

Architectural and urban development of the Romny Midtown in 12th – 19th centuries

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Abstract: Based on the cartographic sources of the 17th – 19th centuries, the previous researches of historical and scientific literature, the historical development materials of the city of Romny have been analyzed and systematized. Based on the investigated material, the main stages of architectural and urban planning of Romny have been determined.

Keywords: fortress, midtown, architectural-urban development, Romny

Problem statement

The city of Romny is a unique city planning monument on the premises of the left-bank Ukraine, that requires a complex midtown research with the aim of historical and cultural revival of the central part of the town.

Analysis of recent research and publications

The analysis of some aspects of the Romain midtown architectural and planning development of the 18th – 19th centuries is found in the historical Kurilov O. "The Romen's antiquity» and also in V. Vechersky publications. Archeological researches, in particular Arandarenko M. and Makarenko M. [Vechersky V.V. 2003, 2005, 2007; Makarenko 1917].

Objective of the article

The aim of the research is to analyze the previous authors' researches of the historical literature and the existing cartographic data, and to determine the main stages of midtown formation.

Results and discussions

Stages of architectural-urban development of the midtown Romny

According to the scientific and literary data, the main three stages of the architectural-urban development of the Romny midtown based on the cartographic researches, the archival data studies, the historical material and literary sources are suggested below.

The first stage – 12th-17th centuries. (Fig. 1) The first fortifications on the premises of the modern city of Romny appeared at the end of 9th century – the beginning of the 10th century. That fortifications belonged to the northerners of the Slavic tribe, who lived in Posullya. The inhabitants of the North built two settlements in the 8 century where the river Romenka flows into the river Sula. The first settlement was located in the northern part of the town in The Monastery tract, the second- in the downtown in The Castle tract. In the time of Kievan Rus, the town Romain was located at the border with the Wild Field and played the main role in defending ancient lands from nomads.

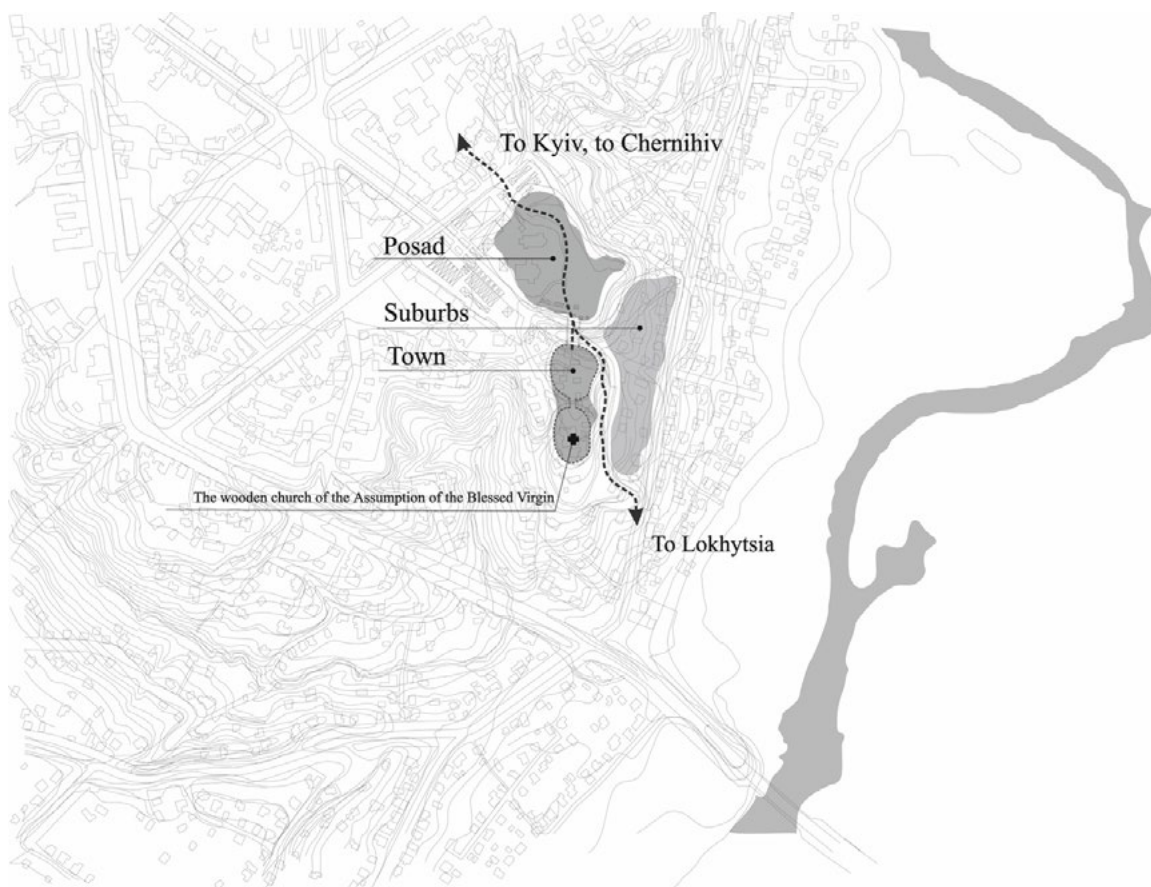


Fig. 1. Scheme of the first stage of architectural planning of the city of Romny in the 7th century.

