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THE CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**SERAFIM SHAROKH, RAISA PLATONOVA****Polotsk State University, Belarus**

Polotsk as one of the oldest towns of Belaya Rus, is known for its numerous monuments of Orthodox architecture. Sophia Cathedral of the XI century (extant in reconstructed form), complex of the Saviour-Euphrossinia Convent with buildings of different time periods. But there were buildings on the Polotsk land of temples, information about which you will not find in any books on architecture, not in publications in archeology. These were religious buildings of later, not of the medieval period. During the Soviet period, because of their large number, they were not give the status of architectural monuments and were totally to the extent possible destroyed. The result of this policy was complete destruction of the architectural heritage of spiritual one.

In Polotsk victims of the post-revolutionary period were not only people, but also churches: Cathedral of St. Nicholas, St. John the Theologian convent in Pardaugava, the church of the Archangel Michael in Zapolote, the Church of St. George in Ekimani and Church of the Intercession.

Polotsk Church of the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built in 1781, or to be more exact, rebuilt from an old Polotsk Church of the Epiphany monastery. To some extent this was a continuation of the tradition... in the ancient city of necropolis, were in this place since the time of the Polotsk Principality. Traces of this necropolis were discovered by archaeologists during the construction of fiberglass.

In 1804, by order of Emperor Alexander 1st, who visited Polotsk in July 1802, the Church of the Intercession Cathedral, that is the city's main church, actually started to performs the role of the cathedral church.

After the restoration of Polotsk diocese and the Jesuit church of St. Pereosvyascheniya, Jesuit Church of St. Stephen's Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas of Myra, in 1833 the Church of the intercession was converted into a parish. 57 years later after moving to a new location the Church building fell into complete decay, and was closed. Instead, in 1838, a new Church was built in a former Franciscan monastery. The Church received the name of Novo-Pokrovskaya Church and was located in the Nizhnepokrovskaya street [1]. However, next year the brick building of the former Church got covered with cracks due to settling of the foundation, and the Church was closed. In 1867, was drafted to the extension of the bell tower and the alteration of the wooden Church of the intercession, which was closed with 38 years. Perhaps around this time (in late 60 – early 70's) it was renovated and reopened.

1900 illuminates the site of a wooden building that housed the Church. The fire destroyed the temple and 100 yards. However, icons and jewelry were been saved, and the congregation moved them to St. Sophia's Cathedral.

In 1903, the decree of Polotsk Orthodox Consistory about the construction of the new Church [2].

In the 30-ies, like many other churches, the Church was closed, the priests were subjected to repression and persecution. After the liberation of the town from the Germans, the building was desolated for the while, and then it was the candy factory (Fig.1). In 1960 the factory was burnt in a fire.



Fig. 1. The Church of the Intercession at the time of Polotsk occupation by Nazi invaders.
Winter 1941 – 1943

The issue was only raised in 1991. The restoration however was delayed for many reasons: the building was desolated for a while. Then it was made into a confectionary.

Active restoration work began in 2003 with the blessing of Metropolitan Philaret, who was then in power. The author of the new project was the architect Domogarov Mikhail Illarionovich.

In July 7 the first dome of the temple was installed.

In October 14, 2004 during the celebration of the Intercession of the blessed virgin Mary the Restored sanctuary was sanctified and put into operation [3].



Fig. 2. The Church of the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Modern look

The Church of the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary has a tragic history: it suffered from a large number of fires and rebuilding's. But in spite of everything in the 21st century, Pokrovsky temple performs its educational mission, helping many people find Peace and joy.

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RIGID REINFORCEMENT EFFICIENCY IN STRENGTHENING OF STRIP FOUNDATIONS

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The article focuses on the main advantages of rigid reinforcement in the strengthening of strip foundations. The analysis of constructive solutions providing the collaboration of existing foundation elements and those of the reinforcement is done. The main results of research work on the bearing capacity of foundation piling of reinforcement foundation by rigid reinforcement are presented.

When designing the strengthening it's necessary to use to the maximum the existing foundation, providing its collaborative work with the reinforcement's elements [1, p. 131].

Collaborative work of reinforcement's elements of strip foundations with existing construction is provided by several methods:

- 1) by the installation of concrete keys, projections in cavities of the existing foundation or bearing structures of a building;
- 2) by the installation of anchors embedded in the body of existing foundations;