The Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk: Historical and Architectural Study

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The article examines the stages of construction history of the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk that is a monument of architecture in the late XIX century. Archival documents and field studies of the object have been used for this research. On the basis of documentary material, the role of the first bishop of the Yenisei Diocese, Nicodemus, has been revealed in organizing and conducting activities related to site selection for the Hierarchs town church in Krasnoyarsk, with its buildings, as well as the design of interior decoration of residential buildings and chapel. A complex study design drawings of buildings in initial and final stages of formation have been presented for the first time; their architectural and planning analysis has been carried out. They allow us not only to discover creative proposals of architects, but also trace the techniques of architectural projects in the XIX century. The names of architects, who made up projects of structure and rebuilding homes for the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk in the pre-revolutionary period, have been revealed. These materials given in the article make it possible to recreate an authentic architectural and planning structure of the Assembly of Hierarchs and chapel and the elements of the decor with great accuracy nowadays. The results of the study prove to have a great architectural and urban planning, historical and cultural value of the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk.

Keywords: Assembly of Hierarchs, a monument of architecture, design, house church, Russian style, historical and architectural analysis.

Introduction

The Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk is an example of the Russian style of the late nineteenth century. The rich decoration of the facades, the harmonious combination of forms of civil and religious buildings and high quality construction set it apart from other monuments of the city. However, the story of the construction of the houses and the buildings, a so-called metochion, still remains largely unexplored. Design materials are almost unexplored, they are preserved in the collections of the central and local archives that reflect the stages of the construction history of the complex, as well as allow us to associate creative design of an architect with its embodiment in a building in a modern way.

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Assembly of Hierarchs got a significant loss in its range in the Soviet period, when chapel top and the upper compartment of the bell tower were dismantled, when the original decoration of interiors was completely changed and buildings of the metochion vanished from sight. Repair and restoration works aimed at the reconstruction of the external and internal appearance of the building were repeatedly carried out at the turn of XX-XXI centuries. In this regard, the results of historical and architectural study as the primary sources for the reconstruction acquire special importance and relevance.

Materials and methods

Text material, architectural planning and photographic materials, stored at the Russian State Historical Archive (RSHA, St. Petersburg), in the State Archives of Krasnoyarsk Territory (SAKT) and in the Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum, have served as the sources for the historical and architectural study. Design materials of the Russian State Historical Archive, presented in this paper, have historical and cultural value; they reveal not only the architectural proposals of architects, but also the techniques of architectural projects in the XIX century.

The study is based on a comprehensive study of historical sources, the text material and design of graphic documents, as well as the results of field surveys of the object. For example, due to fact that the first bishop of the Yenisei Diocese, Nicodemus, was keen on a creative writing: keeping detailed diaries and documents preserved in the State Archives of Krasnoyarsk Territory (SAKT), we are able to trace the initial development phase of the Assembly of Hierarchs in minute detail.

Main body

In 1861, an independent diocesan administration was established in the Yenisei province. The first bishop of the Yenisei Diocese, Nicodemus, arrived in Krasnoyarsk on January 5, 1862. Since that time, the city began the construction of a large number of buildings erected on the initiative of the diocesan office. The construction works started with building the Assembly of Hierarchs. They can be divided into several stages; the whole process took more than half a century. The first stage is fully connected with the activities of Bishop Nicodemus, with solving the questions of taking area of urban land and the beginning of its development. Shortly after his arrival to Krasnoyarsk, Bishop Nicodemus began to correspond with Yenisei governor, the Governor-General of Eastern Siberia and the Krasnoyarsk City Council about “granting” a place for the Assembly of Hierarchs. He wrote in August 1862: “I find it proper to place the Assembly of Hierarchs on the west side of the cathedral, giving it the entire square” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 1). This place was intended to become a house of the General-governor regarding to the plan of Krasnoyarsk, approved in 1855, but it remained “idle” – not built up. The Governor-General of Eastern Siberia and the Yenisei Governor “unquestioningly agreed to give him this place”. However, the Krasnoyarsk City Council did not agree to this assignment, because its members felt no right to make any changes to the project plan having been approved by the city. To solve the problem he had to appeal to the tsar himself. In September 1863 the Emperor approved the choice of the place suggested by Bishop Nicodemus for the Assembly of Hierarchs, and in the summer of 1864 it was “fenced around” (Fig. 1). In the present structure of Krasnoyarsk, the territory of the former site of the Assembly of Hierarchs is an area between Mira and Lenin streets, Gorky and the Decembrists streets.

