

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

CASE STUDY: VILLAGE OF CAÇARELHOS

INTRODUCTION

The Parish of Caçarelhos, and the Village with the same name, is located in the Northern of Portugal in the interface of the Districts of Vimioso and Miranda do Douro, representing a rural community. In the field of the customs and traditions, Caçarelhos has a strong identity marked by the administrative ascendancy of Miranda to who was linked until 1853.

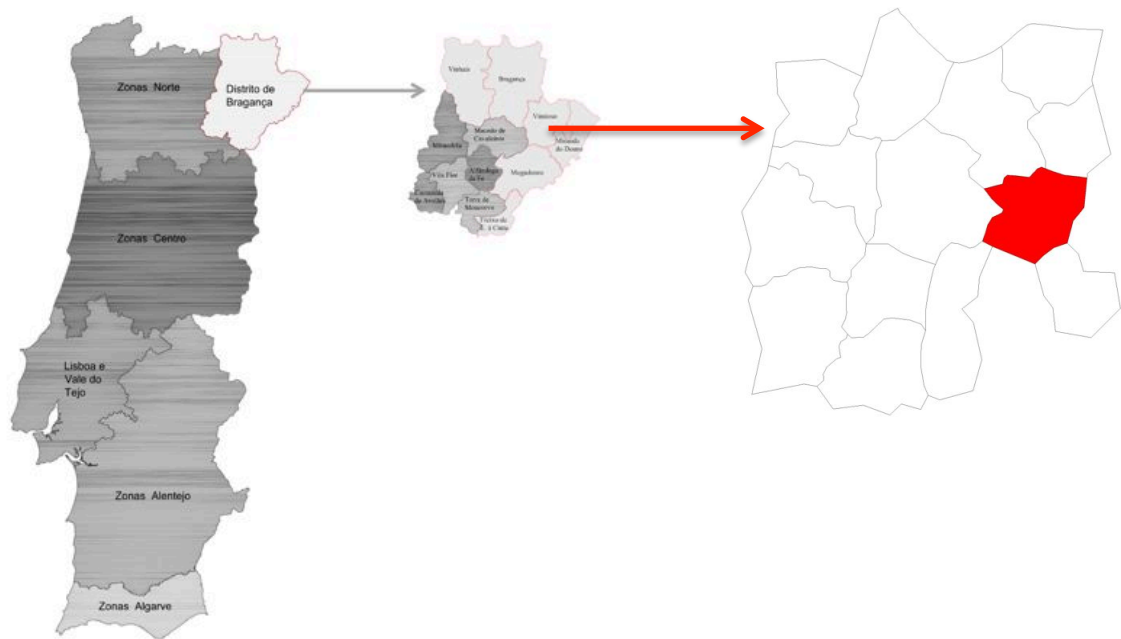


Fig. 1 – District of Vimioso: Village of Caçarelhos

The Studies of that area were conducted by the Abade of Baçal¹, that when compared with scattered trials conducted by several local authors, a little increase of its origin unless, like the most villages in this border region of Peninsular Northeast, also Caçarelhos have been born in the castro located on the site of Castrilhinhos.

¹ ALVES, Francisco Manuel (Abade de Baçal) - *Vimioso, Notas Monográficas*, Coimbra, 1968.

However, dubiously, its origin dates back to the 1320 census ordered by King Dinis, although it does not mention the handicap that have been through regarding the influence of the church represented for a long period for the Miranda do Douro bishopric, only interrupted by the domain that, before the Restoration was, according to the same author executed by the Castilians that would eventually burn and loot².

CASE STUDY

As regards the development of the cluster it is noted that has grown organically, seemingly at random, on the basis of said primitive core which was adding new constructions formed two continuous fronts, occasionally interrupted by transverse hits contributing to arrange a structure road along a longitudinal axis (north / south) and another perpendicular whose meeting point is the Largo do Cruzeiro.

To this dynamic it was not unconnected the fact that is situated in a territory with poor soil and harsh climate, alternating cold and dry seasons that lead to concentration of housing in the middle of open fields divided into tilths with biennial rotations.

