

# ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1525

Charenton-le-Pont, 19 October 2016

H. E. Mrs Eleonora Mitrofanova  
Permanent Delegation of the Russian  
Federation to UNESCO  
8, rue de Prony  
75017 Paris

World Heritage List 2017

**The Assumption Cathedral of the Town-island of Sviyazhsk (Russian Federation)**

Dear Madam,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of "Historic City of Ahmdeabad" as a World Heritage site and an ICOMOS evaluation mission has visited the property to consider matters related to protection, management and conservation, as well as issues related to integrity and authenticity.

In order to help with our overall evaluation process, we would be grateful to receive further information to augment what has already been submitted in the nomination dossier.

Therefore we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points and kindly provide additional information:

**Factors affecting the property and development**

The nomination dossier mentions that the nominated property is prone to several factors, including deterioration of the landscape qualities due to building development.

The dossier also mentions investigation and conservation works at the nominated property, its territory and its buffer zone.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide information on any specific project that is planned or being carried out within the property, the monastery precinct or its buffer zone, with regard to their potential impact on the values of the property, its integrity and authenticity (see nomination dossier p. 223 on the strategy for the formation of the museum sector).

This is particularly relevant in that, according to the nomination dossier, the Cathedral and the religious buildings had lost their use and works are currently being carried out to resume their functions.

Therefore, ICOMOS would be pleased if detailed technical and photographic documentation of the ongoing conservation works, especially in the Cathedral, could be provided by the State Party.

#### **Protection and Management**

The nomination dossier explains that the buffer zone coincides with protection zones established by decree on 2 July 2015 n. 481 'About confirmation of the boundaries of the protection zones of the cultural heritage property of regional importance the remarkable site "the town- island of Sviyazhsk"' (Nomination dossier p. 140).

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide additional information on the type of protective measures for the different protection zones identified in the Map "1.8 Boundaries of the nominated property buffer zone", with particular regard to the grey areas identified as 'territory of the riverside settlements', and whether these measures are already in force.

At p. 196 of the nomination dossier it is mentioned that amendments to the plans of territorial development of the Zelenodolsk and Verkhneuslonsky districts and of the city of Innopolis are envisaged, as soon as the property will be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide further information in order to have a closer understanding of what planning provisions and measures are meant to be modified as well as the envisaged timeframe for this modification.

The nomination documentation includes a management plan: it would be important to understand whether this management plan has been approved by all parties concerned, how the management will be implemented and whether the coordination committee has been formally established with specific roles and functions.

ICOMOS is grateful for the assistance that the State Party will provide along the evaluation process.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **Wednesday 16 November 2016 at the latest**.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to      State Budgetary Institution of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan "State Historical,  
Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve "Ostrov-Grad Sviyazhsk"  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

**НЕКОММЕРЧЕСКАЯ  
ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ  
«РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКИЙ  
ФОНД ВОЗРОЖДЕНИЯ  
ПАМЯТНИКОВ ИСТОРИИ И  
КУЛЬТУРЫ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
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Чернышевского ул., д.18/23, Казань,  
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15.11.2016 № 892

To H.E. Gvenaelle Bourdin  
Director  
IKOMOS Evaluation Unit

Dear Madam,

Let me express my sincere gratitude for your attention to the monument "The Assumption Cathedral of the town- island of Sviyazhsk" nominated to the UNESCO World heritage List.

I send you the required additional documentation (complete set) in electronic form and separately pages 89, 90 and 91 lacking in paper.

Please accept, dear Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

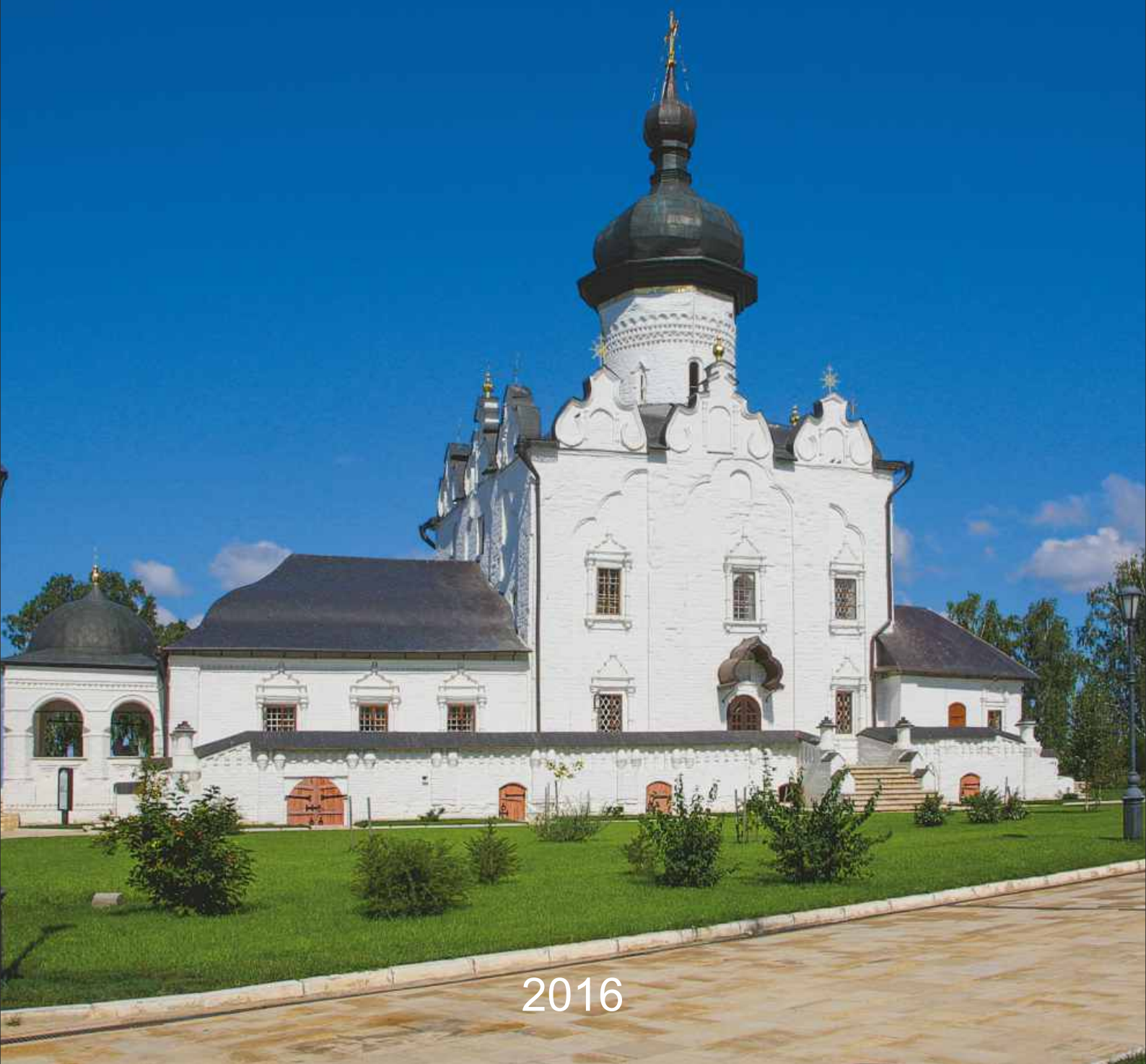
Executive director of the «Foundation for the Renaissance of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan»

Tatiana Larionova

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

# THE ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL OF THE TOWN-ISLAND OF SVIYAZHSK

INFORMATION  
MATERIALS



2016



## **Information Materials**

### **Factors affecting the nominated site**

The Assumption Cathedral is affected by several factors detailed in the Nomination Dossier. The Management Plan of the site as well as the events conducted by the site management, including research, conservation and landscape regeneration, are aimed to eliminate the landscape degradation.

The interdisciplinary research of the state of the nominated site is a five-year-long research project. Its implementation during the past two years created the required conditions for further comprehensive studies and for the development of the set of conservation measures for the site. The current results of the interdisciplinary research on the Assumption Cathedral are presented in the Annex 1. The annex includes the results of the studies on engineering and geological conditions of the territory of the Cathedral and its architectural and design features; the results of the study of temperature and humidity in the Cathedral; the results of the study of its construction stones and construction technology, the results of the study of its paintings' pigments. The materials presented in the annex are supplemented by technical documents and photo reports of the long-term conservation work, currently conducted on the site.

The territory of the Assumption Monastery is a part of the buffer zone of the nominated site required for its effective protection and preservation of its OUV attributes. The territory of the monastery is considered as a special zone. It includes all OUV attributes and ensures the integrity and authenticity of the Assumption Cathedral, it also has a direct impact on the OUV of the site, supporting and reinforcing the understanding of its OUV (according to para. 99, 100 of the Operational Guidelines). The monastery and its neighboring territories has an authentic cultural layer with the 16th-19th-century artifacts that of great interest as a source of information on spiritual, social, artistic and scientific developments from the mid-16th century to the present time. The results of the archaeological studies at the territory of the monastery as an

example of a research project implemented at the territory of the buffer zone of the site are presented in the Annex 2.

Possible changes of the quality of the landscape and its historic and architectural environment in recent years were analysed within the framework of several applied research projects, including the project on the protection areas of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk cultural heritage site (2012). Basing on the analysis of historical and urban planning of the site, commissioned by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan, the project of the complex of houses of mansion type for the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk was developed (by Dom Proektov LLC in 2014, presented in the Annex 3). The proposed design solutions for 'model' houses for Sviyazhsk are developed to regenerate the typical residential environment of Sviyazhsk by constructing residential houses instead of the lost ones. Among them, there are five projects approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan that currently serve as a mandatory regulation for the residents for the construction of any residential houses in the area. Prior to a construction, each project is required to be approved by the experts in architecture, urban planning, conservation and restoration of the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic.

The project on the adaptation of the modern residential houses designed by Tatinvestgrazhdanproekt Institute was commissioned by Tatarstan Ministry of Culture and is implemented from 2015. The project (presented in the Annex 4) aims to reduce the negative impact of disharmonious buildings on the quality of the historic landscape.

As regards the public spaces and buildings, each project is developed in an individual way, basing on historical and archival studies. The selection of the sites is conducted according to the concept of identification and conservation of the historical space of Sviyazhsk urban-planning system. The restoration of the buildings with public functions is possible only basing on the concourses that historically formed the public space system of the town. The Annex 4 provides the example of the restoration of a Water Tower and its adaptive re-use as an exhibition hall of Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve

(the project was implemented in 2014-2015).

One of the important factors affecting the state of conservation of the Assumption Cathedral is tourism intensification in the town that emerged due to the rapid development of the museum sector in Sviyazhsk. The detailed information on the issue is provided in the Annex 5 (Development of the Museum Complex) and supplemented with a map, showing the location of museums in Sviyazhsk.

The concept of museumification of Sviyazhsk (the buffer zone of the nominated site) is based on the ‘change management’ principles and is aimed to maintain and preserve the attributes of the OUV of the nominated site in accordance with the paragraph 96 of the Operational Guidelines (“protection and management of World Heritage sites should ensure that the OUV of the sites [...] will be maintained or improved in the future”).

The ICCROM manual on the management of Cultural World Heritage sites (1993) allows the construction of new buildings in order to restore the functional and architectural integrity of the area surrounding World Heritage sites or to develop vacant plots that form ‘gaps’ in the historic development”. Currently, the museums in Sviyazhsk, located within the visibility of the Assumption Cathedral, are housed in historical buildings. The new status of museum for such buildings solves the issue of the revitalization of these facilities, regenerating the whole area, in general.

Within the framework of this concept, it is necessary to highlight the example of the establishment of the Assumption Monastery Museum in the low ground floor of St. Nicholas Church, located in a close proximity (7 meters) to the Cathedral. The establishment of the museum solves several issues. The first, it is suggested that the visitors could make a visit to the museum prior to their visit to the Assumption Cathedral, where the museum exposition with its interpretation boards translated into several languages, could provide the visitors with the information about the history and

significance of the Assumption Monastery, the Assumption Cathedral and its murals complex as the main jewel of the Monastery, preparing them for their further visit to the Cathedral. There will be an opportunity to see a film about the Cathedral that will introduce the history of the construction of the Cathedral, its paintings (their plots and composition features) to the visitors. These activities will allow to reduce the time of the visit to the Cathedral itself, contributing to the decrease of visitor pressure to the monument. Moreover, the museum will help to promote and deliver an adequate information and interpretation about the nominated site to the visitors.

The second museum directly related to the attributes of the OUV of the Assumption Cathedral will be Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture (Sviyazhsk Icons Museum). The museum will be located in the main square of Sviyazhsk, Rozhdestvenskaya Square, 800 meters away from the Assumption Monastery in the historical building of the Sviyazhsk Fire Wagon Train. The main exposition of the museum will be based on authentic icons, including those from the Assumption Cathedral and the Trinity Church of Sviyazhsk, which are currently stored at Russian Federation Museum Fund. Due to the lack of storage facilities in Sviyazhsk, these icons were transported to Kazan in 1980-s and were stored in Tatarstan Museum of Fine Arts. It is necessary to highlight that the Assumption Cathedral will exhibit only the copies of these icons due to temperature and humidity conditions. Therefore, the main exhibition of the museum will give an opportunity to experience the masterpieces of art of the mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as the various designs of traditional Russian iconostases, providing the information about the history of their development and enhancing the OUV of the nominated site.

The projects of the museum displays in St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery and Sviyazhsk Icons Museum are attached below.

Basing on the principles of the ICOMOS Charter on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage and the concept of museumification of Sviyazhsk



(presented in the Nomination Dossier), it is suggested to establish museums highlighting the attributes of the OUV of the nominated site through the creation of exhibitions devoted to the various aspects of the history and spiritual (intangible) culture of Sviyazhsk. For example, a special attention is paid to an old Water Tower, where the exhibition hall of the Island-Town of Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve was opened after its restoration (See the Annex 6). In 2015-2016, it housed the exhibition of the members of Sviyazhsk Art Team namely of Nikolay Artamonov, Evgeniy Golubtsov, Rashid Safiullin and Maxim Sheshukov, as well as the exhibition of the photos of Sviyazhsk in the Soviet period taken by the famous Kazan photographers as Evgeniy Kanayev, Farid Gubaev, and Valeriy Pavlov. The exhibition presented several photographs of the nominated site, when it was housing a psychiatric hospital, whereas some of them presented the site during the first years of the revival of the Monastery during perestroyka. It is necessary to emphasize that the process of museums establishment has a direct connection with historical buildings in the town. This approach gives an opportunity to provide the conservation of the historical fabric of the surrounding area and to reduce landscape deterioration.

Another method used for the management of the nominated site is a Sviyazhsk tourist routes network developed by the Museum-Reserve. The network allows to manage the tourist flows and reduce the human impact on the site. The tourist flows management issue becomes even more relevant in the light of the recent increase in visitation to Sviyazhsk: currently the number of day visitors during the weekends can reach from 3,000 to 7,000 people. Currently, the issue is successfully solved by the development of museums and tourist routes networks. The detailed information on the museums are presented in the Annex 5.

The administration of Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve currently offers the following guided tours:

- Orthodox Sviyazhsk (the tour includes the visits to the Assumption Cathedral and the Monastery, John the Precursor Monastery and to the Church of Constantine and Helena).
- Pages of History of Sviyazhsk/Legendary Sviyazhsk (the tour includes the visits to the

Museum of Sviyazhsk History and Lenivy Torzhok Historical Reenactment Center).

- Sviyazhsk and Wars (this guided tour offers insights to the history of the development of armor and weapons and introduces the history of the town during the Civil War).
- Artistic Sviyazhsk (the tour includes the visit to two exhibition halls of the Museum-Reserve, craft workshops and a meeting with artists).
- Theatrical Season in Sviyazhsk (the tour offers to visitors to take part in a theatre laboratory and to experience theatre and music performances in the town).

Therefore, the above-mentioned events and projects on the museum development in the buffer zone are undertaken in the accordance with the state policy of the State Party on the management of the nominated site, as it was highlighted by ICCROM experts during the International Expert Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage and Buffer Zones (Switzerland, 2008): “the buffer zone can be an important management tool in the preservation of World Heritage sites”.

The Assumption Cathedral is in use by Russian Orthodox Church. As the Cathedral is a designated cultural heritage site, its management is shared by Tatarstan Metropolis and Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve. The following institutions also directly participate in the management of the site: Executive Committee of the Town of Sviyazhsk, the Administration of Zelenodolsk Municipal District, Tatarstan Ministry of Culture, Tatarstan Cultural Heritage Center, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, the Commission of the Republic of Tatarstan for UNESCO, Russian National Committee for World Heritage, Russian Federation Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO Chair for the Conservation of Architectural and Urban Monuments. All of the above-mentioned institutions are the members of the Coordination Committee on the management of the nominated site.

For the revealing the spiritual and religious potential of the buildings of the Assumption Monastery Complex (Archimandrite’s Building, Monastic College of the Assumption Monastery, St Sergius Church, refectory, the Monastery fence and other

buildings) were given to Tatarstan Metropolis for free use under the conditions of the free use contract 02/141 and 278p from 17/09/2014.

Several other monuments on the territory of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk were transferred for the use to Russian Orthodox Church: the complex of John the Precursor Monastery, including the wooden Trinity Church, St. Sergius Church, the chapel in the yard of the monastery, sisters' buildings and their fence, the Joy of All Who Sorrow Cathedral, the Church of Constantine and Helena, allowing to emphasize the OUV of the nominated site, as well as the continuity of the spiritual life of Sviyazhsk, its cultural diversity and multi-component nature.

### **Protection and Control**

The Nomination Dossier highlights that the buffer zone coincides with the protected area established by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan dated July 2, 2015 'The borders of the protected zone of the regional cultural heritage object 'Sviyazhsk Island Sightseeing Site' ('Ostrov-grad Sviyazhsk') (Dossier, p. 140) and Annex to the Nomination, Section 2, part 5.3.

The detailed information on the division of the buffer zone into sub-zones and their characteristics, the description of the measures of protection for different zones with the references to related regulations are presented in the Annex 7 (Protection Mechanisms) and Annex 8 (Modes of Land Use and Town Planning Regulations of the Subzones of the Buffer Zone of the Assumption Cathedral of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk).

Currently, the boundaries of the buffer zone are established according to the national heritage legislation of the State Party under the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan of 02/07/2015 number 481 "On the models of land use and urban development requirements within the boundaries of the security

zones of the cultural heritage site of regional importance “Site “Sviyazhsk Town-Island” (Annex to the Nomination, Section 2, part 5.3). The above-mentioned boundaries and the regulations on land use and urban development are mapped in the Annex 9 (Historical and Cultural Framework of the Republic of Tatarstan).

Information on the protection area of the cultural heritage site is also included in the Territorial Planning of Zelenodolsk Municipal District of the Republic of Tatarstan, approved on 28/09/2015. The amendments, including the protection area of the cultural heritage site, were also made to the Territorial Planning of Verkhneuslonsky Municipal District of the Republic of Tatarstan.

According to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan dated July 2, 2015, the protection zone was introduced to the General Plan of Innopolis City Municipality, which was approved by the Decision of the Innopolis Citizens' Assembly dated 25/09/2015 number 4 and was reflected through the introduction of a green zone within the boundaries of the sub-zone. The further amendments to Land Use and Development Rules of Innopolis City regulation on urban development activities from 05/05/2015 to be introduced within a year.

The Management Plan for the nominated site was discussed with all stakeholders at the local level with the involvement of a wide range of Russian and international experts in history, architecture, cultural heritage conservation and the representatives of state and local government. The discussions were held during the regular working meetings, seven international research conferences, one congress and one seminar, particularly devoted to the management issues in Sviyazhsk, as well as during Russian and international events on cultural heritage management issues organized by Cultural World Heritage Resource Centre of Kazan Federal University and Likhachev Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage (Moscow, Russia). The provisions of the Management Plan on protection, promotion and research of the nominated site are currently implemented. In 1999-2016, the relations between involved parties were regulated



through the trilateral agreement between the Kazan Eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Tatarstan (since 2009 State Historical, Architectural and Art Museum Town-Island of Sviyazhsk (“Ostrov-Grad Sviyazhsk”), that in 2015 was renamed as Town-Island of Sviyazhsk (‘Ostrov-Grad Sviyazhsk’) Museum-Reserve).

After the review of the Management Plan by the World Heritage Committee, it is supposed to be further approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan as a regulatory document with an obligatory implementation. The similar way was chosen regarding the management plan of Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex World Heritage site. Its Management Plan was firstly considered by the World Heritage Committee in Istanbul, then it was approved by the Board of Trustees of the Regional Foundation for the Revival of Historic and Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan.

For the coordination of the actions aimed to preserve and manage the Assumption Cathedral, the Coordination Committee will be established. Currently the coordination function is implemented by the Regional Foundation for the Revival of Historic and Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan, established and leaded by the first President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaymiev in 2010. After the completion of the statutory tasks of the Foundation, including those related to the nominated site, the Foundation is transferring this function to the Coordination Committee.

The project of the Regulation on the Coordination Committee for the Conservation, Management and Promotion of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk is provided in Annex 5 of the Management Plan (pp. 117-120). The annex also includes the aims, tasks, rights and obligations, the procedure of the formation of the Coordination Committee. According to the the above-mentioned regulation, the Coordination Committee is established under the State Institution of

Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan “The State Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve Town-Island of Sviyazhsk (“Ostrov-Grad Sviyazhsk”) to ensure the interaction between the executive authorities, local governments, research and public institutions and other parties involved in the activities for the conservation, research and promotion of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk.

The main goal of the Coordination Committee is to unite the efforts of all the parties and to ensure sustainable development of the Site and its environment in accordance with the principles of UNESCO.

The objectives of the Coordination Committee are:

- to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan of the Site and form proposals for its actualization;
- provide information and advisory assistance to state bodies of the executive authorities in decision-making in relation to the Site, as well as in preparation of regulatory legal acts related with the Site;
- participate in international conferences, seminars, symposia, setting up and organization of the working groups on various aspects of conservation, management and promotion of the Site;
- develop and improve research, projects and methods of conservation, management and promotion of the Site;
- establish and maintain the Site database including publication of the results of interdisciplinary research carried out at the Site;
- increase public awareness of the Site, facilitate its promotion.

The formation of the Coordination Committee considers the representation and participation of all interested parties.

## **List of annexes**

Annex 1. Interdisciplinary studies of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk related to its authenticity.

Annex 2. The Archaeological Study of the Assumption Monastery in Sviyazhsk in the Republic of Tatarstan

Annex 3. The project proposal for model houses for restoring historical and architectural environment of Sviyazhsk housing area

Annex 4. The Project of the Adaptation of Modern Residential Houses in Sviyazhsk

Annex 5. The Development of the Museum Complex of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk

Annex 6. Reconstruction and Restoration Project of the Water Tower of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Annex 7. Protection Mechanisms

Annex 8. The Modes of Land Use and Urban Development Planning Regulations of the Subzones of the Buffer Zone of the Assumption Cathedral of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk

Annex 9. Historical and Cultural Framework of the Republic of Tatarstan

## **Interdisciplinary studies of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk related to its authenticity**

A significant amount of studies, including studies on the construction of the Assumption Cathedral address the history of the town on the island of Sviyazhsk. It is well known that when Kazan was conquered by Ivan IV in 1552, the active introduction of Orthodoxy affected the conquered territory. The Virgin Assumption monastery and the temple of the Assumption of Mary which was built on the territory of the Monastery played a crucial part as a major cultural, economic, missionary and administrative center of the conquered territory, where the population preached Islam. The chronicles prove that from 1555 to 1560 the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk and St. Nicholas Church, located on the territory of the Cathedral were built by architects from Pskov. Stone temples in Sviyazhsk were erected before the cathedral in Kazan was built and this fact proves that Ivan IV considered the city as a military-political, spiritual and cultural site in the region during those years.

Archival and field studies, historical and architectural genetic analysis reveal that the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk possesses the architectural and artistic attributes that characterize the historical, cultural and spiritual life of the Russian state in the 16th -19th centuries. The cathedral is a four-pillar, domed, triapsidal cross in square temple with the altar (16th century) and refectory (17th century) on the ground floor. The temple and the altar were made of white hammer-dressed ashlar. The refectory is made of brick.

Initially, the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk was built as a single-headed, almost square in plan, having four cross-domed churches and it was built of white hammer dressed ashlar limestone. The walls of the main building of the third were treated with four blades strapped with lobed arches at the top. At all sides they ended with gables covered with eightfold sloping roof. Housings and the ends of



the ridge beams remained at the bed of the dome drum of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk.

