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THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST IN THE CITY OF DZISNA

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This article presents the analysis of the historical, cultural, architectural and planning aspects of the creation and history of one of the most unique architectural monuments of Dzisna town – the Church of the Resurrection of Christ, which is known since the beginning of the XIII century. This is one of the few fully extant monuments of history and culture in the district of Mijory.

Introduction. The settlement has been known since the XI century as the fortress of the Polack principality – Kopec-town (from the word "to dig"). The first written mention of Dzisna dates back to 1461. However, the fortified settlement on the island at the confluence of the two rivers is known from later data – according to the information of Polack "scribe book" for 1563. It says about the existence of the Kopec, that is, the earthen fortification. At the same time, opposite to the fortified island, on the left bank of the Dzisna river there already existed the "village of Dzisna". Thus, the rapid development and strengthening of the city in the XVI century is explained not only by its favorable strategic and topographical position, but also by the "habitation" of this land in the preceding centuries. The full-fledged city of Dzisna appeared in 1569, when the city received its second coat of arms – "Ladou" and the right to self-government (Magdeburg law) from the Grand Duke Sigismund Augustus. Two centuries ago it was the second most populous city in the Polack district. The city was built according to the regular plan of the German architect O. Hodemann (fig.1). The local streets preserved the original layout of the XVI century.

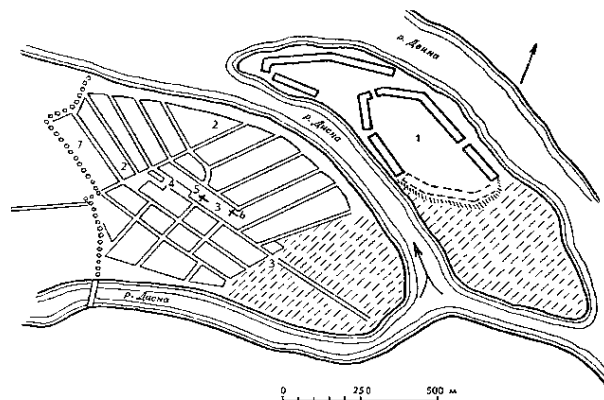


Fig. 1. Dzisna. The plan of the end of the XVI century. (according to O. Hodemann):
1 – the lock; 2 – Castle Street; 3 – Voskresenskaya street; 4 – market area;
5 – Resurrection Church (wooden); 6 – the parish church; 7 – city fortifications

The research part. One of the main attractions of Dzisna is the Church of the Resurrection of Christ. The temple is known since the beginning of the XIII century. Since 1633, there was an Orthodox monastery in the building of this church, an Orthodox brotherhood was functioning. In 1810 it was closed. The remainder of it was preserved in the form of the silver cross.

At first the temple was wooden and therefore burned several times during fires. According to the legend, during the last fire in June 1822, the miraculous icon of the Mother of God "Odigitriya" arrived along the river Dzvina. On the 12th of May in 1870 a new stone church was consecrated, it was built with the funds from the treasury and significant donations of the governor-general of the Vilnia province, Mikhail Muravyov. The Church of the Resurrection of Christ was not closed and was active during the following two wars.

During the liberation of Dzisna in 1944, the Church of the Resurrection of Christ was slightly damaged: only the bell tower was partially destroyed. The temple could be restored, but the authorities didn't allow that. The church was turned into a factory warehouse, and then it gradually came to complete desolation: the bell tower was destroyed, the dome needed repairs, the floors in the temple were spoilt, the brickwork was damaged (fig. 2).



