

Architectural and Historical Research of the Economic Building of the Bishops' Court in Vologda

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the first brick building of the civil architecture which is a part of a complex of buildings located along the eastern wall on the territory of the Bishops' Court. The research is based on the study of archival and bibliographic studies and on-site inspections of the building.

Keywords: Economic building, Old Russian civil architecture, The first brick building.

1. INTRODUCTION

The architectural ensemble of the Bishops' Court of the Vologda Diocese is situated close to the main urban St. Sophia Cathedral and is the compositional center of the historical node of the city of Vologda. The ensemble is a complex of buildings constructed at different times and different in stylistics and functional purpose. "The Vologda Bishops' Court is a combination of buildings constructed at different times, different in style, architectural appearance, preservation of a structure and even color" [1].

The Treasury is the first brick building on the territory of the Bishops' Court and the second in Vologda after St. Sophia Cathedral. The earliest information about the first brick building of the Bishops' Court is found in the accountant book of the Bishops' Court. Inventories and other archival documents contain a significant amount of information about the descriptions, reconstructions and other changes in the appearance of the Treasury. The first research works of this unique monument of Old Russian architecture appeared in the second half of the 19 century. In 1898 N.I. Suvorov published a detailed inventory of the Bishop's Court of 1663 in his research work "Vologda Bishops' Court" made four years after its construction. The building in this inventory is called a "the Exchequer

Chamber". [2]. References to the monument are found in historical studies of local historians N.I. Suvorov, N.V. Fechner, G.K. Lukomsky. In the 70s of the 20 century a significant historical and architectural study was carried out within the restoration work by the Leningrad Institute "Giprotheater" led by V.S. Banige. Soon after, archaeological excavations were carried out near the monument which allowed to reveal some previously undiscovered facts about the construction periodization. However, no comprehensive historical and architectural research of the entire complex of the Bishops' Court has yet been carried out, the construction periodization of individual buildings and structures requires clarification and not all issues of the authenticity of architectural elements have been resolved.

2. THE FORMATION ANALYSIS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE RESEARCH OBJECT

St. Sophia Cathedral is a magnificent example of Old Russian architecture located close to the residence of the Bishops' Court and is a bright and significant element in the ensemble of the central node. The feature with dominating height of the ensemble is the Bell Tower rebuilt in the 19 century in the neo-Gothic style by the provincial architect Schildeknecht. Since the foundation of the city the

citadel was located higher up the river. The Kiev monk Gerasim was recognized as the founder of the city based on the information of "The Stories about the miracles of Gerasim of Vologda" who came *"to the great forest, on the middle settlement of the Resurrection of Christ, the Lazy square of Maly Torzhok before the foundation of the city of Vologda"* in 1147. The 17 century is the century of changes in the history of the city. *"A new stage in the development of the city of Vologda and a radical change in the location of its central part on the territory of the city plan is associated with the name of Ivan the Terrible". The construction of the new Kremlin - the fortress of the city of Vologda began in 1567 "on the day of Saints Asson and Sosipatr". Tsar Ivan the Terrible planned to turn it into his northern residence and the stronghold of the Oprichnina.* [3]. The construction of the central node of the new fortress began with the laying of

the foundation of The Assumption Cathedral (1671-1673) which was later consecrated in honor of St. Sophia of the Wisdom of God. After the construction of the main city cathedral began the Bishops' Court was moved to the territory of the new center. All its buildings on the territory of the new center were built of wood and remained wooden until the middle of the 17 century ("Figure 2").

The entire complex of buildings of the Bishops' Court is trapezium ("Figure 1"). The first group of brick buildings was built along the eastern wall of the Court with Watergate and the Holy Gate located opposite the western main entrance to St. Sophia Cathedral. This group consisted of: The Treasury, The Nameless House, the Church of the Elevation of the Cross over the Holy Gate and the curtain wall of the eastern wall of the ensemble.

