

The Historical Rural Settlements of the Southern Urals: Preservation with a View to Development

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Abstract: The Southern Urals are surrounded by the great Eurasian steppe from the West, East and South. Mountain areas and adjacent plains are always areas where various economic, ethnic and in general, household structures are formed. Since, the time of the great migration of peoples and to the present time settlements which population is ethnically different as to basic kinds of activities, management of dwellings, industrial relations, etc. are formed in the Southern Urals. The 90% of the mountain areas of the South Urals is within the administrative borders of the Republic of Bashkortostan. The >5000 monuments of history and culture have been revealed in the Republic of Bashkortostan. At the same time, the problem of their protection and careful attitude to their usage have not been resolved enough. The study deals with the problems of allocation of settlements worthy of historic status among the rural settlements of the Republic of Bashkortostan, in accordance with rules of international, federal and regional legislation on cultural heritage sites.

Key words: Historical settlements, immovable objects of cultural heritage, Bashkiria (the Republic of Bashkortostan), cultural landscapes, South Urals

INTRODUCTION

The settlements that have a long history, develop in the best way when the problems of historic preservation and efficient use of this heritage are solved simultaneously.

There are laws on the protection of historical and cultural monuments in the Republic of Bashkortostan. However, no system of identification of conservation and careful attitude to usage of objects of historical and cultural heritage has been developed.

STATUS OF THE HISTORICAL RURAL SETTLEMENT

The terms “historical towns, old urban quarters, villages and small villages...” were for the first time used together in the international law in “The recommendations on the Safeguarding and contemporary role of historic areas”, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in Nairobi of 26.11.1976. It states that these settlements as a rule have to be carefully preserved in their entirety as well as in rural areas, all the work leading to the deterioration of the landscape and any changes in

the economic and social structure should be carefully controlled to maintain the integrity of historic rural communities in their natural environment.

This subject has been actively developed by European explorers in the late 1980s to mid 1990s (Stokes, 1989). Later, in 2003, this policy was transformed within a framework of the European Union into the development and subsequent implementation of the European guidance on the identification of the rural heritage.

In our country, provisions of the need for an integrated approach to conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage on the one hand and territorial, covering the historical background and environmental development and not only single objects and ensembles of historical buildings, on the other hand were worked out in detail in the works of D.S. Likhachev, Yu A. Vedenin, O.G. Sevan, P.M. Shulgin, E.A. Shevchenko and other researchers (Likhachev, 2000).

Unfortunately, for a long time these important statements have not been properly reflected in the legislation. Only in 2002, the provisions on the need to protect areas of historical settlements have been issued in the form of Chapter 12 historical settlement (Article 59 and 60) of the Federal Law “on objects of cultural heritage

(historical and cultural monuments) of peoples of the Russian Federation (The Federal Law, 2002). But they have not significantly affected the situation because in essence, they were declarative and did not give any advantage such “historical settlements” over other types of settlements. The mechanism for obtaining this status was not clearly established in Federal Law. But the main thing is that urban planning legislation and specified Federal Law were not clearly agreed among themselves that led and leads to constant conflicts of developers and architecture bodies with monument protection authorities and the public.

Issues of improvement of urban policy and the rational use of immovable cultural heritage have been repeatedly considered by the legislative and executive authorities.

The next important step in solving the problems of conservation and sustainable use of the territories of historical settlements was the meeting of the Council for Culture and Arts under the President of the Russian Federation which took place on 25.09.2012. In his opening speech V.V. Putin said, “I think that we need to speed up the formation of a clear system of state accounting and public monitoring of the cultural heritage and move from protection of individual objects to the comprehensive protection of the historic centers of cities and settlements”.

Following the results of the meeting the implementation of complex measures on preservation and development of historical settlements, protection of cultural and historical urban and natural landscapes and the establishment of a special procedure for regulating urban development activities in the territories of historical settlements was provided in accordance with the commission of the President of the Russian Federation of 11.11.2012 No. Pr-2705.

For the purpose of this commission, the changes were made to the Federal Law “on objects of cultural heritage (historical and cultural monuments) of the Russian Federation” and the Town Planning Code of the Russian Federation, aimed at the improvement of urban development activities and the preservation of historical buildings in historical settlements: the concepts of “historical settlement” and “the subject of protection of historical settlements” have been clarified (The Federal Law, 2014).

The latter now includes six indicators: the number of historically valuable city-forming objects, planning structure, volume and spatial structure, composition and the silhouette of development, ratio of different urban spaces, ratio of all-round views. It has been recognized that historical settlements may have the status of “Federal significance” or “regional significance” and accordingly,

the decision on listing should be taken at the level of either the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation or the competent authority of the constituent territory of the Russian Federation.

