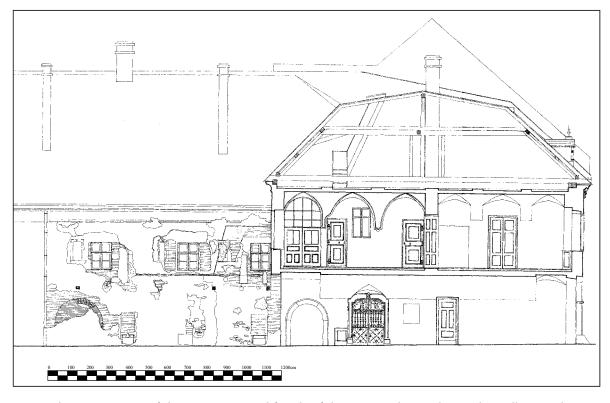


Fig. 5. The cross-section of the street wing and façade of the courtyard wing during the wall research campaign (after A. Vándor, M. Walsa, Strohmayerné 1976, 03. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631).

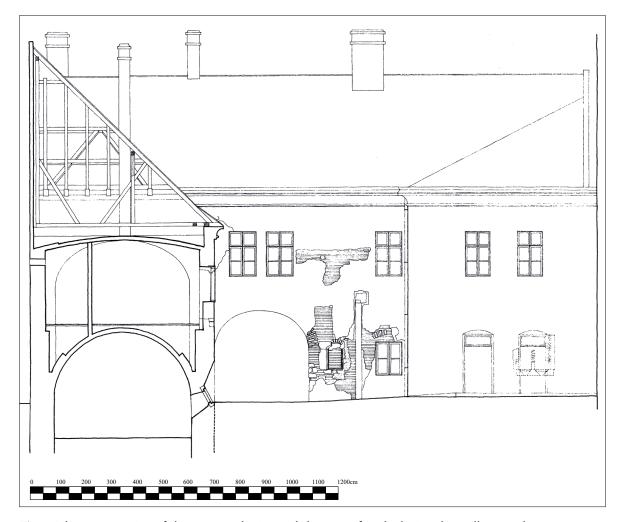


Fig. 6. The cross-section of the courtyard wing and the street façade during the wall research campaign. (after A. Vándor, M. Walsa, Strohmayerné 1976, 03. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631).

Renaissance, phase X: Baroque). While the presentation of all phases would undoubtedly provide useful new data for research, this study focuses only on the Late Gothic phase VII, which is ideal for research as it comprises a major transformation of the house into a prestige building with easy-to-distinguish architectural elements that still determine the appearance of the complex to-day. Moreover, it is an excellent example of late medieval architecture, especially regarding the division of space and the façades.

The plot was built in to varying extents in the six preceding building phases; the previous buildings were erected using different construction methods and had diverse sizes and functions.

The plot was first built in when the first buildings of the Magyaróvár part of the recent town were erected in the second half of the 13th century (phase I). An at least two-room one-storey building was constructed north-east of the current gateway; some coeval relics (wall remains and a fence section) discovered south of the gateway are more difficult to interpret. If these were connected with the remains in the north-eastern zone, that building might have had an L-shaped ground plan. The walls had a simple post-framed structure reinforced with stakes at points. Heating infrastructure included a vaulted stove that was renewed twice and another older one with a spark catcher's

⁷ Томка 1977а, 15 June 1977, 14; 16–17 June, 15; 12 July, 16–18; Aszt 2006, 33; Мајок 2018, 68.

remains inside the house. Chronological characteristics and the closest analogies in Sopron, Győr, Esztergom, and Helemba date this building phase to the mid-13th century—it cannot be older as the area only started to be developed at that time.⁸

After the first buildings had been destroyed, a one-room one-storey building with a post frame and wattle-and-daub walls was erected on top of their levelled debris (phase II). Based on the oven and ash pit unearthed in it, the building was probably residential. That this building was built on top of the debris of the previous one and even utilised some already existing architectural elements (postholes) perhaps indicates the formation of the plot system in the area and the fixing of the plot borders sometime in the second half of the 13th (certainly before the 14th) century.

The following phase (III) was the most complex of them all, comprising two sub-phases or major construction events. First, after the building of phase II had burned down, a residential building was established in the area of the recent gateway and the rooms south-west of it. The remains of this complex, built in the early 14th century, were found at a depth of 90 cm from the modern surface. It comprised a larger building, of 7.5×8 metres, parallel to the street, separated from a smaller outbuilding, of 3.6×3.7 metres, by a gravel-covered driveway. A wooden well was also discovered in the courtyard, north-west of the outbuilding (Fig. 7).¹⁰ According to the evidence of daub remains, these buildings probably had a post-framed superstructure resting on a sole plate on a wet stone foundation, similar to coeval houses in Visegrád, Buda, or the manor house at Kisnána. Both buildings were one-storey, and the main building had at least two rooms in the first sub-phase. While parts of it remained unchanged, the main building was extended during a

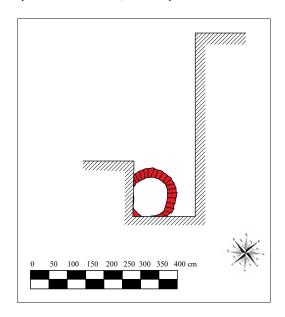


Fig. 7. Survey map of the brick-lined well northwest of Room 6 (after R. Pusztai 1981, 646.93, Hanság Museum). The legend see: Fig. 24

major reconstruction related to an upswing in the economy in the mid- or second half of the 14th century. The main building was expanded towards north-east, its façade reaching a width of 13.2–13.7 m. Its internal division incorporated the earlier one, extending it into a four-room ground plan; the outbuilding remained one-room. Besides, a post-framed auxiliary building was erected in the courtyard; the precise interpretation of its remains is problematic. The data presented above and contemporary

- 8 Томка 1977a, 15 June 1977, 14; 16–17 June 1977, 15; 12 July 1977, 17. Pozsony/Bratislava (Pálóczi-Horváth 2001, 222, 224, 239; Така́сs 1993, 45–46; Bálint 1960, 106), Esztergom-Szentkirály (Sedlmayr 1986, 326), Győr (Томка 1977b, 46).
- 9 Tomka 1977a, 27 May 1977, 6; 7 June 1977, 9; 8 June 1977, 10; 19 June 1977, 11.
- TOMKA 1977a, 26 May 1977, 5; 31 May 1977, 7; 1 June 1977, 7; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 8 June 1977, 10–11; 13 June 1977, 12–13; 14 June 1977, 13; 15 June 1977, 14–15; 16–17 June 1977, 15; 19–20 June 1977, 11; 12 July 1977, 16–19; Pusztai 1980, 2; Pusztai 1981b.
- This probably also related to the fact that the town, a royal property for half a century, was granted privileges in 1354. Georgius 1833, 324–327, transcript 590–591; Tomka 1977a, 26 May 1977, 5; 31 May 1977, 7; 14 June 1977, 13; 15 June 1977, 14; Pusztai 1980, 2; Buzás 1992, 33, 34, 42; Pálóczi-Horváth 2001, 245; Enzsöl 2004, 31–37; Aszt 2006, 39; Mészáros 2009, 74, 79, 80; Benda 2010, 95–96; Buzás et al. 2010, 10; Nagy 2011, 165, 168; Buzás 2012, 6, 9; Major 2018, 76–80.
- 12 Tomka 1977a, 26–27 May 1977, 4–6; 1 June 1977, 7–8; 8 June 1977, 10; 14 June 1977, 13; 15 June 1977, 15; 19–20 June 1977, 11; 12 July 1977, 17–19.