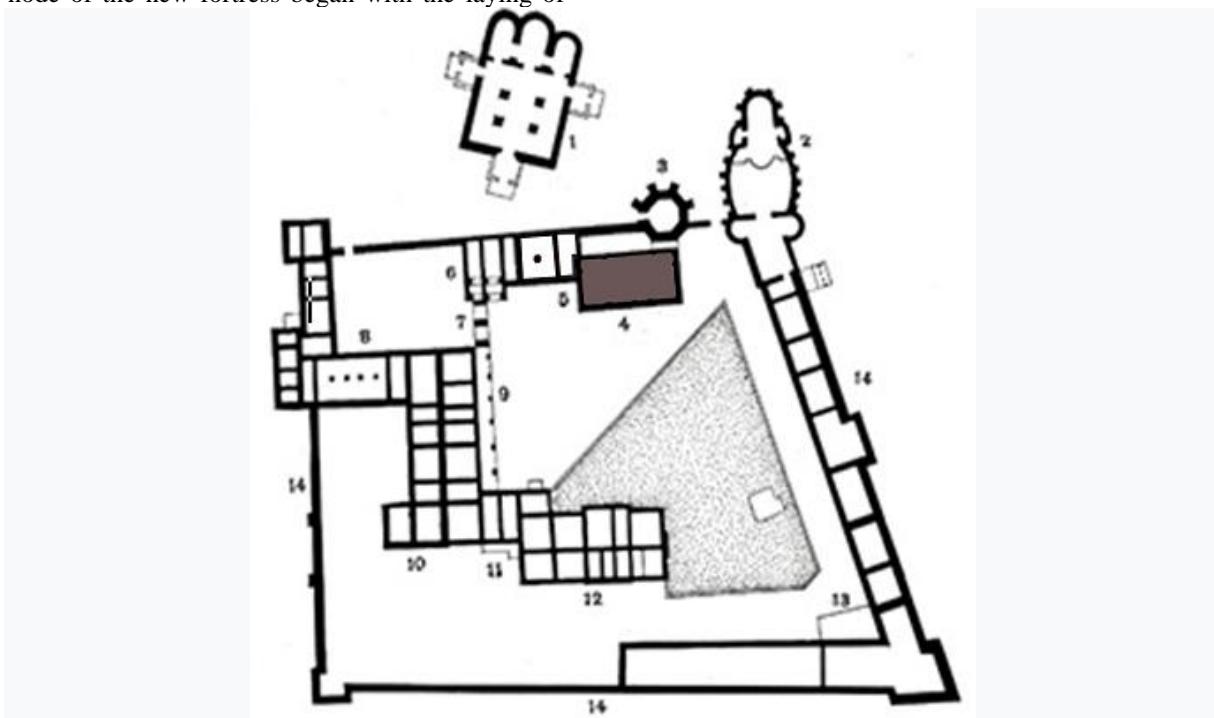


Figure 1 Plan of the Bishops' Court and cathedrals of the city of Vologda. (V. S. Banige, 1970)

a 1 – St. Sophia Cathedral; 2 – Host Resurrection Cathedral; 3 – the Bell Tower; 4 – the Treasury; 5 – The Nameless House; 6 – the gate Church of the Elevation of the Cross; 7 – passage to the gallery of the Chamber of the Chrism; 8 – the Consistorial House; 9 – the Chamber of the Chrism with Church of the Nativity; 10 – Irenaeus's Palace; 11 – Gabriel's Palace; 12 – Joseph's Palace; 13 – administration buildings; 14 – walls and towers of Bishops' Court



Figure 2 A copy. Plan of the city of Vologda. Reproduction from the funds of the Vologda state memorial estate, inv. No. 12399/1 NV.

a a Situational site. Authors' drawing.

Brick construction on the territory of the Bishops' Court began with the construction of the Treasury in the period between 1654 and 1659. The space structure of the building corresponds to the structure of a three-part wooden residential building. The cell buildings were built in Orthodox monasteries in this way – the entrance hall is in the middle and the cells are on each side. Later, the

entrance space was separated by a partition-wall in the entrance hall. The three-part structure of the building is emphasized by the mezzanine rising above the entrance hall, lower double-level volumes and the basement in the central part. In the Treasury the side rooms of the second floor were occupied by the Treasury and State Cells.

