

# Architecture of residential wooden houses in the cities of Samara province in the second half of the XIX - Early XX centuries

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**Abstract.** The article discusses the features of wooden and stone-wooden buildings of county towns and large trading villages of the Samara province of the second half of the XIX – early XX centuries. The prerequisites and main factors for the development of wooden architecture in the Samara province are presented. A brief description of the planning features of settlements is given. Common features and distinctive features of wooden architecture are identified. Residential buildings, style solutions used in the design of facades, decorative elements, as well as design features of wooden and stone-wooden buildings are considered.

## 1. Introduction

In recent decades, the study of wooden and stone-wooden urban architecture of the second half of the XIX – early XX centuries develop due to the active destruction of wooden housing for the reason of new constructions appearing in the historical centers of Russian cities. With the destruction of wooden architecture, the regional identity of urban architecture disappears as well. The urban development of the second half of the XIX – early XX centuries is characterized by a combination of stone architecture of the central streets, and wooden and stone-wooden housing on the rest of the territory.

## 2. Materials and methods

The article considers residential wooden and stone-wooden housing, as the most common types of construction, as well as the most holistic entity incorporating architectural elements of urban and rural architecture.

In the second half of the XIX century, peasant residential architecture assimilated certain building codes, rules and traditions of urban architecture, while also preserving the folk component.

## 3. Results

By 1851, in the newly formed Samara province, there were 2022 settlements, of which eight cities: Samara, the seven county towns and the abolished city of Stavropol. By 1856, the urban population was 3.19%, the rural 96.81%.



#### 4. Discussion

The city of Buzuluk was founded as a fortress in 1736. In 1781, by decree of Catherine the Great, Buzuluk acquired a city status. Regular development plan was approved in 1835. In 1862, Buzuluk had already 8563 inhabitants, 304 trade shops, 5 churches, 2 monasteries [1].

Until the middle of the XIX century, the development of Buzuluk city did not differ from the rural type of development. In 1895 there was a devastating fire in which 2/3 of the city burned down. After the fire, Buzuluk was rebuilt according to the plan of 1835. In 1910, the city already had 1,410 residential wooden buildings, 278 stone houses and 272 adobe constructions [2]. Today, the city has many buildings of wooden Art Nouveau and wooden houses of folk architecture with elements of Art Nouveau. At the same time, the wooden architecture of the Buzuluk Art Nouveau is built into the modern style system and is presented in a decorative version of the style (38 Kirova Str.). No volumetric compositions or decoration of all facades is present. The compositional solutions of facades in the city are often symmetrical (54 May the 1st Str.). Moreover, a number of wooden buildings designed in eclectic and ropet style have been preserved in Buzuluk (52 May the 1st Str.).

According to space-planning solutions, the following types of residential wooden houses have been identified: a one-story box-like building or a five-walled house, with its narrow side set along the street under a gable roof with a pediment and three or four windows along the main facade. At the same time, the clapboard mud-room was located along the street line, less often set back under its own sloping roof (32 Gorky Str.). Houses with four windows on the main facade began to appear later at the beginning of the XX century. The next type of wooden one-story house is a five-wall or a house with a wooden addition, placed with its long side along the street line and covered with a four-sloped hip roof (58 Kirov Str., 52 Kuibyshev Str.). From four to ten window openings were placed along the main facades of such buildings, the longest buildings were located at the intersection of streets. The beveled corner of buildings located at the intersection of streets was not widespread in the city (105 Gorky Str.). The next type of building is two-story wooden and stone-wooden building with 5-8 windows on the main facades. These buildings relate to urban buildings, the entrances are traditionally made in the side mud-rooms located along the street. The building is covered by a four-pitched roof (48 Kirov Str., 117 Leo Tolstoy Str.). The influence of urban architecture and the traditions of classicism can be traced in the blocked sheathing of log buildings, individual architectural details, for example, rusticated pilasters that hide the edges of the logs, the separation of the frieze and the cornice of the building (14 Gorky Str.). At the beginning of the XX century, neoclassicism became widespread in architecture. In wooden architecture of the cities of the Samara province, this style did not develop and is noted in the decorative details of the facades of individual buildings only. In Buzuluk, wooden neoclassicism can be traced in the design of the facade of a wooden one-story house at 27 May the 1st Street. The next building with the features of neoclassicism and Art Nouveau is located at 40 Kirov Street. The decoration was done with cut-through carvings. In the Art Nouveau architecture, the cut carving was styled, the compositions of the S-shaped elements became more stretched and ornamental. Separate types of platbands are characteristic only for Buzuluk, namely, platbands with curvilinear tops, with semicircular dripstones. Doorways, especially on the facades of wooden buildings in the Art Nouveau style, have also undergone significant decorative design changes. Two types of doorways are revealed: double doors decorated with panels and doors with overhead curved decor.