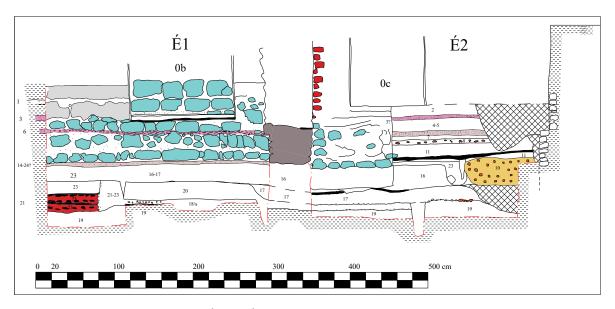


Fig. 8. Southern profile of trenches É1 and É2 (after P. Tomka and R. Pusztai 1977, III. 26/1978. Hungarian National Museum, Data Archive on Magyar Street, Inv. no. 11382). The legend see: Fig. 24

analogies, like 76 Church Street, Tewkesbury, outline a residential building that included, in both sub-phases, a workshop or store and a separate outbuilding south-west of it, probably also related to trade. Interestingly, the eastern façade of the building today is the very one built in the first sub-phase, which might indicate that the building's façade and, thus, the street front was more or less complete already in the early 14th century. The use period connected to the second sub-phase might be longer, as attested by the related floor, found at a depth of 0.80–0.85 m, that had been renewed several times before the structures burnt down at the end of the 14th century.¹³

No major transformations can be linked to phase IV at the end of the 14th or early 15th century. A part of the plot was filled up with clay, and the previous structures were rebuilt roughly in the place where they stood before. The walls were reinforced with thick posts set into a thick mortar layer; their size and the recovered daub fragments hint at the structure of the walls and reveal that the building in this phase was two-storey. A stove stood near the south-western corner near the western wall of the street wing. It was set in mud bricks, with an ash pit in the courtyard outside the building. Therefore, the room, being smoke-free and heated, was suitable for accommodation and cooking. We have no additional information on the internal division of the building. As for its fate, it probably became destroyed by fire like its predecessors—a frequent end for buildings in medieval towns and cities.

The next building, representing phase V, was erected on the ruins of the burnt-down one at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries at the earliest. It was a one-storey, one-room house of 6×5.6 m; its remains became incorporated later into the room north-east of the gate, making up the lower 1.5 metres of its walls. The building of phase V probably had a rubble wall reinforced with ashlars at the corners. In lack of any evidence pointing another way, I determined it as a shed or storage building;

Tomka 1977a, 26 May 1977, 5; 27 May 1977, 5–6; 1 June 1977, 8; 7 June 1977, 9; 8 June 1977, 10–11; 13 June 1977, 12; 14 June 1977, 13; 12 July 1977, 16–19; Benda 2017, 528–529, 530, 531, 53.

Томка 1977а, 19 May 1977, 3; 25 May 1977, 4–5; 27 May 1977, 6; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 8 June 1977, 10; 13 June 1977, 12; 14 June 1977, 13–14; 12 July 1977, 16.

¹⁵ Томка 1977а, 18 May 1977, 3; 20 May 1977, 3–4; 23–24 May 1977, 4; 25 May 1977, 4–5; 27 May 1977, 7; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 14 June 1977, 13–14; 15 June 1977, 15; 12 July 1977, 17–18; Pusztai 1980, 2; Pálóczi-Horváth 2001, 1, 13, 17; Nagy 2011, 166–168; Buzás 2012, 6, 9.

based on coeval analogies, it could be a lesser outbuilding or a two- or three-storey private urban tower, a complex structure incorporating residential and economic parts, popular, for example, in the nearby Sopron at the time.¹⁶

The relation between phases V and VI is unclear. The building connected to the latter was built in a different area, inside the plot, about 11.4 metres away from the street, and perhaps at the same time as that of phase V.¹⁷ Its relatively thick walls indicate that the undivided, sunken floor level or cellar once supported at least one more floor. Its extents are 14.4–6×7 m or more; its rubble walls are today part of the courtyard wing's ground floor and, partially, the northern side of the first floor.¹⁸ This building was a *Steinwerk* with residential spaces on the upper level and a space for storage on the ground floor, analogies to which may be found at several places, including Buda, Trnava, and Bratislava. Based on the analogies and the chronological position of the excavated remains, this building was erected at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries or in the first half of the 15th century. Later, the remains of the buildings of phases V and VI became incorporated into the Late Gothic prestige building of phase VII.¹⁹

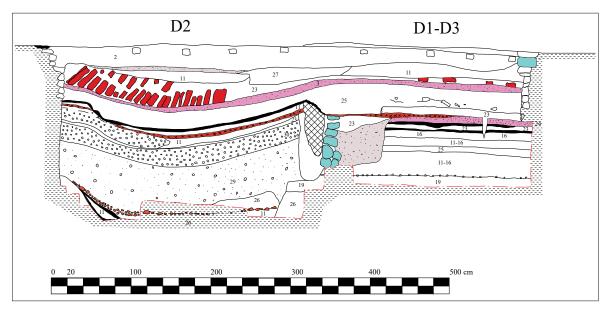


Fig. 9. Western profile of trenches D1–D3 (after P. Tomka and R. Pusztai 1977, III. 26/1978. Hungarian National Museum, Data Archive on Magyar Street, Inv. no. 11382). The legend see: Fig. 24

The late medieval phase VII

In late medieval times, the buildings of phases V and VI were transformed into a single two-storey building complex of considerable size, with a reverted L-shaped ground plan parallel with the street. This is the phase in the history of the plot that determined the appearance of the buildings standing on it today. The Late Gothic building complex comprised an eastern street wing and a northern

- 16 Szoboszlay 2022.
- 17 Томка 1977а, 17 May 1977, 1–2; 18 May 1977, 2–3; 20 May 1977, 3–4; 23–24 May 1977, 4; 3 June 1977, 8; 12 July 1977, 16, 20; Dávid 1976, 1, 5; Sedlmayr 1983c, 2, 5; Sedlmayr 1986, 330, 334, 339; Szoboszlay 2018, 152, 154–156.
- 18 Dávid 1976, 1, 3; Tomka 1977a, 12 July 1977; Arhern 1983, 1; Sedlmayr 1983b, 006918-006919.
- 19 H. Gyürki 1987, 63, 69; Ferus Baxa 1988, 85, 88–89, 95; Kazımír 2001, 204; Žuffová 2001, 199; Holl 2011, 386–387.

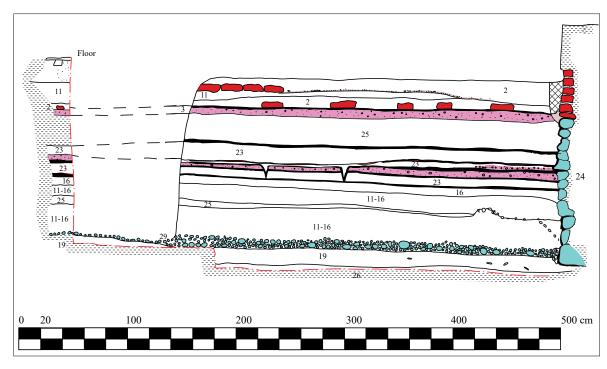


Fig. 10. Northern profile of trench D1 (after P. Tomka and R. Pusztai 1977, III. 26/1978. Hungarian National Museum, Data Archive on Magyar Street, Inv. no. 11382). The legend see: Fig. 24

courtyard wing that included the remains of the former buildings. The mortary ground floors were discovered at a depth of 0.3–0.5 m from the recent surface in the courtyard wing (trenches D1–5), while at 0.14–0.2 m in the eastern wing (trenches É1 and É2) (Fig. 8; 9; 10). The walking level at the gate was about 0.48–0.5 m lower than today, but it became filled up in several layers in the course of its prolonged use.²⁰ A part of the courtyard north-west of the gate was probably covered with gravel. The first-floor level was about 0.80 m higher in the street wing than the other. The façade of the complex was 21.85 m wide, the same as today; its width varied between 9.5 and 9.75 metres, except for the southwestern end with a 1.5–1.6-metre-wide part protruding toward the courtyard. The building was divided in two by a 3.65–4-metre-wide vaulted gateway in the façade. The narrower north-eastern rooms were 6.15 m, the wider south-western ones 11.7-metre wide. The front of the courtyard wing differed from today: while its width was the same, 7.2 m, it was way longer, about 17.2 m, stretching toward the inside of the plot at the expense of the gateway (Fig. 11; 12; 13; 14).²¹