The existence of a community spirit, kept by the neighborhood and expressed in the appreciation of the relation between cell to cell, explains the grouping and separation between the spaces of settlement and cultivation; shredded inside the community boundaries, the land remains in small ownership but with a significant unit of which the rural settlement is the center.

Here too, Caçarelhos is no exception to development trends, since the population elects more often new areas of housing growth as well as the fact that the little trade be located along the road that gives access to Vimioso and Miranda do Douro, that are considered urban centers with strong capture of population.

² ALVES, Francisco Manuel (Abade de Baçal) - *Memórias Arqueológico-Histórias do Distrito de Bragança*, Tomo IV, Porto, 1913, pp. 81, 673, 674.



Fig. 2 – Village of Caçarelhos – street view.

Usually the streets, as we see on fig. 2, are made up of houses facing the west and the storage spaces in the form of cabins in front of the houses, most facing east.

It should be noted that the cluster grows due to the primitive core, adding new constructions that originated two continuous fronts according to two almost perpendicular axes to each other whose point is against the Largo do Cruzeiro, as we can observe in the draw of the Fig. 3.



Fig. 3 – Draw of the Village of Caçarelhos.

Before the abandonment who has been rejected, as is shown by the decrease of population, low birth rate and the aging of those who stoically endure, it proves that Caçarelhos throughout the twentieth century suffered a great population depression due to emigration, especially to the Brazil, Spain and France.

The conservation status of the built structure can be considered reasonable although there are individual cases of ruin and some in poor state of repair caused by the changes in the meantime fallen into disuse derived from the economic relations and new forms of production.

It should be noted in this context the importance of religious architecture that punctuates the cluster including the parish church which organizes the central public space, so with the existence of two chapels, one located south and another marking the end of the village.

The altimetries and typologies plan, as we can analyse on Fig. 5, vary from those with a single floor, those of the ground floor and floor and those of three floors, with a clear predominance of buildings of one and two floors.



Fig. 4 – Village of Caçarelhos

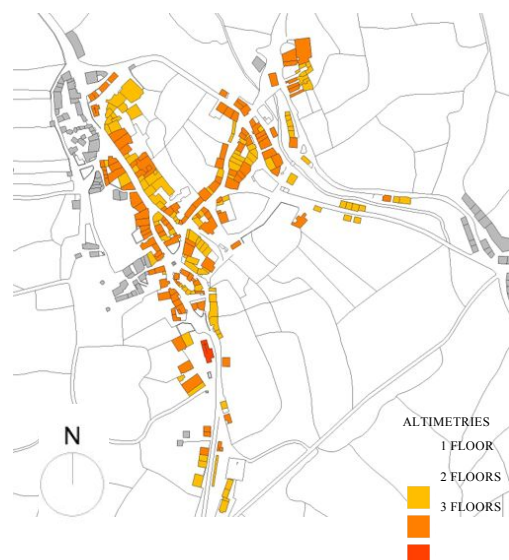


Fig. 5 – Altimetries Plan

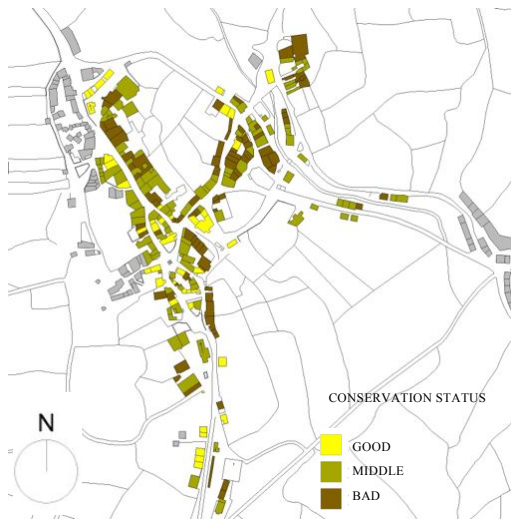


Fig. 6 – Conservation Status Plan



Fig. 7 – Typologies Plan



Fig. 8 – Draw of the western facade of a Core in the Village of Caçarelhos.