After the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk was erected it was decorated inside and outside. Fragmented frescos can still be seen on the façade: on the west wall of the quadrangle, under the roof of the refectory, at the lower layer of the dome drum. The interior of the church contains the Russia's only complete highly artistic mural wall mural paintings of the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century making up 1,080 m<sup>2</sup>. The walls, dome, arches, reveals and pillars are decorated.

The location of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk in the uptown with its architectural and urban ensembles 82.54 m above the water enable us to perceive its artistic image in a radius of 25 km of waterways, motorways and railways. The confluence of the Sviyaga, the Volga and the Schuka rivers form a water surface, which emphasizes the elegance of the ensemble, beautifully reflecting its image. Tradesmen and craftsmen part of the settlement is closely located to the territory of the Volga floodplain to the east and the north-eastern side of the island. The surface of the territory lies at around 58-66 m., 5-9 m. above the river Volga.

Currently, the monastery is located on the island, but historically it used to be an elevated area and it was called the "Round Mountain". The area was converted in the island in 1957 after the Kuibyshev reservoir was filled. In geomorphological terms Cathedral is located on the elevated part of the residual island.

The climate is moderate continental. The average annual temperature is + 4.2° C, the absolute minimum is -47° C, the absolute maximum is + 39 ° C, annual rainfall is 539 mm. The southern wind direction prevails in winter while the western and northern ones prevail in summer.

The frost-free period accounts for 214 days. The estimated depth of seasonal freezing makes up 1.75 m. Seismicity of the area is less than 6 points.

The territory of the Cathedral is relatively plain but has a slope in the Western and north-western direction. Altitudes make up about 75 m. The existing vertical layout prevents the drainage of melted and rain water from the building. As a result, the walls and foundations of the Cathedral are constantly soaked (Fig. 1.1). There is a cavity coming from the chimney under the footing of the foundation of the Central apse. After heavy rainfall, the water flows along it into the foundation. Poor drainage of rainwater from the roof results in the soaking of the walls from above. Lack of regular quality ventilation of the ground floor is the reason for the high humidity of the interior and the condensation on the walls and vaults. The difference in temperature and humidity in different rooms of the Cathedral is the reason for the efflorescence (Fig.1.2) on the walls and destruction of lime stone structure of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Fig.1.1 The photograph of the pit in the central apse after the rain



Fig.1.2 Efflorescence on the walls and vaults of the South gallery

The foundations of the Cathedral are girder, under the pylons there is the post footing. The masonry is made of blocks of limestone and roughly treated dolomite on the lime-sand mortar. Separate blocks are divided by cracks up to 7 mm. The foundations of the refectory under masonry of blocks of limestone and dolomite have rubble stone masonry made of chipped brick, limestone and dolomite on the middle-sized sand. Masonry of foundations is characterized by high humidity. Lime-sand mortar is leached, can easily be broken by fingers. In some points it is absent, the seams between the blocks are not filled by anything. Moisture in the walls and foundations of the Cathedral is infiltrated up to the cubic capacity of the first floor. Waterlogged white stone walls result in the corrosion of drop-forged metal gesso nails. The cathedral gesso plaster of the paintings is nailed on the walls. Corroding, nails appear on the surface, rending the gesso layer away of the wall. On the ground floor, due to the high moisture of load-bearing structures, a layer of white paint is peeled from the surface of the white stone walls.

The lower part of the foundation of the central apse is disassembled to output the chimney from the calorific furnace, and is currently a girder foundation of the apse "hangs" in the air at this point. This is the main reason for the deformation of the central apse. From the side of the ground floor the vent is blocked by the wall of ceramic bricks on Portland cement. Masonry of ceramic brick on lime-sand mortar can be found under the footing of the foundation of the apse. Foundations of the ambulatories have rubble masonry made of chipped rubble and blocks of brick and limestone on loam. Excessive moisture causes a reduction in the masonry load-bearing capacity of foundations and walls. Telemetry studies in wells, passed through the foundation showed that the inside of the foundation is characterized by high emptiness, reaching 10% (Fig. 1.3).



Fig. 1.3 The cavity under the footing of foundation in pits 4

The depth of the foundations of the quadrangle from the floor level of the basement is 0.20-0.30 m; 2.95 – 3.17 m is above the ground, the depth of the foundations of the southern apse is 1.15 m above the ground, the depth of the foundations of the refectory from the floor of the basement is 0.5 m, the depth of the foundations of the



western porch is 1.50 m, and the north porch is 1.10 m, the depth of the foundations of the northern ambulatory is 1.50 m and of the south one is 1.40 m.

The design resistance of the foundation soils varies from 284.6 to 404.8 kPa. The load on the foundation footing make up 140-538 kPa.

The design resistance to compression of the masonry of foundations made of limestone and dolomite make up  $R=3.1-3.7$  kPa, inline masonry made of bricks is  $R=1.0$  to 1 and rubble masonry made of crushed stone brick, limestone and dolomite on the sand is  $R=0.07$  kPa.

Design resistance to compression of masonry of walls and columns made of limestone blocks is  $R=7.0-8.5$  kPa; masonry made of bricks is  $R=0.9-1.3$  kPa.

Two engineering-geological elements are distinguished in a geological structure of the platform.

tQIV-1 is a man-triggered sediments. It is presented by reddish-brown stiff sandy loam and reddish-brown clayey sand of the hard and semi fluid texture containing from 10 to 35 of construction debris. In the pits 5 man-triggered sandy loam containing coal residues have in a fluid state (tQIV 1a).

tQIV-2 (a, dQII-III) is a medium upper quaternary alluvial-talus sediments (Fig. 4). It is represented by solid yellow-brown clayey sand with red-brown spots and streaks, with black streaks and dark nodules as small as 2 mm. It is macroporous, slightly subsidied with numerous vertical and subvertical cylindrical cavities, probably formed from the roots of dead plants.

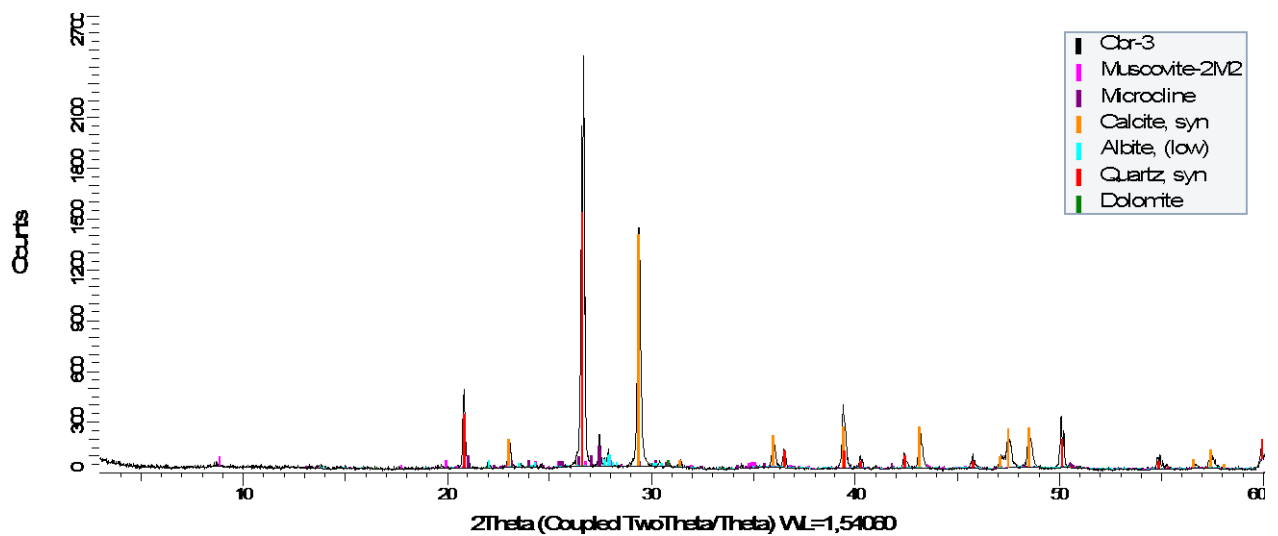


Fig.1.4 Filler of cavities and interstices in clayey sand

The diameter of the cavity reaches 1.5 cm, the length is more than two meters. The cavities are filled with calcite, and have a core of the decayed wood. The distance between the cavities is 1-10 cm (Fig. 1.5).



Fig.1.5. The cavities filled with calcite, under the footing of the foundation in pit1

The walls of the quadrangle and the altar of the cathedral are built of roughly treated limestone blocks on lime-sand mortar. The interior of the cathedral has the preserved unique mural dating back to the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Bearing structures of the walls of the dining room are lined with ceramic bricks on lime-cement mortar. Inside the dining room the walls are painted in later established style. Outside the cathedral, as well as the basement, are painted with white paint without plaster. It was removed during previous conservation and restoration work.

Currently, the Cathedral is experiencing deformation of the sedimentary nature which is caused by subsidence soil of the foundation and insufficient bearing capacity of the foundation soil due to shallow depth of the foundation.



Fig. 1.6 Crack at the junction of the north and west walls

The walls of the cathedral used to be wooden-mounted communication that is now completely decayed. Inside the cathedral where aisle used to be linked in the envelope 3 / M a vertical crack in the corner of the building expands upwards and disappears on the beam. (Fig. 1.6). Presumably, the walls of the former north aisle served as buttresses and stiffened the building. Several through cracks in the window openings and bridges of the south and north walls have been found. The same deformation can be seen on the apse (Fig. 1.7).



Fig. 1.7 A crack in the northern apse

The brick walls of the refectory are not experiencing serious deformation. The cracks on the hull of window apertures where forged gratings were cemented can be seen. The horizontal crack of 0.6 mm can be seen on the south wall under the eaves in size 1-2. This crack cuts brick trim window apertures. (Fig. 1.8).



Fig. 1.8 The crack in the window aperture, which was bricked by ceramic brick

The gallery and the porch, like the temple, are painted white without the plaster layer (which was removed during conservation and restoration). The south gallery is made of ceramic bricks on lime-sand mortar. The basement part in some places is made of roughly treated limestone blocks. The north porch is the remains of the north aisle, dismantled during the process of restoration, however the paintings were preserved. At present its parts such as the western wall as a buttress, adjacent to the cathedral, and the porch remained. The porch is made of roughly treated limestone blocks. The walls of the gallery and the porch are experiencing minor problems. Single vertical and horizontal cracks opening up to 1 mm can be seen on the gallery. One part of the gallery has a sunken wall in length. The deformation has been stopped. The paint layers are peeled due to the water discharge from the parapet of the gallery.

Overall, the deformation of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk is caused by:

- The presence of subsiding soil at the foundation of the monument;
- Low quality drainage of precipitation;
- Insufficient load-bearing capacity of foundation soil due to shallow depth of the foundation.

The destruction of the frescoes is caused by:

- Irregular rainfall;
- Transient temperature and humidity conditions.

Following the results of a comprehensive study of engineering-geological conditions of the territory of the cathedral, its architectural and design features in accordance with the terms of reference issued by the State Unitary Enterprise “Tatinvestgrazhdanproekt” by IGIT LLC the design solutions to enhance the above-ground structures of the cathedral, foundations and soil foundation of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk were developed. Restoration and reconstruction works have been projected in order to improve the state of the monument

To improve the state of the monument the following works have been projected:

1. Injection works on foundations and foundation-soil are planned to increase the bearing capacity of foundations and optimization of working conditions in the soil.
2. The works aimed at the restoration of the foundation of the central and northern apse, dismantled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to construct the chimney of the furnace have been projected to stabilize the precipitation on the altar .
3. Works on the installation of the vertical waterproofing using the material “Nutley-1” have been projected to prevent precipitation in the construction of foundations in the eastern part of the cathedral.
4. The installation of reinforced concrete slab, which operates at the expense of anchor piles, has been projected to compensate for the uplift from beneath the foot of the



basement, which occurs due to insufficient bearing capacity of the foundation soil.

5. One solution two-component silicatization of the soil of the foundation has been projected to eliminate soil subsidence.

6. Injection of the cracks formed in the walls and arches of the cathedral with highly mobile grouting cracks repair mortar Oxal VP I T flow has been projected.

At present the injection of foundations and foundation-soil contact, as well as cracks in the walls and vaults of the cathedral have been completed. Apart from that, the deformations of the main load-bearing structures, as well as temperature and humidity conditions in the bulk of the cathedral, in the basement and out-of-doors are monitored. (Fig. 1.9).



Fig 1.9 Changes occurred in the geometry of the arch

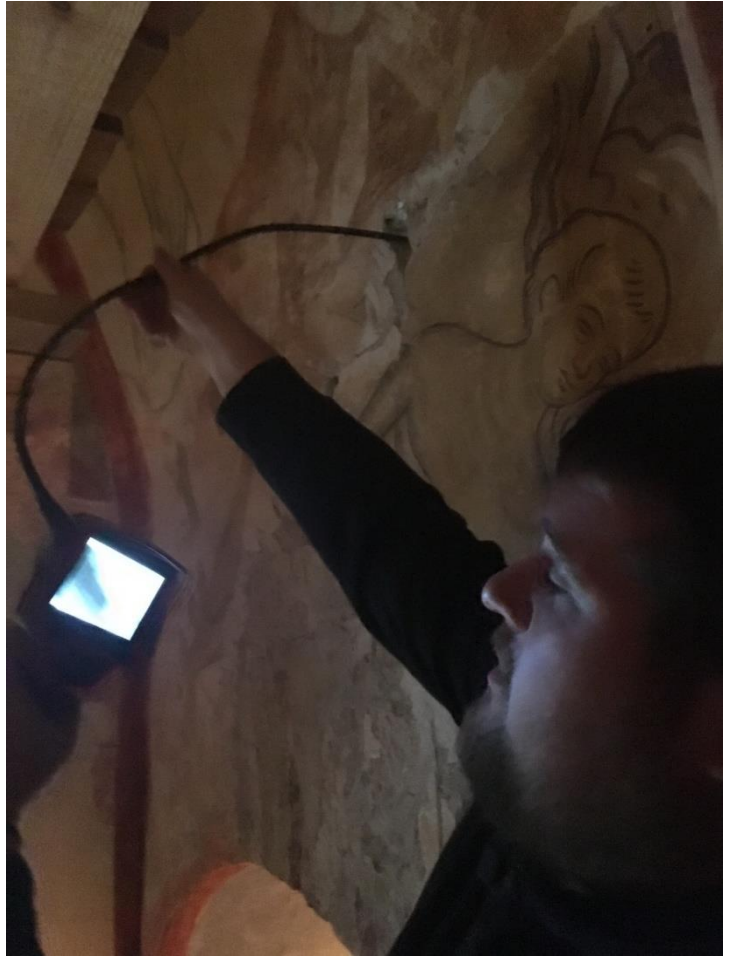


Fig 1.10. The cavity cracks are tested by endoscope



Fig1.11 The wells are drilled for the foundations to be inject





Fig. 1.12 The wells are drilled for the foundations to be injected



Fig. 1.13 The mortar is injected into the well





Fig. 1.14 The hole is being drilled to mount the injector in a place free from painting

The study of temperature and humidity of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-  
island of Sviyazhsk involved such operations as:

- Technical inspection of the monument;
- Visual expert evaluation of the state of the monument materials;
- Instrumental investigations of temperature and humidity regime structures and the air environment of the Assumption Cathedral;
- An analysis of the impact of the external environment on the microclimate of the monument.

Methods of research and analysis of the results were based on the experiences and theoretical developments used to conserve the unique frescoes of Dionysius in 1502 in the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin of the Ferapontov Monastery.

Following the instrumental studies of microclimate parameters, conducted from October

2015, May 2016, pre recommendations and proposals to normalize the microclimate and create optimal conditions for the safety of the cathedral have been developed:

- recommendations to improve the safety performance of window and door apertures;
- recommendations to improve the security features of the system "arch-roof, gutters";
- recommendations on the systems of artificial air-conditioning (limited heating and ventilation) (Fig. 1.16-1.18).

Currently, the radio system is being installed. This radio system is aimed to monitor the temperature and humidity of the monument in order to assess the impact of natural anomalies, the effectiveness of restoration procedures and to create optimal preservation conditions.

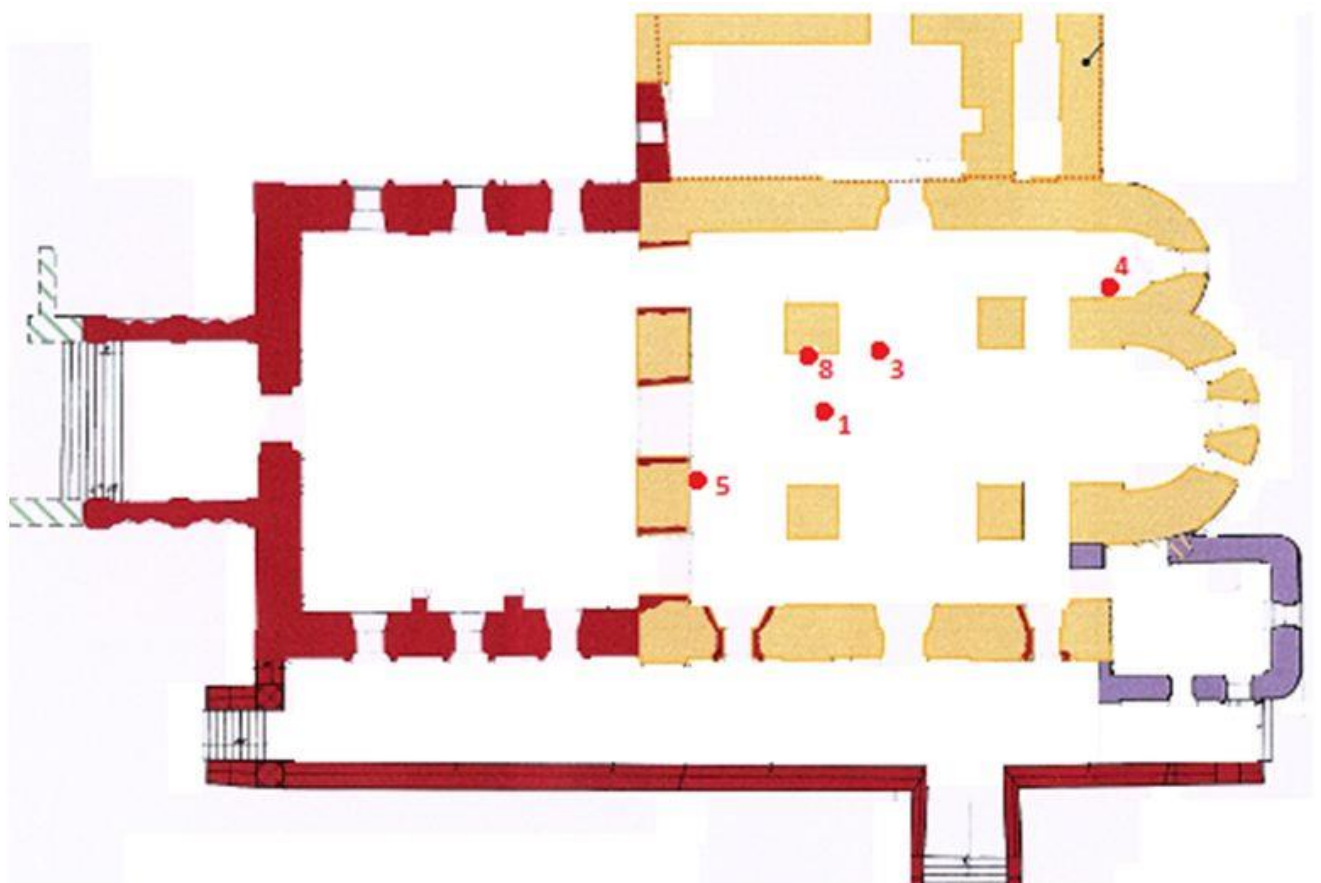


Fig. 1.15 The location of loggers on the plan of the Assumption Cathedral

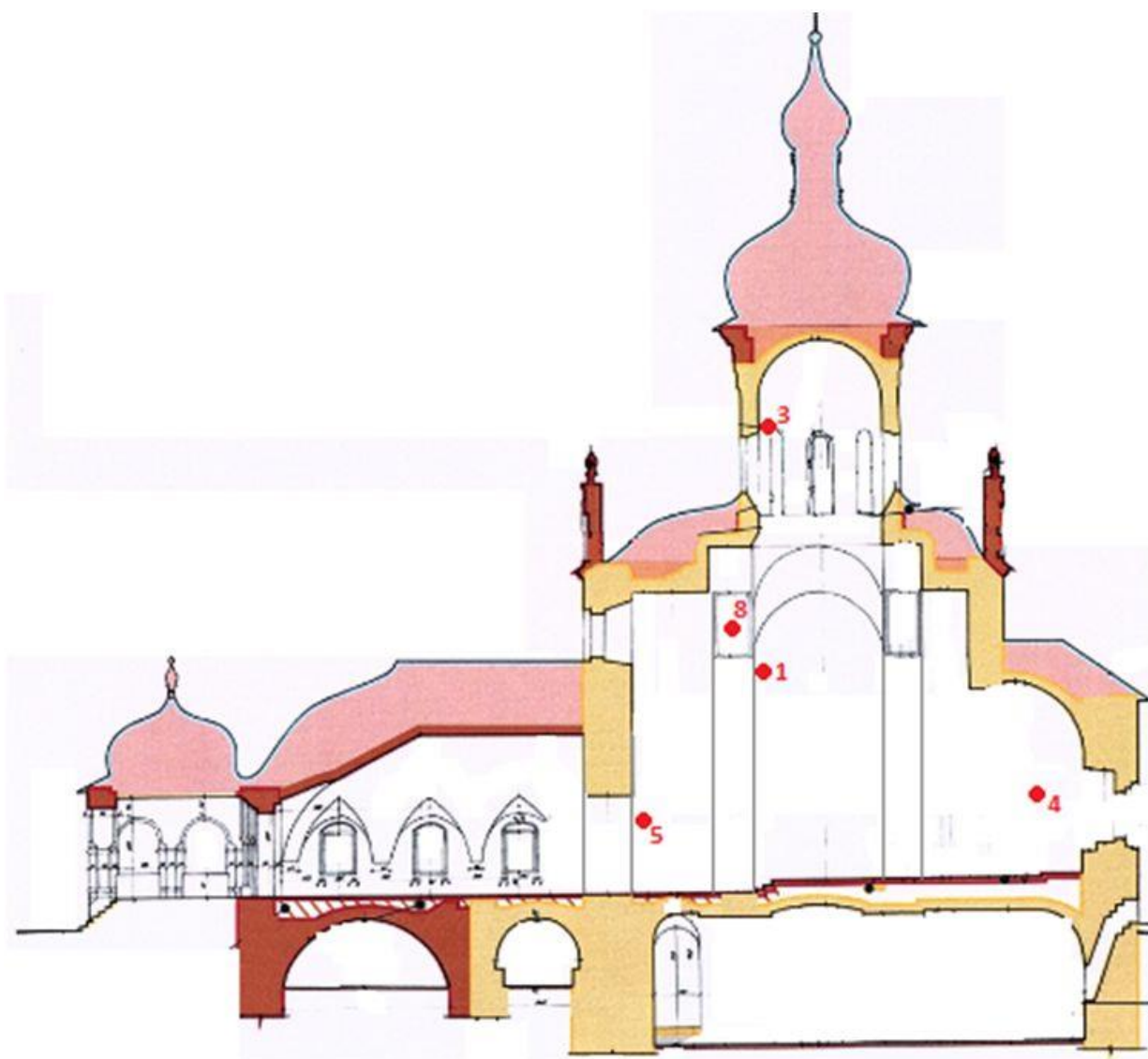


Fig. 1.16 The location of loggers on the longitudinal section of the Assumption Cathedral

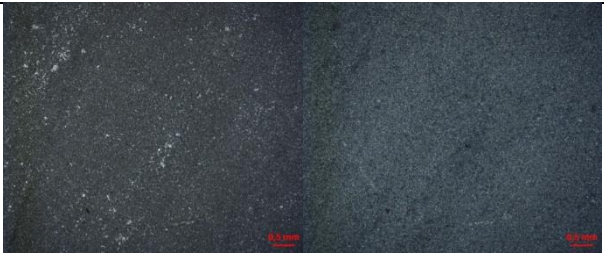
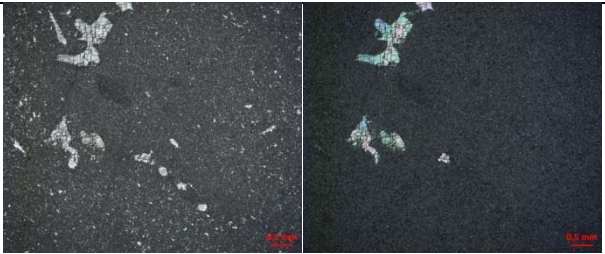


Fig. 1.17 Logger number 3

The chronicles prove that the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk and the Annunciation Cathedral of Kazan were built by the people of Pskov. These cathedrals are built of special stone blocks, larger in shape and more rigid than a traditional Pskov flagstone. The question of the origin of the building stones hitherto remained open. The historical documents do not provide the information about the origin of the stones either. According to oral tradition, Pskov architects used the limestone from the opposite bank of the Volga region of Pechische village. As regards the stones used to build the Cathedral of the Assumption of the town-island of Sviyazhsk there are two possible sources. The first source is the river Sviyaga bank near Macarius Monastery opposite to the island Sviyazhsk and the second source is Pechische quarries.