The thickness of the street wing's exterior walls varied. The northern part of the eastern front wall was 0.75 m, and the southern, about 0.9 m. The south-western front wall was 0.65–0.9 m, while the protruding part was only 0.55–0.75 m thick. The western wall and the northern front wall were also approximately 0.70–75 m wide, while the south-western and north-eastern walls of the courtyard wing ranged between 0.90 and 0.95 m, the thickest part being the eastern end of the northern wall (0.75 m). The north-western wall was 0.45 m thick. The walls of the first floor were thinner, save for the north-eastern and south-western walls of the street wing, which were as thick there as on the ground floor level (0.75 m), also indicating the direction of the roof structure. However, the north-western and south-eastern walls were only 0.60–0.65 m wide, no more than 0.45 m in Room 18.

²⁰ The abundance of brick fragments indicates that Rooms 1–3 perhaps once had brick floors. DÁVID 1976, 1–2, 5; SEDLMAYR 1976a, 1; TOMKA 1977a, 17 May 1977, 2; 18 May 1977, 2–3; 19 May 1977, 3; 23 May 1977, 4; 25 May 1977, 5; 1 June 1977, 8; 3 June 1977, 8; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 14 June 1977, 14; 15 June 1977, 14–15; 20 June 1977, 11; 12 July 1977, 16, 18; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 1–2.

²¹ Dávid 1976, 1, 4, 6; Sedlmayr 1976a, 1.

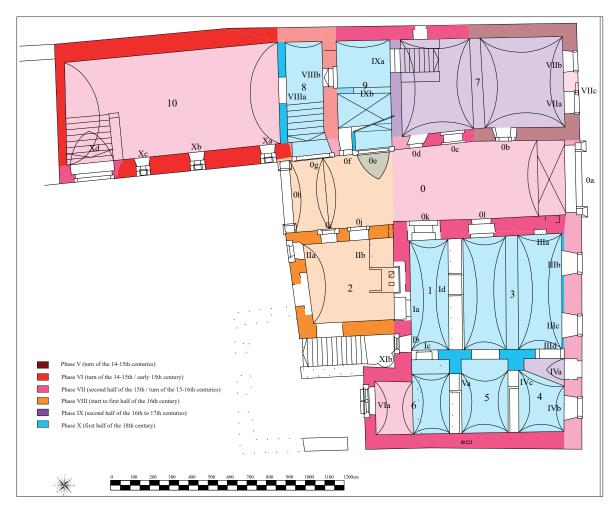


Fig. 11. Ground floor of 19 Fő Street coloured according to building phases. Lighter shades mark only assumed affiliation (after M. Walsa 1983, 04. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629 and M. Walsa 1983, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629).

The walls of the courtyard wing's first floor were also considerably thinner than a level below: the south-western wall was only 0.60 m, the north-western only 0.45–0.50 m thick.²² The north-eastern wall was 0.70–0.75 m thick until the two-thirds of Room 13, where it slimmed down to 0.60 m, retaining a thickness of about 0.65 m until the staircase. The gable wall in the attic was also about 0.65 m thick. The wall foundations of rubble and some bricks were discovered at 0.70–0.80 m below the current floor level. Incorporated stone wall segments of buildings from previous phases could be observed at several points: in the eastern end of Room 7 (7/a), appearing as the feet of the north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western walls up to a height of 1.5 m, as well as in Rooms 10, 8, and perhaps also 9. In Room 10, the incorporated wall segment was 1.65–1.75 m high on the inside and about 2.50–2.75 m high from the recent surface outside. Although research did not yield related data, it cannot be excluded that such wall segments are also incorporated on the first floor, in the north-eastern wall of Room 13. The ledge height on the façade was about the same as today.²³

DÁVID 1976, 1, 4, 5; SEDLMAYR 1976a, 1–2; TOMKA 1977a, 17 May 1977, 2; 18 May 1977, 2–3; 19 May 1977, 3;
 May 1977, 4; 25 May 1977, 5; 1 June 1977, 8; 3 June 1977, 8; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 15 June 1977, 14; 12 July 1977, 16. SEDLMAYR 1983c, 5.

DÁVID 1976, 1–5; TOMKA 1977a, 17 May 1977, 2; 18 May 1977, 2–3; 19 May 1977, 3; 23 May 1977, 4; 25 May 1977, 5; 1 June 1977, 8; 3 June 1977, 8; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 15 June 1977, 14; 12 July 1977, 16, 19. Arhern 1983, 1; Sedlmayr 1983c, 5.

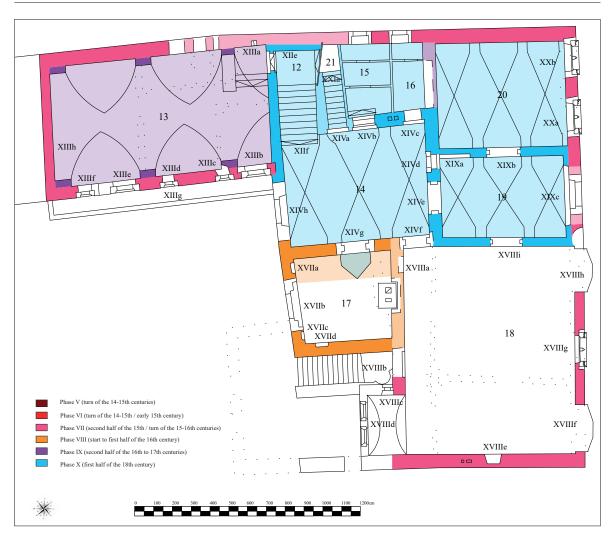


Fig. 12. First floor of 19 Fő Street coloured according to building phases. Lighter shades mark only assumed affiliation (after M. Walsa 1983, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629)

The only opening created probably in this phase on the ground floor zone of the façade today is the stone-framed, grooved ventilation window VIIc; under that, there once was perhaps a door. Upstairs, in the northern part of the eastern wall, two ornate stone mullion and transom windows with a double window sill (XXa, XXb) illuminated a section of the room that is Room 20 today. Although there is no evidence, I believe Room 19 initially had a smaller window where the 2.75 metre-high niche XIXc stands today. The windows with a double stool and sill in Room 18, south of that, were arranged symmetrically. One was a plastered square bay window, XVIIIh, with recesses that served as eyeholes. It slightly protruded from the façade and rested on a pair of stone cantilever beams. Based on the persisting carved stone fragments, it was probably divided by mullions or transoms, and the carpentry behind it was continuous. South of that, another stone mullion and transom window, XVIIIg, interrupted the façade, while further south, there was a similar but wider bay window, XVIIIf (Fig. 15).²⁴ The wall research documentation describes the plaster remains discovered high on the façade south of window VIIc, near the eyeholes of the bay windows, and between the openings XXa and XXb as relics from the previous building phase; however, in my opinion, these belong to the Late Gothic phase (VII). The plaster could be exposed on a relatively large spot, by 0.5–0.6×2.75 m;

it contained a fragment of the painted framing of the windows, featuring delicate red lines on an off-white background. Another spot, north of window XXb, had a different pattern: a kind of corner rustication imitation, alternate quoining made of diagonally divided painted rectangles, with the lower-left half (triangle) painted red and the upper-right white (Fig. 3).²⁵ The gate (0a) probably stood where it is today; its original extent can be measured from the remains of its frame on the inner side. The distance between the two reveals is 3.15 m, indicating 1.75 m-wide door frames, which fit well with the wall niches. Based on the cross vault arch, the original doorframe's highest point (in the middle) could not be higher than 3.55 m; that is, it must have been lower and smaller than today. As the related parts of the arched stone head had been lost, no information persisted on the arch type and moulding of the gate; it was probably similar to other openings of the period. Some red-painted plastered wall parts persisted *in situ* in the gateway (Room 0), marking the western end of the building in phase VII (Fig. 16).²⁶ The gateway's barrel vault, pependicular to the street, and the cross vault making up the ceiling of its eastern end were also constructed in this phase.

