

Program of fragmentary revitalization of the historical town of Lyashky Murovani. Murovane Village, Saryi Sambir district in the Lviv Region

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Abstract: The research uncovers the value and uniqueness of the volumetric planning structure of the historical town of Lyashky Murovani, now known as Murovane Village, Saryi Sambir district in the Lviv region.

Within the town features of Baroque urban planning are found and characteristics of the historical urban development of the location are revealed. The current components of the volumetric and spatial composition of the former city are analysed. A reconstruction scheme of the 17th-century city planning structure was presented, when it consisted of a market square with residential buildings blocks, sacral objects, and a palace and park complex. The study also reveals that the urban object passed through several stages of reconstruction during its development. A fragmentary revitalization program of the historical town into a modern village of Murovane was proposed.

Keywords: historical town, historical planning structure, valuable urban object, palace and park complex, Lyashky Murovani

1. Introduction

The process of researching the architectural and urban heritage of Western Ukraine, brings several problems to the fore. The most prominent ones are the lack of preservation, lack of protection and poor presentation of valuable historic urban ensembles and complexes, of which create the image of cities in the past and are now significant components of such historical cities and settlements. The aforementioned problems are especially related to the settlements that lost their city status during their historical development and consequently decayed or become destroyed. Once magnificent and with glorious history, developed according to the progressive European traditions of city planning, castles, palaces, palace and park complexes, today are experiencing a period of decline and destruction. It is however possible to stop this process, by applying a comprehensive approach to the formation of new positive image of these valuable historical objects.

Today, the key problem is to find ways for preservation and protection of these complexes and their components. The primary task is to display these valuable historical, architectural, and urban complexes in the architectural heritage and urban planning documentation. The next stage is to plan a development strategy and to create regeneration programs of urban objects that would reveal their historical and architectural value, to ensure their coexistence with the contemporary urban area, and to maximize their further protection and conservation [1, 4, 5].

2. Historical, architectural and urban development of Murovane village

This paper presents the historical town of Lyashky Murovani, which is one of the most valuable town-planning objects in the Ukraine. The town stands out because of its unique urban structure of the 17th and 18th centuries, and today is now known as Murovane Village, located in the Staryi Sambir district, in the Lviv region, on the Khyriv – Staryi Sambir route. The urban composition originally consisted of a castle-palace ensemble with a large-scale park, a market square framed with buildings, sacral structures, and probably fortifications (Fig. 1, 2).



Fig. 1. Liashky Murovani. Austrian military map of Halychyna 1806 – 1869. Fragment

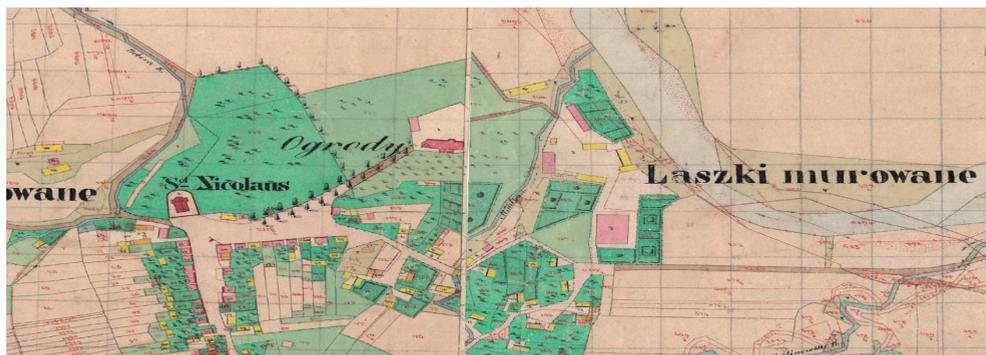


Fig. 2. Cadastre map of the town Liashky Murovani, 1853. Fragment

Historical references to the existence of a town with a market square in the area around the castle, owned by the Mniszech family, date back to the 16th century. There is also evidence that this town had been granted the Magdeburg rights [3].

The castle was mentioned mostly in historical descriptions. It was located in the northern part of the city on a small hill surrounded by the plain. The castle was built in the mid 16th century by the Tarlo family. In 1592 it was handed over to the Mniszech family, i.e. Jerzy Mniszech, a governor of Sandomierz Province. The castle had a pentagonal plan and was surrounded by three lines of ramparts, the last one of which had three bastions in its three corners. The castles established by Jerzy Mniszech were one of the largest and richest castles in Rus in the 16th century, they boasted powerful construction equipment, fortifications, internal equipment, and opulent decoration. The castle building is characterized by Russian features – it was two stories high and included an underground level. The ramparts, which surrounded the castle, contained large casemates inside. [2].

