Features of wooden buildings in Tomsk

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Abstract. The article is devoted to analysis and systematization of classical wooden buildings in Tomsk. The relevance of the work is due to the problems of preserving the valuable of Tomsk historical and architectural heritage and this topic is poorly known. Wooden buildings in the classicism style were widely spread in the nineteenth century. They were classified as a residential development and were subjected to reconstruction and demolition in the Soviet period. Currently the wooden classical buildings are the most ancient and already quite rare and therefore it is necessary to conduct the research on its identification, study and systematization.

The novelty of the study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis and identify the typology of wooden buildings in the classicism style of Tomsk. In the course of the work the authors used the following methods: critical analysis of bibliographic sources, comparative architectural analysis and system-structural analysis of information, as well as creative synthesis in the formation of conclusions.

As a result of the conducted bibliographic and field studies the identified objects were divided into four main types according to their volume and spatial characteristics. It is established that the classic wooden building in Tomsk has great historical value. It is the material embodiment of constructive and technical knowledge, architectural and artistic traditions.

1. Introduction

The subject of research is a classical wooden building of Tomsk. Wooden classicism was predominant in residential buildings’ construction in the XIX century. However, nowadays a considerable number of wooden buildings are lost annually. What is more, this process is irreversible, as many architects since the middle of the twentieth century have been pointing out. Therefore, identification and research of features of classical wooden buildings is significantly relevant.

The purpose of the given research is to identify main typological groups of classical wooden buildings in Tomsk. The main aim is to identify and systematize items of classical wooden residential architecture in Tomsk by volumetric and spatial characteristics.

The novelty of the research is a developed typology of classical wooden buildings in Tomsk based on bibliographic, archival and field studies.

Classical wooden residential development of the city of Tomsk is still poorly studied. Individual groups of items of wooden architecture in Siberia and Tomsk were described in works of such architects and art historians as A. M. Pribytkova-Frolova, E. Dreyzin, S. N. Balandin, A. L. Shilovsky, V. I. Kachedamov, E. I. Kirichenko, O. V. Bogdanova, V. G. Zalesov, and others. Specifically classical wooden buildings of Tomsk were considered by such researchers as A. P. Gerasimov, T. N.
Manonina, E. V. Sitnikova, and N. V. Shagov. In spite of this, there is still no any comprehensive analysis of this crucial aspect of the architectural heritage of Tomsk.

2. Emergence and spread of classicism in architecture

In 1760s, a change in main architectural and artistic style took place in Russia. Decorative Baroque gave way to classicism, which quickly established itself in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and then spread throughout the country. The arrival of classicism in the cities of Siberia, including Tomsk, is simultaneous to the all-Russian timeline primarily because the artistic language of classicism is universal. It can equally efficiently be used to create pompous palace buildings, simple residential dwellings, and modest wooden houses on the outskirts [1].

The regular plan of the city of Tomsk whose author was V. I. Geste was approved in 1830. However, it was edited several times taking into account peculiarities of the terrain. After all modifications it was approved by Imperial consolidation and served as a guide for development of the city. Together with the approved regular plan, the building rules and engraved albums published in 1809-1812 were sent to Tomsk. The general title of the albums is “A collection of facades most highly approved by His Imperial Majesty for residential buildings in the cities of the Russian Empire”. Volumes III and IV edited by the famous Russian Architect V. P. Starov were sent to Tomsk Province [2].

In the first half of the XIX century, wooden houses began to be built in classical style, and most of such houses echoed masonry architecture. These were predominantly one-storey and two-storey buildings, in some cases the second floor was built in the form of a mezzanine. The upper floor is usually higher than the lower one. Verandas, terraces, and balconies were widely used. The major feature of these houses was austerity and symmetry of main facade composition with an odd number of windows. Houses were sheathed with a profile board. Corners were decorated with semi-columns or rustic work. Building was completed with a triangular pediment [3, 4].

After bibliographic and field studies, the wooden buildings identified by the authors as belonging to the classical style in Tomsk, were systematized and divided into four main groups of items according to their spatial characteristics.

3. Results and discussion

As a result of historical, archival and field studies, wooden buildings in the classicism style of Tomsk are divided into four main types according to volume and spatial characteristics.