The ground floor north of the gateway was divided into two rooms by a 0.75–0.80 m-thick stone or brick wall; based on the related findings, the walls of both were plastered. The walls of the eastern room, 7a,

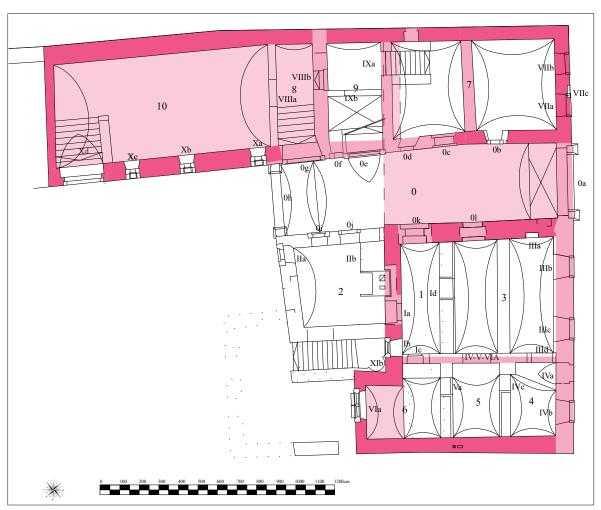


Fig. 13. Standing, demolished and assumed architectural elements of the ground floor, phase VII (after M. Walsa 1983, 04. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629 and M. Walsa 1983, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629).

²⁵ DÁVID 1976, 1-2.

²⁶ DÁVID 1976, 1-3; TOMKA 1977a, 15 June 1977, 15.

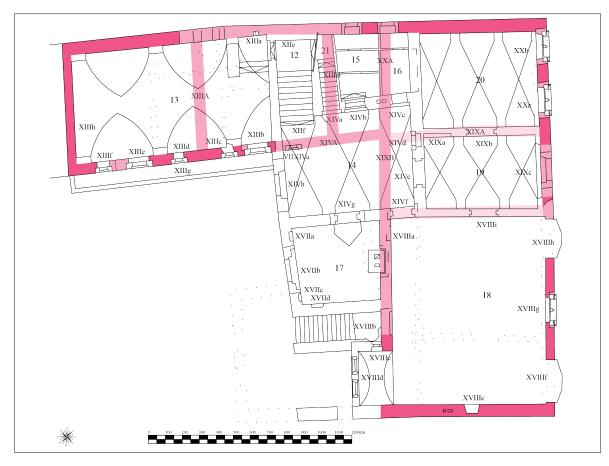


Fig. 14. Standing, demolished and assumed architectural elements of the first floor, phase VII (after M. Walsa 1983, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629)

incorporated some stone walls from phase V; its extents were 4.6×4.15 m. The western room, 7b, was 3.4×4.9 m large. Room 7b could be accessed through a door in place of window 0b, an opening that already existed in phase V. The position of a ventilation window in Room 7a indicates a high flat ceiling. ²⁷

The ground floor area south of the gateway was also divided into two rooms, a large (5.75×7.85 m) and a smaller one (3.75×7.85 m). It has remained a question whether the large hall next to the gateway (Rooms 1 and 3) could be accessed directly from there at the time. Research results seem to refute that: according to Ferenc Dávid, niche or door 0l is modern, and door 0k west of that could not have been there at the time either, as a brick-based tile stove was unearthed on the spot, right where another stove also stood earlier, in phase IV.²⁸ (Fig. 17; 18) Conclusively, the hall could have been accessed directly from the street. This hall had a niche, IIIa, in its northern wall that was probably used for storing things, perhaps lightning equipment. The south-western wall could not be identified; the 0.5 m thick wall section in its place today is certainly younger as it cuts through window Ib, an opening definitely created in phase VII. The plaster remains discovered in Room 4 suggest that if such a wall existed at all, its line was north of lunette vault IVa; it was probably thin, only about 30–40 cm (IV–V–VIa). Nothing indicated how this part of the complex was covered then (Fig. 13.19–20).²⁹

- 27 DÁVID 1976, 1-3; TOMKA 1977a, 17 May 1977, 2; 18 May 1977, 2; 19 May 1977, 3; 23 May 1977, 4, 20.
- 28 Its ash pit was also established in phase IV (DÁVID 1976, 1, 3–5; TOMKA 1977a, 18 May 1977, 2; 25 May 1977, 5; 26 May 1977, 5; 27 May 1977, 6; 27 May 1977, 7; 12 July 1977, 16, 19).
- 29 DÁVID 1976, 1, 4–5; TOMKA 1977a, 17 May 1977, 2; 18 May 1977, 2–3; 25 May 1977, 5; 1 June 1977, 8; 3 June 1977, 8; 7 June 1977, 9–10; 15 June 1977, 15; 12 July 1977, 16, 19.

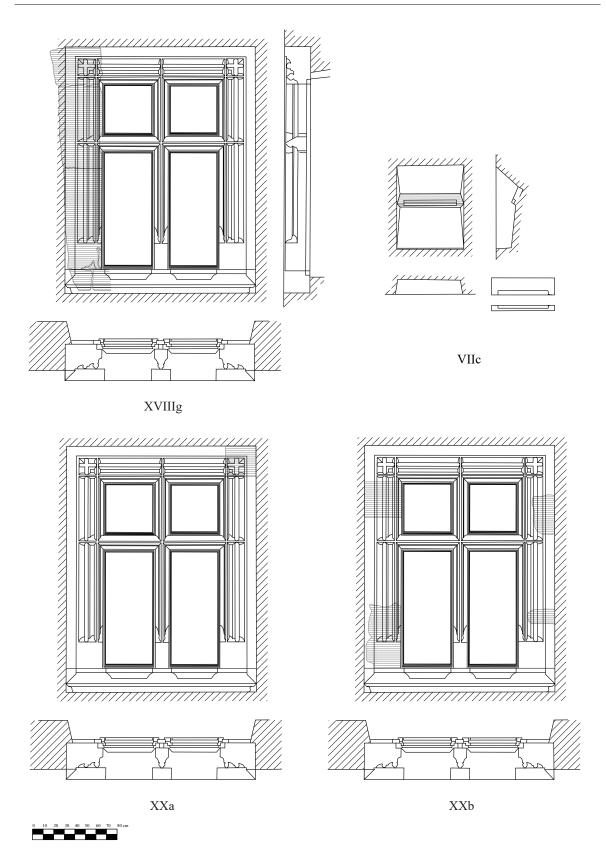


Fig. 15. Medieval windows (XVIIIg, XXa, XXb) with the related exposed stone fragments and ventilation window VIIc on the street façade (VIIc: author's survey on 28 October 2020; XVIIIg, XXa, XXb: MZ. Oláh 1981, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629; A. Vándor, M. Walsa and Strohmayerné 1976, 03. and Strohmayerné 1976, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631)