It is known from the scientific literature that the city of Romny was inhabited in ancient times as a proof of that were the Scythian burial mound of the 5th century B.C. and the findings of old Roman coins of the 2th–3th centuries A.D. Till 988 by Volodymyr the Great's order the construction of Romny's fortress presented in the form of Detynets. The first mention of the city of Romny occurs in the book 'Teaching for children' Volodymyr Monomakh in 1096 and in 1113 year occurs to honor the memory of Volodymyr Monomakh. In 1185 the Polovtsian khan Konchak captured all the foertresses of the Posul line and the Posul territory belonged to the Mongolian

Tatars. In 1239 hordes of Batia totally destroyed the existing city and beginning from 1362 the Ukrainian-Lithuanian army liberated territories from invaders. At the end of 14th century the reconstruction of the city began with a new planning solution and fortresses.

At the end of the first stage of architectural planning development the city had the following structure City (Castle) – Suburbs – Posad and main directions to Kyiv, Chernihiv, The Moscow State, and because of constant military circumstances, the city began to acquire a new stage of development.

The second stage- the end of 16th – beginning the 18th centuries. (Fig. 2) Beginning with the 15th century the new defensive lines of the city appeared that were built almost on natural shafts, because the midtown was surrounded with big rivers from all sides. On the forth, western side a deep moat was cut behind of which was a solid wall of wooden logs. The bridges were laid to the city towers through the ditch in order to get out of town to the suburbs. That bridges existed almost till the end of the previous century and the ditch was noticeable till the 1860th years [Kurilov 1898: p. 7].

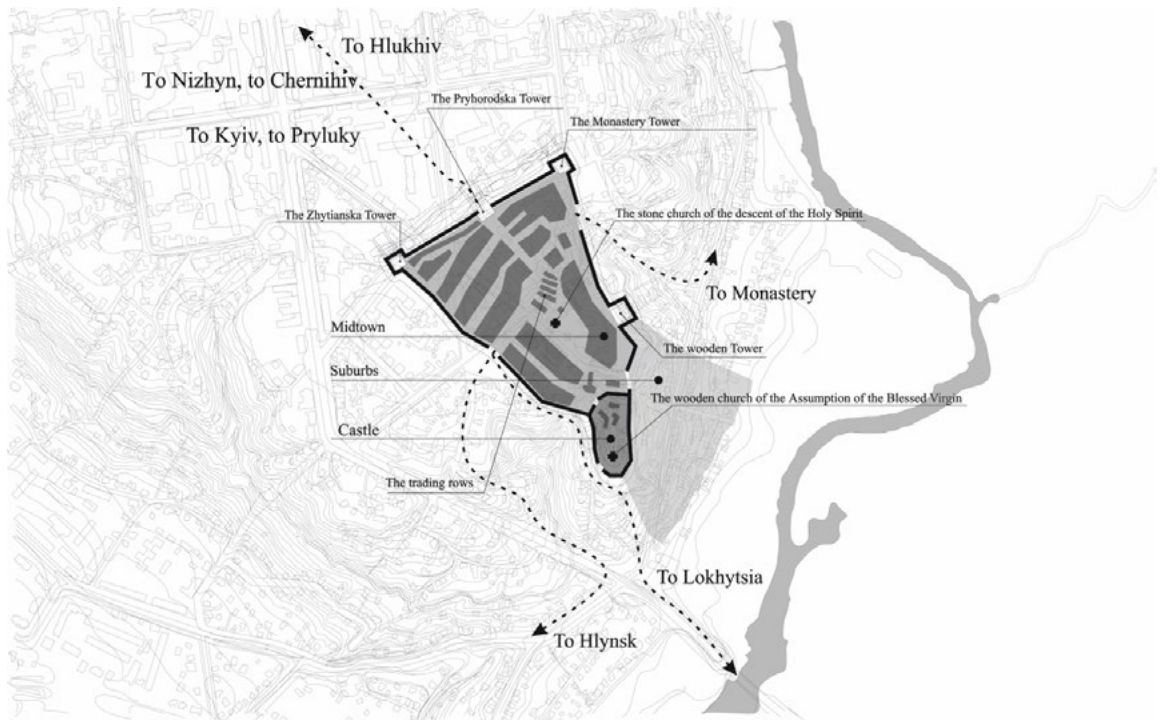


Fig. 2. Scheme of the second stage of architectural planning of the city of Romny in the 17th century.