Fig. 2. The Church of the Resurrection before restoration

"Hodegetria of Dzisna" was moved to the church in the Orthodox cemetery. The church of post-war at the beginning of the XX century was named after the icon of the Mother of God "Hodegetria" (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. The temple of the icon of Our Lady "Hodegetria"

The Church suffered several robberies. During the second one, in 1980, among other things, a silver robe was stolen from the miraculous icon. Having stolen many ancient icons and church utensils, thieves could not bear the miraculous icon. "... It was stripped of silver clothes, leaving white wounds on the age-old levkas. It was thrown to the floor. The dusty trail of the sneakers of the modern barbarian tarnished the garments of the Mother of God ... But the image was resurrected and transformed, correcting everything material ... "The artist-restorer, who unselfishly restored it, wrote about this wonderworking shrine. His name was Igor Surmachevsky, a professional Minsk artist, designer and collector, more than twenty years engaged in the restoration of ancient icons (Fig. 4).

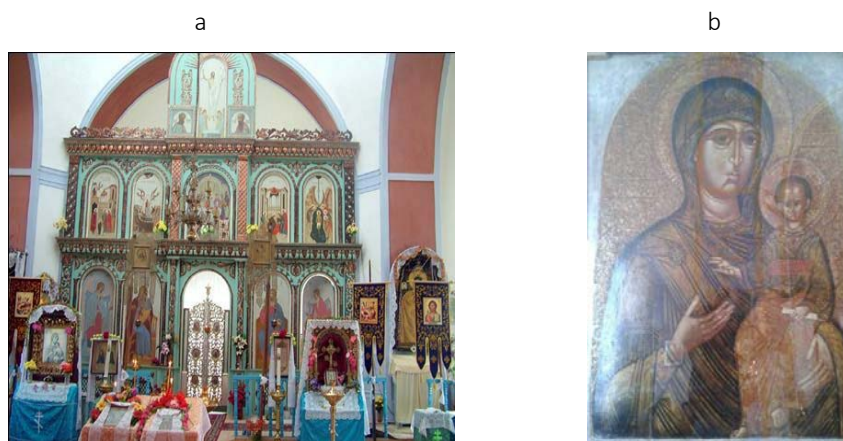


Fig. 4. The Church of the Resurrection of Christ:
a – the iconostasis; b – icon "Hodegetria of Dzisna"

In 1989 the building of the church was returned to believers. In 1991, after the reconstruction, it was consecrated (Fig. 3). The miraculous icon was moved to the temple, and it is still there today.

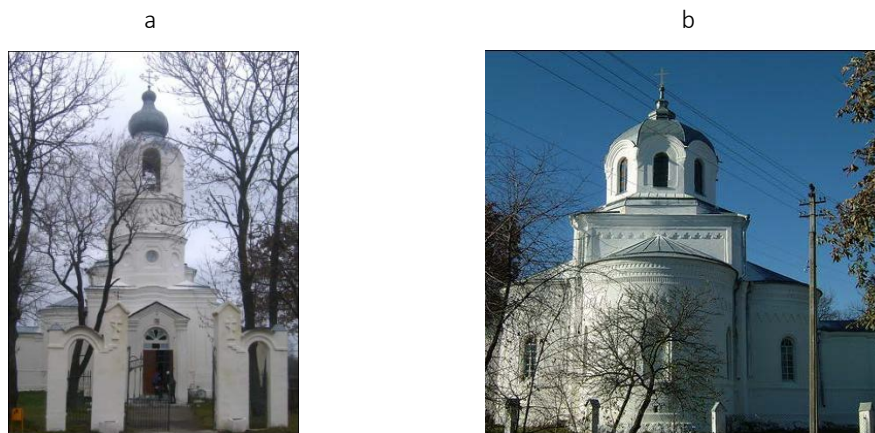


Fig. 4. The Church of the Resurrection after restoration:
a – the main facade; b – side facade

Every year on August 10, during the festival in honor of the icon "Hodigitria", the icon from the Resurrection Church is solemnly carried across the city to the temple in the cemetery, then they have a prayer service and then carry the icon back. Not only local residents take part in the festival, but also pilgrims from different countries come to Dzisna.

Conclusion. The Church of the Resurrection of Christ in Dzisna belongs to the objects of historical and cultural heritage. This church is interesting to everyone, who studies monuments of architecture of the Retrospective-Russian style. In addition, the church is of great importance for Orthodox Christianity as an object of spiritual heritage.

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