A separate group was made up of villages and small cities, which at the end of the XIX century administratively belonged to the Samara province, and economically and territorially gravitated towards other provinces. An example of such a large village, which later became a city, was Pokrovskaya sloboda (now Engels), which became part of the Samara province again during its formation. By 1871, Pokrovskaya sloboda was one of the largest villages in the Samara province. Already at the end of the XIX century, the official documents of the province stated that Pokrovskaya sloboda and Balakovo had long deserved to be announced not as official settlements, but as county towns with the separation of half of territories from all the Volga counties south of Samara in favor of these towns. By 1900, there were already 130 stone buildings and 4678 wooden houses in sloboda [7]. In 1914, it became the city of Pokrovsk. To the pier of the Pokrovskaya sloboda, rafts of timber were

constantly coming from the banks of the Kama River. At the beginning of the XX century, the area of the settlement was built up with durable brick two-story buildings in the international eclectic style, the owners of which were local merchants and the wealthy peasantry [3].

At present, in the city of Engels, capital development is preserved with stone buildings of the XIX and early XX centuries, as well as wooden and stone-wooden buildings of the turn of the century. Wooden architecture is represented mainly by one-story buildings with three windows along the main facade. A distinctive feature of the wooden and stone-wooden buildings of the villages of Novokuznetsk County, including Pokrovskaya sloboda, was the use of swing shutters with two wings on the facades, which was justified by the climatic peculiarities of the area. Such shutters were framed by panels. Despite the fact that timber and logs of a rather high quality was rafted into the Pokrovskaya sloboda along the Kama River, wooden houses were sheathed in an urban manner. The decorative design consisted of cut-through carvings with decorative solutions for platbands common for the cities of the Samara province. However, the territorial proximity to the city of Saratov could not but affect the wooden architecture of the settlement. In the decorative design, this was expressed in the prevalence of platbands with volutes and elements of floral symbolism. The presence of brick and tile production contributed to the distribution of these materials in wooden architecture as well. The construction practice of the German colonists also influenced the distribution of brick-lined wooden one-story buildings with wooden cut-through carvings on the facade and tiled gable or four-pitched roofs.

The city of Nikolaevsk (the city of Pugachev) was formed on the site of the Mechetnaya settlement, located on the Big Irgiz River. In 1835, the sloboda was transformed into the county town of Nikolaevsk. The housing was mostly wooden, with frequent fires that contributed to the renewal and uniformity of the town development. One of the devastating fires occurred in 1839 (70 out of 400 households was left). After that, the city was rebuilt anew. Construction timber was rafted from Vetluga, Kama and Viatka Rivers. The regular city plan, introduced after the fire of 1897, suggested dividing the city into rectangular quarters with dimensions of 120 by 200 m. The number of city residents grew: in 1851 there were 6350, in 1861 – 6923 people. The development of the city was facilitated by the opening in 1896 of a narrow gauge railway connecting Nikolaevsk with the Ershovo station of the Ryazan-Ural Railway. However, there is a mismatch between the administrative division, the transformation of the sloboda into a county town and the economic development of Nikolaevsk in comparison with the large villages of Yekaterinenshtadt and Balakovo, which, as a colony and a large village, were significantly ahead of Nikolaevsk in economic development, and as a result, the development of these villages became urban, with the appearance of mansions, large industrial enterprises, with a general increase in durability and number of floors, street improvement, a developed typology of wooden and stone-wooden architecture [4].

For a long time, the constructions of Nikolaevsk were characterized by low durability. Timber was brought from Balakovo or shipped along the Irgiz River before the spring waters recessed, therefore, this building material was quite expensive. The town development is represented mainly by one-story housing. The typology of space-planning solutions for wooden and stone-wooden buildings corresponds to the county town of Buzuluk. The records list wooden one-story buildings with three or four window openings along the main facade, five-wall houses with four to ten window openings along the main facade constructed along the street line, two-story houses with three windows on the facade under a gable roof. In both types of buildings, the main entrance is located in the attached wing facing the street. The next type of buildings is a stone-wooden two-story house under a hip roof with five to ten window openings along the facade (154 Pushkinskaya Str.). At the turn of the XIX - beginning of XX centuries, wooden half-houses and wooden two-story buildings are also being erected. At the turn of the XIX – XX centuries, peasant-type houses in the city are transforming under the influence of eclecticism. The number of window openings along the facades is increasing; the gable roofs are becoming more low-pitched, including mud-room under the common roof. In this case, the partition walls are located along the symmetry axis (not the window openings), the number of openings becomes odd. In Nikolaevsk, thanks to the development of brick production at the beginning

of the XX century, buildings were erected with a different combination of brick and wood in the structures. Half-story brick houses, wooden and stone-wooden buildings with firewalls, wooden houses with brick cladding of the main facades, wooden buildings with brick cladding of the facades and wooden mud-rooms, galleries (15 Bubenets Str.).