After such “a great granting” of urban space, Bishop Nicodemus turned all his efforts
to its construction. He decided almost at once to erect wooden buildings, which considerably accelerated construction time. However, in autumn 1862 there was an attempt to “build a new stone Assembly of Hierarchs and that of the Consistory as well”. Yakov Ivanovich Alpheus, a retired provincial architect, was paid twenty-five rubles to complete that work (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 5). It was the first draft version of the stone buildings of the Assembly of Hierarchs. A lot of problems, primarily financial, had arisen in the design process. Therefore, a further work on the project stone building was long been delayed.

In January 1864, Bishop Nicodemus sent a submission to the Holy Synod, in which he asked “to permit him to build a wooden Assembly of Hierarchs, to grant him 30,000 rubles for it, to permit to build a house without a plan and budget submission to the Holy Synod, but only with the approval of the local Civil authorities” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 56 об.). In response, in June 6, 1864 the Synod ordered the bishop “to build a stone house, provide information about plan and an estimate to the Synod and to expect money from the Synod” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 68). Bishop Nicodemus was in a difficult position: on the one hand, he could not disobey the orders of the Synod; on the other hand, he understood that such turn of events put off the building of a house and chapel.

A great economic and life experience of Bishop Nicodemus probably played a big role in the subsequent actions. He decided to “build a house divided it into two parts: the first one is wooden, a rear yard, the second one is actually a stone Assembly of Hierarchs” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 69). The Bishop thought it was not necessary to ask permission of the Synod for the first part – the wooden buildings, but he only approved the plan for the construction

Fig. 1 A plan of a part of Krasnoyarsk principal city with supposed changes in houses on Sobornaya Street. Drawn by the guard Reizman. 1863 (РГИА. Ф. 1293. Оп. 166. Д. 24. 1863. Л. 1) Published for the first time
of buildings of Assembly of Hierarchs of Yenisei governor in the spring 1865. (Fig. 2).

Later, “on mature reflection”, Bishop Nicodemus writes, “I have found it possible to arrange temporary accommodation for myself and others in these wooden buildings, and even to build a small wooden chapel, (which had not been assumed in the same project)” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 77). Alexander F. Hein, “an erudite master of architecture”, created a project of wooden houses of Assembly of Hierarchs. There was allocated a place for the future brick building in the eastern part of the site, facing the Novosobornaya area. Bishop Nicodemus personally made recommendations on the composition of the buildings, make adjustments in the design and construction. According to his recommendations, and descriptions of house interiors of John the Baptist Church and the Bishops of the interior of the house were decorated. Matvey Kuzmich Sazhin, Krasnoyarsk 1st guild merchant, was a contractor for the construction of wooden buildings. The house for the bishop with the church house, fraternity house, a kitchen, a bathhouse and cool buildings were built under his guidance.