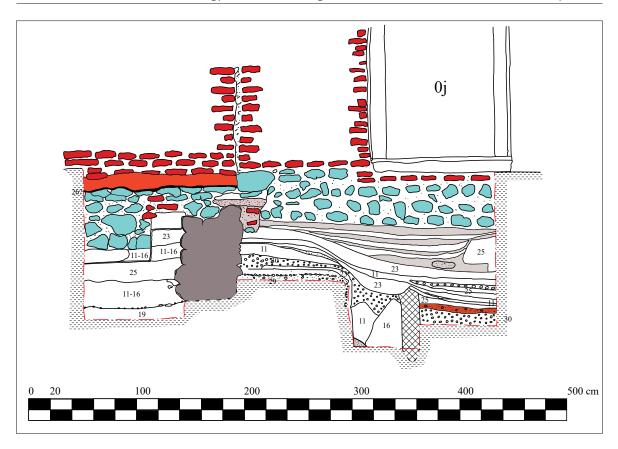


Fig. 16. Southern profile of trench K1. (after P. Tomka and R. Pusztai 1977, III. 26/1978 Hungarian National Museum, Data Archive on Magyar Street, Inv. no. 11382). The legend see: Fig. 24

The one-time smaller hall comprises Rooms 4–6. The protruding southwestern wall part adds a booth of 1.85×3 m to its space. Like in the previous case, it has yet to be clarified how it could be accessed: if a wall separated it from its larger northern neighbour, perhaps a door opened from that, or one could enter the smaller hall directly from the street, through a door in place of, e.g., IVa, a semi-circular arched lunette vault. A mullion and transom window with a window sill, VIa, was certainly created in this phase. As for the ceiling, the barrel vault of the booth, perpendicular to the street, does not extend over that, and Rooms 4–6 did not contain any other coeval evidence of covering (Fig. 13.19).³⁰

The cellar of the courtyard wing comprises today's Rooms 8–10. In phase VII, this space was divided into two: a larger hall (Rooms 8 and 10) and a smaller one (Room 9). The large room was 13.3×5–5.25 m; some openings in its south-western wall have been identified as belonging to phase VII (west to east: a round-arched cellar door, Xd, and three recess ventilation windows, Xa, Xb, and Xc) (Fig. 21).³¹ It is a question of whether there was another opening in the place of 0g at the time, and if yes, was it another cellar door or a ventilation window? The cellar was covered by a large brick barrel vault perpendicular to the street, interrupted by a lunette vault above door Xd. Although no plastered wall fragment was found in this room, it cannot be excluded that its walls were plastered.³²

The small room, only 2.75×5 m, east of the cellar, was also part of the courtyard wing. It shares its eastern wall with Room 7b, while its line matches the western exterior wall (identified south of

³⁰ DÁVID 1976, 1, 4-5; ТОМКА 1977а, 17 May 1977, 2; 1 June 1977, 8; 3 June 1977, 8; 7 June 1977, 9-10.

³¹ The reveals of these windows are perhaps older.

³² DÁVID 1976, 1, 3; ARHERN 1983, 1; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 2, 5.

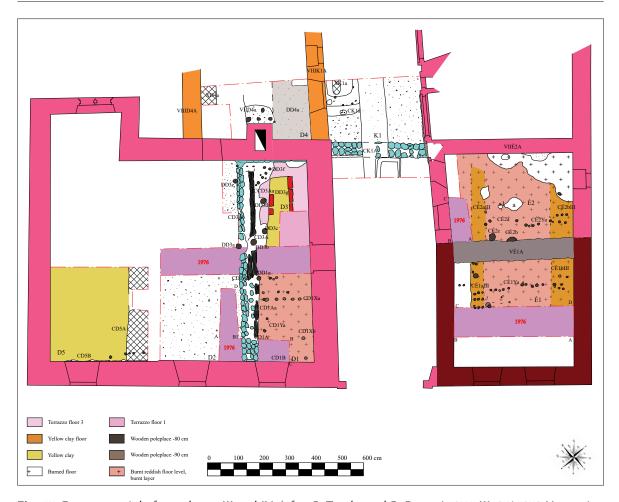


Fig. 17. Features mainly from phases III and IV. (after P. Tomka and R. Pusztai 1977, III. 26/ 1978 Hungarian National Museum, Data Archive on Magyar Street, Inv. no. 11382)

the gateway), continuing northwards. Nowadays, it is only 0.50-0.55 m thick, but it was probably thicker, about 0.70-0.75 m, at the time of its construction. The room has no openings from phase VII today; perhaps it had ventilation windows akin to those in Room 10 (cellar window 0f).³³

The number of openings from this period on the courtyard façade of the street wing is remarkably low today; only two can be mentioned (Ib, VIa). The lack of openings and the excavation results unanimously suggest a (probably round-rampant-arched) staircase between the southwestern part of the gateway or west of the recent chimney and window VIa.³⁴ Its height can be estimated based on the position of window Ib: the imposts had to be above 1.91–1.97 m. The staircase led to the vaulted booth in Rooms 4–6 and, through that, to Room 18, with a segmental-arched opening on the upper floor. Beside the stairs, the earlier well—its shaft lined with planks at the bottom and bricks above—was wedged into a wall, also indicating the extension of the street wing (Fig. 7.17).³⁵

- 33 Dávid 1976, 1, 3; Tomka 1977a, 17 May 1977, 2; 18 May 1977, 2; 19 May 1977, 3; 23 May 1977, 4; Sedlmayr 1983c, 2, 5.
- This huge empty wall surface might indicate a flight of stairs connecting the floors of the building. The existence of such a construction is also supported by some excavated features, including the stakeholes (VIID4a) in a gravel layer in trench D4 and a row of stones set in clay in the line of the protruding niche of Room 6. Perhaps the staircase was located between this foundation and the niche.
- 35 Dávid 1976, 4–5; Tomka 1977a, 26 May 1977, 5; 27 May 1977, 7; Pusztai 1980, 2; Pusztai 1981b; Sedlmayr 1983c, 5; Arhern 1983, 2.



Fig. 18. Features mainly from phase VII. (after P. Tomka and R. Pusztai 1977, III. 26/ 1978 Hungarian National Museum, Data Archive on Magyar Street, Inv. no. 11382)

The upper floor of the street wing consisted of two or three rooms. Of these, Room 18, of 9×10.45 m (or 7.5×10 m, according to field documentation), was the biggest residential space in the entire building. The opening (XVIIIg) and arches (XVIIIh, XVIIIf) of the former window and bay windows are still visible on its south-eastern wall. The segmental-arched niche (XVIIIe) in almost exactly the middle of the south-western wall, probably used to store something important, also hints at the one-time function of the room. The other low, segmental-arched niche (XVIIIa) in the northern end of the north-western wall could have been part of the heating infrastructure; however, it cannot be linked with certainty to phase VII. The great hall probably had a flat wood beam ceiling in that phase, higher than the arches of the openings; its walls, based on niche XVIIIe, were probably plastered (Fig. 20). 36

While the walls did not preserve any related trace, we know that Room 18 had a neighbour, Room 19, in the north. The length of Room 19 can only be estimated: if its north-eastern wall above the gate was in line with the façade wall on the ground level, it was about 4.3 m wide (XIXA). The north-western section of that wall (XIXB) was of the same width as in Room 18, while the north-eastern and south-western walls were 0.5–0.65 m thick. No window openings have persisted from this phase; one, however, could have been where XIXc is today but smaller (Fig. 14).³⁷

Room 20 once stood north of Room 19. Their width was similar, but the length of Room 20 could have been around 5.6 m, supposed the line of its south-western wall (XIXA) matched that of the gateway. Two window openings interrupted its south-eastern wall (XXa, XXb). If Rooms 20 and 19 were not a single space, they were probably connected (akin to Rooms 18 and 19) by a door. The walls of both were probably plastered (Fig. 14).³⁸

- 36 DÁVID 1976, 1-2, 4-5; SEDLMAYR 1976a, 2; SEDLMAYER 1983c, 2, 5.
- 37 DÁVID 1976, 1–2, 4; SEDLMAYR 1976a, 2; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 2, 5.
- 38 DÁVID 1976, 1, 2, 4; SEDLMAYR 1976a, 2; SEDLMAYR 1983c, 2, 5.