Following the findings of the study where methods of petrography, X-ray phase analysis and scanning electron microscopy were used (Fig. 1.19), we can give a definite answer about the source of the raw building material used in the creation of a unique cultural monument of the 16th century - Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk . The masons who built the Assumption Cathedral and the Kazan Annunciation Cathedral, took the stones from a quarry, situated near the village of Pechische.

According to historical records the production of high quality material of construction has been established in this village since the 16th century. Moreover, it was not just building stones, but also lime and ore that were burned here in the kilns.

	
<p style="text-align: right;">a-1.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The altar prayer of the Assumption Cathedral</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">b -6.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pechische stone from the mountain</p>



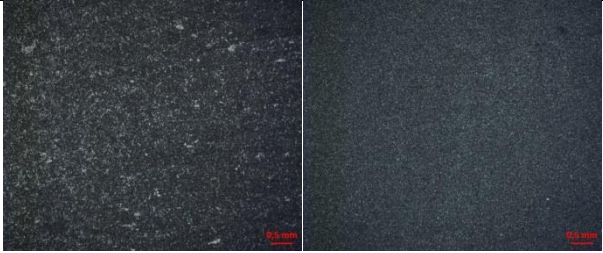
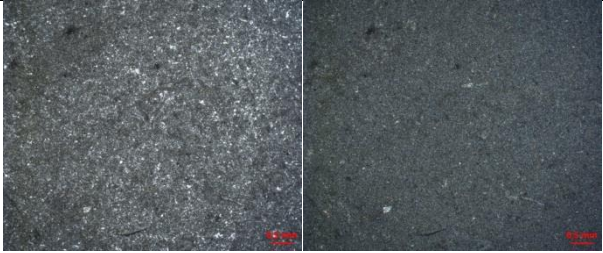
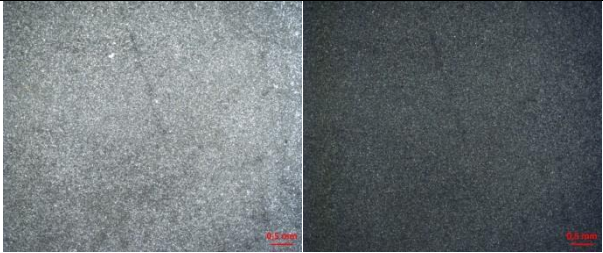
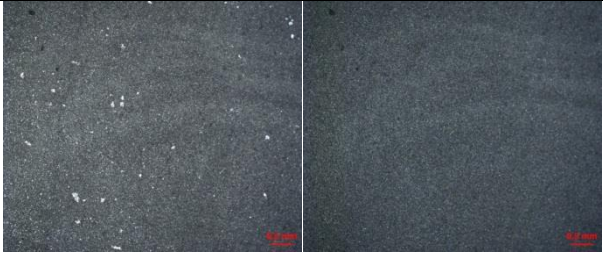
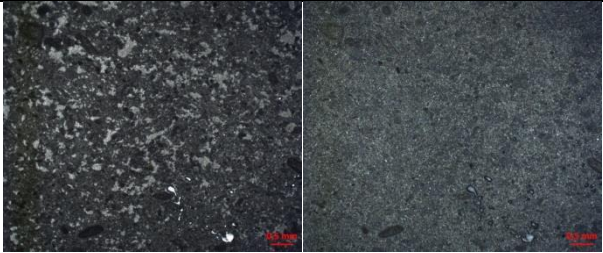
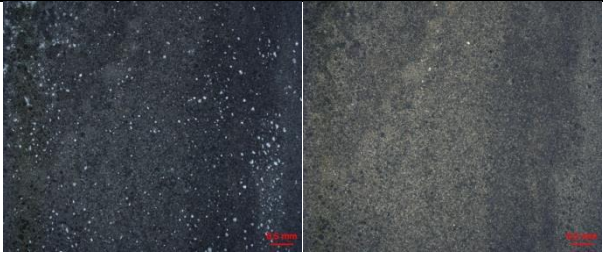


	
c-7. Stone Northern Tower of the Kazan Kremlin	d-8. Stone Annunciation Cathedral Kazan Kremlin, cellar
	
e-9. Stone Khan's Palace Kazan Kremlin	f-10. The stone altar of the Cathedral of the Assumption
	
g-5. Pechische large hewn stone	h -2. Macarius Monastery, slab
	
i -3. The bank of the Sviyaga, Mine, white stone	k -4. Macarius stone, wood

Fig.1.19 Photos of thin stone studied in one (left) and crossed (right) Nicol prisms.

The studies have also shown that the building stones of the Khan's palace and the North Tower of the Kazan Kremlin are completely identical in terms of chemical and mineralogical composition of the raw materials of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk and stones of the Annunciation Cathedral of. This suggests that the medieval masons already knew about this field of high-quality building material and used it in the construction of buildings in the Kazan Kremlin.

The study of the samples showed that they are represented by gray dolomites, sometimes slightly mealy on the cleaved surface. The samples were very similar to the dolomite samples from "Podluzhnik" of upper Kazan sediments presented by gray and light gray dolomite. Near the island Sviyazhsk these sediments are the only compact rocks facing the surface that can be used in the construction. The area of the settlement Pechische "Podluzhnik" is also the most preferred raw materials for construction. However, when the reservoir was being made dense dolomites from the "Grey Stone" were flooded. These are also dense rocks that can be used in building and look very similar to dolomites from "Podluzhnik". Probably, they could be used to build the cathedrals and towers of within Kazan area.

The presence of dolomite lime among samples indicates that the feedstock from relatively remote areas was used, since within Kazan area there are virtually no limestone in pure form. Sometimes organogenic limestones can be found, however, they have nothing to do with the studied microgranular limestone. To study the formulation of mortars used in the construction of the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the samples sampled, belonging to a different time of construction were taken. During the works mortars from different places of the Assumption Cathedral: from the stone of the altar, the mortar of the 16th century, the mortars of the pits discovered near the cathedral, as well as a comparison sample mortars from Khan's Palace, Northern Tower, the Annunciation Cathedral of the Kazan Kremlin underwent the thorough analysis.



According to studies, each team of craftsmen used their special bonding structure when laying the stones, the source of which was the same dolomite mine. This is evidenced by a different chemical composition mortars, indicating the various components of the compositions of lime and different minerals. In some cases, sand was used, in others the clay was used, and pure dolomite flour was used in the solution of the altar. The comparison of the chemical composition of organic plasticizers (milk protein and egg yolk) revealed that the builders used various types of additives. To receive more accurate data on the mineral and organic components of mortars further studies are needed.

The study of the paint layer and gesso bases of murals were carried out by three independent analytical methods: emission spectral analysis, nondestructive Wray-fluorescence analysis and optical and electron microscopy.

The comparison of the chemical composition of the gesso of the foundations and stones showed that the likely source for the basics first fresco murals of the Assumption Cathedral was the dolomite ore from the opposite bank of the Sviyaga. This is evidenced by the low concentration of aluminum, iron and silicon, and the content of these elements in the so-called "zero" gesso has the same amounts.

The gesso samples were divided into several groups and it confirmed the assumption of restorers about a phased murals. The mortar, which was used in the restoration of the frescoes in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was identified. It differs from others since it has low concentrations of magnesium, i.e., gesso mortar consisted of substantially pure limestone. The presence of high concentrations of silicon and the ratio of calcium element indicates the use of lime mixed with sand in the ratio 1: 1.

The findings of X-ray phase analysis suggest that the gesso formulation of the Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk is different from the traditional formulation of Russian architects. According to the literature, in Russia lime was served as gesso, which was quenched slowly in special pits for several years. Moreover, to

achieve the best results, highly pure lime was selected. It did not contain magnesium component, as this component reacting with moisture loosens gesso component and leads to its rapid degradation

The gesso foundation of the first group relating to the earliest period of the mural in the church, is made of very pure dolomite with low contents of aluminum, silicon and iron. Another group of mortars related to the second period of artwork is characterized by the presence of elements, indicating the addition of organic impurities. The pictures of optical microscopy revealed the presence of plant fibers in these samples. The third group of gesso is made of dolomite or highly-dolomited limestone. The fourth mortar which is lime-sand in ratio of 1: 1 is renovations, used by restorers in the early 20th century. The study of fresco painting was carried out by X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. In total, more than 350 points with 27 frescoes and images were under the study. (Fig. 1.20).



Fig. 1.20 Fresco "St. Christopher"

The spots of different colours were taken from each fresco. The spectra where there was an open output gesso base was taken. (Fig. 1.21).



Fig.1.21 Entrance arches in the complex of the Assumption Monastery

The studies showed that there are two kinds of gesso bases. The first type is composed of calcium magnesium composite, which may indicate the use of dolomitic limestone or dolomite as a raw substrate. According to analytical data, the ratio of these elements meets both components of the mineral type. Along with this, there is phosphorus in gesso which is an indicator of an organic component.

It is necessary to conduct finer analytical methods to define precisely what organic served as a plasticizer. Along with the main type of gesso, which is supported on almost all the walls, there are fragments of walls, having pure lime gesso. More precisely, this fresco was made following the classical prescription mixture of lime and sand, as evidenced by the presence of silica in the samples.

All findings were summarized in a table and distributed by color to provide a comparative analysis of the composition of various paints murals (Fig. 1.22). 11 basic colors have been identified: white, yellow, orange, pink, brown, red, gray, black, green, blue and blue.

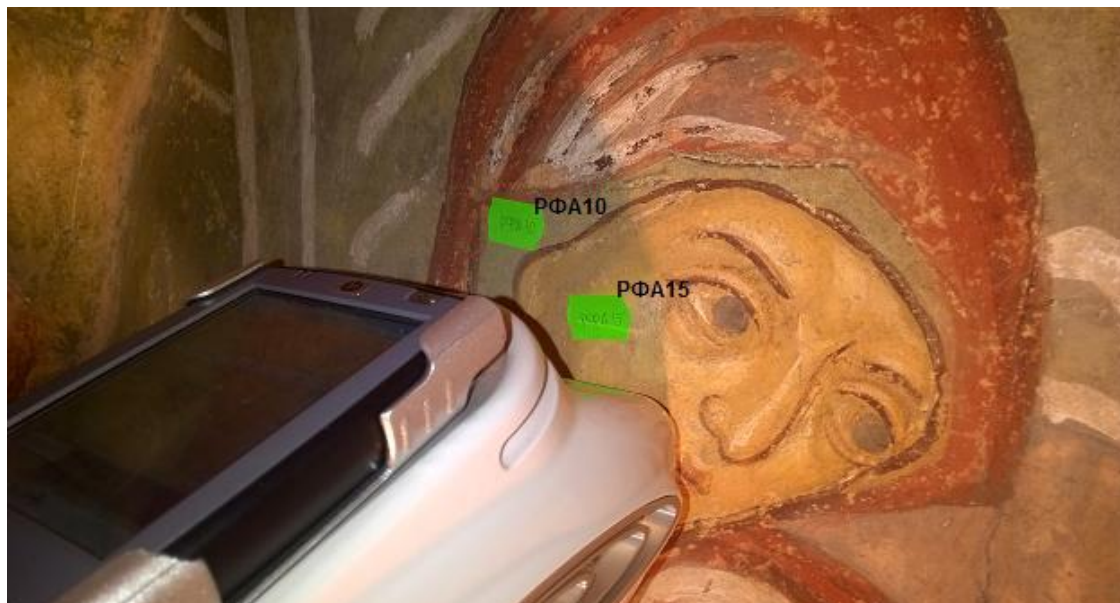


Fig. 1.22 A study of fresco painting was carried out by X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy

According to the information received, three types of gesso have been identified. The first two have a single mineral dolomite lime foundation, but, apparently, have various organic plasticizers. The third type of gesso consists of pure lime mixture without any admixture of magnesium and sand. The third type is a classic mixture of fresco base used since ancient times. This mixture is known as a basic structure, used by Russian fresco masters. The third type of mixture was used to seal apertures created in the process of reconstruction of the 18th century. This mixture was also used to restore fragments of frescoes.

The study of the paint layer proved that 11 basic colors were used. This suggests the creation of an early fresco painting in the Assumption Cathedral. Comparative analysis of the chemical composition reveals three main groups, painted by different colors. In addition, the spots of renovations of the old frescoes have been identified.



The technology of consolidation of columns with wooden chocks-jumpers between the columns was used in the construction of the Assumption Cathedral. The grooves were left in the columns. Then the logs were inserted into the grooves. In the 20th century the wooden bridge had been sawed off, but their part, located inside the wall was preserved (Fig. 1.23). More than ten such bridges have been found.

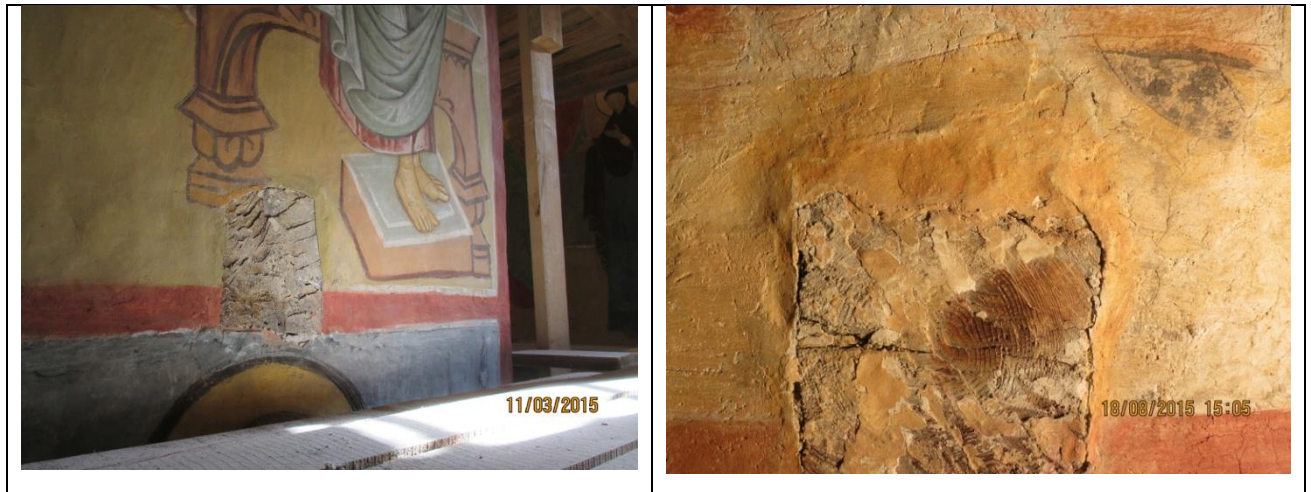


Fig. 1.23 Appearance of saw cuts of wooden bridges in the temple of the cathedral

The wood under study are probably pine, has a total geographical origin and the same calendar date logging. To confirm this, such methods as dendrochronology and radiocarbon dating were used. In 2016, samples from the wooden bridges, located at a height of 5 m above the floor, were taken and then tested.

Following these results, it can be assumed that the trees grew in the same forest and were cut down at the same time.

The samples were dated by accelerator mass spectrometry (UMC or AMS) in radiocarbon laboratory at ETH Zurich (ETH Zurich, Switzerland).

The identification of narrow spans of calibrated radiocarbon dates with the help of standard methods is almost impossible, since the calibration data have wide ranges of 150 to 300 years ( $2\sigma$ , the probability of 95.4%) (Fig. 1.24). In such cases, where

sequence of tree rings is known, the use of a statistical method of wiggle-matching makes it possible to obtain calibrated narrow spans.

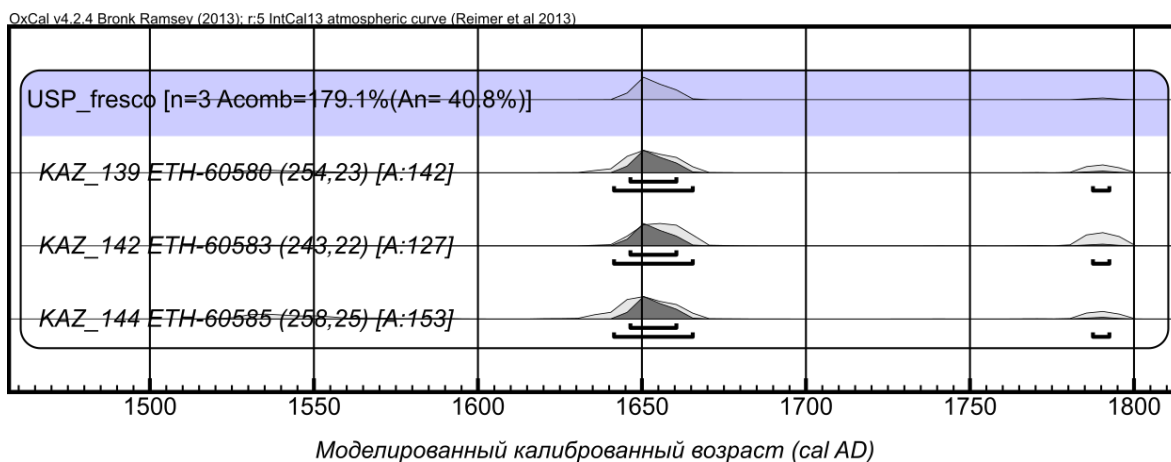


Fig.1.24 The results of the statistical processing of radiocarbon dates of gesso layer

The wiggle-matching procedure (method of matching variations or fluctuations docking method) has significantly narrowed the spans probabilities of calibration dates based on Bayesian statistics. Taking into account these dendrochronological dating of cross beams it can be assumed that the trees used in the construction of the temple part grew at the same time and in the same region and the correct use of the combination of all timber-beams can be stated.

Thus, modeled radiocarbon age for the altar of the beams is 1524-1560 (probability 88.8%); for part of the temple is 1547-1591 (95.4%).

Integrated multi-disciplinary research of the Assumption Cathedral in accordance with the Program, approved by the Government will continue until 2020.

## **The Archaeological Study of the Assumption Monastery in Sviyazhsk in the Republic of Tatarstan**

The inclusion of the Middle Volga region to the structure of the Russian state in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century was accompanied by the building of numerous Orthodox temples in the studied area. The town of Sviyazhsk and Kazan became the largest centres of Christianity spread. According to the City Cadastres in 1565-1567, Sviyazhsk has three monasteries (The Assumption, the Trinity, John the Precursor monasteries) and ten churches located nearby (about 80 ha).

Systematic archaeological studies of Sviyazhsk started in 1978-1982, under the supervision of guidance of Dr Leonid Belyaev and Dr Mikhail Frolov. The excavations were organised by Spetsproektrestavratsiya Institute and were necessary for the study the cultural layer and the determination of its historical value. The researches were limited to the method of local ground disclosure, carrying exploratory trenches, and clearing some architectural objects. It allowed to determine not only the general capacity of the cultural layer, but also the sequence and time of cultural stratification in different sections. Besides, the important historical and architectural observations about the construction of Sviyazhsk architectural ensemble construction, including Assumption Monastery, were made.

Before the studies of 1978-1980 on the island, there was no archaeological excavations conducted, with the only one exception for archaeological surveillance during the restoration of the wooden Trinity church of the 16<sup>th</sup> century in John the Precursor Monastery, which was carried by the employees of Tatar SSRW (Tatar Specialised Scientific Restoration Workshop) in the mid 1970-s.

St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery constructed by the Pskov

masters in 1555-1556 became one of the archaeological sites of Sviyazhsk studied in 1979-1980. Five trenches up to one-meter-wide on the southern and northern sides of the temple were laid for searching the non-extant parts of the church, ambulatory, refectory and additional buildings. There was a shaft constructed inside of the church.

The new stage of regular archaeological studies on the territory of Sviyazhsk began in 2005. In 2009, the studies of the area of the Assumption Monastery (founded in 1555) were renewed. Beginning from 2010, the studies are conducted within the framework of the Cultural Heritage of Town-Island of Sviyazhsk and Bolgar project aiming to revitalise historical and cultural monuments in Bolgar and Sviyazhsk.

#### Modern archaeological research of the Assumption Monastery of Sviyazhsk

The Assumption Monastery of Sviyazhsk, founded in 1555, simultaneously with the establishment of the Kazan diocese, was one of the largest and richest monasteries of that time. Within the monastery territory in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Assumption Cathedral and St. Nicholas church with a refectory were constructed in stone and a bell tower, whereas both temples were warm.

From the previous archaeological researches of 2009-201, it is known that in the territory of the monastery, the cultural layer of the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries is up to two meters with archaeological artefacts and buildings. In 2009, at the Archimandrite's Building three shafts were constructed, aiming to examine the characteristics of the foundation of the building.

In 2010, under the archaeological supervision near Brethren's building erected in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a scattering of coins was discovered. (Ahmetgallina, Shigapova). The coins were divided into three groups. Among the coins from the first group, five were minted on behalf of Ivan IV, including four were minted after 1547 and one was minted in Tver in 1535. Other group of 20 coins were minted on behalf of Michael Fyodorovich.



The third group contained 41 coins minted on behalf of Alexey Mikhailovich. The majority of the coins are represented by kopecks. It was not possible to identify 18 coins. It is possible that this finding of coins has a connection to an Exchequer log hut (as an extension to Brethren's Building) that was functioning in the studied area in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In 2010, during the excavations and observation, several burials connected to the Assumption Monastery territory were studied (the research was conducted by Dr Zufar Shakirov, Dr Ilnur Mirsiyapov, Dr Farid Akhmetgalin, Dr Marat Shigapov). A part of churchyard of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century - early 20<sup>th</sup> century was found in the eastern part from the apses of the Assumption Cathedral. The total area of the excavations extended to the area of NW – SE is 54 sq. m (18mx3m). All sepulchral holes were located in the area of WSW – ENE, some of them contained the remains of decayed wooden coffins. Only five burials from 37 identified ones were completely studied. Moreover, the fragments of the remains of human bones were collected from the holes and cross ditches of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among the studied burials, it is necessary to mention a burial number 4, containing a skeleton (from neck to waist) with chains. The chains were made of iron and were twisting the body, falling from shoulders to the waist, with 5x2 sm links with a iron four-lobed cross attached to one of the links around the breast. It is possible that such finding was related to a practice of Christian ascetics of carrying chains for humility of the flesh in the form of various iron chains, strips, rings, etc. In 2015, the traces of the monastic cemetery (burial ground) were not possible to fix. Also, there was no remains of monumental constructions detected in the studied area (as remains of wall foundations or building). According to the situation, it is suggested to conduct a more large-scaled archaeological studies in the future.

In 2011, a small scale excavation nearby the building of Monastic school was conducted. The remains a brick and stone wing / porch were discovered (conducted by Dr Vadim Starkov).

In 2014, the archaeological excavations under the supervision of Dr Vadim Starkov revealed powerful cultural layers, reaching 220 cm. It is necessary to highlight that the capacity of the cultural layer reaches the brick monastic fencing. About 30 archaeological artefacts were found during the excavations, as well as comparatively large stone constructions in a ruined condition and the rests of the foundation ditch of a medieval construction of an industrial character were identified.

