

FIRE STATIONS OF THE CITY OF KYIV IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

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Abstract

The presence of specially equipped premises like depots for specialized vehicles plays an important role in maintaining the proper reaction capacity of the fire brigades, quick response to calls and maintenance of fire equipment in proper condition. Today, the question of fire stations and depots value in the historical development of fire protection, the formation of the architectural image of European cities is almost unexplored. The purpose of the scientific publication is to conduct an analysis of organizational issues and practical measures of providing fire stations of the city of Kyiv with special fire depots in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. During the research were studied the circumstances of the construction and reconstruction of fire stations, depending on the needs of fire protection of the city, in connection with the growth of the population, industry and the density of city buildings. For the first time, it was developed a comprehensive regarding the construction of fire stations, the peculiarities of their functioning in historical retrospect, and the current state of their preservation.

Keywords: fire station, fire protection service, firefighter, fire brigade, fire protection department.

INTRODUCTION

Promotion of corporate history and preservation of own traditions combined with the use of modern technologies is an excellent means of drawing public attention to fire protection issues. For each generation of rescuers, it is a matter of honor to preserve and protect items and equipment, which, are vivid material evidence of the historical development of the In 2024, the conference of the Commission on the History of Fire Services of the International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF), of which the Republic of Bulgaria is a member, is dedicated to the study of the topic "Buildings and structures of the fire service". This scientific study was conducted within the framework of the 27th meeting of the CTIF History Commission.

EXPOSITION

The availability of specially equipped premises – fire depots – affected the fire department's combat capability, the timely

departure of the alarm team, and the maintenance of firefighting equipment in proper condition. For a long time, the professional fire brigades of Ukraine did not have their own fire stations, with the exception of Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv. Subdivisions of Cherkasy, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Berdychev, Kamianets-Podilskyi and other cities were located at police stations in train yards, moreover, in poorly adapted premises. This situation persisted in almost all cities until the 1980s. [1].

However, a number of provincial centers of Ukraine already had specialized fire stations from the middle of the 19th century. Among them, the fire brigade of the city of Kyiv should be singled out.

In 1841, fire departments of Kyiv became part of police fire brigades. Since the city was divided into four police stations, corresponding fire brigades were organized: Starokyivska, Podilska, Pecherska and Dvirtseva, headed by fire marshals. The general management of the

fire garrison of the city was carried out by the fire major [1].

In the middle of the 19th century, the question of building new fire stations became a pressing issue for Kyiv firefighters. In solving this problem, the fire department found support from both the local and regional authorities in the person of the Governor General of the region, Adjutant General Ilarion Vasylchikov. Thus, during the years 1854-1857, an administrative building was built in Kyiv on Sofia Square. A part of this administrative complex was the building of the Starokyiv Fire Department built according to the project of architects K. Skarzhynskyi, M. Ikonnikov, I. Shtrom, and the fire tower – according to the project of M. Ikonnikov. The fire building (13/5 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.) was designed in the style of late classicism in combination with neo-Renaissance elements [2, 19].



Fig. 1. The Main Office of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kyiv. The former depot building of the Starokyiv Fire Department, Kyiv [3]

The building housed the oldest of the city's four fire departments, which until the 1870s consisted of 25 people headed by a

fire marshal. It was designed for the permanent stay of personnel of the fire department, stables, forge, places for storing food and fodder.

In 1870, the building of the fire station was rebuilt. Wing on the street Velyka Zhytomyrska was united with the corner volume, from the side of the street. Volodymyrska Street, there was a brick gate with three openings in the space between the buildings. In 1914, one floor was added to the main building [4]. In 1924-1926, the upper open part of the fire tower was rebuilt, arched entrances to the compartments for fire crews were laid, escape hatches for firefighters were installed in the floors of the barracks, in the two-story wing on the street. Volodymyrska has a garage for three boxes for fire trucks (the first cars were Benz-Hagenau, Heleg-Belwitz, Benz, Lyanchyn).

Currently, the main building of the Starokyiv fire station is occupied by the Main Office of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in the city of Kyiv. By the decision of the Executive Committee of the Kyiv City Council of People's Deputies dated January 21, 1986, No. 49, the building of the former Starokyiv fire station is classified as an architectural monument and is under protection [4].