The decor of the facades of wooden buildings in the city is made using straight-through and overhead cut-through carvings, as well as chiseled parts. Cutting carvings are characterized by floral motifs using S-shaped elements; stylized elements of classicism – triglyphs and metopes were used in the design of platbands and friezes. In tympanums of platbands of wooden buildings, solar rosettes are present quite often (237 Karl Marx Str.). The following types of platbands were singled out: with a straight dripstone without a decorated top, with a straight dripstone and a triangular arch, with a straight dripstone and a triangular decorated top projected in the center; window openings with platbands with a semicircular element and laconic decor; platbands with the central part of the straight dripstone lifted up (148 Karl Marx Str.).

To bring settlers to Zavolzhsy lands, Catherine II allowed the Old Believers to settle here without hindrance. This was the story of how Balakovskaya sloboda appeared. In the XVIII century, the development and implementation of regular city plans began. In 1830, the *Regulation for the Development of Villages* was framed, according to which the restructuring of the villages took place (which at that time included the large commercial village of Balakovo). The village was divided into rectangular quarters, elongated along the Balakivka River. By the beginning of the 20th century, the population of the village was already 22,000; the buildings remained mostly wooden with 192 stone houses and 2757 wooden buildings [5]. It is worth saying that in town development of the turn of the century there were changes characteristic of provincial cities, including Samara. The standard sizes of households, laid down by the regular plan, were changed. The plots were both divided into smaller ones and enlarged. Similar planning changes can be seen at the beginning of the XX century in the county town of Syzran. The number of stone-wooden buildings also increased. Currently, the development of Balakovo is represented by buildings erected in the second half of the XIX – early XX centuries. The rafting timber was quite cheap here, in addition, brick factories worked in the village. In Balakovo, buildings that have common features with the villages of the Saratov province, as well as with the colonies of immigrants begin to appear. As a result, wooden houses, lined with bricks, have wooden platbands and shutters, often a crowning cornice made of wood. Such solutions of combining wood and stone in the provincial center are not recorded. The typology of volumetric-spatial solutions for wooden and stone-wooden buildings corresponds to the typology of the buildings of the county town of Nikolaevsk, however, the percentage of stone-wooden two-story buildings in Balakovo is higher, especially stone-wooden five-walled buildings, built out with the long side on the street line and covered with a four-pitched roof. In the village, wooden buildings lined with bricks are spreading. The technique of joining wooden walls and brick cladding using forged dowels was brought to the city by German colonist builders of the Volga region.

The city of Syzran became part of the Samara province after its formation in 1851 as the center of the county with the same name. Natural features of the city, the availability of Volozhka, Krymza and Syzran rivers contributed to the division of the city into three parts: the central part of the city is a fortress and a posad; Preobrazhenskaya sloboda, located on the right bank of the Syzran River; Ilyinskaya and Pokrovskaya slobodas beyond the Krymza River [6]. In 1782, the first regular plan of the city was drawn. By 1782, there were 1249 buildings in Syzran, more than 90% of which were made of wood. Thus, the three districts of the city were established: central, zakrymsensky (behind Krymza) and zasyzransky (behind Syzran) parts. Due to its favorable geographical position, Syzran developed rapidly and became the largest county town in the Samara province. By 1863, there were already 78 stone buildings and 2028 wooden houses in Syzran [7]. The houses were located with a gap along the red line of the street, the estate character of urban development was taking shape and height and distance between the wooden buildings were regulated. In order to prevent fire from spreading, firewalls were built. Fires occurred quite often. The most devastating fire occurred in 1906, when 126 neighborhoods were destroyed. Thus, the basis for the formation of Syzran's look at the beginning of

the XX century was the construction completed after the fire of 1906. That is why there are no buildings of classicism style in the city. After the fire, the city was rebuilt. The majority of buildings were constructed of wood. Construction designs and estimates of citizens were lost, since the blocks were built at the same time, in a contractual way. Builders of wooden and stone-wooden buildings were invited from the upper Volga, from Yaroslavl, Nizhny Novgorod and Kostroma provinces.