In May 31, 1866 Bishop Nicodemus consecrated the Episcopal Church, as well as the house “for a temporary living of the Bishop” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 176 об.). At the end of the main buildings the Bishop sent a submission about the matter to the Holy Synod, in which, after a detailed explanation, he solicited them “with filial meekness” for “Firstly,
accepting his apology and begging for forgiveness for the thoughts and deeds that he has dared to make these wooden buildings of Assembly of Hierarchs with a temporary church, having not asked for the Holy Synod beforehand and having not been given permission for these things; and secondly, he sent back twenty thousand rubles he had spent to make these buildings” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 177 об.). Such bishop’s courage could have turned into big troubles for him. One member of the Synod, Isidore, Metropolitan of Novgorod and St. Petersburg, warned Bishop Nicodemus in his private letter that “his act is not so plausible, that he does not expect a good outcome” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 181). Contrary to the worst expectations, the Holy Synod came into conclusion that “the arrangement of wooden buildings of the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk with a temporary home church was caused by necessity” after hearing the matter in the decree of July 17, 1867 (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 182). However, the Synod made a decision to return only eight thousand one hundred rubles, and they refused to return the rest of the amount of money – twenty thousand rubles, the Bishop had asked for, as “this sum was used on its purpose” (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 182 об.).

In February 1868 Bishop Nicodemus “humbly asked for” six thousand rubles for the “final arrangement of buildings Yenisei Assembly of Hierarchs” in his new submission to the Holy Synod (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 183 об.). Synod asked to provide the estimate on the suggested work, so the Bishop addressed his request to the architect A.F. Hein once again to make this estimate. Bishop Nicodemus was working on completing the initial building of the Assembly of Hierarchs up to the end of his stay in the Yenisei province (1870), but he didn’t manage to build a stone house.

The design and construction of a stone building of the Assembly of Hierarchs belong to the second stage. In the period between the first and second stages separate buildings on the site were erected and reconstruction works were taken place. In the second half of the 1880s, the efforts of the Spiritual department were directed for the construction of a stone building of the Assembly of Hierarchs once again. In 1886 a new Bishop of Yenisei and Krasnoyarsk, Tikhon, gave a brief background of events in his submission to the Holy Synod. He wrote that “the act of constructing a stone building in the city of Krasnoyarsk for the Yenisei Diocesan Bishop and his retinue has not still been brought to the end up to present time, although it started more than ten years ago. Projects with estimates of necessary buildings were made and presented to the Holy Synod twice, but were not accepted and returned back due to some omissions and faults. The latest project, which had been returned in 1880 to the Reverend Anthony, present Bishop of Penza, with respect to attorney-general of the Holy Synod, from April 4, № 3674 and later had passed to the Architect for correction, burnt in the fire that took place in Krasnoyarsk in 1881. My predecessor, Reverend Isaac, trying to complete the construction of the Assembly of Hierarchs, had not managed to implement the matter, as he had been transferred to the Tomsk Episcopal department. Nowadays on my orders there is a project of this building made by Engineer Zhukov as well as the estimate with an explanatory note he has made. I respectfully submit the project on two sheets with the necessary applications to appraisal and approval of the Holy Synod. Thus, I would like to add that according to the project, designed buildings and services of Assembly of Hierarchs, especially outbuildings services, do not function well enough, that is why existing wood buildings should be replaced with stone ones, and if needed, with the money left from the estimate...
due to the Technique’s assumption’ (ГАКК. Ф. 674. Оп. 1. Д. 4537. 1886 г. Л. 1). According to the list applications for representation, the second project of the Assembly of Hierarchs (burnt one) was made in the late 1870s (the first project was made in the presence of Bishop Nicodemus). A program was prepared by the architect of economic management to the Holy Synod to make this project. The third project (civil engineer Alexander A. Zhukov) was not put into practice as well.

