

TYZENHAUS PALACE IN POSTAVY

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This article presents an analysis of the historical, cultural, architectural and planning aspects of the creation and history of one of the most unique architectural monuments of Postavy town – Tizengauzen Palace, which building lasted from 1788 and all the 1 st half of the XIX century. This is one of the few fully extant monuments of history and culture in Postavy district.

Introduction. Beautiful little town Postavy is situated 250 kilometres from Vitebsk on the river Myadelka. For a long time it belonged to different families, the most famous are Zenovich, Radziwill, Began-skaue. But, the true glory this place gets thanks to the old and well-known since the XII century Tizengauzen family, which owned this place since 1720. Antoni Tyzenhaus, tried to turn his family estate into the centre of the cultural and industrial transformation of the region, it was an aim of including Postavy in his property. Such a small place became a rather large settlement [1, 2].

The research part. Tyzenhaus Palace is a monument of classicism architecture (fig. 1). Building started in the second half of the XVIII century by Antoni Tyzenhaus – the owner of Postavy. His grandnephew Constantine Tizengauz finished construction. The palace is the U-shaped building, the facades are decorated with vertical blades, between which there are large windows.



Fig. 1. Tyzenhaus Palace today

Generic nest of Tizengauzen in Postavy was visited by Russian Emperor Nicholas II. Now here there is a Postavy central district hospital. In 2006, in front of the palace was installed the monument in honour of ornithologist Konstantin Tizengauzen. The scientist is shown in full length, on his right hand two birds are sitting, and near his right leg you can see an owl – a symbol of wisdom [3].

Pastavy – is a small cosy town, with amazing energy. The memoirist and writer Gabrielle Puzynina said: "If I were asked where on earth is happiness, I would have said that there is in Postavy".

Tizengauz was doing his best to turn the town on Myadelka into the industry and cultural centre. As Minister of Economy and Finance (from 1765 to 1780 years), Tizengauz realized economic, cultural and urban reforms. He opened 47 manufactures (and not only in Postavy), military, medical and artistic school. He invited Italian architects, and turned Postavy into one of the most beautiful villages of the province.

It is known that before Tizengauzen there were no any stone buildings in this place, there were only wooden constructions. The town was granted the status of the town in 1793, but real European outlook was formed thanks to Tizengauzen.

Antony began construction of the palace during his staying in the town. For this propose, in 1760 the Italian architect Giuseppe Sacco was invited. Active reformer Tizengauzen was very busy in the transformation of Grodno, so it was not possible to complete the construction work.

In 1814 Constantine Tizengauz came into possession of Postavy (1786–1853). He continued the project of his famous grandfather. He was able to breathe life into the deserted palace, by rebuilding it in the classical style. Beautiful and strict construction has become one of the cultural and scientific centres of the Belarusian land.

Constantine was a fan of ornithology (the study of birds), and here in his estate, he created one of the most beautiful and richest in Eastern Europe ornithological museum. The museum was a database of biological faculty of Vilnius University. For almost 40 years it has been collected huge even by today's standards, collection of 3000 stuffed birds of Belarus, the Ukraine and Lithuania. In addition, the scientist wrote a series of

works, in particular the famous "Catalogue of the birds and mammals of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Kingdom of Poland." In the palace library, in addition to books on ornithology, there were rare examples of Polish literature, valuable prints and family archives, starting from the XIII century. These values, as suggested, is now located somewhere in Russia, Poland and Lithuania.

The northern part of the Palace of Constantine is fully equipped for the arts and sciences. Here there are offices of zoology, mineralogy and ethnography. Constantine himself with his family – his wife, two daughters and the son – lived in the western, more modest part of the palace.

The scientist took a great interest in painting. By 1840 the palace had a magnificent art gallery, in which, according to contemporaries, there were about 600 exhibits. They say that in Postavy there were original paintings of such artists as Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, Dürer, Rubens, Brueghel. In addition to paintings of Western European artists, some of the best paintings of Polish and Belarusian artists have been included in the collection.

Around the family nest Tizengauzen on the area of 10 acres was located the park with picturesque ponds, numerous ceremonial walkways, and garden of exotic plants. All this beauty and masterpieces of science and art attracted numerous famous and notable guests to palace in Postavy.

Nowadays appearance of the palace has not been changed – it is the one-storey U-shaped building with a mezzanine, the territory of the palace is decorated with sculptures of white marble of Italian artists.

Paintings and books from the family nest were taken to different places (even robbed) during the First and the Second World Wars [4].

Today the palace has been restored on the outside, but inside it is still housing the district hospital with medical facilities. Around the palace there is a park, which was founded in the XVIII century and it covers the area of about 10 acres. Park is a mixture of regular compositions with exotic plants in decorative groups, here also you can see the old linden alleys and canals [2].

This strict architectural monument of the XVIII century is under the state protection. There is a ten-year program to restore the family estate of Tizengauzen. On the restoration of the palace the grant of UNESCO is received [4].

Conclusion. Thus, based on the study, it should be noted that the historical role and the architectural value of the palace is inseparably connected with the history of the town and the building itself. In the architecture of the Grand Palace are clearly seen characteristics of classical features: six-column portico, U-shaped layout and decorated facades. Unfortunately, most of the interior has not been survived up to these days, and the internal layout has been completely redone.

Today it is more than ever important to preserve and support the historical monuments of the country, as they can serve as a worthy example for future generations. And they could revive in the hearts of people the desire for prosperity and better standards of life.

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