

# Knížecí Pláně, Prachatice dist., South Bohemian Region

## Deserted village 'Fürstenhut'

(19th a 20th cent.)



Deserted village of 'Fürstenhut' in the Šumava Mts. illustrates tragic events of the modern history of Bohemia. The village was founded at the end of the 18th century as a woodcutters' settlement. In spite of the difficult living conditions (altitude over 1000 metres), the village flourished and was soon inhabited by more than 500 people; it contained a church, graveyard, school, mill, gamekeeper's lodge, sawmill and four pubs. Following the Second World War, German population of the village was expelled, all the buildings were levelled and the area became part of the closed border zone. Individual homesteads are not easily detectable; the graveyard has been recently reconstructed and a wooden cross erected on the place of the former church. The most attractive features in the landscape are numerous field boundaries built of huge stone boulders.

**References:** Beran 2005; Petráš 2006; Tabera 2011; Sankot 2012; [www\\_knizeci Pláně 1–2](http://www_knizeci_plane_1-2).

**Navigation points:** N 48°57'20.35", E 13°37'02.36".

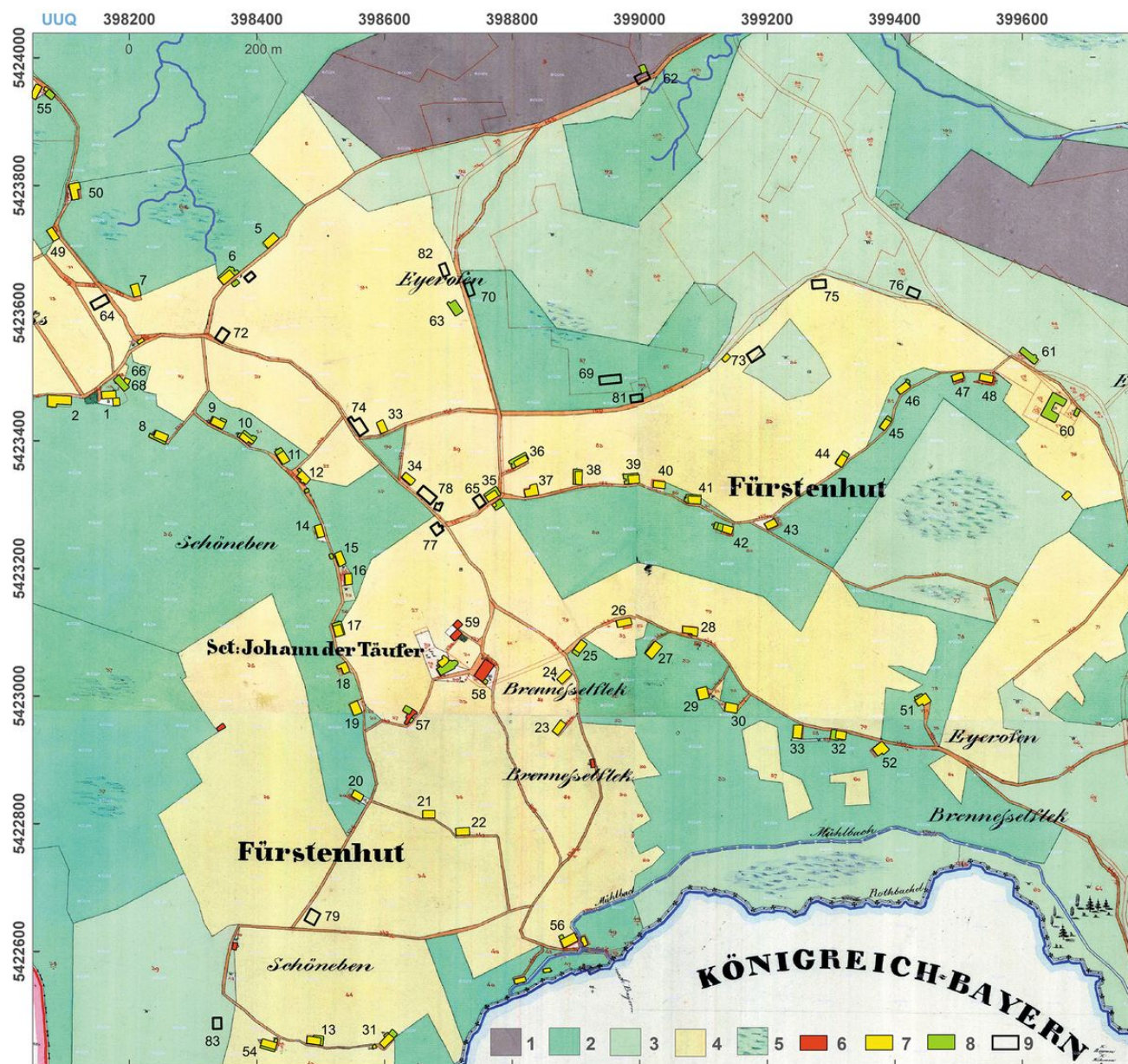
**Map notes:** A – mound covering the debris of St. John the Baptist Church; B – memorial to the village men killed in both World Wars; C – vicarage; D – graveyard; E – place of the former school; F – 'Pöschl' pub; G – separate cellar; H – 'Kölbl' pub; J – mill; K – the so-called Tremel's sawmill; L – place of the former gamekeeper's lodge; M – tourist lodge 'Hájenka'; N – place of the former frontier guards' building from 1950s; O – old road lined with boulders; P – furrow following the Iron Curtain fence from the 1950s; Q – a direct path among in the woods witnessing for the Iron Curtain fence. 'Stabile Cadastre map' from 1837: 1 – forest; 2 – meadows; 3 – pastures; 4 – fields; 5 – wet land; 6 – stone houses; 7 – wooden houses; 8 – buildings added later to the map (1840s onwards); 9 – houses not registered by the Stabile Cadastre map (late 19th cent.?).