According to the description remained in the Cadastres book of Sviyazhsk in 1565-1567 within the territory of the monastery, except stone temples, there were numerous household buildings and they were probably sunk into the ground: "... and on a monastery a stone smithy two walls for 3 sagens long, and transverse that in the monastery there are 20 monastic cells, and, on the monastery there are three pine granaries, and, linden granaries, and, pine moss calked shed put on rosolnev, and the treasury, linden wood is cut down, and a linden state cell, and between the treasury, and a cell logged seni in poles, and on monastery oak kitchen premises, and a summer cellar, and oak logged pogrebnitca, and an ice cellar...".

In the western part of the excavation area, a stone construction of 11x17 metres size, extending to the south of the excavation was revealed with the stone of 12,30 x 11,0 metres size on its external edge with the depth of cellars up to 4 metres (was possibly blocked by the arch). The capacity of the stone walls reached 180 – 200 cm. The walls were filled by brick and spilt by a limy solution, whereas in the bottom part of the wall filling a clay solution was used. The external edge of the walls was made of good lopped calcareous blocks, whereas for the foundation construction inaccurately lopped calcareous blocks of the different size were used. To the eastern side of the studied building, a a stone extension was attached (5,40 x 4,90 metres) with the remains of a brick furnace. According to a preliminary analysis of the data, the building is dated as the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century - early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The rests of medieval manufacture structure of the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century

- the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century were identified in the central part of the excavation area. It represented two large constructions. The first construction of subrectangle form has the sizes in the excavation 8 x 9,80 metres. There was a sun-dried brick forge with the sizes 300 x 260 cm inside of the first construction. Possibly, this forge was used for brick drying. It is necessary to notice, that the forge functioning was short and it was partially damaged in the process of the erection of the second construction.

The second construction of subsquare shape had the size in the excavation as 8,30 x 8,30 metres. A massive adjournment of calcareous rubble was found on its southern and eastern parts that can specify that initially the construction was made of stone and then subsequently was reconstructed. The second construction also contained a forge with the sizes 230x200 cm. The forge was made of sun-dried bricks on a base made of calcareous stone.

In 2015, the fieldwork was focused on the studies of the Assumption Monastery area in Sviyazhsk: five excavation units with the total area of 839.5 sq. metres were located in different parts of the territory of the Monastery. No burials were found in the central and eastern parts of the modern monastery.

However, in a 208 sq.m. excavation unit number 2 located on the north side of St. Nicholas Church, the remains of an Orthodox necropolis with 28 burials dated in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries were found. All burial pits are extended from the south-west to the north-east with minor deviations. The majority contained the remains of wooden coffins (traced as 2-3 cm thick wood decay) with the buried lying stretched on their backs, in anatomical order with their heads directed to the South-West with crossed hands on their chests. Only in two burials, copper pectoral crosses in a very poor state of preservation were found, in the rest of the burials, any equipment was missing. Also, several fragments of human bone remains were found, probably they belonged to other burials of the same necropolis and were destroyed as a result of human activities in the 18<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In general, the findings from the excavation were represented

by Tatar-Russian grey ceramic of different variations, Tatar-Russian white clay ceramics, as well as by white clay, glass, and iron artefacts. Numismatic material is mainly represented by coins (scales) of the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In the north-western part of St. Nicholas Church, as a continuation of the studies in 2014, there was an archaeological excavation unit number 2-201 with the total area of 352 sq. metres. This excavation unit was bordering the first and the second excavation units from 2014 field season. The cultural layers of the excavated area were almost completely destroyed due to previous years' activities. A large number of pole and utility pits, as well as the remnants of 20<sup>th</sup>-century trenches and wells of utility systems were found at the excavation unit. In addition, we managed to fix the boundary of the burial ground which was discovered on the second excavation unit of 2014 with a single burial excavated in 2015. The burial contained the remains of a wooden coffin and a skeleton of a man stretched on a line SW–NE in an anatomical order with his head oriented to the South-West, and his face oriented to the South-East. No more burials were found in the excavation unit.

Consequently, the burial ground had no further extension to the eastern direction with its main part was found at the second excavation unit of 2014. It probably had a continuation to the part of the first excavation unit of 2014, where it was destroyed by brick and stone constructions along the fence of the monastery, as some of the burials in this necropolis were cut by the brick and stone foundation built in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Probably, the necropolis area in this part of the monastery was located along the monastery wall, but not in the direction of the Assumption Cathedral.

There was another excavation campaign in 2015 with the total area of 250 sq. metres. As a result of the works conducted in these areas, the remains of a monastic necropolis were discovered. On the excavation site, 61 grave sites of various state dating to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century were identified. The majority of them

were destroyed by later constructions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The skeletons were oriented to the SW–NE line, lying stretched on the back with the head oriented towards South-West with the hands folded in the abdominal area. The anatomical order of bones usually remained in the correct arrangement. All burial pits had smooth walls and relatively flat bottom. All the dead were buried in coffins, as evidenced by the remains of wooden decay. However, the remains of a brick tomb, which was destroyed by later construction is of special interest. In the tomb we have managed to fix the skeleton with violated anatomical order. It should be noted that in most of the burials we have discovered bottles of different sizes with liquid residues (possibly unctuous oil), which are usually located near the right or left shoulder of the buried. As for the rest, several pectoral crosses and two coins of poor state of preservation represent the grave artefacts from all of the burial pits. The capacity of the cultural layers in these excavations was ranged from 60 to 140 cm.

The studies of the north-east part of the Monastery continued in 2015 mainly through excavation sites 4-2015 with the total area of 126 sq. metres and excavation site 5 with the total area of 72 sq.metres, located 20 m to the north-east from the Church of Herman of Kazan and Mitrophan of Voronezh (researched by Dr Vadim Belyaev and Dr Rodion Khamzin). The aim of the excavations was to try to localize the boundaries of the monastery cemetery and to determine the boundary of the monastery of the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, no burials were found.

To conclude, in the recent years, a large scale archaeological studies were conducted on the territory of the Assumption Monastery. These studies revealed significant archaeological findings, identifying that the necropolis of the Assumption Monastery existed from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The paleoanthropological study of human remains provided the following results (conducted by Ekaterina Makarova): the male remains from the burials of the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>

centuries are presented by brachycranial cranium. The cranium size is average. Facial skeleton is of average width, short according to altitude measures. In this case, we are dealing with low-face brachycranial European complex. There are a lot less female burials on the territory of the monastery. Female and male craniums found on the site were compared to identify the sexual dimorphism coefficient. According to the analysis, female skull of the 16<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> century graveyard differed from male ones with relatively high and wide face and a slight increase in the height of the cranial vault. However, female craniums belong to the same low-face brachycranial European complex as well as male craniums of this sample. A comparative analysis of the grave sites of the 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> centuries showed that, according to cranial characteristics, male craniums also belong to the low-face brachycranial European type.

План-схема археологического изучения Свяязского Богородице-Успенского монастыря

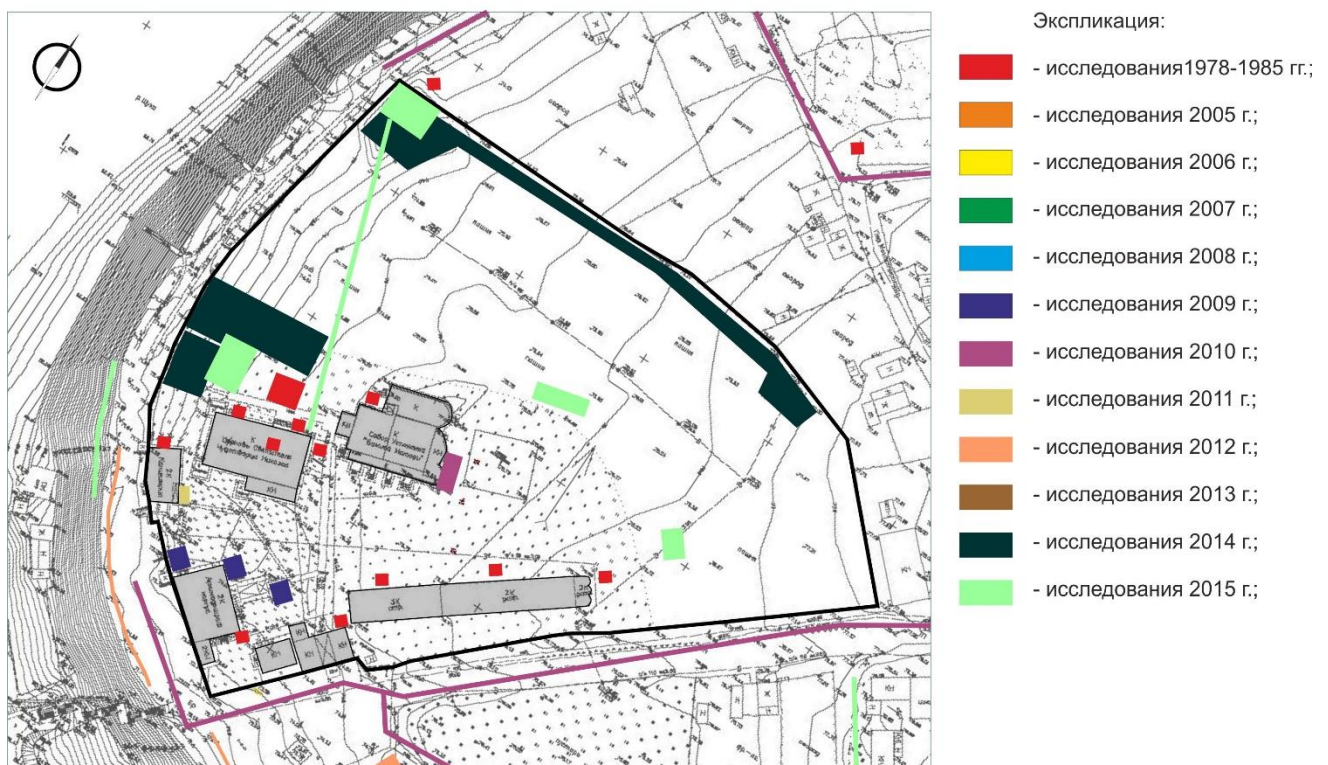


Fig 2.1 The layout of the archaeological study of the Assumption Monastery of Sviyazhsk

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Министерство культуры РСФСР

Республиканское научно-реставрационное объединение «Росреставрация»

Проектный институт по реставрации памятников истории и культуры  
«СПЕЦПРОЕКТРЕСТАВРАЦИЯ»

12418

Никольская церковь XVI-XVIII вв.Успенского мон-ря в г.Свияжске Татарской АССР**ПРОЕКТ  
РЕСТАВРАЦИИ**РАЗДЕЛ Археологические исследованияОтчет за 1979 г.Том № -Стадия -

АРХИВ  
ОРДЕНА ТРУДОВОГО  
КРАСНОГО ЗНАМЕНИ  
ИНСТИТУТА АРХЕОЛОГИИ  
АН СССР

Главный архитектор института

В. Л. Котелков /Л. Л. Котелков/

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АРМ-I

И. В. Яковлев /И. В. Яковлев/

Главный архитектор (инженер) проекта

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Объединение «Росреставрация»  
Проектный институт по реставрации  
памятников истории и культуры  
«СПЕЦПРОЕКТРЕСТАВРАЦИЯ»  
НАУЧНО-ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ АРХИВ

Инв. №

1350

Арх № 1350

23.04.80

Москва 1980

3-3000

Fig 2.2 The front page of the 1979 studies report



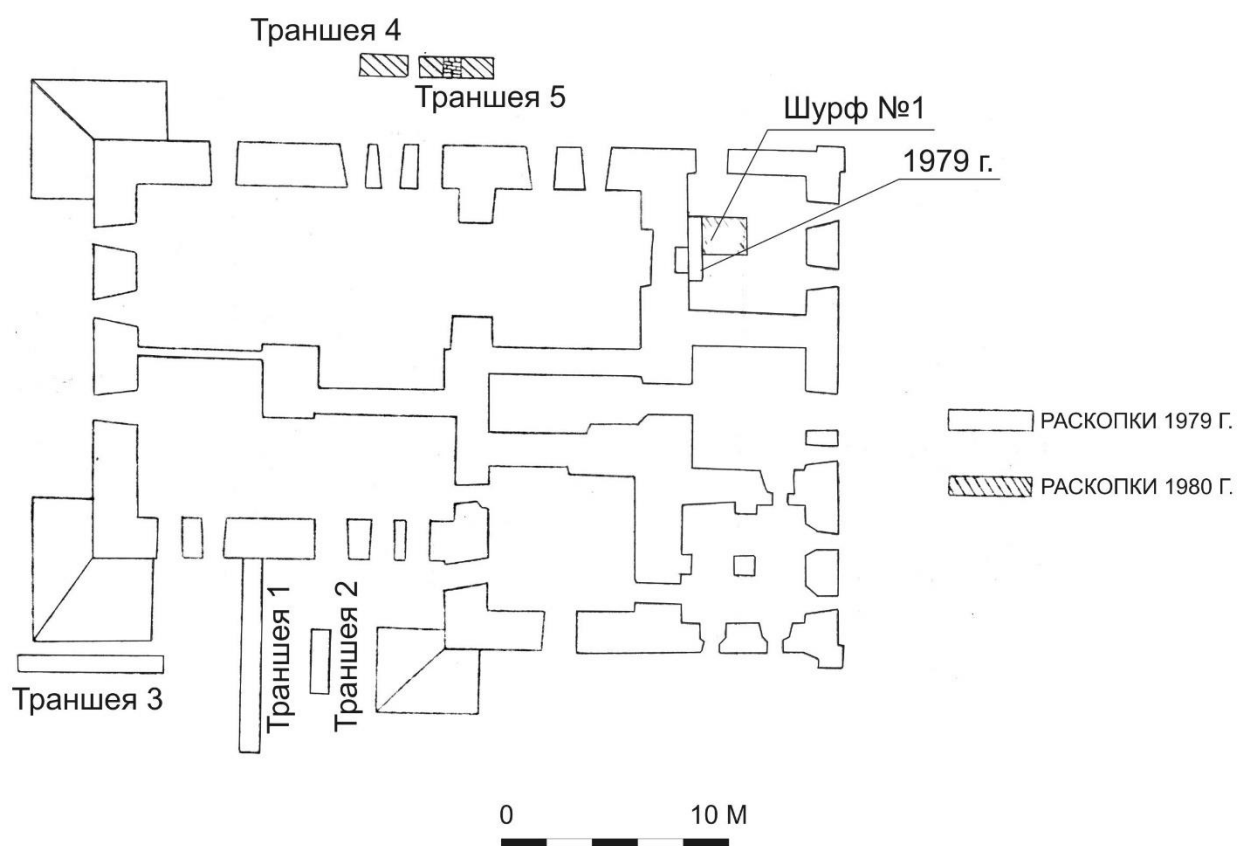


Fig 2.3 Situational plan of the 1979-1980 excavations near St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery



Fig 2.4 Pit photofixation 1. The archaeological research of the 1980 report

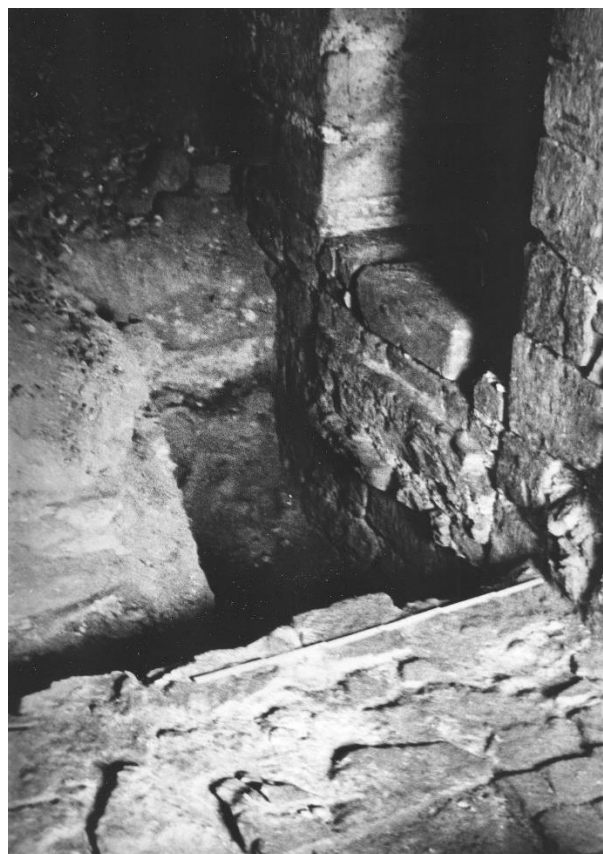


Fig 2.5. Pit photofixation 1. The archaeological research of the 1980 report



Fig 2.6 Pit photofixation 1. The archaeological research of the 1980 report



Fig 2.7 General view of the pit near the Archimandrite's Building. 2009



Fig 2.8 The stratigraphic section in the pit near The Archimandrite's Building. 2009





Fig 2.9 A fragment of a sepulchral stone from the excavation nearby the Assumption Cathedral.2010



Fig 2.10 Clearing Assumption Cathedral open arcade.2011





Fig 2.11 General view of the excavation by the Monastic school. 2011



Fig 2.12 General view of the excavation site number I-2014 to the north of St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption monastery. 2014





Fig 2.13 General view of the excavation site number I-2014 to the north of St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery. 2014



Fig 2.14 General view of the excavation site number I-2014 to the north of St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery. 2014





Fig 2.15. General view of the excavation I-2014 to the north of St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery. 2014



Fig 2.16 General view of the excavation I-2014, the remains of the forge. 2014





Fig 2.17 Excavation site number I-2014, the remains of forge for bricks firing. 2014



Fig 2.18 Excavation site number I-2014, the remains of a blacksmith forge. 2014





Fig 2.19 Excavation site number I-2014, photogrammetry of the stone building of the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, 2014



Fig 2.20 Excavation site number I-2014, photogrammetry of the forge of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. 2014





Fig 2.21 General view of the excavation II-2014 to the north of St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery. 2015



Fig 2.22 Excavation site number II-2014 to the north of St. Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery. The foundation of the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. 2015





Fig 2.23 General view of the Assumption Monastery excavation. 2015



Fig 2.24 The excavation of the Assumption Monastery. The tomb of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. 2015





Fig 2.25 The excavation of the Assumption Monastery. 2015



Fig 2.26 The excavation of the Assumption Monastery. 2015





Fig 2.27 General view of the excavation site number 4-2015 on the territory of the Assumption Monastery. 2015



Fig 2.28 General view of the excavation site number 4-2015 on the territory of the Assumption Monastery. 2015





Fig 2.29 General view of the excavation site number 4-2015 on the territory of the Assumption Monastery. 2015

The list of reports on archaeological research on the territory of the Assumption Monastery of Sviyazhsk (from the archive of Khalikov Institute of Archaeology, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences):

Belyaev L.A. The restoration Project. Section of research work. Archaeological studies of 1979

Belyaev L.A. The restoration Project. Section of research work. Archaeological research of 1980

Starkov A.S. The report of the archaeological research on the territory of the town-island of Sviyazhsk in the Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2009

Ahmetgalin F.A. The report on rescue excavations in the churchyard of the Assumption monastery of Sviyazhsk in 2010

Starkov A.S. The report on the rescue archaeological field work on Town-Island of Sviyazhsk, the site of the Monastery school of the Assumption Monastery in Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2011

Starkov A.S. The rescue archaeological field work on the territory of the Assumption Monastery in the Sviyazhsk village of Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2014. Excavation site number I

Starkov A.S. The rescue archaeological field work on the territory of the Assumption Monastery in the village of Sviyazhsk of Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2014. Excavation site number II

Starkov A.S. The rescue archaeological field work on the territory of the Assumption Monastery in the village of Sviyazhsk of Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2014. Observations

Belyaev A.V. Report. Archaeological research of the site of a heating pipeline from a free-standing boiler on the territory of the Assumption Monastery in 2015

Belyaev A.V. Report. Archaeological research of the site construction of the heating pipeline to the building of the school of the Assumption Monastery in 2015

Belyaev A.V. Report. Archaeological research of the site the Assumption Monastery in Sviyazhsk in the Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2015. Excavation-II

Belyaev A.V. Report. Archaeological research of the site the Assumption Monastery in Sviyazhsk in the Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2015. Excavation IV.

Belyaev A.V. Report. Archaeological research of the site the Assumption Monastery in Sviyazhsk in the Zelenodolsk district of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2015. Excavation-V.

### **The project proposal for model houses for restoring historical and architectural environment of Sviyazhsk housing area**

Sviyazhsk is an architectural, urban-planning and landscape phenomena represented in its unique historical ensemble. Initially, the foundation and the expressiveness of the ensemble, alongside with its natural background, were accounted for the architecture of the Assumption Cathedral, John the Precursor Monastery and the Church of Constantine and Helena. A few stone administrative and public buildings and typical wooden, one- or two-storey residential buildings of mansion type are considered to be an integral part of the unique historical ensemble of Sviyazhsk.

In general, the modern architectural framework of Sviyazhsk is a preserved layout of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century plan with some of the regular elements of the plan confirmed earlier by Nicholas I in 1829 and with historically formed stable fragments of pre-regular development of the city. Such a compromise between the "ideal" design schemes and a current layout mostly determined by the natural environment, that is typical for the vast majority of Russian cities that experienced a total redevelopment in the late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

One- and two-storey historic stone buildings of Sviyazhsk and large housing complexes, such as public places, Corps of Engineers barracks, the town school, the Horse yard and several others buildings were sufficiently preserved.

However, some typical wooden buildings that constituted the basis of the historic background of Sviyazhsk were damaged. Field studies and analysis of the development of Sviyazhsk conducted in July – October, 2014 revealed the following picture of the residential development of the town: The first, no more than three dozen residential houses built before the Revolution in 1917 were have been preserved in varying states. The second, historic residential buildings previously were a dispersed structure of



mansion type. Mansion pattern of buildings reflected a special way of designing city streets facades which was an alternation of the main facade of a one-two-storey mansion with a wicket gate, a fragment of the fence and the wing facade or household outbuildings. The main entrance to the house was made through ‘seni’ (entrance room) attached to the house from the yard.

In front of the house there was a front garden, which was typical of mansion buildings of small towns of the region of the end of the nineteenth – beginning of the twentieth century.



Fig. 3.1. Preserved wooden residential houses in Sviyazhsk.

The proposed design solutions for a ‘model’ house for Sviyazhsk are intended both to restore a lost typical living environment and to minimize the negative impact of disharmonious houses. Every period creates its own architectural stylistic preferences,

and it may not be always appropriate to copy historic samples to develop a historic settlement century later. However, the situation of the site of the town-island Sviyazhsk is unique and exceptional. Foundation of the historical and architectural Museum-Reserve provides maximum preservation of the historical identity of the environment and the spirit of the place.

In this regard, the concept of project proposals for modern residential development of Sviyazhsk is based on the principle of maximum conformity of buildings' exterior with their historic analogues in size, structure and main facades proportions, colour, techniques and details of decoration. The internal layout and technical equipment of the houses are made in accordance with modern requirements. The most expressive and typical patterns of houses were selected as a basis for developing the houses design according to the results of field studies of the preserved historic residential buildings of Sviyazhsk. The studies and draft recommendations development involved the studies of previous fundamental research and design work on Sviyazhsk urban development conducted by architects Farida Zabirowa and Tatjana Kopsova, as well as the studies of archival documentation of Town-Island of Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve. As a result, five major historic analogues were selected as a basis for design projects of residential houses that are now proposed for development:

**Model House Type 1:** one-storey residential building with a mezzanine with the area of 145 sq.m. Its historic analogue is the house of Medvedev-Brovkin located on Moskovskaya Street. It is one of the most expressive samples of a respectable residential mansion house with a mezzanine. Similar houses with mezzanines of various types, mostly of classic style, were quite common in the towns of the Volga river region, in the central part of Russia, as well as in the Urals and Siberia.