In addition to the representative purpose, the castle in Lyashky Murovani had a defensive function and stood in the way of frequent invasions of Tatars and the Turks, as was another, similar castle in the neighborhood of Dobromyl. Both castles had military garrisons and served as the last refuge for local settlers during these attacks.

The development of the castle, and later the palace in Lyashky Murovani, is closely connected with many significant historical events and personalities that influenced its further development and formation. Especially Maryna Mniszech, who was born there in circa 1588, who was the upcoming queen of Moscow, and the wife of False Dmitry I.

In the mid 17th century, while under the ownership of Franciszek Bernard Mniszech, the castle was badly damaged by a fire, but was subsequently restored or rebuilt [3].

Probably during this period, the former castle completely lost its defensive function and the Mniszech family's home was transformed into a residential palace, with a predominantly representative function and a completely leveled defense.

During this period, the castle and palace complex acquired even more expressive character, so it could match the Berezhany, Krasiczyn, Pidhirtsi, and Zhovkva castles. It was shaped as a large pentagon, with a spacious courtyard inside and three round towers in each corner outside. The entrance proceeded through a gate in the southwest corner, underneath the clock tower. The tower had several levels and was a dominant feature throughout the composition. The contemporaries admired the majesty of the internal system. The palace had forty-five

rooms and two knight halls with marble floors, which measured sixty feet by forty-five feet. In addition to rich furniture, expensive weapons, gilded cornices, and stucco, the walls were decorated with precious fabrics, paintings, family portraits, and portraits of Polish kings [2].

In the 17th century, bastions surrounded the castle and a large garden was created on the northwest. The plan, which was drawn up in 1734, contains an accurate conception of the palace building and the park (Fig. 3).

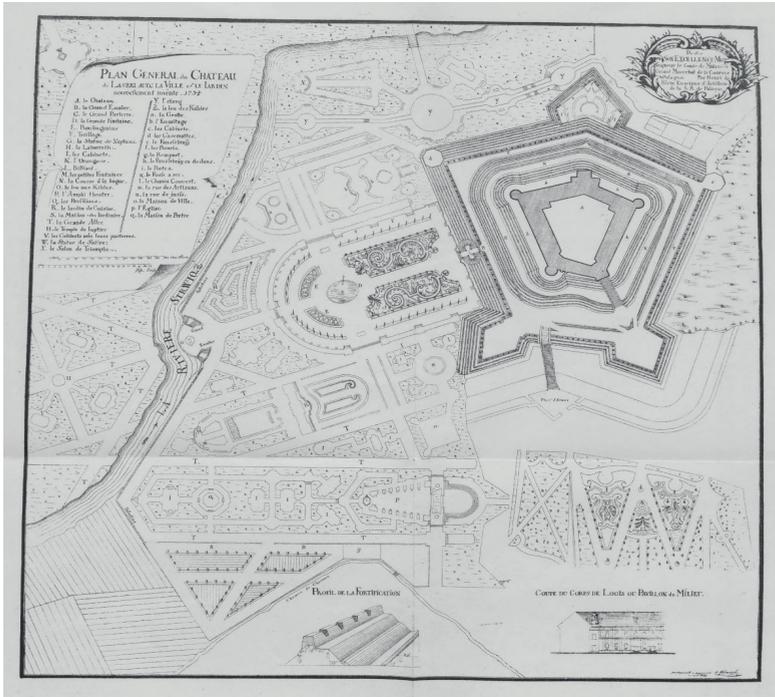


Fig. 3. General plan of the castle and garden in the town Liashky Murovani, 1734

The park included statues of Neptune and Satire, a large fountain, three water mirrors, two small fountains, beautiful parterres, and flower lawns, which created delicate ornaments inherent in the French garden fashion of the 17th and 18th centuries, such as labyrinths, mysterious shelters hidden in the shadows, pavilions, and grottoes. Broad, straight lanes cut through the park and beautiful green galleries were put up to give shade. An amphitheater and two bowling alleys were also created in the complex. A round arena, which was used for the noble games of knights, was adored by the high society of the time. The park was landscaped with a plethora of hedges, various types of shrubs, flowerbeds, water arrangements, arbors, cabinets, and other decorative elements.

