

PALACES IN VINNYTSIA REGION: PROBLEMS OF PRESERVATION AND INVOLVEMENT INTO MODERN CULTURAL LIFE

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Summary

Nowadays the issue of preservation and actualization of historical and architectural heritage in Ukraine is acute. It is important not only to preserve some sights but also to promote their development and adaptation to modern requirements. The palaces of Vinnytsia region, which began to be actively built at the end of the 18th century, have significant potential in this process. Throughout their existence, many palaces had different owners, who were modifying the appearance of the buildings. During the nineteenth century, there was a variety of architectural styles, the dominant of which was classicism. In the process of political and socio-economic changes in society, palace complexes acquired a new meaning and functions. From the beginning of the twentieth century, palaces were used not for their original purpose, which caused their decline today. There are about forty venues of various degrees of preservation on the territory of the region. The irrational use of palaces remains a problem. The integration of historical and architectural landmarks into the life of society involves a comprehensive approach. An effective method to restore and preserve palaces is revitalization, which is to return lost functions or provide new ones to the venues.

Keywords: tourism, monuments, historical and architectural heritage, use of monuments, actualization, revitalization, ruins.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.23856/4316>

1. Introduction

Relevance of the study. The palaces and park complexes of Vinnytsia region are a part of the historical and architectural heritage of our country and its tourist resource. Landmarks continue to be destroyed and are not involved in tourism and the cultural life of the community. This often applies to sites that have the status of a monument of national importance and are included in the state register. For example, the palaces in Serebryntsi, Bilichyn, Napadivka, Andrushivka. The realization of the historical and cultural potential of these venues is an important factor not only for tourism development but also for their further preservation.

The purpose of the article is to investigate the methods of actualization of damaged palaces with the prospect of their involvement in tourism and adaptation to new socio-economic conditions. **The task is** to outline the history of the construction and development of palaces and park complexes in the region. To determine the ways to solve the problems of preservation of historical and architectural monuments. To consider approaches that would contribute to the actualization of the landmark, its inclusion in the cultural life of the community. The study is based on the use of general scientific **methods** (analysis and synthesis, analogy and modelling, historical and logical).

Scientific novelty. Most palaces and park complexes in Vinnytsia region, due to careless treatment or adaptation to other functional uses, lose their authenticity. That is why it is urgent

to use new methods that are designed to promote the restoration and preservation of historical and cultural monuments. One such approach is revitalization, which has not yet been covered in the works of researchers in relation to the palace complexes of Vinnytsia region.

2. History and development of palace complexes

Palace complexes of Vinnytsia region are directly related to the history of the region, they witnessed a complicated and eventful period of the late 18th – early 20th century. The palaces and parks preserved until now reflect the heyday of magnate residences in the territory of Eastern Podillya (modern Vinnytsia region). At different stages of their existence, these sites have been changing the owners, who modified the appearance of the buildings. With the shift of the political and social structure of society, palace complexes acquired new functions.

Due to the concentration of a large amount of land in the hands of Polish magnates on the territory of Eastern Podillya, luxurious palaces and park complexes appeared in small towns and villages (Voronovitsa, Serebryntsi, Tulchin, Severinovka, etc.) (*Malakov, 1988: 12*). Active construction of palace complexes lasted from the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century.

In the middle of the 18th century, the architectural style of classicism was widespread in Europe. It was an imitation of forms of ancient classics as a counterbalance to rich and decorative baroque. Eastern Podillya hasn't missed this trend either (*Sichyns'kyj, 1956: 140*). Palaces of the Classicism style are the most numerous group of monuments that were built during this period. Classicism became the last "great style" that for almost a century determined the appearance of buildings from royal palaces to small estates far outside the capital (*Leont'iev, 2010: 167*).

Among the monuments there are such styles as Neo-Renaissance (Palace in Kotyuzhany), Baroque (Palace in Spychintsy), Neo-Baroque (Palace in Honorivka), Gothic (Palace in Mytky), Neo-Gothic (Palace in Chernyatyn). Landscape and regular parks are no less important than a large number of magnate palaces on the territory of Eastern Podillya. They reflected the wealth of their owners, the tastes, and the spirit of the era. A large part of the parks was created by a talented master of landscape art Dionysius Mikler.

After the partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the annexation of the territory of Eastern Podillya to the Russian Empire, the tsarist government, trying to reduce the influence of the Polish nobility in the region, began to settle these lands with Russians (*Temirova, 2003: 76*). The property of the Polish nobility who refused to swear allegiance to Catherine II or participated in the uprisings of 1830–1831 and 1863–1864 was confiscated and handed over to Russian landowners. After the establishment of the Russian Empire's authority, the construction of palaces continued. However, it became more and more difficult for landowners to control large landholdings. As a result, the palaces became more modest.

With the Bolsheviks coming to power, many palace complexes were destroyed. The surviving venues have been adapted for use as orphanages, sanatoriums, community centres, etc. As a result of careless treatment, monuments continued to be destroyed during the 20th century (*Tomilovych, 2011: 5*).

3. Practices of monuments revitalization

Palace complexes of Vinnytsia region are a component of the country's national wealth and can potentially be used for the development of cultural tourism. However, a number of

factors do not allow to reveal their tourist potential in full. The use of estates remains a big problem. Unused buildings decline and collapse. Physical destruction is also caused by use not for the original purpose or in an inappropriate for the aesthetic function and material and technical structure way (*Plamenyts'ka et al., 2019: 37*).

There are a number of methods designed to promote the restoration and preservation of historical and cultural monuments. One of them is revitalization – “increasing the functional significance of the complex, a fragment of the environment, the city centre by reproducing their lost social functions or giving them new ones that do not violate the traditional nature of the environment” (*Vechers'kyj, 2003: 67*). Any work with monuments of cultural and historical significance brings many challenges. Revitalization involves preserving the authentic appearance of the building and, at the same time, adapting to new conditions (*Penica et al., 2015: 890*).

