

# Prospects for the Use of Monuments of Cultural and Historical Heritage in Rural Areas\*

Svetlana Moiseeva

Scientific Research Institute of the Theory and History of Architecture and Urban Planning  
 Branch of the Central Scientific-Research and Project Institute of the Construction Ministry of Russia  
 Moscow, Russia  
 E-mail: vetablank@yandex.ru

**Abstract**—The article is dedicated to the priceless pool of monuments of history and culture that exists in rural areas. The article considers both settlements as whole and separate buildings: churches, rural manors, industrial buildings, and memorials. The author highlights the necessity to have a list of sites in each municipality to produce a consolidated list on the national level.

**Keywords**—*cultural and historic heritage; rural area; church; manor; industrial building; memorial; list of valuable objects*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Sociological surveys indicate that one of the reasons keeping rural residents from migrating to the city and convincing them of the stability and attractiveness of their place of residence is the “memory of the place”, attachment to local sites — objects of cultural and historical heritage and peculiar landscapes. It may be a church, an old manor, an old bridge, a mill, preserved industrial buildings of unusual shape, a unique forest, and traces of volcanic activity, a lake with strange birds and other objects that are unique to this place. The interest to the country’s heritage is growing with every year.

There are many monuments of cultural and historical significance that still exist in rural areas. Their preservation status varies: many of them have collapsed, others are maintained in decent condition, and some objects are currently undergoing restoration. Structures that are used according to their intended purpose are in the best condition.

## II. VARNITSY

Architectural monuments in rural areas are different - it can be a whole historical settlement, which is especially valuable, or a separate building of spiritual, residential, secular, industrial, or memorial character. Let us consider some of them. The Varnitsy settlement in Vologda Oblast appeared in ancient times as a center of salt-making in

Russia; salt-rich rocks were delivered by Kovda River, and then salt was extracted by boiling in huge pans. The settlement flourished: around 1500, a wooden church of Elijah the Prophet was built; it was replaced by a stone church of the Resurrection of Christ in 1768. Starting from late 18th century, when salt production on Elton and Bakunchak lakes began to increase, the salt-production in Vologda came to a decline, and the settlement of Varnitsy switched to agriculture. However, the planning structure and the character of housing remain the same.

In 1984, in the draft general plan for Varnitsy the “Spetsproektrestavratsiya” (rus. Office for Special Restoration Projects) organization established the boundaries of a protection zone and a development regulation zone around the Church of the Resurrection, which is a monument of federal significance. The restoration of the church is now complete. Church domes became a landmark and a symbol of the settlement and were drawn on the sign at the entrance to the settlement.

It noteworthy that Vologda city design organization “Golovnoye byuro”, that has been developing the first rural settlement design project since 2004, was very tactful in preserving the planning and spatial system and landmarks of Varnitsy. The focal point of the settlement composition is the Resurrection church, located on an elevated site, surrounded by lots of trees and one-story manor buildings. The church is viewed from long distances and serves as a guide at the entrance. There is only one main street in the village, which leads from the entrance to the church. All public buildings are located along this street.

Given the somewhat unusual nature of the production profile of the agricultural complex “Totemsky”, - repair shops, veterinary services, a drying farm - the production area is located in the center of the settlement. It remains in same place where it appeared when the profile of a settlement changed from salt production to agriculture. The housing is mainly one or two-storey manor houses. In general, Varnitsy can be considered a settlement that is well-preserved and convenient for living.

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### III. VARZUGA

“Kultura RF”, a portal dedicated to the cultural heritage of Russia, and the “Perspektiva” foundation published the top 5 of most attractive villages in Russia [1]. Among them is the village of Varzuga in Murmansk region. This is one of the oldest villages. The population of the village is 363 people. In 1930, the 14 Varzuga families united into a collective farm, and they continue living as a collective farm today. The population is engaged in salmon fishing, livestock breeding, product processing.