Agreeably, this urban complex could have been compared to the outstanding palace and park complexes of Europe, such as the castle of Vaux-le-Visont near Paris, the Palazzo Barberini in Rome, the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, and many others.

The Mniszech family, who owned the complex until 1815, apparently maintained it in its original form. Later the object became the property of Edward Zerboni de Spoletti. After a fire in 1835, the new owner decided not to rebuild the castle. Instead he dismantled the remains and

the materials that survived the fire were traded. During the First World War, the Russian army inflicted the last, devastating blow to this once outstanding complex, which was never rebuilt.

By the end of the 19th century only one part of the complex remained – the one-story tall eastern wing with a magnificent staircase inside, the rest was leveled to the foundations in the first half of the 20th century. Nowadays, only a fragment of just one of the east wing walls remains.

Over time, the historical town Lyashky Murovani lost its status. Today, Murovane Village, located in the Staryi Sambir district, Lviv region, has a volumetric and spatial structure with only a few preserved historical elements.

3. The current state of the urban complex of Murovane Village

By 2018, only several small fragments of the palace walls were preserved, historical ramparts can also be identified from the relief. Unfortunately, the park area had been badly damaged over the centuries (Fig. 4). The structure of the village retained the historical market square, buildings framing the space, and historical parcels (Fig. 5).



Fig. 4. Views of the relics of the former historical palace complex in the village Murovane. Picture took by the authors in 2018



Fig. 5. Views at the historical Market Square buildings in the village Murovane. Picture took by the authors in 2018

A series of field surveys and fixations of the preserved elements of the historical urban planning of 17th -18th century was made during the research. The basic identifying elements are: the existence of the valuable elements of the historic castle and palace complex, the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Martyr George (mid-18th century), and St. Joseph the Betrothed Church (late 18th century) (Fig. 6), fragments of the historical park, the elements of residential buildings, streets, and squares.



Fig. 6. Views at the historical churches in the village Murovane. Picture took by the authors in 2018

The study contains a theoretical reconstruction of the planning structure of the historical town Lyashky Murovani (Murovane Village, Staryi Sambir district, Lviv region) (Fig. 7). The source base used for the theoretical reconstruction were historical cartographic materials: a Cadastral map of Lyashky Murovani, 1853 [8], Austrian military maps of Galicia of two

periods 1764 – 1784 and 1806 – 1869 [9, 10], the plan of the castle, town, and garden in Lyashky Murovani 1734 [6], a topo-geodetic survey of the village park in the village of Murovani 2016; historical narrative materials; the current fixation of the object.