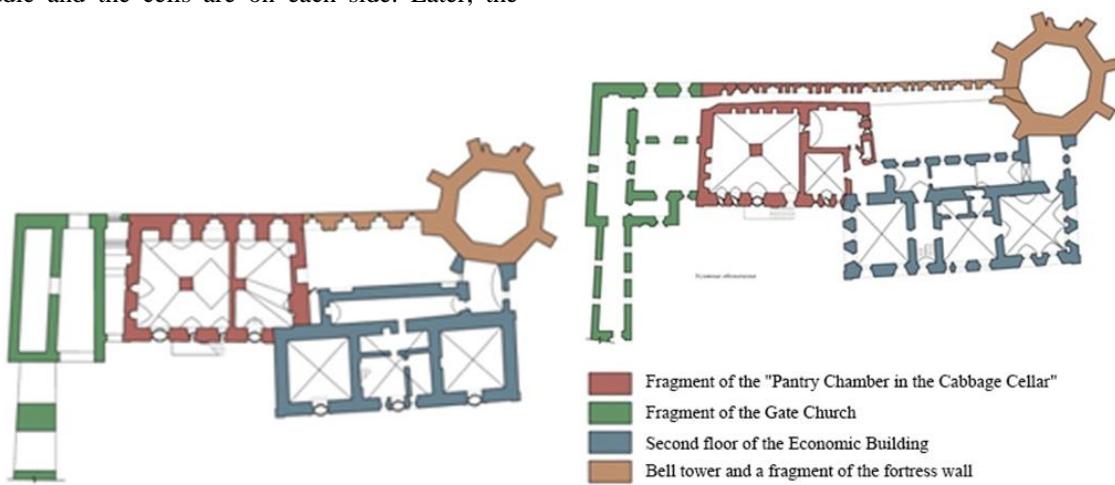


Figure 3 A group of buildings near the eastern wall of the Bishops' Court. (The authors' drawing)

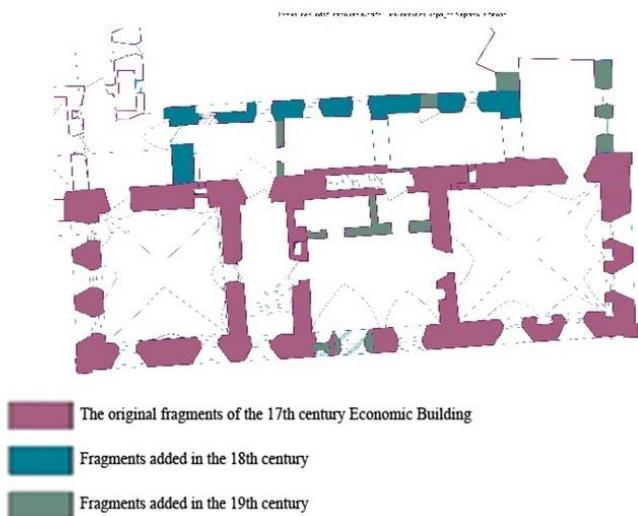


Figure 4 Cartogram of the construction periods of the Treasury. (The authors' drawing)

According to the information published by B. I. Dunaev in "The city of Vologda. North Russian civil and church architecture" at the beginning of the 20 century, the walls of the building was pink and the building details were painted white.

The building has preserved with several losses and alterations. In the 19 century the ladder to the second floor along the western facade was lost; the second-floor window openings were cut out which led to the exposure of the through-the-wall building elements made of strip steel. In the 19 century a new entrance to the first floor was made. A part of old window openings was bricked in as well as the doorway of the second floor of the main facade which faced the broken porch. The eastern wall has been bricked in and rebuilt. The doorways were partially bricked in and cut out, new brick partitions were built (on the first floor, near the stairs).