The whole village is wooden. The landmarks of Varzuga are churches: Assumption Church (1674) is located on the right, Prechistensky, bank of the Varzuga River. It is a wooden tent-roofed church, built “without a single nail” dedicated to the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God. The height of the main volume is 13 meters, the height of the tent superstructure is 21 meters. In terms of the church, it has the shape of an equal cross. The church is so beautiful that it was not destroyed during the times when the clergy were persecuted, and it was not even used for secular purposes. In 1973, the church was restored. It was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church in 1996, and the church services resumed in it. The Afanasyevskaya church is also located on the right, Prechistensky, bank of the Varzuga River. The church is small. In the 1930s, it was closed and turned into a workshop producing boats. On the left, Nikolsky, bank of Varzuga, the church of St. Nicholas was built. All residential buildings in the village are made of wood. They are solid, strong, resembling a rectangle in shape. Houses are placed chaotically. Natural building material, wood, gives unity to the whole settlement, bringing together spiritual and residential buildings.

### IV. VYATSKOYE

The third example of historically established rural settlements is the village of Vyatskoye in Yaroslavl Region. The “Kultura RF” portal and the “Perspektiva” foundation called this village the most beautiful.

The village of Vyatskoye is first mentioned in historical sources in 1502. At that time, this settlement was considered the center of Vyatka parish. In the 17th century, Vyatka was the patrimony of Patriarch Philaret. A century later, the village is known not only as an agricultural, but also a trading center. In addition to agriculture and trade, craftsmanship becomes the third function due to the regularly organized fairs. Thus, the village can be called multi-functional.

Vyatskoye village has now become an open-air museum, it is the place where many educational workshops are held, and about 10 museums function in the village. Tourists come to the village all the time; apart from ordinary residential buildings, there two-story hotels and boarding houses.

Vyatskoye village is a major religious center. Built in 1750, the Church of the Resurrection of Christ has been restored, now it is functioning and attracting a great number of believers. The church is distinguished by the height of the bell tower and the asceticism of forms.

### V. VYAZ

Churches have always been the most beautiful buildings in the villages, expressive in architectural forms and silhouette, occupying the best places. The authentic architectural masterpieces in the countryside are churches built in the 18th and 19th centuries as part of noble estates or rich villages, renovated in recent years, but sometimes isolated. Such churches, located in settlements with almost no residents, are designed to house believers from all over the region, so now there are usually large parking lots near the restored churches.

The Church of the All-Merciful Savior was built in the village of Vyaz in Kirov Oblast. Vyaz village was founded in 1695. In the same year, residents of the village received a letter from the archbishop of Vyatka Iona that allowed them to build the wooden Savior church. The existing stone church was built between 1773 and 1777. Its architectural style is Vyatka Baroque. In recent years, the church has undergone partial restoration: the main dome and light drum have been restored. Despite the limited residential development in the village, the church is functioning, and it welcomes visitors from all around. With its unusual forms, high bell tower, it is very famous in Kirov Oblast.

### VI. VESHALOVKA

Another region with outstanding church architecture is Lipetsk Oblast [2], [3]. Both of its most significant churches are attributed to the great Russian architect Vasily Ivanovich Bazhenov. This assumption is based on the analysis of architectural techniques, although there is no documentary evidence of this.

Veshalovka village (the name come from corrupted word combination “veshniye vody”, which means “spring waters” that flow into the Suhaya Lubna river in spring) was formed as a result of the merger of two villages: Veshalovka and Znamensky. The first of them appeared in the late 17th century, the second is known from the middle of the 18th century. 700 people live in the united village. The stone warm Church of the “The Sign” Icon of the Mother of God, built in 1794, is the decoration of the village and the whole region. The church was built in the pseudo-gothic style, not typical of central Russia. Today it is a monument of architecture of federal significance. The cuboid volume of the church is surmounted by a blown-out dome with a light drum, a high spire and a cross. On the four sides of the church there are high spires with crosses. The church is made of red brick and richly decorated with white stone. The bell tower was separate from the church and only later was connected by a passage through which became the entrance to the church. After the revolution, the temple fell into disrepair, and only in 1987-1988 the restoration of this masterpiece began. In 1999-2003, the full scope of the restoration was completed under the supervision of the State Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Lipetsk Oblast.