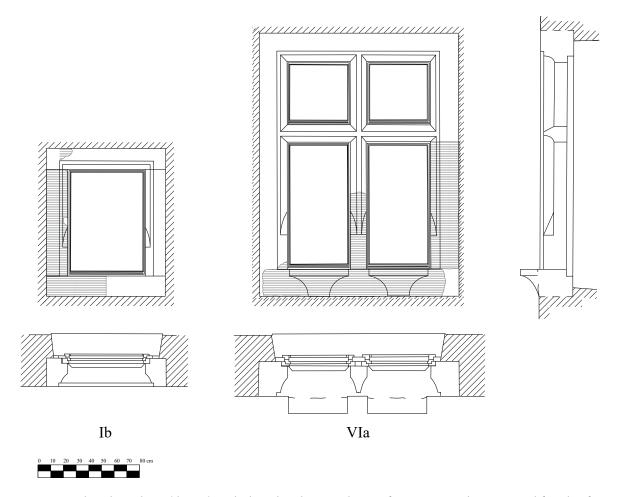


Fig. 19. Medieval windows (Ib, VIa) with the related exposed stone fragments on the courtyard façade of the street wing (after MZ. Oláh 1981, 05. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629; A. Vándor, M. Walsa and Strohmayerné 1976, 03. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631)

The upper floor of the courtyard wing was divided into two large rooms and a smaller one, identical to today's Rooms 12, 15, and 21. The first room in the row was about 3×5.75 m. Its south-eastern wall, XXA, was about 0.6-0.65 m, the north-western (XIIIB) about 0.6-0.75 m thick, while the south-western wall matched that of the courtyard wing. A large room, 13b, was attached to its north-western side. This room, identical to today's Rooms 12 and 13, was $6.6\times6.3-6.35$ m (Fig. 14). Based on similar coeval walls in the building, XIIIA, the north-western wall of Room 13, could be about 0.50-0.75 m thick. A stone-framed window and a shouldered-arched door (XIIIb, XIIIc) interrupted the western part of the south-western wall in this phase (Figs 22-23); besides, the eastern part of the same wall must have had a similar window (VIIXIVa), of which but nothing persisted. A niche with a three-pointed-arched opening, XIIIa, was opposite the door, approximately in the middle of the north-eastern wall (Fig. 20). The room had a flat wood beam ceiling at the time, higher than the top of the openings' reveals.³⁹

The next unit, 13a, is also located in Room 13 today. Its extents were about $6.9 \times 6.4 - 6.45$ m (Fig. 14). Its south-western wall is interrupted by two windows of similar size (XIIId, XIIIf) with another shoulder-arched door (XIIIe) between them (Fig. 23). The windows were smaller than window XIIIc, but their moulding was identical (Fig. 22). The flat ceiling was supported by wooden joists,

akin to the beam and girder slabs in other rooms; its level must have been higher than the top of the openings' reveals in the walls. While no plastered wall remains have persisted in this room, its walls were certainly plastered. An external hanging corridor supported by wooden cantilever beams was once attached to the south-western wall of Rooms 13/a and 13/b; nothing could be revealed on its superstructure, roof, or the staircase leading to it. The corridor could be accessed from the east, along Rooms 8 and 9.40

Analogies of building phase VII

As relatively much information persisted on both the layout and the architectural details of the Late Gothic building complex of phase VII, analogies are easy to find. The wing street's roof structure was probably parallel to the street; this arrangement was common, for example, in Buda at the time.⁴¹

Buildings with a relatively long façade and a long courtyard wing are rare among Late Gothic urban buildings in medieval Hungary. Such complexes were usually constructed by connecting two previous buildings with a vaulted gate entrance. For example, under 6 Oskola Street in

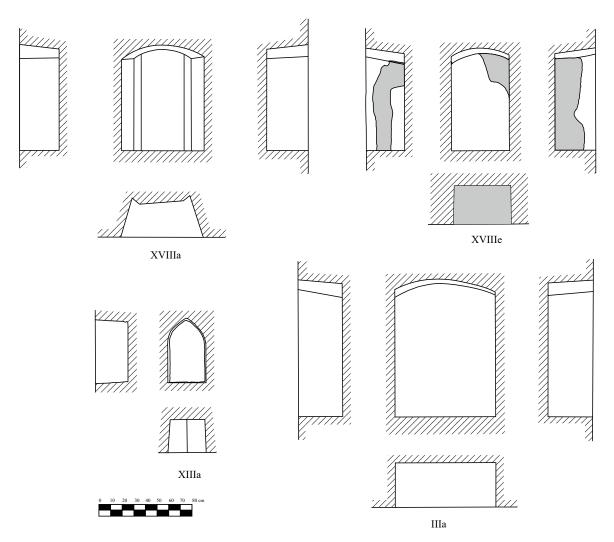


Fig. 20. Niches XVIIIa, XVIIIe, XIIIa, and IIIa (survey by the author, 27 October 2020)

⁴⁰ Dávid 1976, 1, 3–4; Sedlmayr 1976a, 1; Arhern 1983, 1–2.

⁴¹ HORLER 1955, 136.

Székesfehérvár, two 14th-century buildings, a main and an outbuilding, were transformed into a single complex at the time of the reign of Sigismund of Luxembourg. The high-prestige building under 40 Úri Street in Buda was created by integrating two earlier buildings in the second half of the 15th century.⁴² The partially cellared large house with an L-shaped ground plan on the main square of Vác, built around 1485, was identified as the manor house of bishop Miklós Báthori. This house was also created by joining two formerly separate buildings with a gateway. Similar complex buildings were erected in Székesfehérvár (17 Megyeház Street) and Buda (48 Úri Street) at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. While the former was built in a single phase, the latter was constructed by joining two 14–15th-century buildings. Buildings with an L-shaped ground plan also appeared in Sopron in the mid-15th century; that type, however, comprised simple private houses, lesser in size, complexity, and ornamentation, rather than prestige buildings like the ones mentioned earlier.⁴³

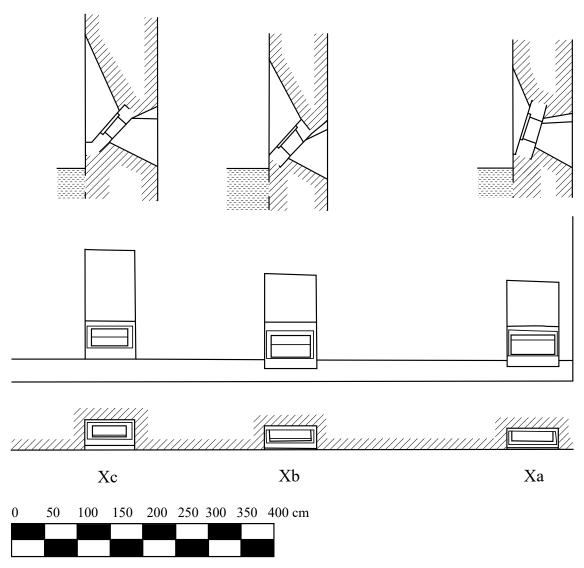


Fig. 21. Ventilation windows Xa, Xb, and Xc on the ground level of the courtyard wing (survey by the author, 27 October 2020)

⁴² Gerevich 1950, 171, 174; Csemegi 1955, 164; Horler 1955, 136; Pogány 1955, 556; Erdei 1984, 134, 138, 142; Gergelyffy 1990, 161–162.