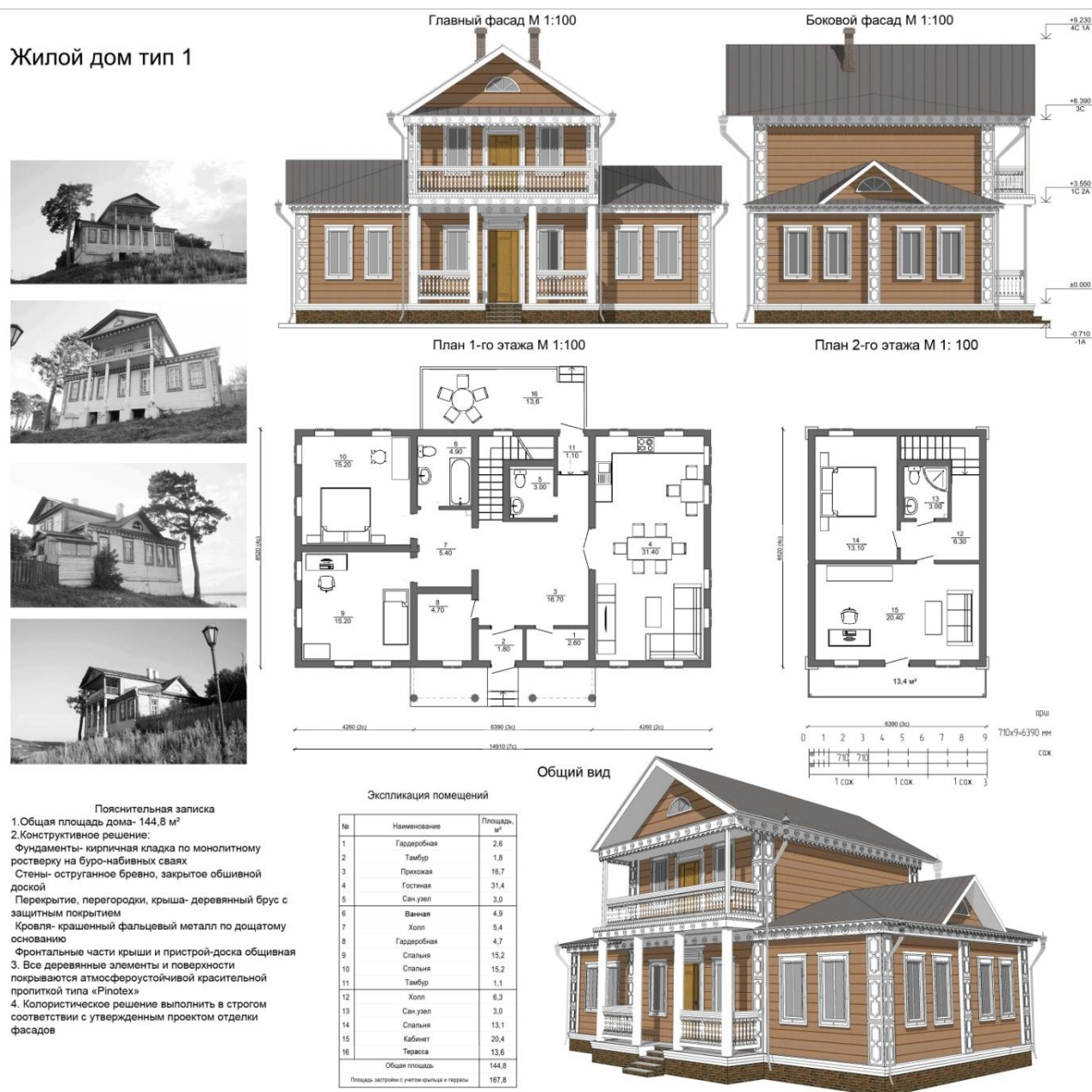


Fig. 2.2. Model House Type 1: one-storey residential building with a mezzanine: main façade, side façade, the first floor plan, the second floor plan and general view. The total area of the house is 144.8 sq.m.

**Model House Type 2:** a one-storey residential building with the main facade with three windows, with the area of 103 sq.m. (an option with the attic of 158 sq.m). Its analogue, a type of a five- six-walled house with three windows on the main (street) facade was the most common and best preserved in the living environment of Sviyazhsk. Besides, it is the most numerous representative of historic residential buildings all over the country, the type originating in a traditional suburban *izba* of the 16-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Sviyazhsk this type is represented by the houses on the following streets: Uspenskaya Street, Konstantinovskaya Street, Schuka River Embankment, Nikolsky Lane, Rozhdestvensky Lane and others.

Жилой дом тип 2



№	Наименование	Площадь, м²
1	Спальня	14,8
2	Спальня	16,9
3	Кладовая	4,1
4	Ванная	2,7
5	Сан. узел	1,6
6	Тамбур	2,9
7	Прихожая	2,6
8	Коридор	11,8
9	Кухня	12,2
10	Гостиная	33,7
	Общая площадь этажа	103,3
	Площадь застройки	122,8



- Пояснительная записка
1. Общая площадь дома- 103,3 м²
  2. Конструктивное решение:  
Фундаменты-кирпичная кладка по монолитному ростверку на буронабивных сваях  
Стены- острогомное бревно, закрытое обшивкой доской  
Перекрытие, перегородки, крыша- деревянный брус с защитным покрытием  
Крыша- крашеный фальцевый металл по дощатому основанию  
Фронтальные части крыши и пристрой-доска обшивная
  3. Все деревянные элементы и поверхности покрываются атмосферостойчивой красительной пропиткой типа «Pinotex»
  4. Колористическое решение выполнить в строгом соответствии с утвержденным проектом отделки фасадов

Fig. 2.3 Model House Type 2: a one-storey residential building with the main façade with three windows: main façade, side façade, the plan and general view. The total area of the house is 103 sq.m.



**Model House Type 3:** a two-storey residential building with the area of 166 sq.m. Its historic analogue is a preserved dwelling house on Konstantinovskaya Street. Besides, this type of a wooden house on a stone ground floor is quite a common type of an old town building of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Fig. 2.4 Model House Type 3: a two-storey residential building: main façade, side façade, the first floor plan, the second floor plan and general view. The total area of the house is 166 sq.m.



**Model House Type 4:** one-storey residential building with main façade with 4 windows, the area of 120 sq.m. A wooden 5-walled residential house with four windows on the main (street) facade. In Sviyazhsk this type is represented by a residential house with its very expressive, distinctive decor on the main façade on the Schuka River Embankment.

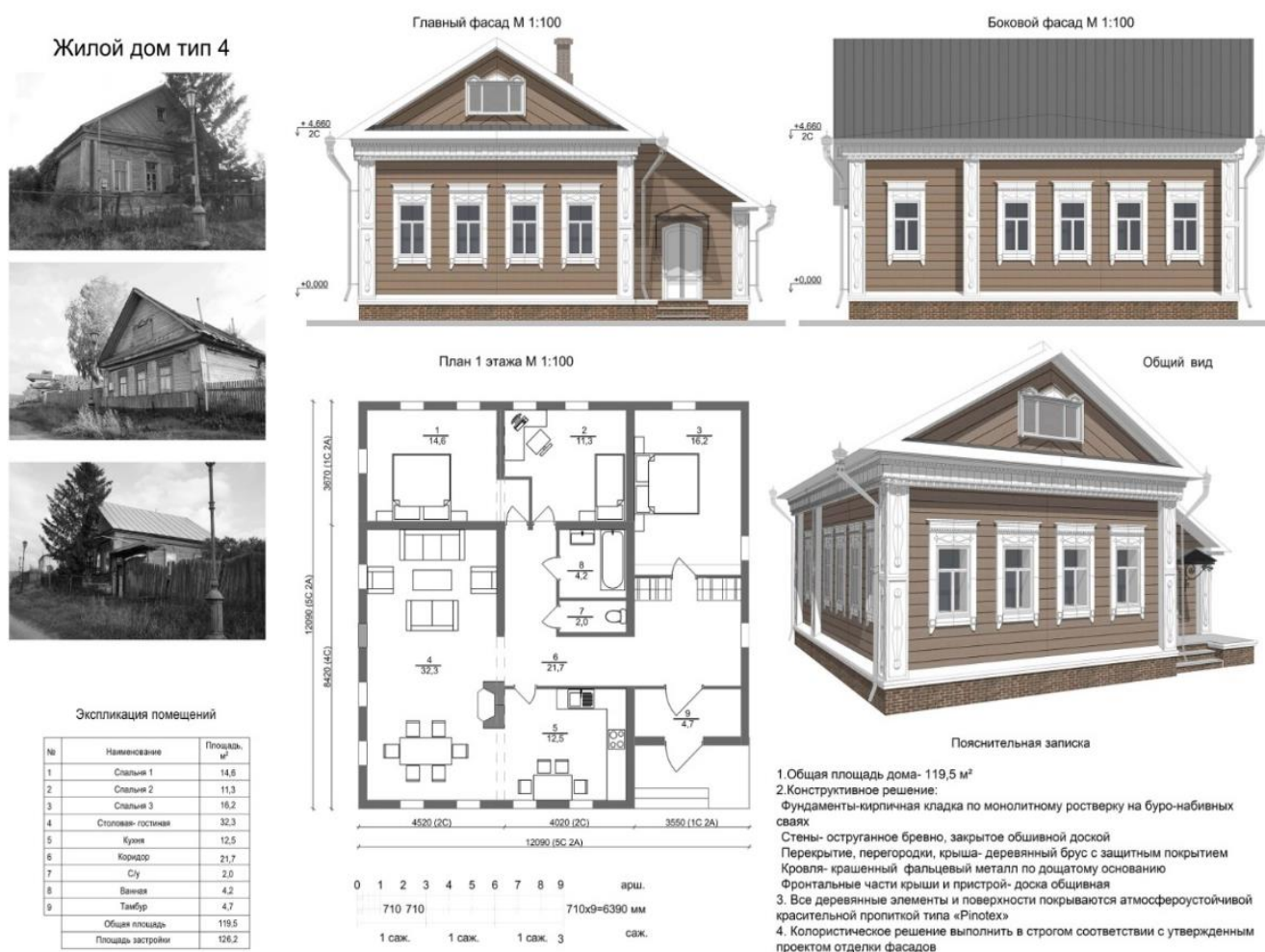


Fig. 2.5 Model House Type 4: one-storey residential building with main façade with 4 windows: main façade, side façade, plan, and general view. The total area of the house is 120 sq.m.

**Model House Type 5:** one-storey residential building with main façade with 5 windows, with the area of 173 sq.m. (Variant with the attic is 250 sq.m). A single-storey 6-walled wooden house with internal partition divides the main façade into 3 and 2 window axes. The historical building of this type in Sviyazhsk is presented by the house on Uspenskaya Street.



Fig. 2.6 Model House Type 5: one-storey residential building with main façade with 5 windows: main façade, side façade and the plan. The total area of the house is 173 sq.m.



Fig 2.7 A photomontage of Uspenskaya Street: possible type pf housing based on proposed model  
residential houses

Space and layout design of all residential buildings presented in the projects was based on the results of the proportional analysis and correlated with the pre-revolutionary system of measures in fathoms (2.13 m) and arshins (0.71 m).

Wall material can be chosen by a developer at his own discretion. The main limitations are the size of the building, its proportions, materials and facades decoration.

On the basis of parcelling analysis there were defined main types of mansion sites in Sviyazhsk according to their configuration and dimensions. For each of them were

identified the preferred types of designed residential houses. Project proposal for free sites development is reflected on the key plan with the development scheme. A photomontage of Uspenskaya Street perspective was done to illustrate a possible type of housing with the proposed "model" residential houses.

The following activities are conducted for already built residential brick houses, with the aim to make them adapted to architectural environment of the town-island:

- painting of facades fragments thus highlighting the central part with a triangular pediment and reducing excessively elongated horizontal facade plane;
- planking of triangular pediment planes with their dormer-windows according to analogues preserved in Sziyazhsk;
- supplying window openings without casings with stylized wooden window casings similarly to their historic analogues;
- installation of drainage pipes with funnels of grooved iron similarly to their historic analogs;
- fencing a site with stylized gates and wickets.





Fig.2.8 The activities conducted for already built modern residential brick houses for their adaptation to the historical and architectural environment of the town-island of Sviyazhsk.



### **The Project of the Adaptation of Modern Residential Houses in Sviyazhsk**

The modern two-and one-storey brick residential houses complex has a disruptive effect on the historical and architectural environment of the town-island of Sviyazhsk, as it does not correspond to its historical urban planning system.

The project aims to adapt the new houses on the main streets of the town-island of Sviyazhsk, making their appearance closer to typical residential housing estates of the old Sviyazhsk.

The project developed by Tatinvestgrazhdanproekt Institute is to be conducted in 2017-2018. It will provide decoration of separate parts of the buildings with wooden planking, casing and pilaster-strips made by using traditional technology and artistic techniques typical of Sviyazhsk. It will also change the colour scheme of the facades and division of the windows into panes. The proposed decoration will recreate the traditional historical and architectural environment and will neutralize the impact of new buildings on the perception of the architectural complexes and monuments of architecture, as well as will contribute to the regeneration of the cultural heritage sites in Sviyazhsk.

4.1



Fig.4.1 The one- storied residential house on 14, Schuka River Embankment: the current state and proposed adaptation project

4.2

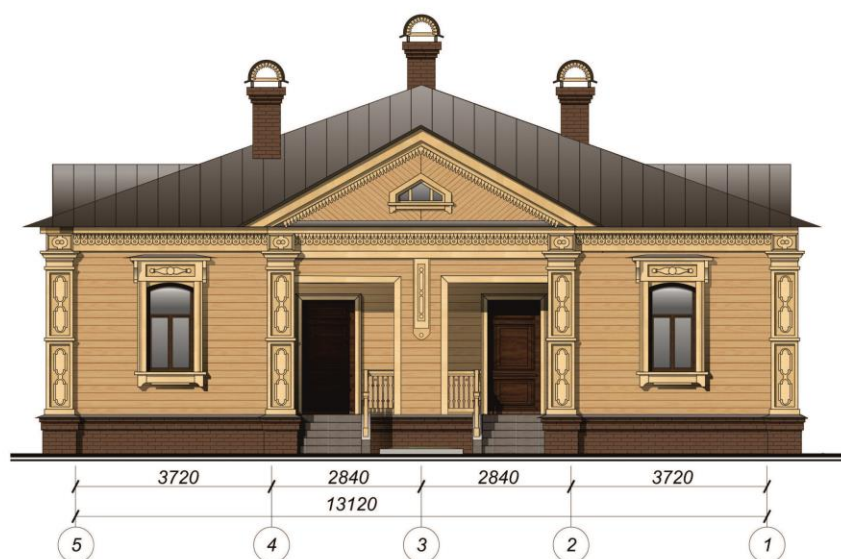


Fig.4.2 The one- storied residential house on 14, Schuka River Embankment: the current state and proposed adaptation project



4.3



Fig.4.3 The three- storied residential house in Sviyazhsk: the current state and proposed adaptation project

4.4

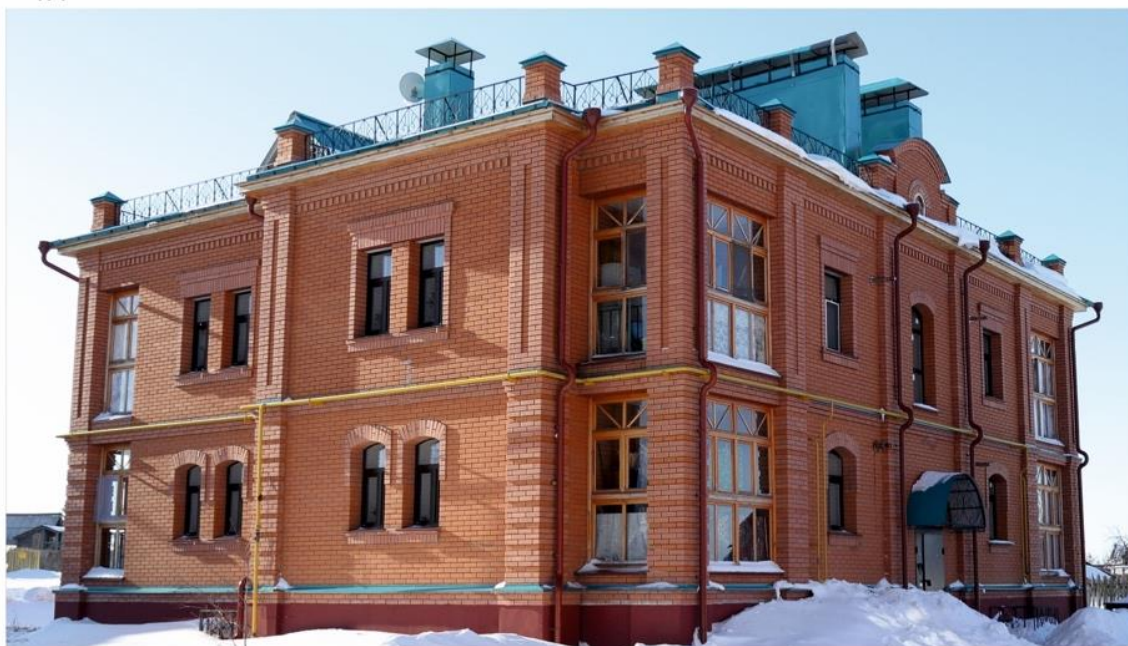


Fig.4.4 The three- storied residential house in Sviyazhsk: the current state and proposed adaptation project



4.5



Fig.4.5 The three- storied residential house in Sviyazhsk: the current state and proposed adaptation project

4.6

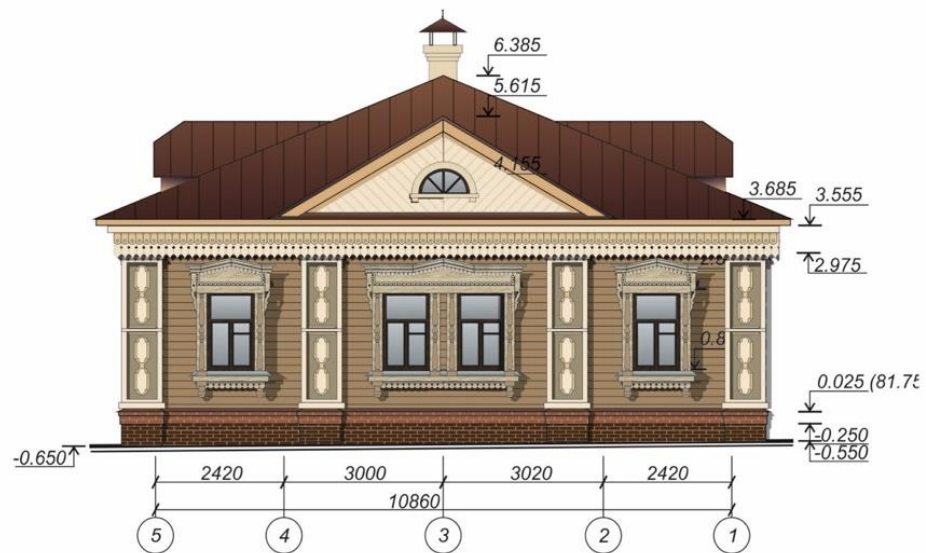


Fig.6. Fig.4. The one-storied residential house in Sviyazhsk: the current state and proposed adaptation project

4.7



Fig.7. The one- storied residential house on 34 Rozhdestvenskaya Street, Sviyazhsk: the current state and proposed adaptation project



## **The Development of the Museum Complex of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk**

The development of the museum complex in Sviyazhsk is based on the need to perform basic tasks that the World Heritage Convention sets. The article 4 of the Convention states that ‘Each State Party to this Convention recognizes the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory’. The article 5 of the Convention emphasizes the need for active and effective measures to protect, conserve and present cultural and natural heritage, in particular to set up services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage.

The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention emphasize that ‘a property must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding’ (para. 78). At the same time, in paragraphs 109, 110 of the Operational Guidelines the attention is drawn to the fact that ‘an effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context’.

The legislation of the Russian Federation provides the establishment of a Museum-Reserve, if there is a necessity for special protection for areas where cultural heritage monuments are located. Museum-Reserve status means that a museum becomes a major management organization in an area, ensures its sustainable development and promotion, whereas a territory itself as well as the heritage monuments and sites located on it receive necessary protection and safeguarding.

The territory of Sviyazhsk forming a part of the buffer zone of the nominated property is actively visited by tourists. Threats from excessive or inappropriate tourism are constantly under the focus of the expert community and state authorities of the Republic of Tatarstan and Russian Federation and therefore, specific measures are

initiated to reduce the anthropogenic pressure on cultural heritage sites, according to the Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (ICOMOS, 2011).

Otherwise, the Operational Guidelines emphasize that ‘... the artificial isolation of the heritage problems from other areas of activity is simply impossible, because the external factors continue to have a negative impact on the practical activities in the field of heritage, as well as an isolated decision-making in managing the heritage has a negative impact on relations between a heritage site and its context’ (Operational Guidelines, 2015, p.21); besides, ‘from this perspective, the promotion of sustainable development is not only a moral obligation for the sphere of heritage, but also a matter of survival in the long term, in particular taking into account the current financial crisis, when it’s more difficult for the government to justify the costs of preservation of the heritage’ (Operational Guidelines, 2015, p.43).

The importance of the development of sustainable tourism is emphasized in many UNESCO documents, including the World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development (WHC-11/35.COM/5E). Here one of the goals is marked as an ‘increase of mutual benefits for communities and heritage through sustainable development associated with world heritage sites’ (UNESCO, 2011, p.13).

Experts have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that ‘despite all the costs and challenges, UNESCO is promoting tourism as an effective instrument of interaction between people and communities. Tourism contributes to the dialogue development, a dialogue of cultures and civilizations, that remains the main goal of the organization's mandate. In the course of the dialogue an intercultural information exchange takes place and understanding of other cultures increases’ (Bandarin, F., Oers van R., 2013) which are directly alleged to II and IV criteria suggested for the nominated object and the surrounding territory of Sviyazhsk.

In Russia, Tatarstan and Sviyazhsk hundreds of people of various nationalities,

cultural backgrounds and beliefs live together, and this is the reason for the development of spiritual centres, including the museum clusters and tourist destinations that could not be underestimated. In addition to the ability to see the life of an acting monastery, a visitor to Sviyazhsk is invited to explore the historical and cultural context of the life here throughout the centuries until the present day. Such presentation is provided and regulated by the functions of the government bodies as well as by the resources of the Museum-Reserve, whereas the spiritual and religious presentation is corresponded with the monastery development.

The operation of the Museum-Reserve allows searching for a balance between the interests of site protection, its sustainable development and local community interests. By the ongoing research process, steady situation monitoring (together with the municipality and the monastery), on the one hand, and the parties concerned, on the other hand, is conducted, creating prerequisites for performing the above listed tasks. It is obvious that the increase of visitor's satisfaction could increase the prosperity of the local community. These recommendations define Tatarstan policy on tourism development and its regulation on the Island-Town of Sviyazhsk.

In the 'new paradigm for protected areas' developed by Adrian Phillips, quoted in the Operational Guidelines for Managing World Heritage Sites, it is emphasized that protected areas function for social and economic problems solving as well. It is also important to maintain control not only for the benefit of visitors and tourists, but also for the interests of local communities. In addition, the importance of the interactive approach is highlighted, whereas heritage is seen as a collective property of the communities and as an important factor of the community sustainability.

In the same Operational Guidelines, the need 'to ensure that world heritage sites contribute to sustainable development as well as provide benefits created by the heritage for the site and parties concerned' is pointed out. 'A good indicator for the effectiveness of the interactive approach is the availability of benefits to the parties concerned, which are not directly responsible for the daily site functioning' (Operational Guidelines



Managing World Heritage Sites, 2013, p.235).

The Museum-Reserve activity is generally aimed to implementation of such an interactive approach to management, providing the necessary site protection and at the same time providing benefits for local community. They consist of the local labor market development (besides the fact that locals working at the museum are involved into heritage interpretation), mainly in traditional sectors (crafts, including icon-painting, fishing, traditional horticulture and gardening, etc.).

Considering Sviyazhsk as a buffer zone of the nominated site, it is necessary to keep in mind that the architectural environment of Sviyazhsk was significantly damaged during the Soviet period (see the Management Plan, p.52). There are still several historical buildings on the territory of the town-island of Sviyazhsk that require conservation and maintenance. Museum experience proves that the most successful method of conservation is turning the buildings into museums, where preservation is performed with the highest degree of quality and historical accuracy. Furthermore, a current legislative and tax base steadily allow to finance the preservation of buildings in the state ownership, while the system of support for private owners of historic buildings (including, for example, tax exemptions) has not been properly developed. Therefore, the decision was made to transfer the majority of vacant historic buildings to the Museum-Reserve. It is important to understand that all these buildings have a small area (at an average of 150 - 200 square meters) and are mostly located in areas not directly adjacent to the walls of the monastery (Annex 5.1).