## VII. BALOVNEVO

Another monument of religious heritage exists in Lipetsk Oblast - the Church of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God in the village of Balovnevo, the Muromtsevs estate [4]. The church was built in 1789. It was perfectly restored by 2015. The church attracts visitors from all the regions. The spires of his bell towers are a local landmark.

## VIII. THE ROLE OF RURAL ESTATES IN VILLAGES

We discussed the religious buildings in such detail because they are outstanding works of architecture. There are a lot of researches who dedicated their studies to the role of rural estates in villages.. One of the most recent works is the monograph by the candidate of architecture I. V. Krasnobayev titled "Preservation of rural estates: problems and prospects" [5]. The book is characterized by an integrated approach to the research. The author is convinced that all participants in the revival process, the state, public organizations and individuals, should, acting together, go towards a common goal, which is the preservation of estates. The book carefully examines the functions of the estates, their role in the present, from a museum to a residential building, and put forward different options how to use each one of them.

To identify the potential of using the remaining estates, the author suggests criteria based on the degree of preservation of the estate, its location and environment, which allows to use the objects in the future for various purposes: a museum, a sanatorium, a farm, a house, a public center, etc. In I. V. Krasnobayev's research, the emphasis is put on the estates of the Volga region nears the city of Kazan. Moreover, the author, using specific examples, describes architectural means - towers with pyramidal roofs, gables on the facades, rich platbands, and openings of various shapes, highlighted entrances - everything that gives expressiveness and originality to the estates.

When speaking about village, not only civil buildings, but also industrial buildings — rectangular barns, round granaries, rigs, mills — give originality to the settlements. Horse yards, which were the pride of many noble estates, are especially expressive by their size and architectural forms. The horse yard in the Ostashevo estate of the Volokolamsk district of Moscow Oblast, built in the 1840s, is an example of the use of pseudo-gothic forms in the architecture of a Russian estate [6]. The single-floor building consists of two long unequal wings connected at a right angle. The entrance is marked by a multi-tiered tower; the flanks are marked with ryzalites with gables. The center of the horse yard composition is the gate tower, decorated with niches, platbands, and battlements. Now there is an art gallery in this complex.

The horse yard in the Odintsovo estate of the Domodedovo district of Moscow Oblast is designed differently. It has curvilinear galleries covering the entrance. The high central pass-through tower with a "Russian style" room above the gate unites the whole complex. There is also an exhibition space in this building.

With a creative approach, production facilities can become the compositional center of the village. So, in the Hungarian village of Hortobagy near Debrecen, the Museum of Shepherd Art was created on the basis of two round granaries and an extensive barn with a sculpture of a shepherd boy.

## IX. THE MONUMENTS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

Although 75 years in historical terms is a short time, the monument of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 is a motif that exists everywhere in the country. These can be modest obelisks, steles, and also elaborate sculptural compositions. For example, the memorial complex near the village of Snegiri in the Istra district of Moscow Oblast consists of three components: a stele with a list of the dead, a sculptural composition of bent banners and a small chapel.

The creation of such memorial complexes has not only historical, but also moral significance: each victim must find a place of rest. This is important for future generations.

## X. CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, I would like to bring forth two proposals:

- Considering that among the responsibilities of municipal authorities is the identification of natural, historical and cultural landmarks, it is necessary to make a detailed list in each district, identifying the possible use of monuments, and, coordinating this list with cultural authorities, compile the nationwide "List of monuments of cultural and historical significance".
- In the course of new construction and reconstruction, it is advised to use characteristic forms (arcades, gables, bell towers, pattern of openings, roof shapes, entrance designs, and coloring) of historical structures in order to increase the artistic expressiveness and regional uniqueness of settlements.

It is important to preserve the scale of the historically established fabric of the settlement and new residential buildings, and also to create interconnected open spaces, which make it possible to raise the significance of perception of valuable architectural objects.

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