Access map / site plan.

After Kuna et al. 2014.





Stable cadastre map (1837).

After archivnimapy.cuzk.cz.





Landscape of the deserted village.

Photo Z. Kačerová, 2014.



Ruins of the church with a wooden cross.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





Staircase of the previous church with the coat of arms of Schwarzenbersk noble family.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.



Memorial plague at the Cross in the church ruins.

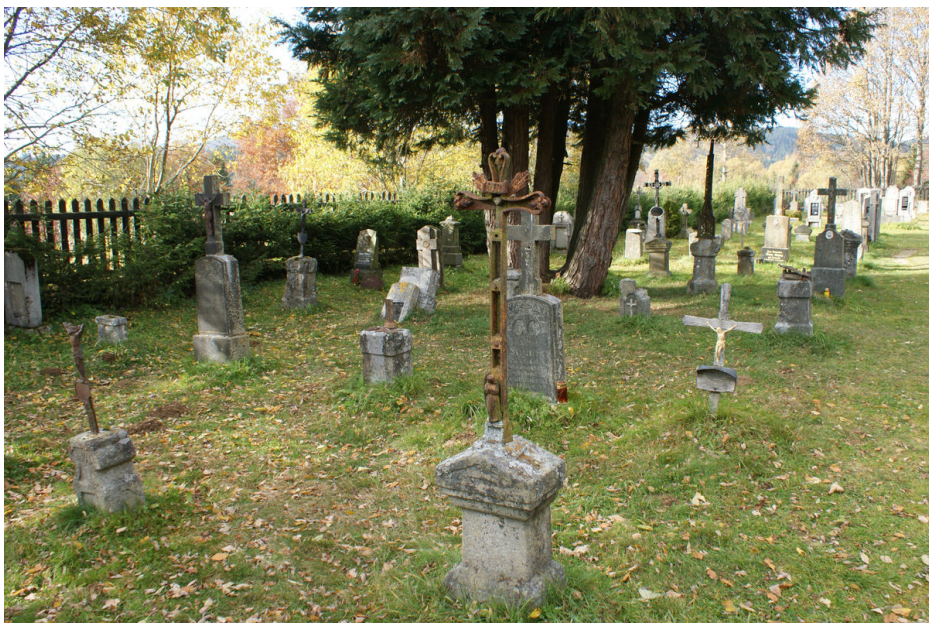
Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





Memorial to the fallen soldiers of both World Wars.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.



Former cemetery, restored in 1990s.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





Former cemetery.

Photo Z. Kačerová, 2014.



Destroyed gravestones on the former cemetery.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





Remains of the former homestead pulled down in 1950s.

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.



Remains of the former homestead.

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.





An opening leading to subterranean space (cellar).

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.



Destroyed cellar across from the house Nr. 35 (G in the map).

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





Destroyed cellar across from the house Nr. 35.

Photo Z. Kačerová, 2014.



Wayside shrine near one of the deserted homesteads.

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.





Field boundaries in the deserted village.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.



Field boundaries in the deserted village.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





A boundary lane made of huge stones.

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.



View of a boundary lane.

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.





Hollow way lined with rocks.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.



Část zaniklé vesnice sloužící dnes jako pastvina.

Photo M. Kuna, 2013.





Information board near the former vicarage.

Photo M. Kuna, 2014.