Considering a comparatively large tourist flow to Sviyazhsk, the Museum-Reserve faces a problem of the flow "buffering". The issue is that the rate of loading on the nominated site established by the specialists limits the number of visitors.

Already open and soon-to-be open small museums are located across the territory to facilitate the control over tourist flows in order to reduce loads on both the nominated site itself and to its buffer zone as well. They also create the possibility of rerouting and

load redistribution to other sites of cultural heritage. Moreover, the process is based on the understanding that reviving a living monastic community requires consideration of the existing regulations of monastic life. It is necessary to create private prayer places for certain periods of time. Small museum exhibitions are aimed to strengthen the attributes of the OUV of the nominated site. They also give a possibility to raise awareness about the nominated site and to promote it. All museum expositions include information about the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery Complex, in general, regarding it as the spiritual centre, the historical and architectural monument, the commemoration site of the victims of political repressions. Therefore, the creation of the museum exhibitions suggested by the Management Plan has a positive impact on the nominated site increasing awareness, reducing tourism pressure and contributing to the conservation process of historic buildings in the buffer zone.

The establishment of the museum complex is considered in details in Nomination Dossier (Annex I, the map of functional zones, p.16 in the vol.1 of the Nomination materials, the volume is entirely devoted to museum activities).

Currently, the Museum-Reserve the Island-Town of Sviyazhsk is responsible for the basic functions of the operational management at the buffer zone and for the operational management of the nominated site jointly with the Assumption Monastery (Management Plan for the Assumption Monastery, p. 19, 25-29, 117). The monastery territories today, being in the state property, are under the operational management of the Assumption Monastery. On the territory of the Assumption Monastery, inside its wall perimeter, there will be no objects under the direct control of the Museum-Reserve administration, so as to respect the privacy of the monastic community. The Assumption Monastery Museum (fig. 5.2, 5.3) to be established in 2017 on the ground floor of St. Nicholas Church, (Management Plan for the Assumption Monastery, p. 8) will be under the monastery administration and it will represent an exposition dedicated to the values of the Assumption Cathedral as an outstanding historical and cultural monument and symbol of the Orthodox culture and cultural diversity. The film dedicated to the

paintings of the Assumption Monastery, their unique character and theological meaning will be a part of the exhibition. The exhibition is created for a better presentation and interpretation of the nominated site and to reduce visitors' duration of stay inside of the nominated property. But neither interference nor change in the exterior of the site is planned as well as any change in its construction which can interfere to its authenticity and structural integrity.

The area outside the monastery has historically belonged to the ancient city of Sviyazhsk and is not sacred in the religious sense. As it is now, this area was occupied by residential areas of Sviyazhsk. Currently, the development of the museum complex is conducted and will be continued on the area in the future without affecting the nominated site itself and its surroundings inside the walls of the monastery (see. p. 31, vol.1 of the Nomination Materials). At the same time, the Management Plan provides the strategy of the harmonious development both of museum functions of the territory and sustainable development for the local community by creating jobs and coherent development of the territory in accordance with the guidelines and regulations of the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and the Management Plan of the nominated site. Currently, the following museum expositions are operating: the Museum of History of Sviyazhsk, which includes several exhibitions dedicated directly entirely to the nominated site (pp. 44-66, vol.1 of the Nomination Dossier), the Museum of the Civil War in Russia, the exhibition hall the Old Water Tower (pp.98-113, vol.1 of the Nomination Dossier). In 2017, two exhibitions to be opened: the Museum of the Artist Gennadiy Arkhireev and an art gallery. The Museum of Wood Archaeology, the Sviyazhsk Sloboda and Tatarskaya street to be opened in 2018 (p.47, Management Plan, the section Management of Archaeological Heritage, where all the museum materials are attached). Archaeological wooden buildings of Sviyazhsk that are of the same age as the Assumption Cathedral are to be soon presented to the public.

It is necessary to highlight the opening of the Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture (fig 5.4,5.5) in 2018. It will display the icons of the Assumption Cathedral and



Trinity Church and other artifacts related to the Assumption Cathedral. Authentic icons of the nominated property in the exhibition will highlight the attributes of OUV of the Assumption Cathedral. The fact that the exhibition will be opened in the historic building of the Fire convoy in Sviyazhsk will take a massive flow of tourists from the Cathedral and at the same time will present and preserve the movable part of the heritage, directly related to the nominated property.

In the future, according to the Management Plan, the following exhibitions are to be opened: the Museum of the Volga river, the Museum of Sviyazhsk Town Life, the Museum of the County Medicine, the River Piracy Museum in the historical buildings on the island that currently are in the need of restoration (all the above-mentioned exhibitions will include information related to the nominated property). These exhibitions might only be opened in 2018- 2020 because of conservation process of the sites of urban development in Sviyazhsk. It is also planned to place the reference and information department with a library for specialists in one of the historical buildings. There will also be a storage centre with documentation of the nominated site. On the one hand, all these museum exhibitions will regulate the large tourist flows and reduce the load on the nominated property; on the other hand, they are or will be placed in historical buildings in the territory of Sviyazhsk settlement and therefore, they will not have a negative impact on the value characteristics of the nominated property. The Museum of Archaeology, which aims to present the archaeological heritage of Sviyazhsk, fits into the natural landscape of the lower part of Sviyazhsk. It must be emphasized that there are no plans to open new museums as it could hardly be realized because of the limited area of the island. The main areas and objects of the museums are shown on map 1.13, on page 16 of the first part of the Annex to the Nomination Dossier. The updated map of Sviyazhsk showing the existing museums and museums planned in the Management plan are also attached.

# The map of Development of the Museum Complex of the Tow-Island of Sviyazhsk



**N - nominated object**

**1. Museums and administrative buildings of the Museum-Reserve operating in 2016:**

- 1.1 Sviyazhsk History Museum (a complex of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century government facilities, 22 Uspenskaya Street)
- 1.2 Museum of the Civil War in Russia (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century residential building, 8 Moskovskaya Street)
- 1.3 Exhibition Hall "The Old Water Tower" (19<sup>th</sup> century)
- 1.4 Restoration and Museum Residential Complex (a complex of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century district hospital, 13 Uspenskaya Street)
- 1.5 The ruins of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-century churches turned into museums (St. Nicholas's Church, St. Sophia's Church, the Annunciation Church, the Rozhdestvenskaya Church)
- 1.6 Children's Museum Centre "Fairy Tales" (20 Uspenskaya Street)
- 1.7 The Museum Storage (a building of the engineering barracks, 8-9 Uspenskaya Street)
- 1.8 The Museum Garden (corner of Monastyrsky Alley and Uspenskaya Street)

**2. Buildings to be opened on the territory of the Assumption Monastery:**

- 2.1. Assumption Monastery Museum (It will be opened on the ground floor of St. Nicholas's Church in 2017. It will be managed by the Assumption Monastery).

**3. Planned to be opened:**

- 3.1. Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture (2017-2019) (a complex of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century fire wagon train, 1 Rozhdestvenskaya Square)
- 3.2. Art Gallery (2017) (a building of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Trade School, 1A Rozhdestvenskaya Square)
- 3.3. G. Arkhireev's Museum (2017) (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century residential building, 18 Troitskaya Street)
- 3.4. Archaeology of Tree Museum "Sviyazhsk Sloboda and Tatarskaya Street" (2017-2018) (the 2011 archaeological excavation site, corner of Moskovskaya and Millionnaya Streets)
- 3.5 The Museum of the Volga River (2018-2020) (Schuka River Embankment and Millionnaya Street)
- 3.6 Sviyazhsk Museum of the Town (2018-2020) (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century building, 12 Nikolskaya Street)
- 3.7 The Museum of District Medicine (2018-2020) (a 19<sup>th</sup> -century building of the District Hospital Complex, 11 Uspenskaya Street)
- 3.8 The River Piracy Museum (2018-2020) (a 19<sup>th</sup> -century building of the District Archives, 27 Schuka River Embankment)
- 3.9 An administrative building of the Museum (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century residential building)

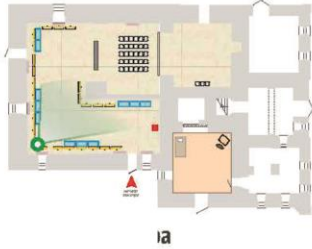




●-point of view 1



Fig 5.2 The Assumption Monastery Museum. Project .



●-point of view 2



Fig 5.3 The Assumption Monastery Museum. Project .

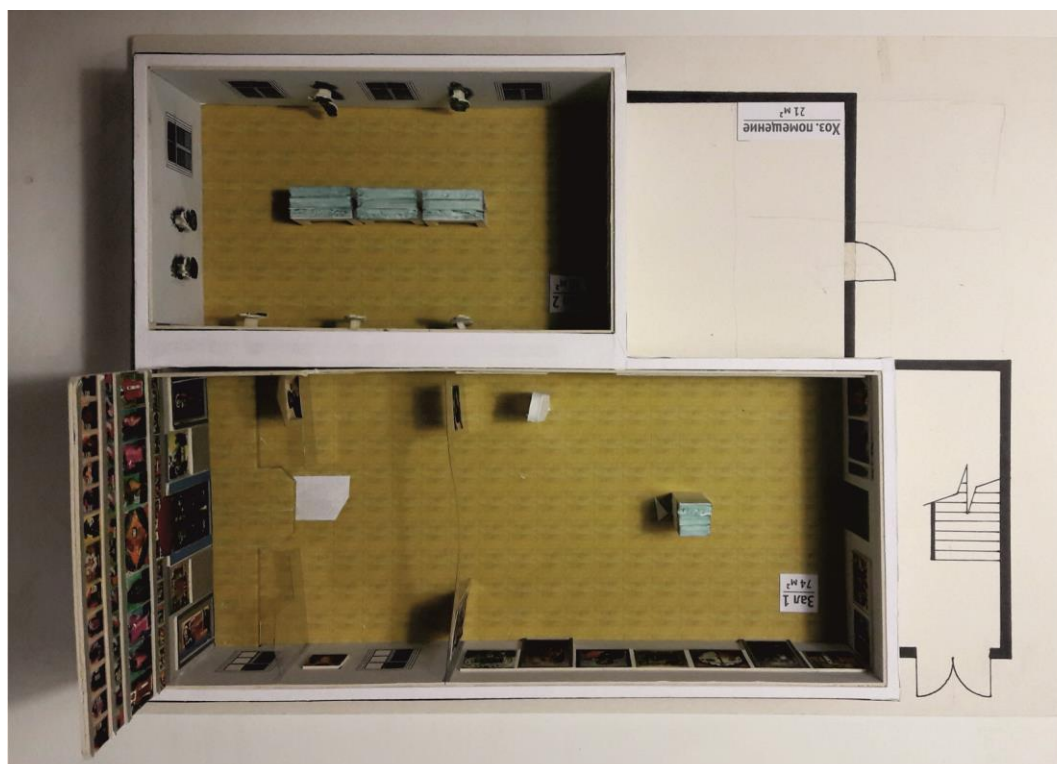


Fig 5.4 The Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture. 1st floor model.





Fig 5.5 The Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture. 2 nd floor model.

## **Reconstruction and Restoration Project of the Water Tower of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

The building of the Water Tower is located in the town-island of Sviyazhsk, at its central part, on Sobornaya Street. The tower is a designated cultural heritage site of regional significance. The project of its reconstruction and restoration was developed by Tatinvestgrazhdanproekt.

The project involved the restoration of the tower and its adaptive re-use as an exhibition hall maintaining its cultural and historical values.

The project was successfully implemented and currently the Water Tower hosts the exhibition hall of Sviyazhsk State Historical, Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve and is quite popular among the visitors.



Fig.6.1. The site layout



Fig.2. The site layout

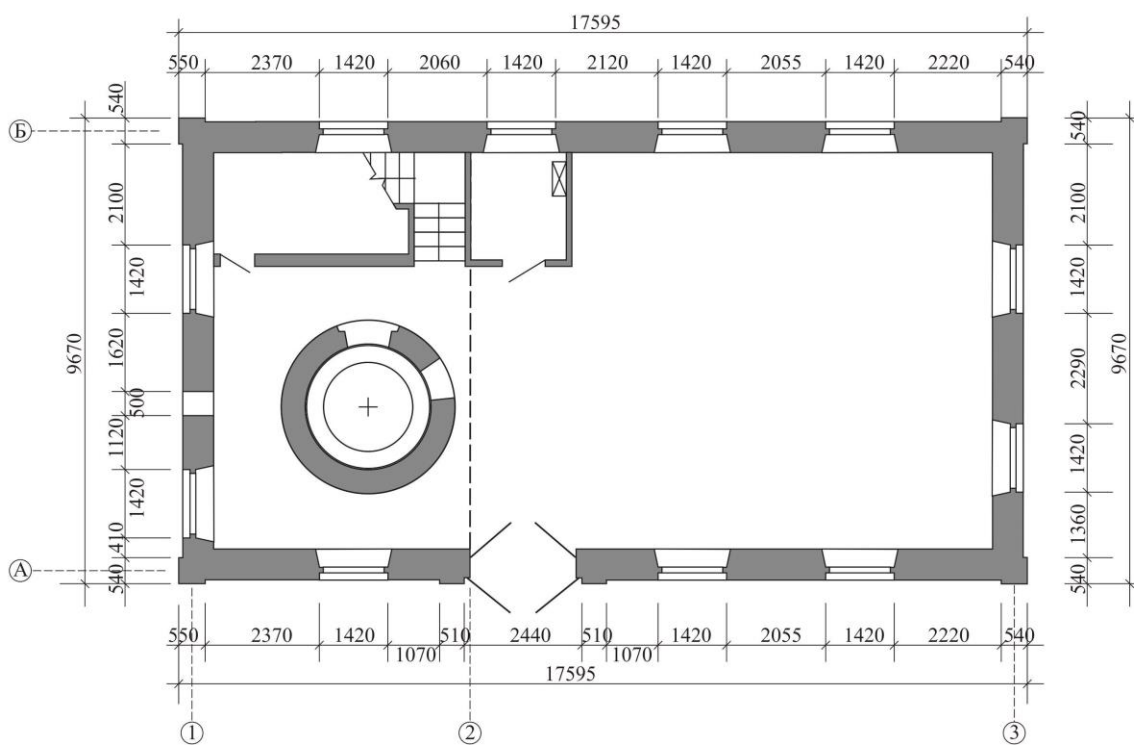


Fig.3. The Water Tower: a draft project





Fig.4. The Water Tower in 1956



Fig.5. The Water Tower: the current state Draft design



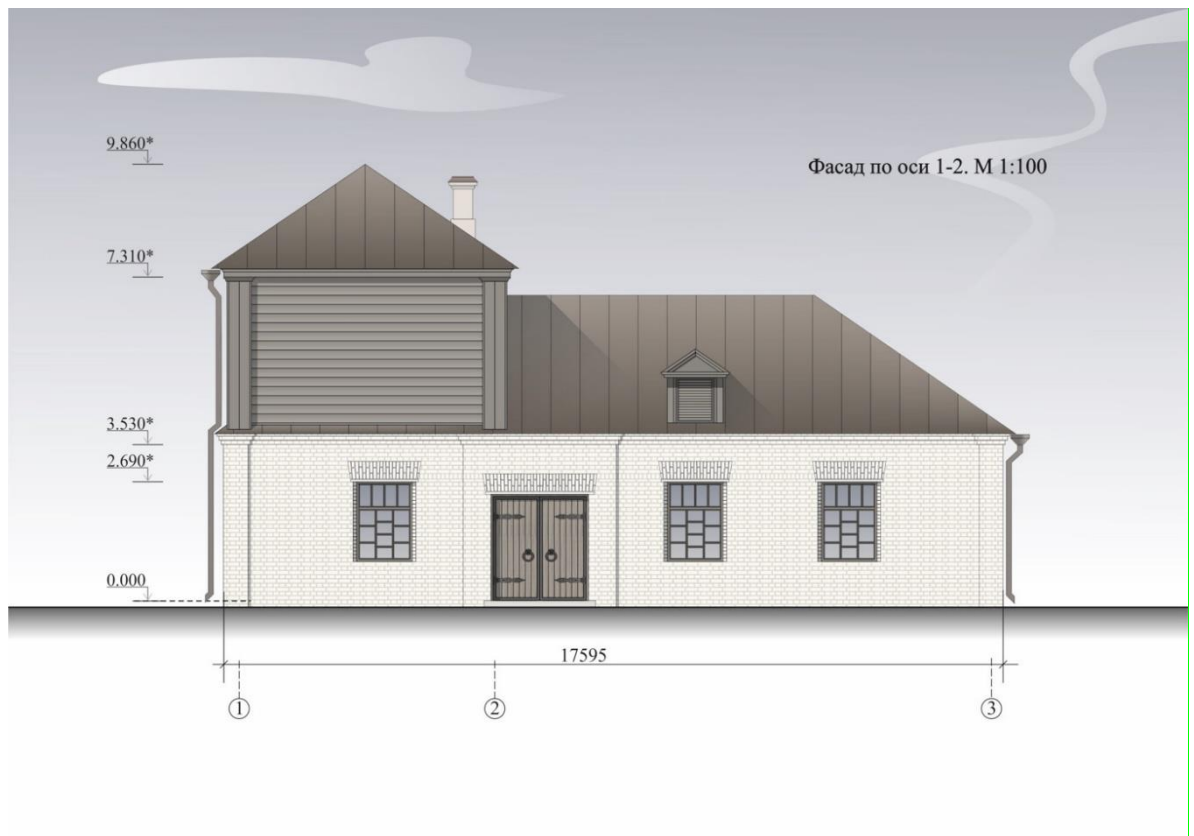


Fig.6. The Water Tower: the draft of the main facade

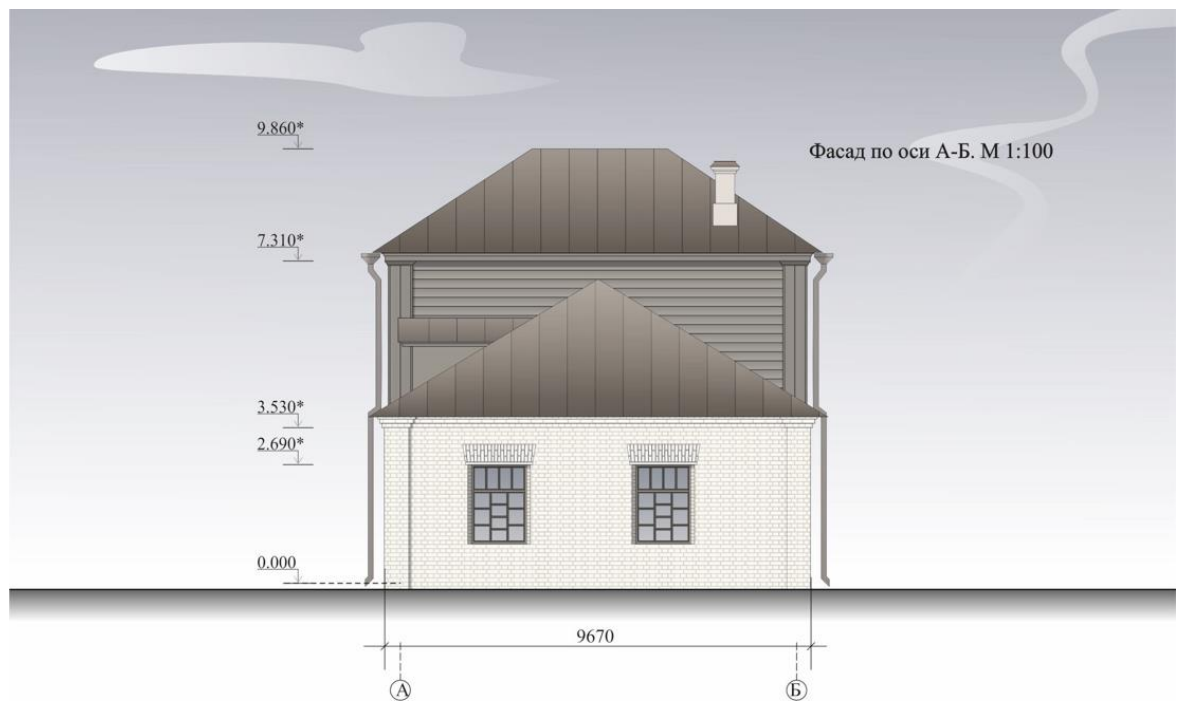


Fig 7. The Water Tower: the draft of the side facade

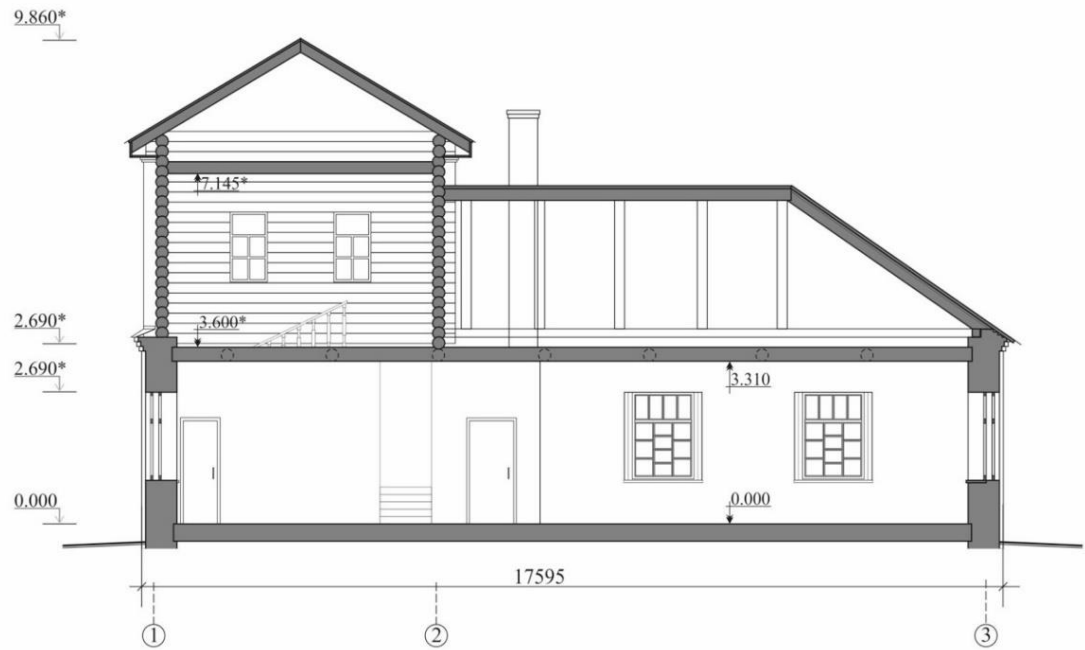


Fig.8. The Water Tower: the draft longitudinal cut

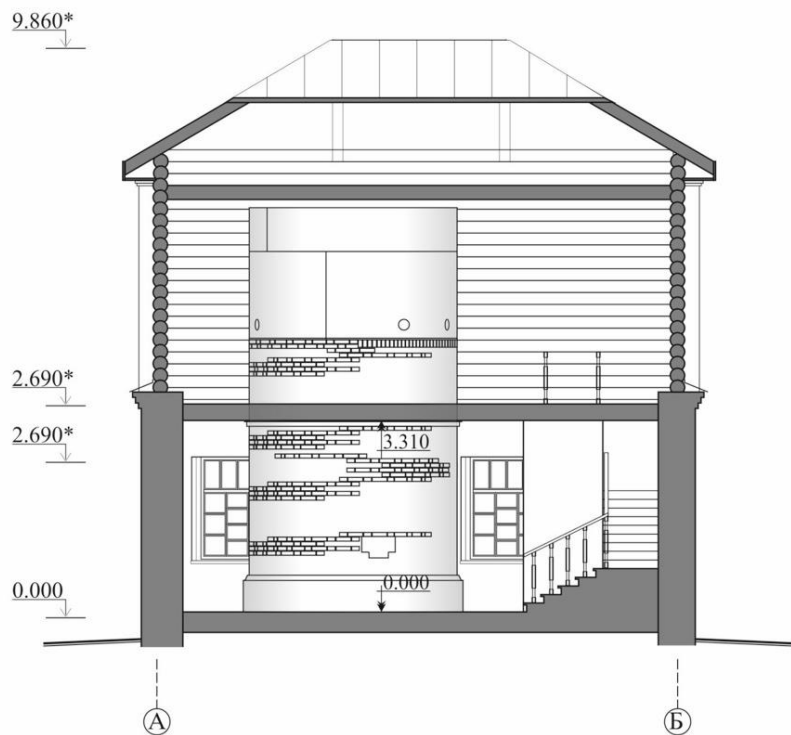


Fig.9. The Water Tower: the draft of the transverse cut

### **Mechanisms of protection**

The Russian legislation sets rigid control over the construction through the work of state bodies of power and local authorities. Any construction process is possible only on the basis of a special document – “Permission for construction” (enabled by the Urban-planning Code of the Russian Federation). Without this document the constructed object is illegal and liable to demolition.