The courtyard appeared in the 18 century (between the Treasury, the Kremlin wall and the Nameless House) and was finally formed after the last construction work near the monument – the construction of a low two-storeyed passage to the Bell Tower in the 19 century. ("Figure 3", "Figure 4")

According to the information in the work of M.V. Fechner "Vologda" in 1958, "In 1945 the fine art restorer A.I. Bryagin found a color ornament of the 18 century with a bust-length portraiture of Christ in one of the rooms".

In 1959 - 1970 the Treasury was renovated. The design works were carried out by the Leningrad Institute "Giprotheater". The author of the

restoration project was I. N. Kaufman. Vologda Restoration Workshop renovated the building.

3. THE ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE

The main western, southern and northern facades face the Bishops' Court and are distinguished by their laconic composition. The basement part is separated by a roll molding of a hewn brick. Horizontally the facades are separated by overhanging profiled brick cornices and vertically the facades are divided by rectangular lesenes.

Facade finish: ungauged lime plaster was repeatedly renewed and painted with limewater colour.

The monument is located with a certain low relatively to the marks of the road and path net with a small slope. In the central part there is the main entrance designed as a porch made of single sticks with wooden fences in the form of flat balusters. There is a metal canopy with laced supports above the porch which is for protection. The doorway of the main entrance is arched with double wooden double-leaf doors. The outer door is hung on metal supports. The internal double-leaf door is paneled and fixed in a wooden case.

The porch of the main entrance is ornamented by two arched niches with window openings and a brick conch. There are still supports for shutters in the niches.

On the sides of the main entrance in the lower floor there are two archways to the technological descents leading to a low ice storage room. The doorways are in not deep rectangular niches with a stair and framed by a belt with a roll molding of hewn brick.

The bottom of the doorways coincides with the mark of the ground, the filling of the doorways is lost but the metal supports are preserved.

Arched doorways with keel-shaped plat-bands with wooden double-leaved semicircular gates lead to the premises of the former cellars located on the sides of the building.

The overhanging brick base constantly gets very wet because of the capillary rise of moisture, the lack of foundation blind area and the counter-slope of the slope of the site. ("Figure 5", "Figure 6")



Figure 5 Reproduction of the photo. S.A. Nepein. Album of views of Vologda “Cathedrals and Bishop's Court” with photos of S.A. Nepein: Issue 1. Evdokimov printing house, 1898.



Figure 6 The main western facade of the Treasury. Actual photo. (The authors' photo)

The northern part of the second floor is illuminated by three rectangular cut out window openings in deep arched niches. Fragments of brick conches have been preserved above the window openings. In the upper part of the window openings the fragments of the conches were destroyed and

the through-the-wall building elements made of strip steel are exposed. On the northern facade of the second floor there are three similar rectangular window openings in deep niches.

The room of the former cell in the southern part is illuminated by four rectangular cut out window

openings. The brick conches are preserved on the side of the facade and the through-the-wall building elements are exposed. The two side parts are covered with gable steel seam roofing.

A rectangular lesene is located along the axis on the western facade of the central mezzanine. On the sides of the central axis there are two arched niches with window openings decorated with a conch and single-leaf metal painted shutters. Metal lattices are installed in the slopes of the openings. "A long gallery" and the passage to the Bell Tower is added to the monument from the east. The eastern facade of the "long gallery" opens onto the "Treasury" courtyard. The facade finish is now completely lost. The composition of the facade is formed by:

- an overhanging base with a final roll molding of a hewn brick (the front masonry of the base is made with an oversize brick);
- wide deep arched niches for the doorway and one technological opening (now bricked in) for the passage of drainage on the first floor level;

- the upper floor is separated by a stepped roll molding with a row of window openings with basket arches.

The central part of the facade is topped with a mezzanine gable covered with a gable roof, the walls are covered with a whitewash and then painted. The northern facade is partially adjacent to the Nameless House and is decorated similarly. The southern facade opens at the entrance through the Water Gate and consists of the main part topped with a gable built in the 17 century and another part built a bit later which is related to the Bell Tower passage. The eastern facade opens onto a closed court which was cleaned of the coating layer during the previous restoration.

