Architecture of Consular Buildings in Manchuria (Lubin) During the First Half of the 20 Century

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the architecture of the consular buildings of Manchuria (Lubin) in Inner Mongolia, during the first half of the 20th century. At present, in the Far East, in the context of the revitalization of modern construction of the cities of Northern Manchuria, located within the boundaries of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Russian and European architecture is lost, and the remaining objects are reconstructed and become objects of tourist routes. The significance of Russian architecture of the first half of the twentieth century over time is rises, first of all, due to the preservation of the Russian and European architectural and cultural heritage. The article provides a brief historical description and architectural analysis of the objects. Also revealed two consular buildings, one of which is lost.

1. Introduction
The article is part of the study of the features of the architecture of consular objects in the cities of Manchuria, the period of the first half of the twentieth century, Northern China. The relevance of the research is connected with the need to fill the existing gaps in the history of the Russian and European architecture of the Far Eastern region, related to the architecture of the consular objects that have been preserved and lost in cities located in the estuary line of the CER of the first half of the XX century. The goal is to identify the consular buildings in Manchuria (Lubin) from the period of the first half of the twentieth century. The object of the research is the consulate buildings, which are monuments of the cultural and architectural heritage of the city of Manchuria. The subject of the research is the specificity of the urban planning situation of consular offices in the structure of the city. The theoretical basis of the study was the work of Russian and foreign scientists who covered certain aspects described in this article.

2. Literature review
The architecture of Northern Manchuria, is considered in the works describing the space-planning and stylistic features of the buildings, revealing their belonging to the European architecture and style. Therefore, for example, in the work prepared by the authors team of Chinese researchers Binyang Yu, Qingguo Xie [1] presents well-developed drawings of some of the preserved objects. The works of S. S. Levoshko [2], the books of N.Ye. Kozyrenko, A.P. Ivanova and Yang Hongwei [3 and 4] consider the town-planning, architectural and cultural heritage of the former Russian cities in the north-east of China. V.I. Luchkova and A.A. Kim [5, 6] consider the influence of European architecture on the development of Europeanized Chinese architecture. One of the first in Russia to become interested in
the study and analysis of the architecture of the city of Harbin were N. P. Kradin [7, 8] and S. S. Levoshko [2]. Their works consider the heritage of Russian and European architects in the cities of Manchuria, in particular scientific works give a fairly detailed picture of the urban development, historical and cultural development of the cities of Manchuria. The history of the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway (CER) is dedicated to the works of N. E. Ablova [9], M. A. Vivdych [10], T. Yu. Troitskaya [11]. Stylistic features of architecture are discussed in the writings of Liu Zhao, Liu Sonfu [12] and Jiang Xue [13]. In the reviewed materials, almost no attention is paid to St. Manchuria, in particular the architecture and planning structure of the city, which is of interest to researchers.

During the period under review, many cities of the CER were considered to be major administrative centers and important transportation hubs [14], which concentrated the traditional spiritual and material values of the Russian and Chinese peoples. Despite the fact that the territory developed under Russian influence, in Russia this topic has been studied little and is of interest to researchers. First of all, this is due to the fact that Russia has left a considerable mark on the development of the architecture of cities in North China.

The revitalization of Russian influence dates back to the end of the 19th century - the first quarter of the 20th century; the material heritage created during this period continues to influence the architectural images of modern China. In addition, the problem of identifying and preserving the Russian architecture of cities in northern Manchuria is acute in small towns and stations on the CER, the value of which began to be realized relatively recently, which explains the relevance of studying this issue.

3. Historical information. Opening consular offices
After signing a contract for the construction and operation of the Chinese Eastern Railway (CER) [15] in October 1901, the construction of the CER was completed, which linked the Manchurian lands with Siberia and the Far East [16]. Up to 1910, about 20 railway settlements were formed along the CER, the largest being Manchuria and Harbin [17]. The station Manchuria, founded in 1901, four kilometers from the Russian border, later received city status (1923), was located in the neutral zone in Manchuria [18]. The small station was the largest land border crossing point on the Sino-Russian border and the starting point of the CER. The territory of the station was divided into the northern and southern parts, between which the railway lay, from the northern side the terminal station of the Trans-Baikal railway, with the southern starting station of the Chinese Eastern Railway. The station had a regular layout and consisted of rectangular blocks. Quarters overlooking the railway are mainly built up with administrative buildings.