The permission for construction (for a private individual, private company or state company) is given by local authorities. For Sviyazhsk and the adjoining territory, these authorities are the architecture and town-planning authorities of Zelenodolsk and Verchneuslonsky district. The permission for construction is only formalized when an object-to-be-built (any establishment, road, bridge, engineering net, etc.) fully meets the requirements of land-tenure and development rules along with all restrictions set at this territory.

The restrictions for the buffer zone of the nominated site are set by the by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan dated July 2, 2015 ‘The borders of the protected zone of the regional cultural heritage object ‘Sviyazhsk Island Sightseeing Site’ (Nomination Dossier, p. 140). Extra restrictions due to the condition of cultural heritage protection for the town-island of Sviyazhsk are set by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan dated July 16, 2009 № 497 ‘The boundaries of the sightseeing site “The island-town of Sviyazhsk” have been confirmed together with the mode of use, land-tenure and business activity, projecting and construction development on its territory by the Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan dated 07/08/2009 № 465 (annex to the Nomination Dossier, Section 2, Part 5).



Monitoring restrictions on the conditions of the cultural heritage protection is carried out by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Interdepartmental Commission on town-planning activity in settlements of historic value under the supervision of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan (the commission was established on the basis of the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan dated 15/01/2016 № 13 “About the establishment of the Interdepartmental Commission on town-planning activity in settlements of historic value – information enclosed). Before the construction process starts, all projects within the buffer zone are to be negotiated in the Interdepartmental Commission, the projects within the town-island of Sviyazhsk are to be negotiated in the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan and in the Interdepartmental Commission. Project negotiating is a compulsory condition if the Permission for construction is needed.

On formalizing the Permission for construction, the monitoring of bringing the constructed object to conformity with the project documentation is maintained by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan and the local authorities. These institutions are vested with the right to seize the construction process of an object and introduce corrections or demolish in case of project discrepancy. When the construction ends, an object has to be registered in the State Cadaster. The documents from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan and the local authorities are required for the registration, including the documents confirming operational (mode) commitment. The constructed object obtains a legal status after its registration in the State Cadaster.

**The Modes of Land Use and Urban Development Planning Regulations of the Subzones of the Buffer Zone of the Assumption Cathedral of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk (Annex to the Nomination, Section 2, part 5.3)**

Legend and colour	Protection mechanisms	
	Allowable	Forbidden
<b>1. Core zone</b>		
<b>CZ (33)</b> <b>(the light blue colour)</b> The territory of the Assumption (Uspensky) monastery F =3,2 ha	1.Preservation, restoration and maintenance of historical and cultural heritage objects (CHO), 2 Preservation of historical planning framework and compositional principles of building, restoration of the lost and partially lost objects, their elements in traditional materials. 3. Adaptation of CHO to modern use 4 Conducting archaeological studies with preservation, museumification of the archaeological remains 5. Landscaping of CHO territories with preservation of historical terrain and use of historically traditional construction materials (wood, stone, red brick) in road topping, footpaths, observation platforms, hardscape and lighting installation. 6. Conveyance of people and cargoes with special permission – by mechanical transport of load-carrying capacity no more than 1,5 t. Conveyance speed must not be more than 5 km per hour. Fire-fighting equipment and other enginery conveyance is allowed under the conditions of emergency. 7 Ensuring the fire safety of CHO and their protection from dynamic influence 8. Underlining utility networks, engineering equipment, and the area development as per the specially	1. Building developing, except for taking special measures directed towards complex preservation of the cultural heritage object and regeneration of its historical town-planning or natural environment – according to the special restoration project coordinated and confirmed as appropriate. 2. Conducting earthwork, reclamation work, administrative and other work except for the work necessary for preservation of the CHO and its territories, not breaking the integrity of the CHO and not issuing threat of their damage, destruction and demolition, with obligatory preliminary archaeological research. 3. Installation of any technical objects, means and elements, including conditioners, large-sized aerals, constructions of advertising, technical elements of engineering systems, etc., on facades, roofs 4. Placing objects and equipment, creating explosive and fire hazardous atmosphere, enhanced rate of freight, and potentially having negative influence on the CHO. Dynamic influence on the soils in the zone of their interaction with the CHO – from transport, various types of manufacture, creating destroying

	designed project allowing no change of subsoil waters level, hydrology damage, etc.	<p>vibrating loadings.</p> <p>5. Placing special objects relating to the elements of tourist infrastructure (booths, trading tents etc.).</p> <p>6. Utility networks lining and engineering equipment installment by land.</p> <p>7. The area historical landscape alteration.</p> <p>8. Valuable wood species felling except for forest sanitation.</p>
<b>2. Regulations of the zone of special control of town-planning activity of the sightseeing attraction “the Island Town Sviyazhsk” territory</b>		
<b>SS (DM (the dark blue colour)</b> the regional (republican) cultural heritage object “Sviyazhsk Island Sightseeing Site” (“Ostrov – grad Sviyazhsk”) Total area 64,37 ha	<p>1. Preservation of the planning framework and road location, compositional principles peculiar to the building of the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> – beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> centuries</p> <p>2. Preservation, restoration of the lost historical lines of the building.</p> <p>3. Preservation, restoration and maintenance of the historical environment objects.</p> <p>4. Preservation and development of the historically formed functions.</p> <p>5. Preservation and restoration of the lost historical town-planning dominants and architectural accents.</p> <p>6. Restoration (regeneration) of the lost historical constructions under condition of scientific background, availability of archival records or measurements. When there is no archival documents, restoration (regeneration) is to be carried according to model building standards or as per specially designed projects.</p> <p>Dissonant object demolition (upon the historical and cultural expertise appraisal).</p> <p>7. Strictly restricted new project construction, reconstruction and maintenance of existing buildings, objects of engineering and transport infrastructure and preservation of a</p>	<p>1. Prohibition of placing the functions having the tendencies to active development, demanding heavy building work load and the territories involving strong traffic current. Prohibition on placing large trading (<math>F &gt; 50 \text{ m}^2</math>), sports (<math>F &gt; 100 \text{ m}^2</math>) buildings, public catering enterprises (<math>F &gt; 70 \text{ m}^2</math>).</p> <p>2. Conducting earthwork, building work, and administrative work without preliminary archaeological research.</p> <p>3. Constructing gambrel roofs of the mansarded type while under reconstruction and new development.</p> <p>4. Installation of information stands not relating to the CHO.</p> <p>5. Placing objects and equipment, creating explosive and fire hazardous atmosphere, enhanced rate of freight, and potentially having negative influence on the CHO.</p> <p>6. Utility networks lining and engineering equipment installment by land.</p> <p>7. Dynamic influence on the soils in the zone of their interaction with the CHO – from transport, various types of manufacture, creating destroying vibrating loadings.</p> <p>8. Historically valuable buildings demolition except for dismantling of</p>

	<p>dominant role of the Assumption (Uspensky) cathedral and St. Nicholas (Nikolskaya) Church, Trinity (Troitskaya) Church, St. Sergius (Sergievskaya) Church, Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos "The joy of All Who Sorrow", Sts Constantine's and Helen's Church, on undeveloped sites with maximum allowable parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited number of floors – 2.</li> <li>• Maximum height from ground level to the roof ridge – 9 m (for one-storey buildings), – 10 m (for two-storey buildings), Width – 6 ÷ 12 m, length – 9 ÷ 12 m;</li> <li>• Maximum land use ratio – 50 %;</li> <li>• Maximum site area within historical borders of a housing property or no more than 12 00 sq. m;</li> <li>• Traditional double-pitched or hipped roof, permissible with a mezzanine, a pitch <math>\leq 30^\circ</math>.</li> </ul> <p>8. The area landscaping with the use of historically traditional building materials (wood, stone, red brick, etc.) road toppings, footpaths, observation platforms, hardscape and lighting installation.</p> <p>9. Conducting archaeological work with special permissions</p> <p>10. Conveyance of people and cargoes with special permission – by mechanical transport of load-carrying capacity no more than 0,5 t. Conveyance speed must not be more than 5 km per hour. Fire-fighting equipment and other engineering conveyance is allowed under the conditions of emergency.</p> <p>11. In restoration, regeneration, and maintenance the historically traditional building materials (wood,</p>	<p>shabby and ramshackle buildings as appropriate.</p> <p>9. Application of plastic and aluminium materials in window openings and doorways</p>
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	<p>red brick, stone, roofs of painted iron sheet) are used.</p> <p>12. Installation of canopies, hardscape, small forms (the side is less than 1,5 m) of external advertising designs, traffic signs.</p>	
<p><b>3. Regulations of the built-up and water areas around the island of Sviyazhsk (Annex to the Nomination, Section 2, part 5.2)</b></p>		
<p><b>ZI (3I (the green grey colour))</b> the development adjustment and economic activity zone</p>	<p>1. Conservation and restoration of the historical features of the natural and cultural landscape (the ratio of open and closed spaces for the visual perception of the cultural heritage object in its natural, historical and urban environment. Conservation and restoration of the geodetic marks, hills, thalwegs, ravines and slopes, panoramas and viewing sectors, the edges and slopes of the island hill).</p> <p>2. Design and reconstruction of pedestrian footpaths and grounds, roads and utilities.</p> <p>3. Land remediation, restoration (regeneration) of the natural landscape.</p> <p>4. Preservation of water and environmental conditions necessary for the conservation and restoration (regeneration) of the natural landscape.</p> <p>5. Projects of regeneration, adaptive or compensatory construction on lands that are in private ownership in accordance with the peculiarities of the historical and architectural environment must be worked out only on the basis of the restoration work and approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan.</p> <p>6. Demolition of dilapidated and dissonant objects in the coastal area (illegal houses, barns).</p>	<p>1. Economic activity that violates features, character and view of the historic landscape, including the appearance of spoil banks, refuse on the edges and slopes of the island hill.</p> <p>2. Unauthorized logging and tree planting, plowing of ravine slopes and river valleys.</p> <p>3. Soil pollution, pollution of ground and surface water.</p> <p>4. The construction of high, more than 1.5 meters, solid fences that violate the landscape, the environment and the panoramic view of the ensemble.</p> <p>5. Any economic activity without the approval of the federal and regional bodies of cultural heritage protection.</p> <p>6. Construction of residential buildings on the territory which was not in the private ownership before 02.07.2015.</p>

<p><b>ZII (3II)</b> <b>(the grey colour)</b> the development adjustment and economic activity zone</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work on the preservation of the cultural heritage objects;</li> <li>2. Preservation, restoration and repair of objects of historical and architectural environment, restoration and repair of facades;</li> <li>3. Conservation of the town planning pattern and composition principles of the site;</li> <li>4. Adaptive construction and reconstruction using traditional materials (brick, wood) without changing the characteristics of the historic environment within the premises with the following maximum permissible values: Maximum height from ground level to the ridge of the roof – 9 meters, width – 6 ÷ 12 meters, length – 9 ÷ 12 meters; - the maximum percentage of new construction – 60 percent; - roofs – two- and four-hipped roofs with sloping <math>\leq 30^\circ</math>, - the use of mezzanines;</li> <li>5. Landscaping using historical traditional building materials (wood, stone, cobblestone, red brick, etc.) for road surfaces, footpaths, viewing platforms construction;</li> <li>6. Carrying out archaeological work with the conservation and musefication of archaeological objects;</li> <li>7. The use of traditional materials for the regeneration and repair: wood, red brick, stone, painted iron of appropriate colour for roofs and hardscape.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction violating the view of the surroundings and the cultural landscape from the island;</li> <li>2. Arrangement of functions that tend to develop actively and require large amounts of construction, high-rise buildings, works and areas attracting much transport;</li> <li>3. Construction of large buildings: commercial (<math>S &gt; 100</math> square meters), sport (<math>S &gt; 200</math> square meters), public catering (<math>S &gt; 100</math> square meters);</li> <li>4. The use of plastic and metal siding;</li> <li>5. Carrying out earthwork, construction and economic activity without an archaeological research;</li> <li>6. Demolition of valuable historic buildings, except for the old and dilapidated buildings in accordance with the established procedures and after the measurement.</li> </ol>
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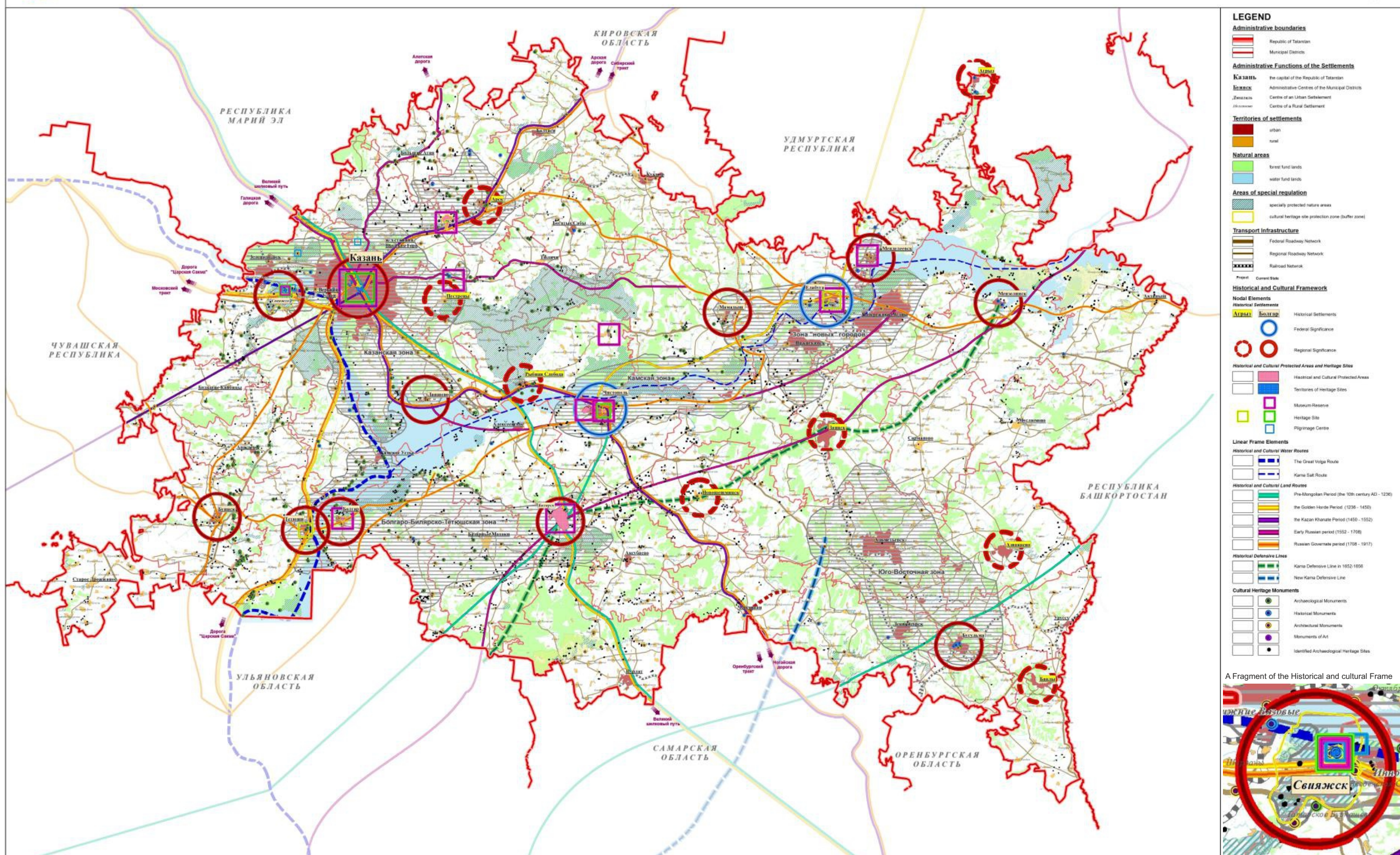
<b>1. The protected natural landscape zones</b>		
<b>ZIII (3III (light-blue)</b> the protected natural landscape zone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Service life extension on the preservation of sites of cultural heritage;</li> <li>2. Preservation of identified objects and their museumification;</li> <li>3. Restoration of historical routes and roads, roads construction to provide access to infrastructure and a panoramic view of the island and surrounding landscape;</li> <li>4. Providing temporary resorts of eco-tourism; construction of special facilities, related to the elements of tourism infrastructure (kiosks, stalls);</li> <li>4. The development of historical space-planning composition of the territory by identifying new panoramic views, areas of visual perception of monuments and panoramas, creating new viewing platforms;</li> <li>5. Maintenance of water and environmental conditions necessary to ensure the preservation and restoration (regeneration) of the protected natural landscape zone;</li> <li>6. Identifying the ancient routes (Moscow tract, Zyureyskoy roads, etc.) by signs, outposts, etc.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The construction of permanent and temporary facilities, including linear features, cell phone towers (with the exception of special facilities relating to the elements of the tourist infrastructure);</li> <li>2. Land-line installation of engineering networks, communications; and installation of engineering equipment by land;</li> <li>3. Installation of utilities, engineering equipment and landscaping without specially designed projects which exclude changes in the level of groundwater, disturbance of hydrology, etc. ;</li> <li>4. Deforestation except sanitary logging.</li> </ol>
<b>ZIIIA (3IIIA (green shading on a blue background)</b> the protected natural landscape zone	Instituted in accordance with the reserve regime "Sviyazhsk"; the approved resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan of 14.01.2005 № 1 "On approval of Regulations on the State natural reserve of regional importance of a comprehensive profile of Sviyazhsk" (Annex to the Nomination, Section 2, part 5.3).	

<p><b>ZIV (3IV (green))</b> the protected natural landscape zone .</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Service life extension on the preservation of sites of cultural heritage;</li> <li>2. The preservation and improvement of panoramic views, visibility and panoramic sectors enshrined as conservation sites;</li> <li>3. Development of green park zones.</li> <li>4. Conservation and restoration of geodetic marks, heights and panoramic views.</li> <li>5. Preservation and restoration of existing of the ratio of public and private spaces in the protected natural landscape in order to ensure the visual perception of a site, the preservation of arable land, meadows, slopes, ravines and thalwegs;</li> <li>6. Land reclamation landscapes, restoration (regeneration) of the natural landscape;</li> <li>7. Maintenance of water and environmental conditions necessary to ensure the preservation and restoration (regeneration) of the protected natural landscape;</li> <li>8. Demolition of dilapidated and dissonant facilities (illegal cottages in the coastal zone);</li> <li>9. Improvement and reconstruction of pedestrian areas, playgrounds, roads and utilities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The construction of permanent and temporary facilities, including linear features, cell phone towers</li> <li>2. Land and above land installation of utilities (heating mains, gas pipeline, electricity cables, etc.);</li> <li>3. Economic activity that violates the property, character and appearance of historic landscapes, including spoil, debris on the edge of the outcrop and on its slopes;</li> <li>4. Unauthorized logging and tree planting, plowing slopes of ravines and river valleys;</li> <li>5. Soil, ground water and surface water pollution;</li> <li>6. Outdoor(out-of-home) media on the sites forming the panorama sights from the river (its river frontage);</li> <li>7. The construction of high (1.5 meters) close-boarded fences that violate the landscape and the environment, the main panoramic means, routes of panoramic view of an ensemble .</li> </ol>
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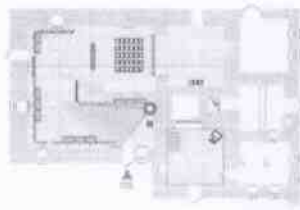




# Historical and cultural Frame of the Tatarstan Republic







○-point of view 1

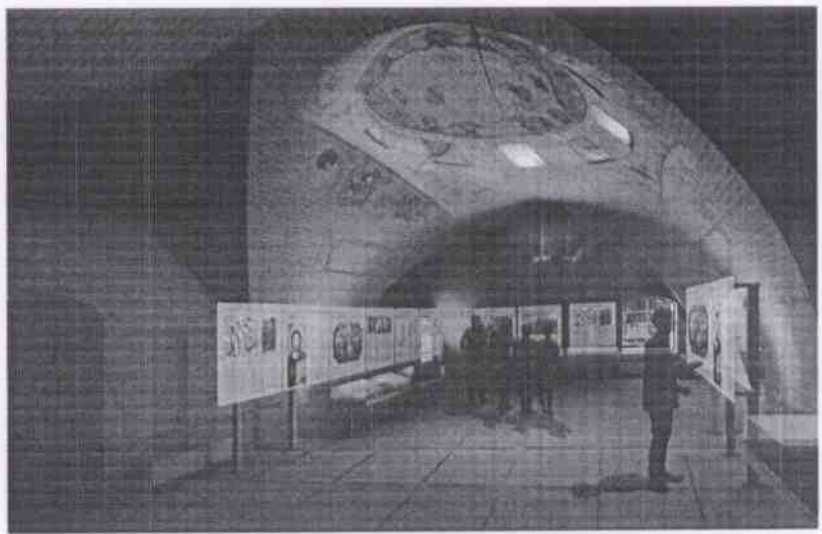
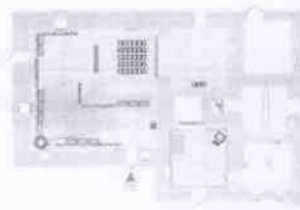


Fig 5.2 The Assumption Monastery Museum. Project .



1a

○-point of view 2

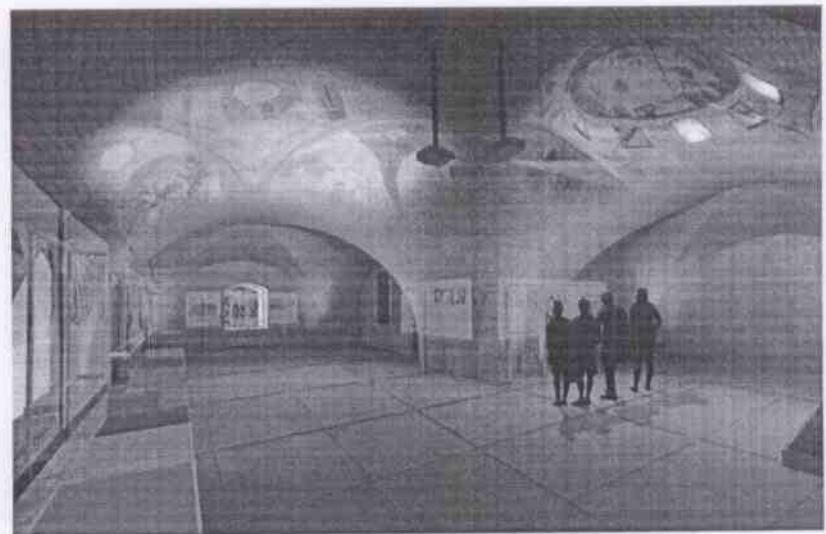


Fig 5.3 The Assumption Monastery Museum. Project .