In March 1891 Bishop Tikhon wrote the head of the Yenisei “I ask Your Excellency to order the examination and approval of the aforesaid projects and its estimate sent to the construction department of the Yenisei Provincial Board, attaching herewith, the project and its estimate for construction of the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk made by civil engineer Maslennikov” (ГАКК. Ф. 595. Оп. 60. Д. 134. 1891 г. Л. 39 об.). In the beginning of June 1891, the project and estimate to build “a new Assembly of Hierarch for the Diocesan Bishop”, that had earlier been approved in the construction department, were returned to Bishop Tikhon by Governor (ГАКК. Ф. 595. Оп. 60. Д. 134. 1891 г. Л. 50). This fourth project (made by civil engineer Prokhor Ioakimovica Maslennikov) was not implemented once again for some unknown mysterious reasons. However, the 1890s were the second phase of completing the Assembly of Hierarch in Krasnoyarsk. In 1895 the Holy Synod were considered “initial projects to build a stone Assembly of Hierarch” and another project, made by the member of the General Synod of economic management, civil engineer Feinberg Morozov (РГИА. Ф. 796. Оп. 176. Д. 1153. 1895–1896 гг. 11 л.). This last (probably the fifth) project was approved by the Holy Synod. A copy of the drawings of the project, which is preserved in the archives, was signed by a civil engineer E. Morozov, September 15, 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898 гг. 12 л.).

The complete set of drawings of the project included a master plan of the manor house of the Assembly of Hierarch, which shows the location of the suggested stone house whose facade is mainly oriented to the east, towards Cathedral Square, and the wooden structure, located in the western part of the monastery. By the end of the XIX century the site, surrounded with a wooden fence, had the following structure: wooden Assembly of Hierarch, outbuilding, service, a shed for firewood, a kitchen, bathhouse, a fraternal lodge and a bell tower. A significant part of the farmstead was taken by landscape gardening (Fig. 3).

The project presented the drawings of the eastern and southern facades of the stone houses of Assembly of Hierarch, which faced the main square and the streets of the city. Architectural graphics with a fine study of decorative façade of the chapel, picturesque completed risolits of the house, frames of doors and window openings and shaped cornices draw our attention. An artistic image of the building perfectly complements the Russian-Byzantine motifs of Cathedral of the Nativity of Mother of God (architect Konstantin Ton) (Fig. 4, 5).

The drawings of chapel sections and the north risolits provide a visual representation of the construction of the Assembly of Hierarch, which included a brick vaults in the floors of separate buildings, as well as the overlap of metal beams and also rafter construction of a hipped roof of the church and the arrangement of floor metal ladders (Fig. 6, 7).

There were drawings of foundations, the first and the second floors and the roof. They show the designed structure of the Assembly of Hierarch and some of its structural parts. On the first floor of the south wing of the building the architect placed some working spaces (an office,
Fig. 3 The general plan of the Assembly of Hierarchs. Designed by civil engineer EL Morozov. 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.1). Published for the first time

Fig. 4 The Assembly of Hierarchs. The eastern facade. Designed by civil engineer EL Morozov. 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.6)

Fig. 5 The Assembly of Hierarchs. South facade. Designed by civil engineer EL Morozov. 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.7)
a secretary and housekeeper room), and a few cells. There is a refectory in the central part on which is a risolit in the main facade. The north wing is mainly devoted to the cells. The second floor was designed for rooms of accommodation of the bishop, they comprised of: a hall, a sitting room, a dining room, a kitchen, an office, a library, a bedroom and a bathroom (Fig. 8, 9, 10, 11).

The design drawings of the metal railings and a stone gate complement the project, which should further replace their wooden predecessors.

Decorative elements of the gate repeat the picturesque facade ornamentation (Fig. 12).

Soon after the approval of the project, the construction of the Assembly of Hierarchs started. There were some deviations from the project during the construction. In August 1898, Akaki, Bishop of Yenisei and Krasnoyarsk, gave a permission to replace the chapel belfry with a bell tower, the drawings of which were made the same year (Fig. 13).

Newspaper Chronicle reported on the completion of the building the following:
Fig. 8 The Assembly of Hierarchs. Plan of foundations. Designed by civil engineer EL Morozov. 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.2). Published for the first time

Fig. 9. The Assembly of Hierarchs. Plan of 1st floor. Designed by civil engineer EL Morozov. 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.3). Published for the first time

Fig. 10. The Assembly of Hierarchs. Plan of 2nd floor. Designed by civil engineer EL Morozov. 1895 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.4). Published for the first time
“The building works of construction of the Assembly of Hierarchs with its church are coming to the end; the Assembly of Hierarchs is almost ready, and as for the church, it is also almost completed, only the Dome over altar must be ironed and the laying out of the bell tower must be also finished. The building is rather beautiful” (newspaper “Yenisei”, 1898).