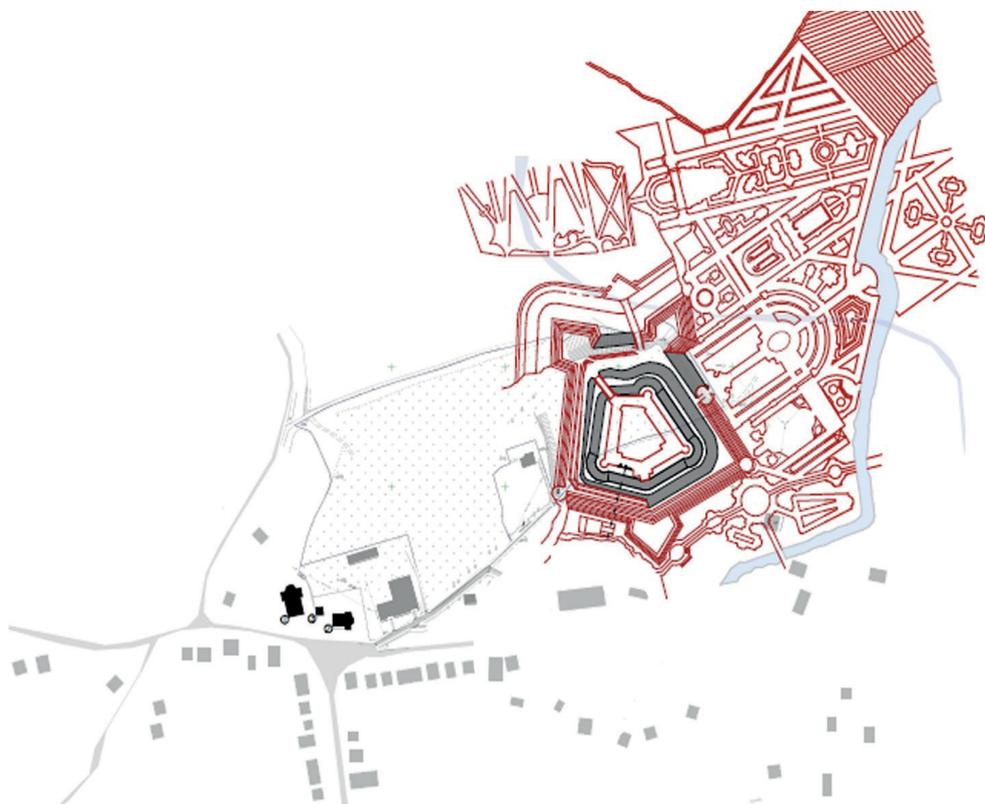


Fig. 7. The scheme of the theoretical reconstruction of the planning structure of the historical town Liashky Murovani. Notice: missing elements are marked with the red color. Author: I. Shevchuk

The urban composition originally consisted of two equivalent elements: the market square with framing buildings and the palace and park complex, which form a cross-axial composition. The location of the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Martyr George (mid-18th century) is an interesting planning feature, located at the intersection of the composite axes. Due to historical circumstances, this compositional unit was supplemented by another sacral building of St. Joseph the Betrothed Church (late 18th century).

The palace and park complex had a dominant role in the composition of the town. The residence of the town owners passed through several stages of development. In time it had transformed from the defensive castle into a palace and park ensemble of the “palazzo in fortezza” type. The regular park was arranged in line with the most up-to-date requirements of the 18th-century French landscape architecture. The palace building resembled a large pentagon with a wide courtyard, with three round towers in the corners. The entrance to the palace was located in a gateway clock tower. By the beginning of the 17th century, the palace building, which was built in several stages, had been supplemented by a fortification

system with three bastions, which were reconstructed in the beginning of the 18th century and transformed into a representational element of the park. The spacious composition of the park stretched across 10ha of land. It consisted of several main structural elements, featured by symmetry, rhythm and geometry, especially the main alley with a large fountain and other elements, which formed the main compositional axis. The alley ended with a large staircase which led to the viewing terrace over the Strviash River. The stairs joined the park with a river and menagerie formed on the opposite bank of the river. The secondary compositional axes were formed on the left- and right-hand side from the main alley. The left compositional axis was parallel to the main alley and constituted a large, straight alleyway divided in the middle by a ring-racing arena and a greenhouse. This axis ended with two small fountains. The other axis comprised an amphitheater, a cabinet system and led towards the river.

The elements of the right compositional axis created a zone of peace, seclusion, and quiet rest. Its main elements were a hermitage, cabinets, and grottoes. This tranquil area was enclosed by a pond from the outside and formed several round dances on its way.

At that time the ensemble consisted of a large alley, parterre, flower beds, lawns, fountains, bowling alleys, trellis, labyrinths, greenhouses, billiards, grottoes, fountains, and water channels. There were over 40 main elements in total, and they were planned according to the clear axial composition and, at the same time, were adapted to the natural conditions. Without doubt, this park could be compared to the most famous European baroque park complexes.

3. Conclusions

The obtained results of the research and fixation work make it possible to suggest the concept of development and regeneration of this historical urban object. The developed concept envisages a fragmentary reproduction of the historical components of Lyashky Murovani within the territory of Murovane, Lviv region. The paper is a symbolic indication of the lost elements of the historical volumetric and planning city centre structure, especially streets, market square, residential buildings; recreation of the historical garden and park composition, the lost palace complex; disclosure and exposure of the preserved authentic underground substance of the palace complex, and the elements of the urban structure for their further exposure. It is also proposed to carry out informational regeneration of this valuable historical town-planning object: the creation of educational sightseeing routes throughout the territory of the historical town of Lyashky Murovani; involvement of this historical urban complex in the cultural tourism programmes of the region; virtual reconstruction of the castle and palace complex, arrangement of the virtual museum dedicated to the development stages of the palace complex; development of the 3D reconstructions and augmented reality programs that would demonstrate the evolution of the city and the castle complex.

The proposals are presented in the form of “The fragmentary reproduction program of the historical town of Lyashky Murovani” (Fig. 8). The proposed program requires three stages of implementation:

I - stage:

- tracing the borders of the lost historical castle and palace structure (16th – 17th century) (1 – on the Fig.8);
- conservation and addition of the preserved stone wall elements of the palace structure 18th century;
- installation of information stands in the village of Murovane (at the village entrance, on the territory of the historical market square, at the beginning of the linden lane, which connected the historic market square and the palace complex) (2 – on the Fig.8);
- creation of the exhibition space (installation of the mobile exhibition pavilions) in the territory of the historical palace and park complex that is almost lost (3 – on the Fig.8);
- development of a map and implementation of excursion route with stops in all significant places of the historical city;
- creation of a multimedia program to play back the spatial composition of the lost palace with the use of holograms.