⁴³ Czagány 1974, 250; Marosi 1987, 69; Komjáthyné Kremnicsán 1989, 172.

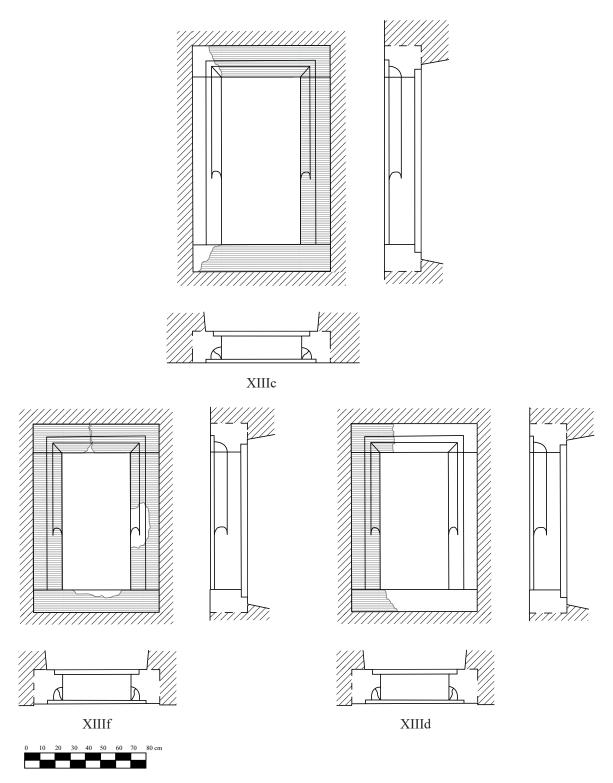


Fig. 22. Medieval windows (XIIIf, XIIId, XIIIc) with the related exposed stone fragments on the first floor of the courtyard wing. (survey by the author, 27–28 October 2020; M. Walsa 1976, 04. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22629; M. Walsa and Strohmayerné 1976, 03. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631)

Several coeval analogies help determine the functions of the rooms. Ventilation recesses interrupting the façades of buildings on ground level were characteristic features of shops, stores, and workshops in 15–16th-century towns. These windows were big enough to illuminate the interior, but their size and positioning did not allow anyone to climb in through them, thus protecting the

stocks. House owners often rented these ground-floor rooms. Buildings with such rooms are known from Buda (13 Úri Street, 18 Országház Street). In some cases, the façade had two recesses (10 Fortuna Street), usually with an entrance under them (48 Úri street, 2 Országház Street). The ground floor usually also comprised some kind of residential space on the other side of the gateway, opposite the shop. 44 Just like cellars, the rooms of this floor had fireproof brick barrel vault ceilings. While most vaults were parallel with the street in most places, perpendicular ones, covering rooms, cellars, and gateways, were also characteristic of Buda in the 14-15th centuries. 45

Several ceremonial great halls are known from the period; this element in urban architecture is an adaptation of similar spaces in castles. These halls, called *palacium depictum*, were large, always positioned on the upper floor; they had painted plastered walls with three to four windows and a coffered wooden ceiling. The mid- or late-15th-century great hall 9 Országház Street, was located right above the gateway; three windows illuminated it. The room left of that was probably of less prestige, as indicated by the lower floor level and simpler opening design. The size of the *palacium depictum* was 7.5×10 m. In smaller complexes, like the buildings under 18 and 20 Országház Street, the representative part comprised the entire upper floor of the street wing.⁴⁶

Living rooms, like the inner room (camera) and the less personal anticamera before it, were usually located in the courtyard wing. These rooms may be identified based on architectural details like the three-pointed-arch- or segmental arch-framed wall niches for beds and tile stove remains, as beds were usually positioned near the stoves (see, for example, the prince's room in the royal palace of Visegrád). Besides, wall niches were added to dining and ceremonial halls, for example, for storing lightning equipment (e.g., House of Schoolmaster Pásztó under 11 Új Street in Sopron) or, when shelved, books and other personal items.⁴⁷ As for stairs, analogies are scarce. Two structures can be mentioned that are similar to the supposed straight stair connecting the great hall and the ground floor: the L-shaped, ornate building of the cathedral chapter under 4 Káptalan Street in Pécs was fitted with external stairs leading to the upper floor under King Sigismund's reign, while the so-called Vallásszabadság háza (House of the Freedom of Religion) in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca (Romania) was completed with stairs, the stone railings of which are still visible today, in the second half of the 15th century. In contrast to external stairs, cantilevered external corridors, like the one by the courtyard wing, were relatively frequent in 15th-century urban buildings (see, for example, the Gambrinus House and 3 Szent Mihály Street in Sopron and another building in Székesfehérvár).48

Representative units were often fitted with bay windows supported by arches and cantilevers; these not only enlarged the space but also divided and decorated the façade. Bay windows are a characteristic element of 15–16th-century secular buildings like urban houses and castles. Some were polygonal (also called splay bay windows: e.g., 17 Megyeház Street in Székesfehérvár, 17 Úri Street in Buda), others, square (e.g., 18 Országház Street in Buda, 5 Kolostor Street in Sopron). Some were lavishly decorated (17 Megyeház Street in Székesfehérvár, Castle of Siklós). Bay windows came with large mullion and transom windows with eyeholes on the sides and painted walls (5 Kolostor Street in Sopron

⁴⁴ GEREVICH 1950, 190; HORLER 1955, 137, 141; POGÁNY 1955, 336; CZAGÁNY 1966, 46; CZAGÁNY 1974, 248, 254; MAROSI 1987, 69; TÓTH – BUZÁS 2016, 201.

⁴⁵ Horler 1955, 132; Czagány 1962, 233, 236; Czagány 1992, 117, 126, 129.

⁴⁶ Gerevich 1950, 170, 184, 192; Czagány 1966, 42; Marosi 1987, 69.

⁴⁷ Lukács 2011, 42, 76; Tóth – Buzás 2016, 219; Szoboszlay 2018, 157; Valter 2018, 239.

⁴⁸ Csatkai 1956, 33; Dávid – Schőnerné Pusztai 1977, 130; G. Sándor 1983, 166, 176–177; Lővei 1989, 168; Lupescu – Kovács 2020, 232, 238, Fig. 14.

⁴⁹ Gerevich 1950, 194; Komjáthyné Kremnicsán 1989, 172; Sedlmayr 1990, 139, 142, 143, 152.

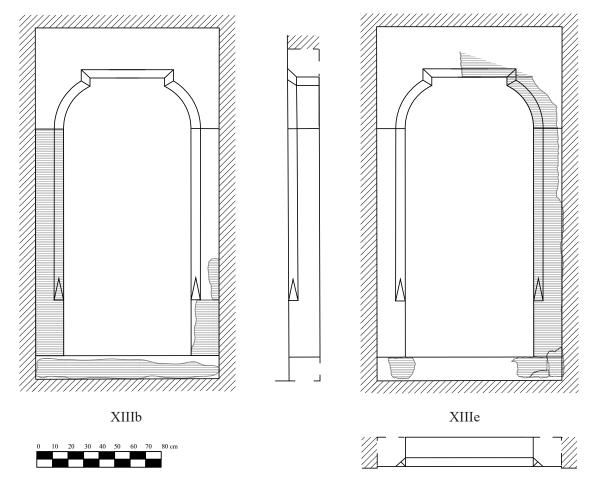


Fig. 23. Medieval doors (XIIIb, XIIIe) with the related exposed stone fragments on the first floor of the courtyard wing (survey by the author, 29 October 2020; Strohmayerné 1976, 05.; A. Vándor, M. Walsa and Strohmayerné 1976, 03. Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Data Archive on Jász Street, Inv. no. 22631)

and 3 Szent Mihály Street in Sopron). The cantilevers consisted of quarter-arch- or ogee-shaped single or double beams, ogee-shaped terminals being a characteristic of 15th-century buildings. Buildings usually only had a single bay window, which also makes the Cselley House exceptional.⁵⁰