The first mention of the city at the global level was in 1565 on the map of Venice named Romion. In the time of Michael Vyshnevetsky in 1604 a two-part fortress was built. It consisted of a small citadel, Castle (rectangular in plan with 4 corner towers) and city fortifications- 6 bastions [Vechersky 2005: p. 335–336]. In 1618 the Old and New Romans were mentioned in Polish acts. At the same time the construction of of sacral architecture has begun. One of the first wooden churches was erected in the first half of the 17th century, which was called the Church of St. Mykolas. Also, in 1630, the first Roman Catholic church was built at the expense of Yarema Vyshnevetsky, and in the same year the city of Romain became a significant fortified city on the border with the Moscow state. In 1632–1633 the events of the Moscovian-Polish war were unfolding. Boyar Mikhail Shein liberated Romain from the Poles and occupied the city with moscovian troops. 1644 – Yarema Vyshnevetsky captured the city. At the beginning of 1648, the city became the center of the Cossack Hundred Order, first of the Mirgorod Regiment, then the Lubensk Regiment. In 1652, the Romany fortress was transformed into a three-part fortress: a new building area-Prigorodok appeared, from the South to the North earth shafts with two wooden banks were erected. Romny became the center of the Cossack artillery attention in 1658. In 1663 the city was captured and destroyed by the polish detachment of Colonel Telezhinsky. In two years under the

regulations of Oleksiy Mihaylovich an artillery park with ammunition store was arranged in the northern part of the plateau behind the fortress and the Cossack cannon was installed in the city fortress. In 1700 the first wooden Ascension Church was founded with a bell tower by the muniment of Kyiv Metropolitan, Varlaam Yasin'sky. During the northern war of 1700–1721 the Romen fortress suffered the greatest destruction

Therefore, by the end of the second stage, the Romen fortress gains new considerable changes in connection with the constant military events and the city acquires the status of a hundredth city. The first sacral wooden buildings have begun to be build. The midtown planning has a transitional stage: Castle – Suburbs – Posad.

The third stage – 18th – 19th centuries. (Fig. 3) The third stage of the formation of the midtown of Romny begins with the transformation of the defensive building from two-part to three-part that considerably influence the very formation of the decision of city planning. Thus, Suburb has been formed behind a defensive building in the East.

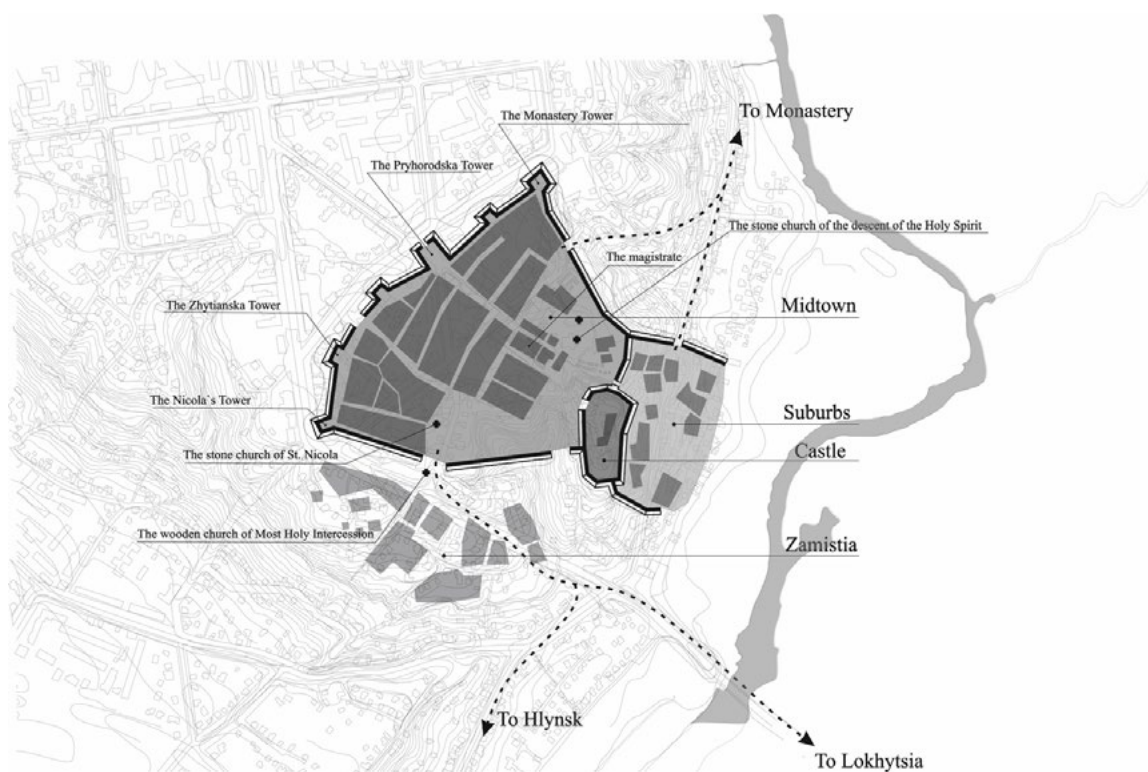


Fig. 3. Scheme of the second stage of architectural planning of the city of Romny in the 18th century.