Type 1. A single-storey residential building with three axes of windows on the main facade on the ground floor, with a gable roof and a triangular pediment and with a dormer window in the form of a solar sign. Walls are covered with a wide profile board, corners are highlighted by semi-columns with rustic work, neat window casing molding with shutters as in Figure 1 and Figure 2. Such houses belonged to the private estate development.

![Figure 1](image1.png)  Figure 1. Residential building on Rosa Luxemburg St., 24 [6] (not preserved).

![Figure 2](image2.png)  Figure 2. Residential building on Shishkova St., 15 [5] (not preserved).
Type 2. Two-storey house with a saddleback roof and three axes of windows on the main facade. It was constructed as a sheathed log house Figure 3 and Figure 4 or a log house without sheathing Figure 5 and Figure 6. Windows with shutters on the ground floor were often lower in height than the windows of the second floor. From the lateral (side) facade there are perpendicular wooden additions to main building with a saddleback roof which housed the entrance lobby, stairs, storerooms and closets Figure 4.

Type 3. House with a mezzanine. Single-storey or ground-floor houses with wooden additions in the form of a mezzanine, with one, two or three axes of windows, oriented to one or more cardinal directions Figure 7 and Figure 8. Mezzanines often had balconies with canopies on columns Figure 9 and Figure 10. Lower floors in such houses had five or more axes of windows, walls were often sheathed with a profile board.
Figure 7. Residential building on Kartashova St., 16a (not preserved).

Figure 8. Residential building on Oktyabrskaya St., 66 [6].

Figure 9. Residential building on Lenina Av., 80a [5] (not preserved).

Figure 10. Residential building on Studgorodok St., 7 [6].

Type 4. Two-stored houses with five or seven axes of windows, under hip roofs, sheathed with a profile board (sometimes rusticated) with corners treated with wavy semi-columns. Window casing molding of the first and second floors’ windows were completed with Baroque volutes Figure 11 and Figure 12. Houses with seven windows and more were built as tenement ones and had a corridor planning structure. It should be noted that for all the austerity and conciseness of main facades of residential buildings made in the style of classicism the compositional solution of the courtyard facades was distinguished by a picturesque variety of forms and volumes – protruding wooden additions, porches, canopies on pillars and other elements Figure 9.
In Tomsk classicist houses were often built with an odd number of windows on the main facade – two, four, six windows. There were also wooden houses plastered on shingles and then painted. One of these houses is preserved on the lane. 3. Due to the fact that such finishing requires regular repair and restoration work which was not carried out in a timely manner, as a result, the buildings acquired an unsightly appearance and they were almost all lost.

The identified main types of houses in the classicism style of Tomsk were widely used in wooden manor construction in the second half of the XIX century Figure 13. Types 1, 2 and 3 were built on the territories of private estates and operated by the same family. The type 4 was most often built for rental apartments and used as an apartment building. Currently wooden buildings in the classicist style are located in the historical core of the city of Tomsk, mainly in the historical areas of Peski and Voskresenskaya Gora – where the most ancient buildings have been preserved.

4. Summary
The conducted research established that the classical wooden architecture in Tomsk is of great historical value and materially embodies constructive and technical knowledge, architectural and artistic traditions of previous centuries. Currently there are only few wooden houses built in the style of classicism which are preserved.

As a result of historical, archival and field studies, wooden buildings in the classicism style of Tomsk are divided into four main types according to volume and spatial characteristics: a one-story residential building with three axes of windows on the main facade with a gable roof; a two-story house with three axes of windows on the main facade with a gable roof; a house with a mezzanine...
(one-two-story); a two-story house with five-seven axes of windows under a hip roof. Houses of the first type and with mezzanines are almost completely lost. There are only a few buildings in the city center. A large number of houses of the second type and apartment buildings of the fourth type have been preserved. Houses of the first type and with mezzanines are almost completely lost apart from several buildings in the city center. A large number of apartment buildings of the fourth type have been preserved.

Once a widespread type of the town’s wooden architecture, it now represents a valuable historical and cultural environment and is subject to careful study and preservation for future generations.

5. References

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