More than 150 palace and park complexes were built in Vinnytsia region from the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century. Only less than a third have survived to the present day with varying degrees of preservation (*Khorosha, 2020: 23*). A significant part of the venues that had exceptional historical and cultural significance was lost. Of those that have survived until now, about 16 have been turned into ruins and continue to decline.

Such objects include the Chatsky Palace – an architectural monument of early classicism. The palace is a monument of national importance. Until the end of the 1980s, the interiors of the palace were partially preserved: the stucco decoration of the ceiling that was unique in each room; patterned parquet; Marble Hall (*Malakov, 1988: 77*). Nowadays, only a few rooms of the palace are used for the needs of the village council and the library. The rest is gradually collapsing. There is nothing left of the park, founded in the 19th century by the famous master of landscape art Dionysius Mikler.

The palace and park complex in Serebryntsi has all the typical problems for monuments of this kind in Ukraine. This is a location in the countryside, adaptation for economic needs without regard to artistic and architectural value in Soviet times, the lack of any restoration work. Today the monument is not involved in modern socio-cultural activities.

Researchers involved in the development of measures for tourist sites revitalization identify the following types of revitalization: spatial, social, cultural, economic. Revitalization is defined as complex technical, social and economic actions aimed at restoring the lost function of the monument and providing redevelopment of some premises for modern needs (*Bernats'ka et al., 2017: 58–59*).

Analyzing the experience of the successful revitalization of abandoned monuments of palace art, the following steps can be identified that help to actualize and create cultural space around the venue:

- activation of the local community, drawing attention to the preservation of cultural heritage, cooperation with local authorities, media;
- cleaning the territory and its reorganization by volunteers;
- development of social, cultural and tourist infrastructure, organization of excursions on the territory of the monument.

As a result of revitalization, the monument acquires new functions and meanings. The palace can host themed evenings related to historical figures of the palace owners and their guests, an exhibition of works by local artists, festivals, concerts and much more (*Zhukova, 2019: 108–109*).

Sources of funding can be different: funds from regional, city, village budgets, funds of local entrepreneurs and residents, grant funds of the European Union. Carrying out revitalization

anyway helps to preserve the historical and architectural monument from destruction since restoration, first, is not always possible. Secondly, monuments often disappear before being restored. (*Plamenyts'ka et al., 2019: 53*).

4. Current conservation issues

Nevertheless, it is necessary to carry out comprehensive restoration works for the effective preservation and use of palaces in the future. In this study we will try to consider the prospects for the restoration of the palaces in Vinnytsia region on the basis of the “International Charter for the Protection and Restoration of Immovable Monuments and Sites” (*Venice Charter, 1964*). According to the document, the restoration is a protection measure, the main purpose of which is to preserve and reveal the artistic and historical significance of the monument (*Venetian Charter, 1964*).

Of the 38 studied palaces of the region, 22 are in a relatively well-preserved condition, 16 are in a state of ruin or require significant restoration work. In cases when the condition of the monuments is so bad that collapse or complete destruction are possible, a restoration method of strengthening is necessary. These are actions, first of all, of engineering and technical character, the purpose of which is to increase the bearing capacity of the building and preserve the authentic material structure (*Prybieha, 2017: 400*). Among the palaces of Vinnytsia region, for example, strengthening is needed for the half-ruined Lange Palace in the village of Napadivka or the Kogan Palace in the village of Vysheolchedaiv.

For almost a hundred years the palaces of Vinnytsia region were used as educational institutions, medical institutions or even food warehouses. As a result, the elements of many buildings still have specific Soviet aesthetics. These details include whitewashed walls and ceilings, painted stairs and railings, tiling, etc. Restoration revealing helps to cope with such influences. It involves the removal of later layers and aims to identify the authentic surface of the monument (*Prybieha, 2017: 401*).

The Venice Charter states the need to preserve the layers of different epochs, as unity of style is not the aim of a restoration, and the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances. Revealing is recommended when the removed elements are of little interest (*Venetian Charter, 1964*), but the layers of the Soviet period are economic in nature and often dissonant with the architecture of the monument. Of course, each building is special in its own way and requires an individual approach.

As most of the palaces have lost their authentic appearance nowadays, the method of replacement is becoming relevant in restoration. The new elements must be different from the original fragments and at the same time harmoniously complement the overall shape of the building (*Venetian Charter, 1964*). The replacement technique was used in the process of restoring the Grokholsky-Mozhaysky palace in Voronovitsa. Part of the stucco was removed from the facade. Damaged parts were replaced with copies. Replacement requires significant costs and professional performance. Therefore, in the realities of restoration with a very limited budget, it may be rational to refuse to return the monument to its original form.

Inclusion in social processes and functional adaptation of cultural heritage sites is an important factor in their preservation. Successfully integrated into the life of society, monuments (palaces) will play an important role in the process of historical cognition and contribute to the formation of national and cultural consciousness among the population (*Prybieha, 2017: 413*).

5. Conclusions

The way palace and park complexes are used today does not allow to fully reveal their historical and cultural potential and threatens their preservation. Nowadays, researchers have already developed a number of approaches and methods that allow to renovate monuments and create a full-value tourist and excursion product based on them.

One of the successful measures, although not yet very common in Ukraine, is revitalization. It provides a comprehensive approach and actions in the technical, social and economic spheres, focused on the restoration and development of the monument. The inclusion of palaces in socio-cultural life involves restoration work. There are a number of restoration techniques that can be used in relation to the objects studied: strengthening, revealing, replacement. At the same time, the restoration of each monument should be approached individually, trying to preserve its authenticity and originality.

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