In functional terms prevail buildings intended for residential use only and mixed-use structures called complementary and work for the collection of cereals and animals on the ground floor.

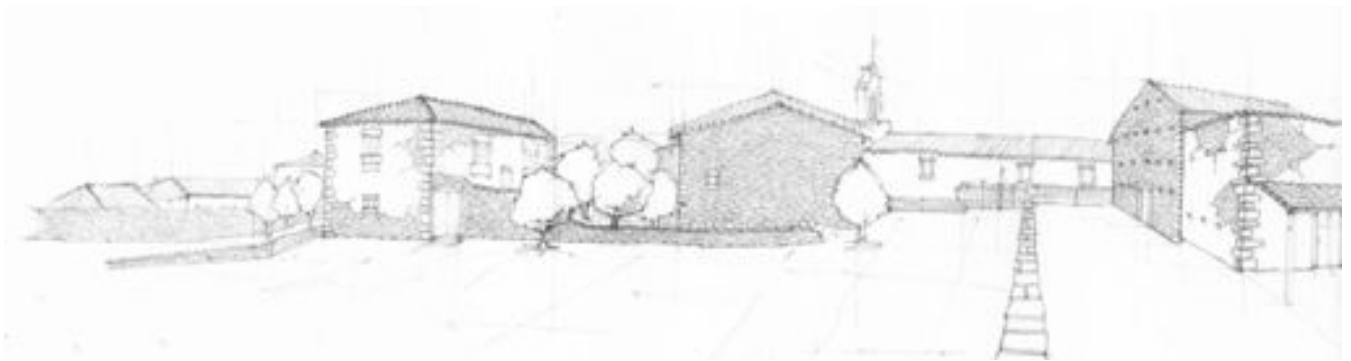


Fig. 9 – Draw of the western facade of the Core in the Village of Caçarelhos.