In 1859, the construction of the fire tower on Khreshchatyk in Kyiv was completed. Its functional purpose was to monitor the fire prevention situation in the city and timely inform the fire departments. The building has not survived to this day. In 1860, with the beginning of the reform of the fire service and the transfer of the funding of fire departments to the balance of city budgets in the city of Kyiv, the construction of a fire depot for the Podil Fire Department began.

Today, the National Museum "Chornobyl" is located on the territory of the former Podilsk Fire Department. The museum most fully presents visitors with materials about the history of the Chornobyl NPP, the development of the nuclear industry of Ukraine, the accident at

the fourth power unit of the Chornobyl NPP, its liquidation and its consequences. The building of the Museum – "Fire Depot" (Kyiv, Khoryva Ave. 1) is included in the List of Cultural Heritage Objects of Kyiv and is under protection. According to the order of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy dated 07/05/2023 No. 368, the building of the fire station of the Podilsk Police Station was entered into the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine under the category of cultural heritage objects of local significance in the city of Kyiv.



Fig. 2. *Ukrainian National Chornobyl Museum. The former depot building of the Podil Fire Department, Kyiv [5]*

The improvement of the situation in the fire safety of the cities of Ukraine took place gradually with the improvement of the organization of extinguishing fires, increasing the fighting capacity of fire departments, and strengthening the financial and material and technical base. At the end of the 19th century the fire brigades of the cities of the region were significantly strengthened, as evidenced by archival documents. Thus, in 1887, the premises of the new fire station were given to the firefighters of the Dvirtseva district

of Kyiv. Along with this, the city council allocated a plot of land with an area of 330 square meters free of charge. carbon black for the construction of a fire station of the Voluntary Fire Society of Kyiv. In 1889-1900, the contractor Milkin (according to the design of the architect G. Artynov) built a depot on favorable terms for the Volunteer Fire Society [6].



Fig. 3. *Fire station of the Kyiv Voluntary Fire Society [7]*

This one-story stone house had accommodation for guardsmen, a wooden fire tower 13 fathoms high, a barn, and stables for 13 horses. Today, the building of Kyiv fire volunteers (18 Bulvarno-Kudryavska St.) has not been preserved.

The growth of the city, the increase in the number of residents and the construction of high-rise residential blocks at the end of the 19th century caused the need to expand the city's fire station. Accordingly, a new fire station appeared in the Lybid district.

During the years 1895-1897, after the acquisition of the land plot by the city administration, a complex of the police station and the fire brigade of the Lybid fire station was built on the street. Tarasivska 4 and 4a. The project of the estate was developed by the architect Oleksandr Kryvosheev [8]. Originally, it was a three-story house and an outbuilding connected by a one-story stable for 30 horses. The estate included a brick octagonal three-tiered fire tower 35 m high, tapering upwards. It was crowned with a developed

arched eaves, above it there was a fire station, which was reached by a wooden spiral staircase. The fire tower itself was decorated with sophisticated plastic brick decor. The estate was also equipped with a zeichhaus and a telegraph.



Fig.4. Solomyansk District Office of the Main Office of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kyiv. The former depot building of the Lybid Fire Department, Kyiv [9]

In the main building on the first floor, there were equestrian and later fire trucks. The second floor was occupied by the Lybid police station, including cells for detainees. The entire third floor is the brandmaster's apartment (five rooms, kitchen, bathroom). Firemen's barracks and garden policemen's barracks were located in the wing [8]. The firemen's barracks were decorated with an oak cottage with the image of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. In addition, the wing housed a dining room, a kitchen and an apartment for the reserve fire master. The building was designed in the stylistic direction of modern order.

In 1948, a fourth floor was added to the wing. The main building itself was rebuilt in 1953 with the addition of a fourth floor. The fire tower and stables were dismantled during 1961-1962 [8]. Currently, the main building houses the Solomyan district office of the Main Office of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kyiv and the board of the Voluntary Fire Society of Ukraine.

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, not all fire buildings of the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. have survived to this day. During the Second World War, a large part of Kyiv's buildings was destroyed, which affected the current state of preservation of fire buildings in the city. The same buildings of the fire departments that have survived are now architectural monuments of local importance and are under protection.

The practical significance of further research on the topic of this article lies in the possibility of using the results of the work in generalizing the trends in the construction of fire stations in Europe in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, studying the aesthetic component of buildings and constructions of fire stations in the architecture of modern cities and highlighting national construction traditions.

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