



Jan Seitz (1882 – 1944)

was the mayor of Sušice between the two world wars and he was a leading citizen of the town. Seitz was a good manager with strong nationalistic feelings. He was known for being always elegantly dressed with a flower in his lapel, and thanks to his hard

work and perseverance Sušice became one of the prettiest town in the country between the wars. Jan Seitz became a town councillor in 1910 and in 1922 he was elected mayor. He held this post for nearly 20 years. On 21. 4. 1941 he was arrested by the Gestapo for his opposition to the German Reich and for his treasonable remarks made

at town council meetings. He was tortured and sent to the concentration camp in Oranienburg where he died on 28. 6. 1944. In his attempts to develop the town, Seitz closely co-operated with Sušice architects, in particular the architect Jindřich Freiwald, but also with the architect Böhm from Prague, and together they created the very first zoning map of the town and a development plan. During

his time in office, 409 new houses were built and 431 houses were reconstructed. Seitz managed to secure financial help from the state, but also loans and the help of Sušice businessmen since local business was flourishing at that time (in particular the SOLO factory was doing well). Seitz's major building projects include: the construction of the Benátky (Venice) quarter, the Savings Bank, the water tower, the Svatobor Hotel, the Svatobor observation tower, the Post Office, the District and Tax Office, the Municipal School, the Resistance Monument, the bronze statue of T G Masaryk, the Apprentice School, the cinema, the provincial hatchery, repairs to the Andělíček complex, the Scheinost Retreat, Daliborka, Fuferna River Spa and many others.

Length of the route:
2 km (slow walk about 1 hour)

Level of difficulty:
easy, ideal also for small children and families with prams

Marked:
SILVER

Description of the route:
Svobody Square – T G Masaryk St – Svatobor Hotel – Sokol House Sušice – Sušice Grammar School – Studentský St – Villaniho St – U Kapličky St – Husovo Square – Daliborka House – Solo factory – Dům zdravotní péče (Health Care Centre) – Posádkový dům armády (Military House) – Burinka Villas – T G Masaryk Grammar School – J. Seitz Embankment – Svobody Square



What you might not have known:

- Zikmund and Hanzelka, the well-known explorers, stayed in Sušice for half a year to learn how to repair vehicles before they set off on their journeys
- The founder of Dermacol, Vlastimil Boublík, lived in Sušice in his villa Danuška
- Shoes from the Schwarzkopf factory competed with those of the firm of Bata. The shoes here were made in small numbers; they were more expensive than Bata's, but of much higher quality. They were distributed all over the world (two thirds of the production was for export - mostly to America). In 1947 one type of ladies' shoe from the Sušice factory became the Shoe of the Year and was awarded a gold medal at the world exhibition in Bern.



Poštovní Street (1) could just as well be called Freiwald St. At the beginning of the 1920s there was no trace of this street, the square was connected with Havlíčkova St via a tiny alley between the meat stalls. In 1929 house no. 9/1 called Stará beseda was pulled down, along with the meat stalls, and the **Savings Bank** (1a) was built on the site, giving rise to a new street, connecting the square and Havlíčkova St. The Savings Bank was designed by the architects Freiwald and Böhm. The same two men designed two more buildings in the new street, the **Post Office** (1b), that gave its name to the whole street, and the **Business School** (1c).

Svatobor Hotel (2) acquired its current look in the 1930s. The original building dates back to ca 1800 and it underwent a major reconstruction in the 2nd half of the 19th century.

Schwarzkopf Villa (3) – this villa was designed, yet again, by the architect Freiwald for a local businessman and his family.

Sokolovna (Sokol House) (4) – this beautiful Secession building was constructed in 1914 – 1915, to a design by the architect Grabinger. In the years between the wars the southern and northern wings were completed, including the utility rooms.

Grammar School (5) – the spectacular building of Sušice Grammar School was designed by the architect Ladislav Skřivánek from Prague. After several attempts over a number of years to establish a Czech grammar school in the border area, the grammar school in Sušice opened its doors in 1911. The school boasts a beautiful hall, dedicated to Smetana, featuring a historical organ and a ceiling decorated in gold. The grammar school is a listed building.

Benátky (Venice) (6) – the houses in **Studentská**, **Villaniho** and **U kapličky Streets** were designed by Jindřich Freiwald in 1924. Sušice received more than two million crowns from the Ministry of Social Affairs to implement this project. Formerly, the site used to be a waterlogged area, hence the name Venice. The five buildings in Pravidova St, opposite the grammar school, were slightly known as the houses 'At the Five Thieves'. The houses were built at the same time as the grammar school and it was noted that much material mysteriously went missing during the construction of the school.

Jan Hus Memorial (7) – in the square named after Master Jan Hus you can find a statue of this religious reformer. It was made by the prestigious Czech sculptor Emanuel Kodet.

Daliborka House (8) – this large house is situated near the Solo factory at the crossroads of Pravidova, Masarykova and Nádražní Streets and it was built at the beginning of the First Republic (the period between the two world wars). In 1921 the house was completed and provided accommodation for factory workers.

The SOLO factory (9) – is undoubtedly the best known factory in Sušice. Production in its heyday was at very high levels. In 1926 the factory, producing matches, employed 1475 people and 877 horses. Unfortunately, in 2009 production was moved to India.

Dům zdravotní péče (Health Care Centre) (10) – Solo factory built this centre for its employees in 1930 (today it is a listed building). This was a very modern building for Sušice in its time and there was nothing like it in the town or around.



SOLO houses for company employees – known as „Soláky“ (11) – these houses are situated along the former branch of the Otava. In 1920 the river branch was redirected and filled in; new flats for factory employees were built on the site.



Schwarzkopf Shoe Factory (12) – in 1836 A Schwarzkopf established his shoe factory in the town. Originally, it was only a tannery but when the founder of the company died in 1891 it was taken over by Zikmund and a new shoe factory was built behind the town in 1898. In 1926 the factory employed 562 employees and it was the second biggest business in Sušice.

Posádkový dům armády (Military House) (13) – this was originally a beautiful hotel situated below the Andělíček Hill, boasting a dance floor right next to the Otava. Later it was used by the army and today it serves as a local discotheque.



Burinka Villas (14) – this area of Sušice is also known as „Sušická Ořechovka“ (very prestigious villa quarter in Prague). The Sušice villa quarter with gardens and a park was built between the wars on a ‚green meadow‘, and it was carefully designed as a combined architectural and urban unit.

T G Masaryk Primary School (15) – this most beautiful primary school in Sušice was built in 1927 and it was designed by the Prague architect L Skřivánek. There is a lovely park next to the school and also modern sports facilities for senior citizens.



Resistance Monument (16) – the monument was built in 1933 following a design by the architect Freiwald. The figurative reliefs symbolise the First World War.

Tax and District Office (17) – the combined unit of twin buildings was designed by the Prague architect František Janda and it was built in 1925 – 1932.



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