The two-storeyed building with the mezzanine: on the first (ground) floor there were cellars and the ice storage room; on the second floor there were the rooms of the former Treasury and State cells, a staircase hall (warm hall), a room of the former cold entrance hall, a long gallery, a vestibule to the mezzanine, a passage to the Nameless House and the mezzanine in which the treasury was located.



Figure 7 The Treasury. (Authors' photo)

The wall painting has been preserved in the room of the former Treasury cell and above the entrance to it ("Figure 7"). In the course of its long history the building has been repeatedly rebuilt and the facades have been significantly changed: almost all the old window openings are cut out, window openings and doorways are bricked in, and the metal shutters are lost. The functional purpose of the monument has been repeatedly changed.

4. THE MAIN STAGES OF CHANGES IN THE APPEARANCE OF THE MONUMENT, ITS PARTS AND DETAILS (FROM 17 CENTURY UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY)

The Treasury was built in the 50s of the 17 century. It is a two-storeyed building with a mezzanine lined with the oversize bricks. Rooms are covered with cloistered and flat-arched vaults. The facades of the monument are divided

horizontally by the interfloor cornice; the top cornice consists of four rows of brick layout. The overhanging base from the wall encircles the window openings and doorways of the main facade with its upper part. The size and shape of the window openings were originally different which is proved by the broken brick conches and cut out slopes. Metal through-wall building elements were exposed during widening of the openings.

On the western facade from the ground level to the second floor there was a stone ladder to the cold entrance hall which is lost now. The doorway was rebuilt into a window opening; above the opening along the facade there are traces of the ladder abutment. To the north of the opening there is a basket arched niche with a bricked in rectangular window opening with a conch. The study of the niche and the bricked in opening proves that the construction and size is original.

Approximately twenty years after the completion of the building a smaller two-storeyed part was added to the blank eastern facade of the Treasury which faces the fortress wall. There was a wooden hall which was replaced later by the stone one. The room which was built later is a living one. Most likely, it was built for the staff. Thus, a fragment of the original eastern facade becomes part of the interior of the "long gallery" with the archway from the room of the 18 century and has been preserved to this day almost unchanged. The eastern wall of the "long gallery" has also undergone several changes: the doorway in the southern part is bricked in, in the northern part it is rebuilt into a window opening. In the 70s of the 17 century the Nameless House is added to the north-eastern part of the Treasury. The buildings are connected to each other at the second floor level. A fragment of the interfloor profiled brick cornice of the eastern facade of the Treasury has been preserved in the interior of the passage room.

The courtyard that appeared in the 18 century (between the Treasury, the town wall and the Nameless House) was finally formed after the last construction work near the monument – the construction of a low two-storeyed passage to the Bell Tower in the 19 century. The doorway of the main entrance on the western facade with a canopy dates to the 19 century. During the same period, a fragment of the interfloor profiled cornice is broken down.

Thus, by the middle of the 19 century the appearance of the Treasury was finally formed and has been preserved with minimal changes.

5. CONCLUSION

Summing up, it can be argued that the article contains a comprehensive analysis of the Economic Building. It was revealed that a large volume of the original architectural elements of the building has survived to this day: brick vaults, arches, an in-wall staircase, wall paintings. However, it is revealed that the configuration of the windows was greatly changed in the 19th century; at the same time, the external staircase was dismantled, the configuration of the entrance to the central cellar was changed, and an internal wooden staircase was built. Nevertheless, the Economic Building is one of the most valuable buildings in the centre of Vologda.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Irina Beloyarskaya carried out the scientific management of the research, selected and analyzed archival materials. Professor Beloyarskaya performed an analysis of the construction periodization of the monument, identified the stages of reconstruction of the object.

Grigory Shapiro carried out complex scientific research, made drawings, analyzed the stages of construction and reconstruction of the object.

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