The wooden architecture of Syzran is distinguished by a wide variety of space-planning and decorative solutions in comparison with other county towns and large trading villages of the province of the late XIX – early XX centuries. At the same time, wooden architecture is very different both from the wooden architecture of the considered county towns, and from the wooden architecture of Samara.

Wooden and stone-wooden buildings were built in the eclectic style, sometimes with elements of the XVII century baroque and in the Art Nouveau style. One of the most common types of residential buildings in Syzran was a one-story box-like house or a five-walled house, set narrow side along the street line, with two or four windows along the main facade with a gable roof and a wooden pediment along the street line. Dormers decorated with platbands became a mandatory element on the pediment of this type of building (13, 15 Smolin Str.). These buildings, developing vertically, became two-story wooden and stone-wooden houses (24 Krasnoarmeyskaya Str.), or the so-called half-houses with a basement made of brick, rarely – of wood (55 Chapaev Str., 50 Victory Str.). At the same time, the main entrance from the street was traditionally located in the mud-room attached to the main building. Besides, wooden houses where the dormer windows are decorated with balconies imitating an attic room are recorded in Syzran. These elements obviously relate to the work of masters from the upper Volga. The urban type of the one-story building was a wooden house with six to ten window openings along the facade with a hip or complex roof. While placing such buildings at the intersection of the streets, a beveled corner was constructed (86 Dzerzhinsky).

The facades were decorated with cut-through carvings. The main motif of the carving was floral ornament, including variations of S-shaped elements, as well as geometric decor in the form of rhombuses, rectangles. At the same time, the facade of each building was decorated using one or another system of ornaments. In case of using floral symbols, S-shaped elements decorated the platbands, tops of dripstones, pilasters and the tops of the facades in the form of an overhead cut-through frieze decor and multi-tier cornices. The wooden housing of Syzran was distinguished by the decor (unconventional for wooden architecture of the Samara province) constructed by teams invited from other provinces. The design of the platbands with curvilinear volute dripstones corresponded to the practice of the Russian baroque of the XVII century. The sides of the platbands were decorated with curly half-columns. Similar building solutions have been identified in all parts of the city (52 Victory Str.). This decor is not found in the design of wooden housing in other county towns or large villages of the Samara province of the early XX century. Here, on the facades of wooden and stone-wooden buildings, platbands of the urban type of classicist style architecture with straight dripstones and straight dripstones with semicircular arches are widespread, both in Samara and in other cities of the province. In addition to these types, varieties of baroque platbands, as well as platbands with semicircular tops (66 Smolin Str.) were represented. The friezes of wooden buildings were decorated with overhead elements of geometric decor and floral ornaments, carved through wooden brackets. From the architecture of classicism in wooden architecture, stylized triglyphs and metope friezes have been preserved.

The Bolshaya Street (Soviet Str.) was filled with stone houses, with individual inclusions of wooden buildings. However, these buildings are not related to folk architecture, but to wooden architecture, designed by professional architects (87 Soviet Str.).

## 5. Conclusion

The wooden and stone-wooden buildings of the Samara province of the late XIX – early XX centuries are characterized by both common features and differences caused by natural factors, socio-economic changes, ethnic peculiarities. The common features include the formation and evolution of quarterly

development, the expansion of the functional typology of wooden buildings: shops, workshops, warehouses, industrial and household buildings. In chief towns and large villages of the Samara province, the main type of residential building at the beginning of the XX century is a one-story wooden building with two or three windows along the main facade, with a gable roof facing the street, the entrances to the buildings are located along the street in the side mud-room. Profitable housing construction does not receive proper development. Sectional type houses with an entrance along the central axis of the facade do not become widespread. No records found about the wooden and stone-wooden buildings taller than two floors in cities and large villages of the province. In some villages, isolated two-story stone-wooden residential houses are present. Residential buildings are placed on the street line, while the development is in estate-like manner with gaps between houses. Moreover, in all the considered settlements, the cut-through carvings remain as the elements determining the decorative design of the facades. Structural solutions of wooden and stone-wooden buildings are represented by the log structure of the main house and the frame structures of the attached parts. The distinctive features of the wooden architecture of district towns and large villages of the province include the spread of certain styles. In Buzuluk, where the development of the city was carried out at the beginning of the XX century after the fire, Art Nouveau became widespread. A single-facade, decorative version of the style was embodied in individual single-story wooden houses. Syzran's wooden buildings featured a combination of elements of the Russian style and Baroque. Such settlements as Balakovo, Nikolaevsk retain the blocks of historical wooden buildings constructed in the Russian style.

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