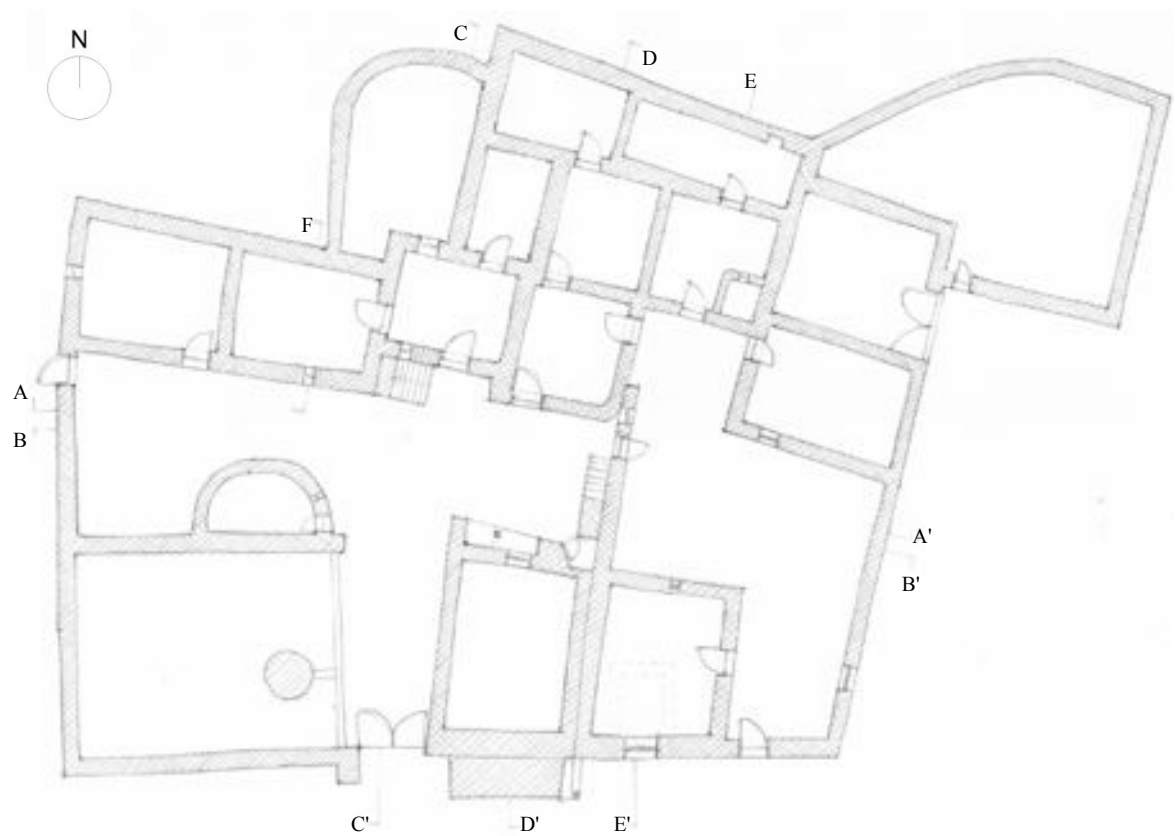


Fig. 10 – Floor Plan of a Core in the Village of Caçarelhos.

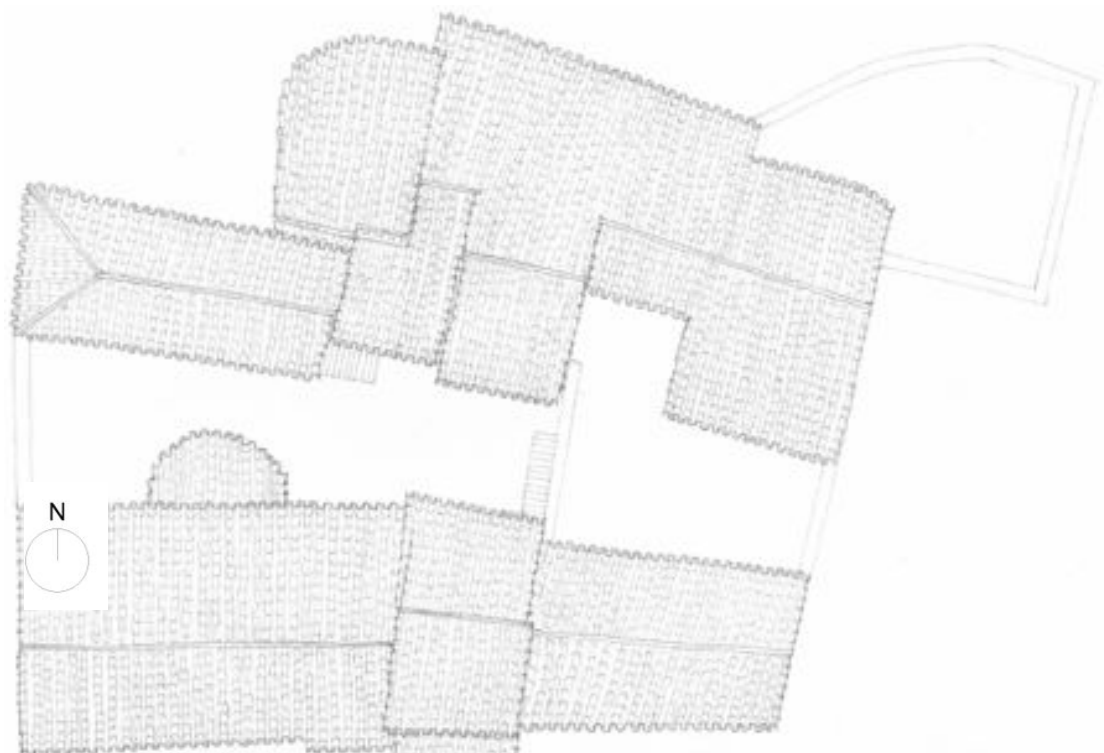


Fig. 11 – Cover Plan of the Core in the Village of Caçarelhos.