In 1735, the laying of the wooden Holy Spirit Cathedral for 35 siazhen¹ from the Assumption Church, which was the first sacral structure in the city, began. During the years 1742–1746 Romanesque Cathedral of the Holy Spirit was built instead of the wooden one. The first coat of arms of the city was founded in 1743 under Prince Vyshnevetsky. In 1747, the existing St. Mykola wooden church was renovated, and in 1750 a new St. Mycholas church was built on the site of the wooden one. In 1749 the foundation of the wooden belfry of St. Basil's Cathedral and in 1751 the construction of the stone bell tower began. The same year, works on a warm church are being carried out instead of the old Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

The second half of the 18th century the fortress is fortified in the form of an irregular hexagon with five pentagonal bastions and one quadrilateral. The fortress had four overhead towers with erected bridges: Prigorodsk, Monastyrsk, Mykolaiv and Zhityansk. The main entrances and exits were three, and the roads that went from them – 7. The first exit – Chernihiv, Nizhyn, Pryluck, Kyiv, Moscow. From it go three roads: the middle – to

1 **Siazh** (ancient Russian. Sum from the prime. * Сежь, * sežen, formed from * segati – "reach") – an ancient unit of measurement of distance, area and volume. The cubic fathom was also called *Shag*. (1 sazh = 7 English feet = 84 inches = 2,134 meters)

Nizhyn and Chernihiv, to the right to Protsivka, to the left to Kyiv. The second entrance is Glinsky. He was separately through the Cemetery. The third – Lokhvitsky, through Sula [Kurylov 1898: p. 25–26]. Until 1758, there was still a wooden bridge at the Mykolaiv Gate. Since 1762, restoration work has been carried out on the stone church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit. During the years 1764–1770, the baptized, five-part, five-storeyed wooden Church of the Holy Intercession was built under the design of architect V. Krivoshiy, which would then be moved to Poltava and destroyed.

The first ruins of the fortress began at the end of the eighteenth century, when in 1770 the fortress towers were demolished. Excavations of the fortress shafts began in 1785, when Romny had already existed for three years as part of the Chernihiv governorship under the leadership of the Russian Empire. In the same year, wooden bridges were repaired at the Mykolaiv and Zhitany gates across the moat to the Suburbs. Subsequently, this ditch was filled and a new street called the Big Romensk was laid. At the end of the century, in 1795, the foundation of the new stone church of the Ascension began, and ended in 1797. City planning looks like this: City and Suburbs, Monastery, Zamistya², Cemetery and Zapadynets under the river Sula.

But, the first half of the nineteenth century, all the fortification lines were demolished and new city streets were created that exist to this day. Thus, the basic structure of the modern Romain midtown was finally formed during the third phase of architectural and planning development.



Fig. 4. The Romny 19th. Photo

Conclusions

On the basis of the collected historical literature materials and the previous researches, the basic backgrounds and reasons for formation of the urban structure of the Romny midtown have been studied in detail and the three main stages of architectural and urban development during the 12th – 19th centuries have been identified.

2 **Zamistya** – Záhorodje, suburb. A typical name for the cities of Eastern Ukraine in the meaning of the Suburbs.

The main reasons for formation of the fortification city were military events, political interventions and the influences of local culture formation.

Comparing the available cartographic data of the 17th-19th centuries with modern topogeodetic foundations we can distinguish the following transformations of urban space of the city center, starting from the XII century for each of the proposed stages of architectural and planning development of Romny:

- The structure of the midtown of the first stage: City (Castle) – Suburbs – Posad. Such a structure is characteristic of cities of Ukrainian culture during the times of Kyivan Rus' of the 12th-13th centuries.
- The structure of the midtown of the second stage: City – Suburbs – Posad is preserved, but, unlike the first stage, the construction of a wooden fortress with rectangular towers begins in a plan characteristic of the Cossack-era culture of the 17th century.
- After the military events, the structure of the third stage of the the midtown formation changes significantly. The City (Citadel) is preserved and new parts of the City are being formed: Zapadinets, Cemeteries and Monastery. At the beginning of 18th century, the fortress is being transformed from a quadrangular to a pentagonal and a stone defensive building is being erected instead of a wooden one. In the first half of the 19th century all the defensive fortification lines were demolished and the main city' streets were formed that are preserved to this day.

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