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## CHURCH OF ST. ILYA IN URBAN SETTLEMENT BESHANKOVICHY

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*The article is devoted to the architectural heritage of Beshankovichy, namely Church of St. Ilya. We consider not only the history and architecture, but also the restoration of the previously erected buildings.*

The Church of St. Ilya was built of brick in the pseudo-Russian style (1866–1870), was on the site of the temple of the 15th century, founded by Polish king Kasimir IV Jagellonica. The church with a cross dome is crowned with five octagonal light drums with hip ends and bulb onions. Temple has straight analogy with the church of Apostles in Solonikakh (1312–1315). In the architectural decor they are used the elements of Old-Russian and byzantine architecture — kokoshniks, three-bladed arches. As well as in Byzantine churches four sailing arches are covered images of evangelists [1].

In the temple are stored the icon 17-19<sup>th</sup> of centuries – “Saint Of Eufrosinia Polotsk”, “Secret vespers”, “Mother God Kazan”, “Archangel Mikhail”, “She saved”. It is decorated with three-bladed arches, panels, niches, pilasters. The cupolas are renovated after restoration on the temple, roof is covered with tile, is completely painted southern pride, consecrated in honor of the Saint blessed prince Alexander Nevsky is completely painted, works in a northern side-altar which is consecrated in honor of the apostles Peter and Pavel [2 – 4].

The temple strongly suffered in the years of World War II, fascist’s adapted sacred thing under the storage. Survived a few photos taken at the beginning of July 1941, which depicts damaged during the fighting the Church of St. Ilya and environs scorched (fig. 1).



Figure 1. – Church in the war-time

At the present time (fig. 2) the Church of St. Ilya changed, gladdening its parishioners by its external and internal decoration: by gold cupolas; by the new wooden iconostasis of manual work, by paintings on walls. However, after the reconstruction, the red brick was hidden under a layer of white plaster. The Church has a Sunday school and a Sisterhood. The temple belongs to the architectural values of the Republic of Belarus and is protected by the state. After his visit, he will long remain in the memory of tourists.



Figure 2. – Church in our days

In addition the Church of St. Ilya in Beshankovichi there is a small chapel-tomb, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in style very typical for such constructions (fig. 3). Chapels of such type were preserved in Belarus not much; therefore this chapel has the specific historical and architectural value.



Figure 3. – Chapel

Undoubtedly, these attractions complement the tourist atmosphere of the city of Beshankovichi and give it certain attractiveness in the eyes of travelers.

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