The openings of the building complex have several analogies. Therefore, they can be easily reconstructed even if nothing has remained of the gate frame and the cellar door. Most 15–16th-century gate frames were round-arched (e.g., 18 and 23 Táncsics Mihály Street in Buda) or segmental-arched (e.g., 18 and 22 Országház Street in Buda, 158 Lajos Street in Óbuda [Old Buda], or the Stettner House in Kőszeg).⁵¹ The frame was usually chamfered, while the mouldings of more complex frames featured roll and pointed bow-tells with chamfer (e.g., 9 Országház Street in Buda). Cellar door frames were usually round-arched and chamfered, about 0.90–1.90 m wide and 1.50–2.08 m high.⁵²

While the lavishly decorated mullion and transom windows with a double stool and sill on the eastern facade have no close analogy as a whole, the moulding of their jambs, stools, and sills have several from the second half of the 15th century. Their moulding is pointed bow-tell; this type, due to an influence of the Parler School, gradually lost its significance and symmetry and became

⁵⁰ Gerevich 1950, 194; Sedlmayr 1959, 99; Czagány 1962, 232; Dávid – Schőnerné Pusztai 1977, 131.

⁵¹ Horler 1955, 136–137; Pogány 1955, 503; Bertalan 1997, 323.

⁵² Czagány 1992, 125; Miklós 1996, 58.

mixed with older styles (chamfered and roll) in the second half of the 15th century. The frames reflect the influence of the stone carving workshop of Master János, a Franciscan monk working on the construction of the castle of Visegrád, whose work around 1470-1480 had a lasting effect on Hungarian architecture.⁵³ The characteristic elements of his workshop are frames with mouldings composed of roll variations and pointed bow-tells that intersected at the corners. Among others, the mullion and transom windows with pointed bow-tell-decorated frames in the west wing of the castle of Visegrád, constructed between 1476 and 1481, can be linked to this workshop. Besides, the excavations of the royal palace brought to light a fragment from the carved stone frame of an ornate cantilevered bay window. The profile of this fragment is hollow, chamfer, roll, flute, chamfer, pointed bow-tell, hollow, hollow, sunken fillet—a pattern almost identical to that on the upper floor windows of the Cselley House (except for the small hollow before the sunken fillet and the lower, decorated part of the rolls). The excavations also yielded several window fragments with a large window sill from the so-called North-eastern Palace; this design was popular at the time.⁵⁴ For example, the Old Town Hall in Nagyszeben (Sibiu, Romania) has two separate ornate polygonal window stools in one of the upper floor windows on the south façade, while the building under 4 Káptalan Street in Pécs has similar stools in two windows in the eastern wall from 1434. In terms of both design and moulding, the closest analogies to the mullion and transom division of the windows of the Cselley House may be found in the similar openings on the upper floor in the façade of 18 Országház Street, erected around 1470-1480, the profile of which consists of an external sunken fillet, a three-quarter-hollow, a roll, another three-quarter-hollow, a chamfer, a pointed bow-tell, a chamfer, and a quarter-hollow. The only differences between these profiles and the windows of the Cselley House are the chamfered sides of the jambs of the former, the width of the hollows, and the chamfer around the rolls.⁵⁵

Another close analogy to these windows and window VIa may be found on the eastern façade of the Castle of Somló in County Veszprém, also featuring a stone-framed mullion and transom window with a window stool and a sill very similar to the above, and the profile of which (small hollow, sunken fillet, quarter hollow) is almost identical to the courtyard windows (VIa and Ib) of the Cselley House. This window can be dated to the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, the time of Pál Kinizsi (1470–1490) or Jób Garai. A shop window in the northern gateway of 48–50 Országház Street in Buda has a similar profile; however, it was dated to the 14–15th centuries. The first-floor windows of 13 Úri Street, facing Anna Street, in Buda, also have a similar profile: a 65-degree chamfer outside and a sunken fillet and quarter-hollow inside. This design, save for the window sill, is typical of the post-Gothic style. The frames were dated to the second half of the 15th century.

Based on the profiles of their frames (including the 45-degree chamfer and pyramidal sides that represent a simplification of Gothic moulding types), the door openings on the courtyard's front wall can be assigned to the Late Gothic or (after István Czagány) post-Gothic style. Similar pyramidal-profile frames are known from the windows of the building under 158 Lajos Street in Óbuda (dated to the 1500s) and an ornate door from 1514 in the gateway of the house at 14 Fortuna Street in Buda.⁵⁸

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53 Czagány 1959, 40; Czagány 1964, 267, 283; Tóth – Buzás 2016, 220–221.
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⁵⁴ BAGYINSZKI – BUZÁS 2009, 8; BUZÁS – LŐVEI 2001, 21; BUZÁS et al. 2010, 60–61; BOZÓKI 2012, 49, 54, 168.

⁵⁵ Czagány 1966, 45–46; G. Sándor 1983, 173–174.

⁵⁶ Koppány 2007, 7, 11, 23.

⁵⁷ Czagány 1971, 330, 337; Czagány 1974, 250.

⁵⁸ Czagány 1959, 39; Czagány 1963, 95, 99; Bertalan 1997, 323, 324.



Fig. 24. Legend for the site survey maps and profile drawings (made by the author in 2021).

Function and dating

In light of the available analogies, the Cselley House in phase VII—based on its size, elaborately framed openings, and the great hall with two bay windows (unique in Hungary)—was an exceptional building of probably an affluent and illustrious person. It is possible that it was not a private but a public building, e.g., the town hall or an inn,⁵⁹ while the ground floor room by the street (with the ventilation window) was perhaps rented for a shop. The stove-heated room on the ground floor south of the gateway was a living room or kitchen, while the somewhat sunken ground floor rooms in the courtyard wing served as cellar and storage spaces. The largest room of the building, on the upper floor of the street wing, must have been the great hall, a characteristic element of 15th-century private urban buildings; the large windows and bay windows and the almost symmetrical niche in the south-western wall support this interpretation. The function of the rooms north of the great hall could not be determined. The courtyard wing comprised the bedroom, another inner room (*camera*) and a small hall (*anticamera*) east of them. The bedroom could be identified based on its position (away from the street), a niche with a three-pointed-arched frame.

Based on available analogies and excavation results, the building complex representing phase VII of the Cselley House was constructed between the second half of the 15th and the early 16th centuries.⁶⁰

Concluding remarks

Although in the present article, I do not wish to elaborate upon later chapters of the building history of the Cselley House, it must be mentioned that while the upcoming stormy centuries inflicted several waves of destruction on the town (especially in 1529 and 1683), not sparing the building either, the Late Gothic design is still the one determining its character today. The present state of the house allows, to some extent, for a reconstruction of the layout and façade of the Late Medieval building complex. I believe that the Cselley House is an important monument of Mosonmagyaróvár, one with great tourism potential; therefore, it would be necessary to continue its research, as neither the excavations nor the wall research campaigns conducted thus far were comprehensive. The case of the Cselley House also highlights the possibility that there may be other medieval buildings in the historic centre of the town that only wait to be discovered.

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⁵⁹ Dávid 1976, 6; Sedlmayr 1976a, 1; Arhern 1983, 2; Sedlmayr 1983c, 2, 5.

⁶⁰ Sedlmayr 1976a, 1; Tomka 1977a, 18 May 1977, 2; 27 May 1977, 7; 7 June 1977, 9–10, 20; Pusztai 1980, 2; Arhern 1983, 2; Sedlmayr 1983c, 2, 5.

⁶¹ Kriszt 1990, 205-206; Thullner 2018, 88, 90.

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