II – stage:

- fragmentary recreation of the historical bastion (clearance, commissioning, strengthening and exposition of terrestrial fortifications fragments);
- baring and exposure of the underground chamber fragments from the palace and its fortifications;
- tracing the outline of the historical market square (4 – on the Fig.8);
- restoration of the lost amphitheater and its arrangement in order to carry out the art events (film festivals, exhibitions, concerts, etc.) (5 – on the Fig.8);
- symbolic indication of the lost park elements using the sidewalk lightning system;
- recreation and presentation of a fragment of the historic steam alley (historic lawns, flower beds) (6 – on the Fig.8);
- symbolic indication of a historic linden lane using the sidewalk lightning system (7 – on the Fig.8).

III – stage:

- fragmentary restoration of the historical planning structure of the 18th century park (elements of the central alley: walking paths, large fountain, ground lawns, flower beds, ceremonial stairs and observation terrace);
- restoration of the lost park structures and elements (retaining walls, pergolas, park sculptures, small architectural forms, etc.);
- reproduction of the lost park water elements (historical stream systems);
- creation of an environmental museum within the territory of the historic castle and palace complex.

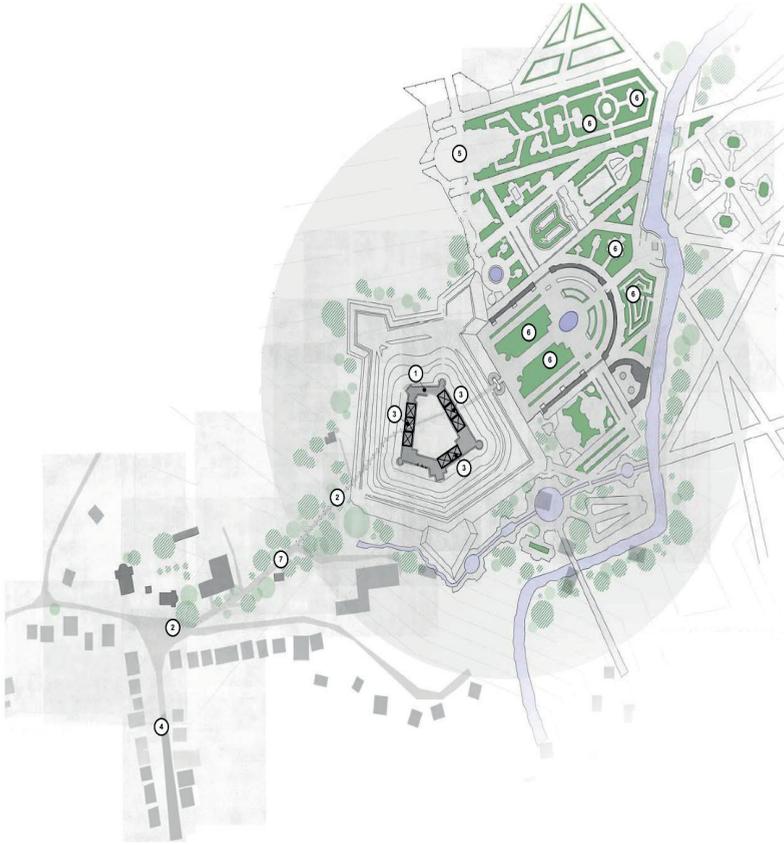


Fig. 8. The scheme representing the list of actions aimed at reproduction of the historical town Liashky Murovani. Authors: Z. Lukomska, H. Lukomska

The implementation of the proposed monument protection measures will allow: investigation into the existing technical condition of the historical urban object, elimination of the negative factors that cause the destruction of cultural heritage objects; an increase in the value of the preserved historical buildings by involving them in public life; preservation of the unique historical and urban planning environment and adapt it to modern needs of the society; to mark and partly recreate the lost unique palace and park complex; to convey the historical aspects of the region development to the residents and visitors of the historical city and to begin the process of grounding the proper attitude to the monuments of architecture and history; activation of the development of tourism as one of the main factors for the promotion of Ukrainian urban heritage.

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