In 1920, about three thousand Russians and 20 thousand Chinese lived here. A public administration was created, there were a post and telegraph office, a railway hospital, a two-class railway and village public school, a Russian gymnasium and a real school, as well as three Orthodox churches [19]. The consulate of Japan was established on June 27, 1922. In 1923, the representative office of the Russian Far Eastern Republic was transformed into a consulate of the Soviet Union (USSR).
3.1. Consulate of the USSR

A two-storey freestanding building with a basement, located in a prestigious place of the city from the Trans-Baikal side of the station on Nikolayevsky Prospekt (now Yidao St., 58) within the boundaries of Moskovskaya (now Wenming Rd.) and Plumbing (now Shuiyuan Rd.) streets (Fig. 2) built in 1909. In a town-planning situation, the object occupies an ordinary position and has a rectangular plan, at the ends of which, protruding additional entrance groups are formed at the level of the first floor. The building has a corridor system with a large cutting room in the plan.

The brick volume of the building is strict in shape and elegant in proportions, kept in the classic style motifs, completed with a hip roof, on which firewalls stand out, dividing the building into three unequal parts (10-21-10 meters). The composition of the symmetrical facade is accentuated by the central risalit, and the metrically located windows emphasize horizontal segmentation, reinforce this effect the interfloor belt and panels. According to the architect’s plan, the building has three entrance blocks, central on the building axis and two additional blocks at its ends. The walls of the building are made of plaster, the ground floor is decorated with rust of stone blocks. The ocher color of the facades is in harmony with the gray stone on the base; smoothly combines the smooth surface of the wall and the rough, rough stone of the plinth. The windows of the first and second floors of a rectangular shape, are underlined by a thin belt and have panels, and are completed with a keystone. The doorway and the window in the level of the second floor in a protruding volume have a circular end topped with a keystone.

According to the found historical photographic materials of the city of Hailar, in which similar structures were found [21], it can be assumed that the building elements were typical, as evidenced by the building located next to the consulate (Yidao St., 56, the former Soviet Union commercial agency in China, 1908) identical in composition and style.

The building was originally represented by the representative office of the Russian Far Eastern Republic (FER), and in 1923 it was transformed into a Soviet consulate. In 1956, the building was converted into a guest house of the municipal government, and later into the Manchuria Hotel, then into the Petersburg Hotel. Currently, the building is the municipal unit for the protection of cultural property [22]. Now the building is repaired and plastered, and is a monument of the architectural heritage of the city.
3.2. Consulate of Japan

The building of the Japanese consulate, at which the police station was opened, is now lost. This one-storey structure, which occupies an angular position on the site, has a L-shaped outline of the plan, completed by a gable roof, to the ends of which are adjacent other structures, forming a continuous line of building streets. From the front of the facade on the roof stood a high gable facing the main street, made of wood with carved elements. The stone walls of the building are plastered, it is distinguished by the laconic forms and details inherent in the features of the Russian typical architecture of the CER. The main facade has a simple plastic solution with a small number of decorative elements. The windows had a rectangular outline with a high fan casing and a keystone, complemented the image of the shutters, decorated with panels.

The entrance block is made in the form of a protruding porch made of wood using carved stacked columns and elements. Accentuating the protruding pediment with carved decoration, fixes his place in the ensemble of the street. A distinctive feature of the building is the simplicity and conciseness of the image. The building is now lost.

Figure 2. The facade of the building of the USSR consulate on Nikolayevsky Prospect (drawing Smolyaninova T. A.).

Figure 3. Consulate of Japan [23].
4. Conclusion
Thus, in the period of the first half of the 20th century, in connection with the active railway construction by foreign countries in China and in North Manchuria, European settlements began to appear, soon receiving the status of open cities. The increase in the number of which led to the need to settle their political and legal situation, which led to the opening of consular offices.

Due to the growth of cities in China and their reconstruction, many monuments have been lost or have undergone significant changes in their features. And the drawings and measurements of buildings are presented with distortions of elements, proportions, which led to the loss of their architectural appearance. Thus, the analysis of architecturally significant objects that have cultural, historical and architectural value precisely as administrative and political objects is of interest, which is associated with the preservation of cultural heritage and its influence on the modern image of Chinese cities.

Based on the analysis of the objects, it was revealed that up to the present time one building of the former Soviet consulate has been preserved in the city. The building of the Japanese consulate is not preserved.

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