

## Renovation 1763

Durmertsheim can present a special kind of testimony to its time with the so-called "Renovation Plan of 1763":

**BLAN ET BRULION De Dorff Durmertsheim**  
**fait a Rastatt 1763**  
**F. Nageldinger**

Around 1400 the development of a state administration began in the margraviate of Baden with the beginnings of an orderly financial economy for the collection of taxes. For this purpose, so-called "Ortsbereisungen" or "Ortsbeschreibungen" (visitations) were carried out by both the lords and the church (of which a visitation protocol of the diocese of Speyer was preserved from 1683), in which all ownership relationships and the claims of the sovereign were written down.

In irregular distances these "place descriptions" were examined and brought on the newest conditions, which was called in the technical language at that time "renovation" (renewal). Today one would probably call this "update".

The oldest known renovation protocols for Durmertsheim date back to the 16th century and were initiated by the Kuppenheim office responsible for Durmertsheim in 1510, 1535 and 1579.

The next and last known official renovation dates from 1763, when the land was precisely measured and described, and a map of the area was drawn and written down in a large register as a book.

About the procedure of the renovation itself a diary gives information, which is in the general regional archives Karlsruhe and in which is described in detail **"...which shape I the graciously employed renovator and protocolist Sebastian Krieg in the Durmertsheimer ban went to work and which before business I have made from day to day"**.

The diary begins on August 8, 1763, when the Privy Council and Court Council Director Weiskirch and the Court Chamber Councilor Eichhorn arrived at the town hall in Durmertsheim at 11 o'clock in the morning as commissioners with the protocolist Krieg. They immediately made the obligation of the chief surveyor Werner and the surveyor Nageldinger as well as the mayor and the 8 document persons and the 2 rod hammers.

Besides the general description of the village the renovation report of 1763 contains on 1299 pages an exact description of the cultivated and undeveloped plots situated in the village and of all waters and field plots.

This book can be described as the oldest preserved land register of the municipality of Durmersheim. In it all buildings, gardens, wells, streets and alleys of the built-up area as well as the agricultural properties are recorded and described by size and type in handwriting. The current owners of 1763 are also listed.

The village of Durmersheim counted 2 churches, 1 vicarage, 1 town hall, 1 schoolhouse, 1 mill and 1 castle (Rohrburg). Of the 254 numbers in the village description, 146 are residential buildings. The others are kitchen, grass and tree gardens. Of the houses, 58 were one-storey, 52 one-and-a-half-storey and 35 two-storey. Only the castle Rohrburg, the parsonage and the Hardthof were three-storeyed.

In addition to the houses, the existing outbuildings such as scourers and stables are also described.

Both "Antiquities", local map and land register, are in the possession of the municipality Durmersheim. Until 2014 the originals were exhibited behind glass in the Hardtmuseum Durmersheim. Since the ravages of time (exposure to light, iron corrosion/rust caused by the iron-containing and rusting ink) were increasingly gnawing at the quality of the exhibits, they were lavishly restored in 2014 and stored in special packaging in the municipal archives.

In the course of these restorations both originals were digitized and copied true to the original. These replicas can still be seen in the Hardtmuseum today.

The plan of 1763 measures 2.02 m in length and is 0.54 m wide. A black and white facsimile print can be purchased at the AKH (90 cm X 30 cm).

In comparison with the most recent local map, the changes in Durmersheim's local character over the past 250 years are clearly visible.

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The land register belonging to the renovation plan 1763 contains a detailed description of the village in the second half of the 18th century.

Further information from the Burkart chronicle on the Ortsetter can be found under ORTSGESCHICHTE DURMERSHEIM > WISSENSWERTES AUS DER DORFGESCHICHTE > ORTSETTER.

Interesting are the details about the buildings and properties, but above all the list of the owners at that time.

All the places included were numbered consecutively in the plan and in the book and can thus be traced and assigned in today's research.

An interesting side effect:

Again and again descendants of emigrants from Durmersheim report to the Arbeitskreis Heimatpflege. In addition to relatives still living in Durmersheim, they are also looking for the former homes of their ancestors. If a 1763 in Durmersheim registered ancestor can be determined, this leads with the help of the old land register often to the finding of the former dwelling house or to the place, where this once stood.

In the following pictures we show the colour plan from 1763 and a page from the corresponding land register.