Fig. 12 – South Facade

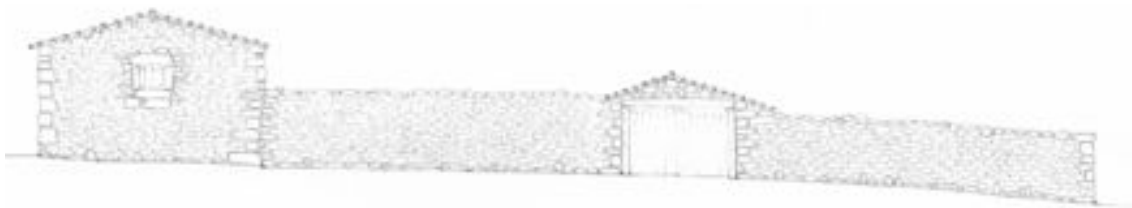


Fig. 13 – East Facade



Fig. 14 – West Facade

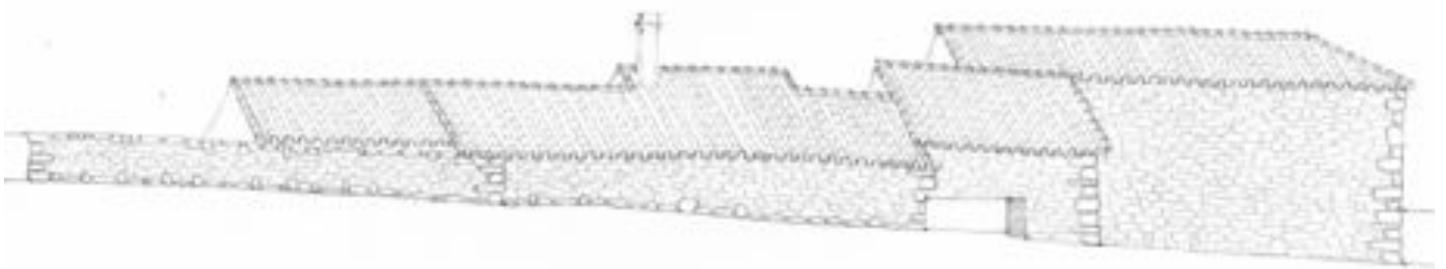


Fig. 15 – North Facade



Fig. 16 – Section AA'

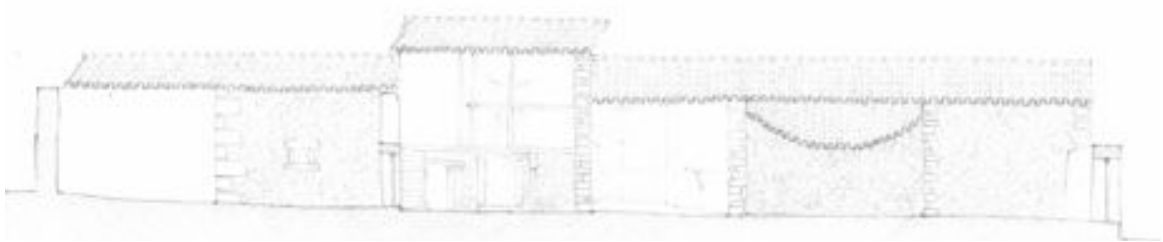


Fig. 17 – Section BB'



Fig. 18 – Section CC'



Fig. 19 – Seccion DD'

CONCLUSION

The Village of Caçarelhos shows a network of accesses of communal use that connects the center to the end of the Village through a radially organization system, marking those with major scale the ratio of greater importance to the properties of most agricultural productivity.

The selection of case studies had much to do with the prevailing matrix, related to the practice of an economy of self-consumption, emphasizing the formal and organizational characteristics as well as the present constructive systems that extends to the most buildings performed with local materials adjusted to a certain way of life.

AFFILIATIONS

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