Moving of the Episcopal monastery into the new building was at the end of 1899, and the consecration of the house church was made in January 2, 1900. On the occasion of moving into the new premises, “Both the clergy and the townspeople brought their congratulations to his Grace, the Bishop Euphemiy” (newspaper “Yenisei”, 1900) (Fig. 14).

In the third phase, covering the 1913-1916 years, along with repair of Assembly of Hierarchs, there was a reconstruction of “domestic church at the residence of hierarchs”. The project of reconstruction was carried out by the Krasnoyarsk architect Leonid Chernyshev (РГИА. Ф. 799. Оп. 23. Д. 1313. 1913–1916 гг.). The church was expanded southward, having a big arched doorway with a stained-glass window on its façade.

The latter historical information is related to the conversion the Assembly of Hierarchs into an
Fig. 13. The project of the bell tower in the church of the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk. 1898 (РГИА. Ф. 835. Оп. 1. Д. 148. 1895–1898. Л.11). Published for the first time

orphanage in 1918. Acts, compiled by techniques to determine the necessary work, show that for the conversion of the building a number of things were required: to do a masonry and cement a number of doorways, to built a brick wall in a church, to turn a window in the outer wall into the main entrance, to disassemble several furnaces, to cut through the openings in the partitions for the new doors, etc. (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 81. 1918 г. Л. 30–32).

Conclusions

As a result of historical and architectural study, the stages of formation of the complex objects of the Episcopal monastery, drawings with projects of wooden and stone houses of the Assembly of Hierarchs have been identified, allowing us to recreate the architectural and planning structure of buildings and elements of decoration with great accuracy. Items of furniture restoration house church, close to the real options contribute to research materials, including drawings of the wooden iconostasis of St. John the Baptist Church, made in 1886 (ГАКК. Ф. 561. Оп. 1. Д. 228. 1886 г. Л. 4, 5), as well as the icons of the church, drawn up by Bishop Nicodemus in 1865 (ГАКК. Ф. 564. Оп. 1. Д. 3. 1862–1870 гг. Л. 81, 86–91). The study showed a great architectural, historical and cultural value of the Assembly of Hierarchs in Krasnoyarsk.

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Архиерейский дом в Красноярске: историко-архитектурное исследование

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В статье рассмотрены этапы строительной истории Архиерейского дома в Красноярске – памятника архитектуры конца XIX века. Для исследования использованы архивные документы и натурное изучение объекта. На основе документальных материалов выявлена роль первого епископа Енисейской епархии, Никодима, в организации и проведении мероприятий, связанных с выбором участка для архиерейского подворья в Красноярске, с его застройкой, а также с оформлением внутреннего убранства жилых помещений и домовой церкви. Впервые представлены проектные чертежи комплекса исследуемых зданий начального и завершающего этапов формирования; проведен их архитектурно-планировочный анализ. Они позволяют раскрыть не только творческие предложения зодчих, но и методы составления архитектурных проектов в XIX веке. Выявлены фамилии архитекторов, составлявших в дореволюционный период проекты устройства и перестройки дома для Архиерея в Красноярске. Приведенные в статье материалы исследования позволяют с большой достоверностью воссоздать в настоящее время подлинную архитектурно-планировочную структуру Архиерейского дома и домовой церкви, элементы их декора. Результаты исследования подтверждают высокую архитектурно-градостроительную и историко-культурную ценность Архиерейского дома в Красноярске.

Ключевые слова: Архиерейский дом, памятник архитектуры, проект, домовая церковь, русский стиль, историко-архитектурный анализ.