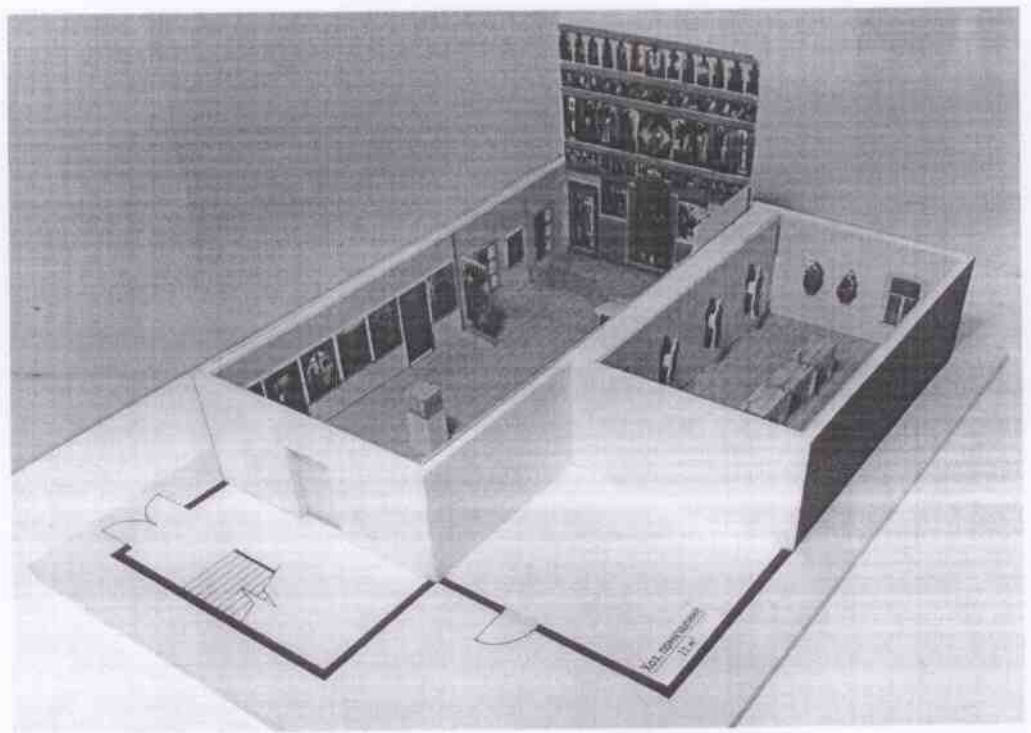
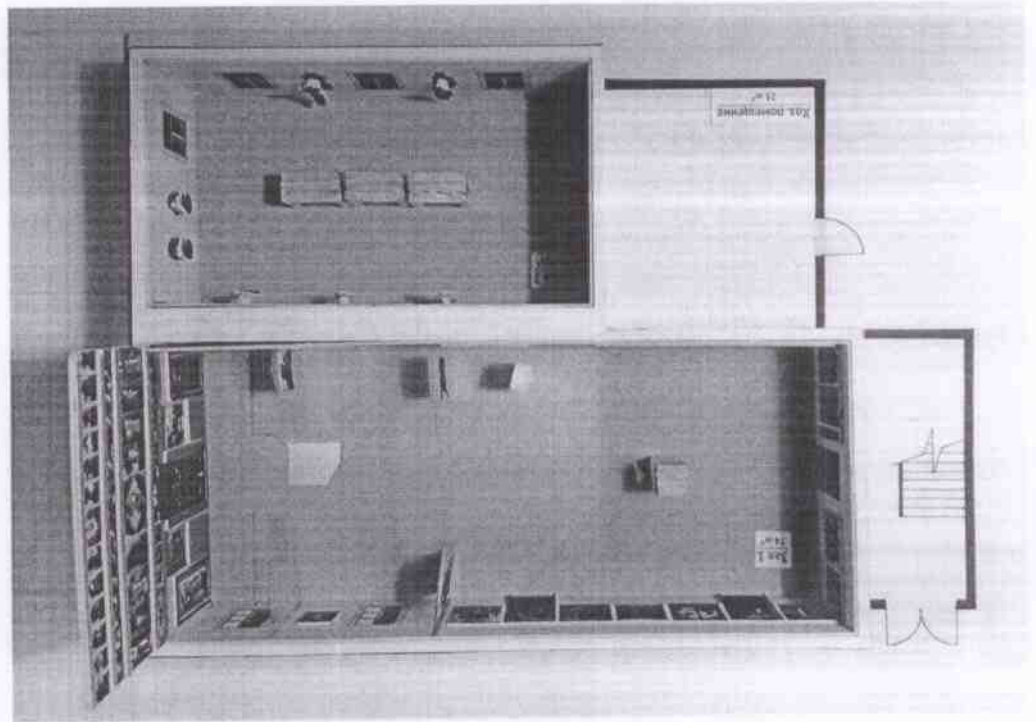


Fig 5.4 The Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture. 1st floor model.

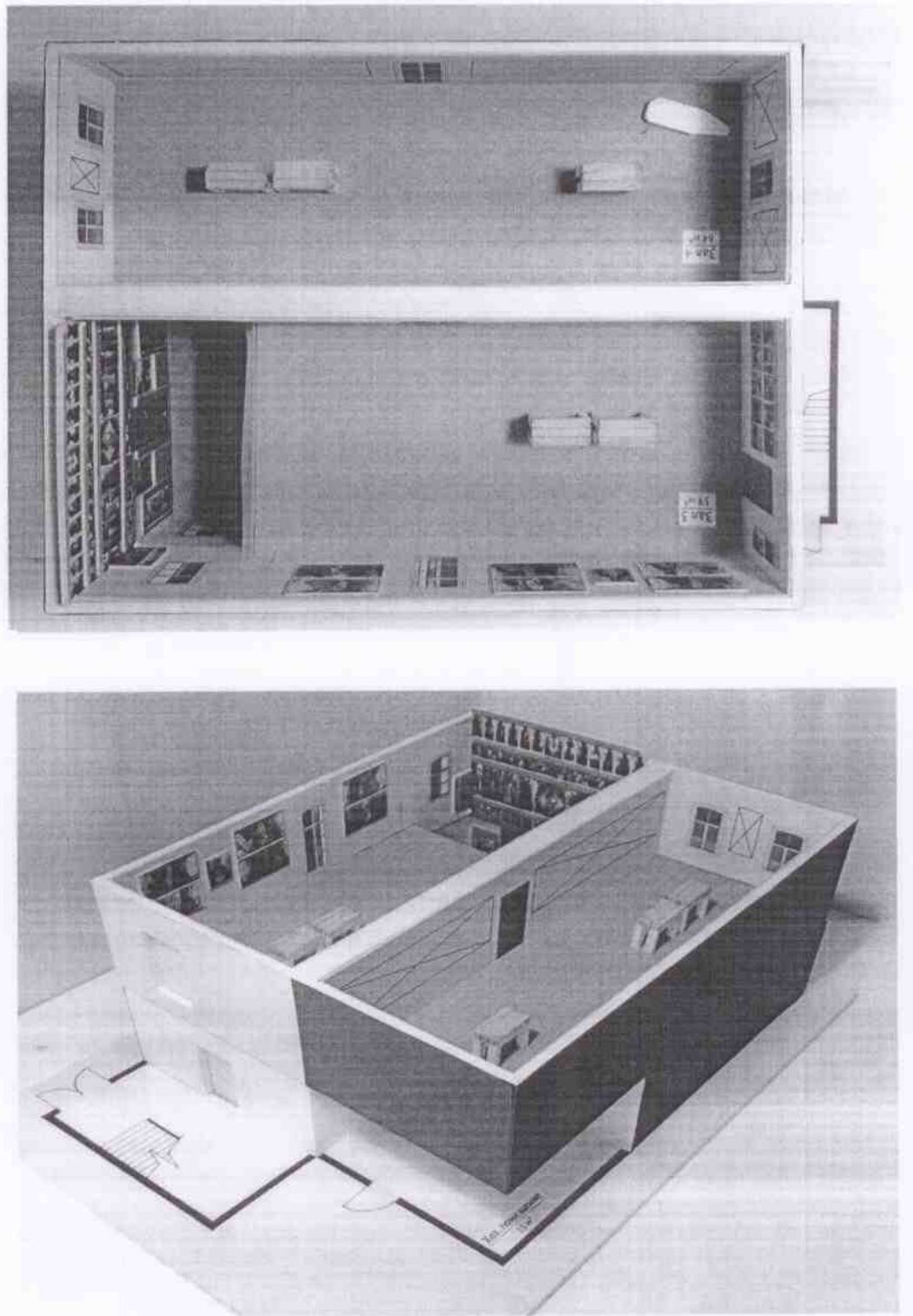
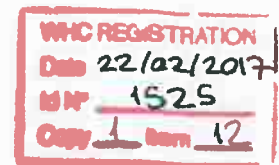


Fig 5.5 The Orthodox Museum of Art and Culture. 2 nd floor model.



Ms. Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit



Dear Ms Bourdin,

I am expressing my sincere gratitude for your thorough work on the evaluation of the nomination of the Assumption Cathedral of the island-town of Sviyazhsk for the inscription on the World Heritage List.

Please find enclosed below the requested information.

### **Justification for Inscription**

The analysis of the OUV elements of the Assumption Cathedral revealed its historical, spiritual and liturgical values that are impossible to be separated from the Assumption Monastery Complex. At the same time, it is necessary to highlight the distinct spirit of the place represented via its rich intangible heritage.

The Assumption Monastery Complex and its Cathedral are an outstanding testimony of the emergence of a new Orthodox paradigm intensively reflected through an interchange of cultural patterns and identities, missionary work, as well as the emergence of multi-faith society and cultural diversity in Russia and Eastern Europe.

The Assumption Monastery Complex is constituted from several stone buildings built from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries surrounded by a monastery wall. The Assumption Cathedral is the most outstanding part of the Assumption Monastery Complex, whereas its other parts are supplementing and enhancing the values of the Cathedral, representing the features of religious and daily life of Orthodox monasteries in the past. After a long-time interruption of its work, the Assumption Monastery is now functioning again and its monastic life and church service are

revived. The recent revival of the Assumption Monastery in 1997, highlighting the succession of its spiritual values related both to Orthodox religion practices and local traditions that have been kept for over 500 years, enhances the OUV of the Assumption Cathedral and the Monastery as an authentic living religious heritage site.

Establishing an Orthodox monasticism unity, each component part of the Assumption Monastery Complex has its own significance:

- the Assumption Cathedral represents the historical, architectural, artistic and conceptual core of the complex. Its architecture, frescoes, continuity and other elements embodies a significant Christian feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, from which the monastery takes its name as well.
- the Fraternal House (including the Church of St Herman used during cold seasons), Monastic School and cells constitutes the living spaces of the Assumption Monastery Complex.
- the Archimandrite House used to host priests of a high rank and currently it serves as Metropolitan rooms and a reception hall.
- St Nicholas Church, open for both tourists and pilgrims, besides the church itself located at the first floor, incorporates St German memorial cell and Assumption Monastery Museum that was established following the recommendations of ICOMOS expert mission.
- the Gate Church of the Ascension is used for monastic services during summer and has a little ground floor shop offering religious literature and icons to pilgrims.
- the authentic cultural layers conserved at the territory of the monastery complex and nearby contains the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries artefacts that are of great interest as a source of information on spiritual, social, artistic and scientific achievements.

- the wall surrounding the monastery provides the integrity of the Assumption Monastery Complex.

The component parts of the Assumption Monastery Complex mentioned above constitutes the OUV attributes of the Assumption Cathedral highlighting its uniqueness and enhancing its cultural and spiritual values representing continuity over the span of time.

The recent revival of the Assumption Monastery and further conservation of the original purposes of the Assumption Monastery Complex buildings allowed to establish the basis for the sustainable development of the Assumption Cathedral nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, the presence of the religious community would be an important accelerating factor helping to provide the conservation of the monument, as well as the protection and surviving of its intangible heritage according to best practices, 1972 Convention on World Cultural and Natural Heritage and 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The components of the Assumption Monastery Complex represent the OUV of the Assumption Cathedral, providing its integrity and authenticity, enhancing the understanding of its OUV (according to the Operational Guidelines, 2015: par. 99 – 100).

Therefore, the State Party confirms that the nomination is not limited to the Assumption Cathedral only, but includes the Assumption Monastery Complex as a whole.

## **Ownership**

The Assumption Cathedral, the Assumption Monastery and its territory are state-owned. The impossibility of expropriation of the property is clearly stated in both federal and regional legislations.

The Assumption Monastery Complex is currently used by Tatarstan Metropolitan of Russian Orthodox Church NGO on rent-free basis for reviving the religious function of the property.

As regards the issue of inconsistency of the information on ownership presented in the nomination dossier and the management plan, it is necessary to clarify the following:

- The statement presented in the Management Plan (P.11) is caused by a technical mistake related to the translation of the document from Russian language to English. Therefore, instead of “the Cathedral itself is a property of Russian Orthodox Church” it is necessary to read “the Cathedral is a state property used by Russian Orthodox Church”.
- It is stated correctly that the Assumption Cathedral as well as the Assumption Monastery Complex is owned by federal state and it is used by Russian Orthodox Church in the section 2 (Review of the Current Condition of the Property), subsection 2.1.2. (Property Issues) (the Management Plan, P. 18).
- It is stated correctly that the Assumption Cathedral is state owned and currently in free use by Tatarstan Metropolitan of Russian Orthodox Church in the section 3.2 ‘Institutional Management Structure and Property Relations’: “The Assumption Cathedral is located on the territory of the Assumption Monastery which was transferred to perpetual and free use of the Russian Orthodox Church by the government’ (the Nomination Dossier, P. 193).

Monitoring, research, interpretation and promotion activities related to the site are conducted by Tatarstan Ministry of Culture.

## **Conservation**



The State Party guarantees the preservation of the unique spirit of place of the island-town of Sviyazhsk historic settlement according to the principles and recommendations of 2008 Québec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place.

The historic settlement of the island-town of Sviyazhsk supplements the values of the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery Complex and constitutes an environment necessary for understanding the role of the historic settlement as an outpost and the role of the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery as a key factor in historic, geo-cultural and political context that led to the establishment of the historic settlement and later had a significant influence on its development.

The whole territory of the island-town of Sviyazhsk comprises a historical and cultural reserve. According to Russian legislation, historical and cultural reserve represents a special status of a territory that protects its historical, urban and landscape distinctiveness. The State Party established “Sviyazhsk historical and cultural reserve” in order to preserve the traditional spirit of place of the island-town of Sviyazhsk through encouraging the preservation of traditional practices, rites and lifestyle of the local community, monitoring Sviyazhsk heritage conservation and interpretation activities, as well as cultural events and the sustainability of tourism flows.

The Sviyazhsk museums (located in the visual field of the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery Complex) are established at historic buildings that allowed to solve the issue of their adaptive re-use and contributed to the sustainable development of the historic settlement.

The State Party understands the potential OUV of the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery Complex, appreciates authenticity and integrity of the site and recognizes its responsibility for the state of conservation of the site (including its historic environment). The above mentioned statement became a

basis for the development and implementation of an action framework. The framework included the introduction of legislation involving legal restrictions on any alterations of preserved buildings, the adoption of a land-use system for the island-town of Sviyazhsk site by Tatarstan Cabinet of Ministers (regulated through both regional and federal legislations) and other measures detailed in the Management Plan.

The majority of preserved historic buildings in Sviyazhsk have an official state cultural heritage designation that guarantees the protection from any alterations, permitting only activities aimed to study, conserve or interpret their cultural heritage.

On the basis thereof, the State Party guarantees that alterations to historic buildings located on the island-town of Sviyazhsk, including those aiming to conduct their 'beautification', will not be allowed.

## **Protection**

The buffer zone of the nominated site coincides with a protected zone established by the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan accepted on the July 2, 2015 on the Borders of the Protected Zone of the Regional (Republican) Cultural Heritage Object 'Sviyazhsk Island Sightseeing Site' ('Ostrov-Grad Sviyazhsk') (the Nomination Dossier, P.140). The decree has the force of law for all administrative bodies, commercial organisations and individuals that are able to perform construction works at the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The regional state bodies (including Tatarstan Ministry of Culture, Tatarstan Ministry of Architecture, Construction, Housing and Communal Services and local authorities) maintain the control under the implementation of the land-use regulations and restrictions. The control is maintained through compulsory building projects approval and licensing procedures. The violation of the procedures inevitably leads to the declaration of a building as an illegal

construction. According to Russian legislation, such buildings are demolished. The violation of the protected zones of cultural heritage sites is punishable by fine according to the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses.

The detailed information on the division of the buffer zone to sub-zones with the description of land-use regulations introduced to each of the zones as well as the measures on protection of the buffer zone with referencing to relevant laws in place were provided in the Annex 7 Protection Mechanism and the Annex 8 The Territories Use Provisions and the Town-Planning Regulations of the Buffer Zone Subzones sent to the World Heritage Centre in October, 2016.

The buffer zone as well as relevant regulations were included to the land use planning of the Republic of Tatarstan. Therefore, the implementation of the land use system of the buffer zone is compulsory for all administrative bodies.

## **Management**

The Management Plan of the nominated site involves the establishment of a Coordination Committee, which duties are currently implemented by Regional Foundation of Revival of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan (See the Nomination Dossier, section 5). In 2017-2018, when the main activities on the site conservation are to be finished, the duties are to be delegated by the Foundation to the Coordination Committee by 2019.

The key responsibility of the Coordination Committee is the coordination of all stakeholders involved in order to implement the aims and objectives of the Management Plan. The Tatarstan Ministry of Culture responsible for the conservation of cultural heritage in the region is supposed to be one of the most important members of the Committee.

It is necessary to mention that the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation on the Conservation, Management and Promotion of the Assumption

Cathedral of the Town-Island of Sviyazhsk (presented in the Annex 4 of the Management Plan) has been already signed by all stakeholders involved.

The development of the Management Plan was based on the results of the island-town of Sviyazhsk and ancient Bolgar project approved by the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan in 2010 as well as on the plan for Interdisciplinary Studies of the Assumption Cathedral, the Assumption Monastery and the Trinity Church in 2014-2020. The successful implementation of both of the projects allowed to develop the Management Plan, to receive its approval from all stakeholders involved in 2015 and to start its implementation under the supervision of the Revival Foundation and Tatarstan Ministry of Culture.

In February, 2017 the approval procedure for the Management Plan has finished and its implementation became compulsory. The general timeframe of the implementation of the Management Plan is 2015-2030, whereas the timeframe for the implementation of its first stage is 2015 – 2020.

## **Tourism Management**

### **Visitor Survey and Visitor Flows Management**

The State Party practices a comprehensive approach to visitor and pilgrims survey to develop sustainable tourism and intercultural dialogue in Sviyazhsk, while preserving the OUV attributes of the Assumption Monastery and the Assumption Cathedral.

In 2016, a visitor survey project including customer relationship management system and entrance gate system was implemented in Sviyazhsk. These implementations allow to collect a comprehensive data on visitor profiles necessary for adequate visitor flows management at the site.

The project also involves the studies aimed to develop recommendations for possible visitation levels for both the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption



Monastery. The relevant recommendations on the tourism management issues are included to the Management Plan. The responsibilities of the stakeholders related to the visitation level issues are detailed in the 8.2. section of the Nomination dossier (P. 238-240) 'Interaction with Stakeholders, Partnership and Coordination for Reaching the Public Consensus', namely it states "... to conduct the religious rites in the Assumption Cathedral for agreed and set number of days in the period from May 1 to September 30".

Another limitation is related to the prohibition of the use of open fire during rituals (with a recommended number of days when rituals provided). During cold seasons, the services are to be held in other churches located nearby. Therefore, the Assumption Cathedral is not supposed to be used for services during cold seasons, which is a core factor influencing positively the conservation of the monument in the context of Russian climate. Other responsibilities relating to the maintenance activities at the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery Complex are detailed in the contract of use of Tatarstan Ministry of Culture with the Assumption Monastery and aimed to sustain the conservation of cultural heritage values of the complex.

The Assumption Monastery as well as Tatarstan Metropolitan of Russian Orthodox Church respect the limitations introduced and are committed to implement them, considering the fact that an opportunity to use other religious sites of Sviyazhsk, including St German Church, St. Sergius Church, the Icon of the Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Cathedral, Constantine and Helen Church and others, is provided to the religious community for liturgies and religious ceremonies (weddings and christenings) without any restrictions.

The experience of similar religious heritage sites as Cathedral of St Sophia (Veliky Novgorod, Russia), Ferapontov Monastery (Vologda oblast, Russia) and Scrovegni Chapel (Italy) was studied to evaluate potential risks related to possible visitation

growth and mechanisms for reducing anthropogenic impact on the site. The study included management of visitor flows, pilgrims support and climate control systems as well. The recommendations of the study, including possible anthropogenic impact, visitation system and hours, quality assessment, were integrated to the management system of the Assumption Cathedral and the Assumption Monastery Complex and are focused on the preservation of the place and its living heritage.

The recommendations detailed in the Nomination Dossier (P. 182-183) involves measures aimed to control the number of visitors to the Assumption Cathedral as a possible growth of visitation may have a negative impact on the conservation of its frescoes. Among such measures, it is necessary to highlight an advance reservation system for visitor groups, limited time for visitation and limitation of visitation due to climate issues (if necessary).

The space of the island-town of Sviyazhsk, in general, and of the nominated site, in particular, are comparatively small. Therefore, a special set of measures were developed to decrease an anthropogenic impact on the historic settlement and the Assumption Monastery Complex caused by increased visitation numbers. These measures involve the following:

- visitor flows management;
- introduction of museum displays devoted to the nominated site, located outside of the property boundaries;
- exhibition of the Assumption Cathedral frescoes copies at the Museum-Reserve and at the ground floor museum of St Nicholas Church to provide necessary interpretation of spiritual and cultural heritage of the Assumption Cathedral and to decrease its visitation time.

It is necessary to highlight that the reliquary with the remains of St Herman Sviyazhsky that are of highest value for pilgrims was placed at the Icon of the Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Cathedral and is free to visit regardless of season.

Moreover, it is supposed that the Museum-Reserve to be the only one organisation responsible for visitor tours and guides licensing for Sviyazhsk. The measure is considered to maintain visitation regulations and to provide a comfortable environment for visitors and integrated approach to the site interpretation and promotion.

As regards the visitor tours developed in Sviyazhsk, it is important to mention their effectiveness in an adequate distribution of visitor flows during peak visitation seasons and hours. Currently, over 10 various tours are available for visitors.

At the same time, new museum displays and exhibitions (detailed in the Management plan) would also allow to re-distribute visitor flows and to decrease potential anthropogenic impact on the nominated site itself and on the island-town of Sviyazhsk, in general. Currently, visitor flows are mainly going via museums and Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Monastery. The visitors are provided with necessary information on the heritage of the site, its values and conservation works conducted.

### **New Museums in Sviyazhsk**

Recently, the number of new museums to be opened in Sviyazhsk (presented in the Management Plan) was re-considered and subsequently decreased due to the lack of necessary spaces for further development of the island-town of Sviyazhsk museums network.

Currently, it is supposed to open several new museums according to the following timeline:

## 2017

- Museum of Orthodox Culture and the Assumption Monastery (Ground Floor of St Nicholas Church of the Assumption Monastery Complex), as already mentioned above;
- Art Gallery and Visitor Centre of the Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve (former Sviyazhsk Uyezd Fire Unit Buildings);
- Gennady Arkhireev Museum (an artist born in Sviyazhsk GULAG prison located at the Assumption Monastery Complex during Soviet period. The museum will be located at a wooden building of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries);

## 2018

- Archaeological Wood Museum (Sviyazhsk quay excavation units);
- Museum of Sviyazhsk Icons (the decision on the museum was based on ICOMOS expert mission recommendations aimed to improve the quality of interpretation of pieces of arts directly related to the nominated site. The Museum will be located at former Sviyazhsk Uyezd Fire Unit Buildings).

In case of Sviyazhsk, transport flows management is one of the most important elements of anthropogenic impact control. Currently, a small parking located in Sviyazhsk access round attachment area is available for 9 coaches and 100 cars. The use of private transport on the island by visitors and pilgrims has been prohibited. Only the local community members, conservation specialists as well as emergency services are allowed to use their transport facilities on the island-town of Sviyazhsk. Basing on the recommendations of ICOMOS expert mission and considering the possible growth of visitation numbers, it is supposed to established a parking space in 2 kilometres distance outside of the nominated site visibility zone.



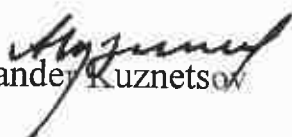
### **Interdiction of the reconstruction and adaptation of non-preserved houses for tourist accommodation purposes**

The construction of large hotels and reconstruction of non-preserved houses for tourist accommodation purposes is not supposed in Sviyazhsk and this is clearly presented in its General Plan. Currently, there is no projects aiming to establish such facilities in Sviyazhsk. According to regulations of the Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve, the construction of large buildings in Sviyazhsk is forbidden.

The events on the regeneration of Sviyazhsk environment are conducted in accordance with the Operational Guidelines stating that 'Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription, are sustained or enhanced over time' basing on the monitoring processes (Operational Guidelines, 2015: Par. 96).

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador, the Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO

  
Alexander Kuznetsov