To specify these rules in 2013-2014 a series of legal acts was developed: Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of 11.28.2013, No. 1095 “On approval of requirements for the definition of the boundaries of the territory of historical settlement”, Orders of Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation of 31.07.2013, No. 1062 “On approval of provisions on the coordination of project planning area, prepared with respect to the territories of historical settlements of federal significance” of 31.07.2013, No. 1063 “On approval of provisions on the coordination of projects of land use and development, prepared with respect to the territories of historical settlements of federal significance” of 27.03.2014, No. 534 “On approval of the inclusion of the populated locality in the list of historic settlements of federal significance; approval of the populated locality as the subject of protection and borders of the territory”, etc.

Thus, in the territory of a monument or an ensemble the construction of facilities of capital construction and an increase in three-dimensional characteristics of existing facilities are prohibited as well as carrying out earthworks, construction, land reclamation and other works, except for works on preservation.

Similar amendments are recorded in the laws of the Russian Federation, secondary legislation and adopted on the basis of their decisions. In order to ensure the legal coverage of the territories of historical settlements (in the framework of the State program of the Moscow Region “Culture of Moscow adjacent areas on the period of 2014-2018”), financial package of development projects frontiers of territories and objects of protection of historic settlements have been provided: 63 million rubles in 2015 and 2016 and 54 million rubles in 2017.

By virtue of law of the Republic of Bashkortostan of 03.06.2013 No. 682-Z the appropriate changes and additions have been made to the law “On objects of cultural heritage (monuments of history and culture) of the peoples of the Republic of Bashkortostan” of 11.07.2005, the number 224-s as well as supplements dealt with the possibility of assigning the status of the historical settlement of republican significance to the settlements that meet the relevant requirements.

In this connection, it seems appropriate to regard the territory of the Republic of Bashkortostan with the view of revelation of inhabited localities which could be assigned such status.

RURAL HISTORICAL SETTLEMENTS

The researchers concentrate upon organization of identification, protection and rational use of immovable cultural heritage of historical cities. And it is quite natural because urban settlements were the focus of political, military, administrative, commercial, cultural, scientific life of society throughout their history. Accordingly, the overwhelming majority of architectural and historical monuments that should be used for tourism, patriotic education, etc. are concentrated there. At the same time, the most acute problem of the cities is the demolition of historic buildings and a distortion of the image. This problem is vividly manifested in such cities of Bashkortostan as Ufa, Birsk and other cities. But the above-mentioned aspect of the problem is the theme of the following works.

However, this was determined by history that even in this highly urbanized state, a significant number of the population inhabit rural areas while the number of rural settlements is much greater than the number of cities. And some of them have played not a smaller role than cities in the history of our country

The main thing, for a variety of features is that the authenticity of cultural and historical environment, customs, ceremonies and buildings was to a greater extent preserved in the countryside.

CLASSIFICATION OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BASHKORTOSTAN

In view of the geographic and climatic features as well as historical conditions several types of rural settlements appeared in this area, i.e.:

- Villages being centers of trade and founded by Russian immigrants such as Nicholas-Berezovka, Krasny Yar, Topomino (now-Kushnarenkovo) and others
- Bashkir villages that arose as a result of transition of local population from nomadic to semi-nomadic and sedentary life such as Sait-Baba, Temyasovo and others
- Settlements of ‘pripuschennikov’ (migrants) in the territory of Bashkir lands (the Tartars, baptized Mishars etc.) such as Kilimovo and others
- Metallurgical and mining villages appeared around new plants or to adapted to local conditions (some of them grew up in cities: Beloretsk, Blagoveshchensk): Voskresenskoye, Preobrazhensky Plant (now village Zilair) Kananikolskoe, Arkhangelsk, Verkhny Avzyan Upper, Nizhny Avzyan, Kaga, Nyzhne-Troitskoye, Uzyan, etc.

- Villages with a predominance or a significant number of people of other nationalities (except the Russians, the Bashkir, the Tatars), i.e., the Mari, the Monrovians, the Udmurt, the Chuvashia

With rare exceptions, the outermost settlements and the most distant from important highways settlements, that were less exposed to the influx of foreign influence have retained their identity or settlement. Wildlife, rational relations to environment natural environment.

On the other hand, an important factor in maintaining lifestyle, traditions, folklore is a traditional farming, national crafts, established forms of management of nature, rational attitude to the environment.

DISCUSSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Law on objects of cultural heritage (historical and cultural monuments) of the Russian Federation and other regulations, the criteria of historical settlements are:

- The existence of the objects of the cultural heritage in the territory of historical settlements included in the registry
- The presence of identified objects of cultural heritage in the territory of historical settlements
- The presence of the objects being the subject of protection of historical settlement in the territory of historical settlements
 - Historically essential city-forming objects, i.e., buildings and structures that form the historical building and combined in the scale, volume, structure, style, materials of construction, color and decorative elements
 - Preserved planning structure, including its elements
 - Preserved three-dimensional structure
 - Maximum preserved compositions and silhouette of site development, i.e., the ratio of vertical and horizontal dominants and accents
 - The ratio of urban space (free, built-up, landscape gardening)
 - Ratio of all-round views, the ratio of the natural and human-created environment

In spite of the fact that the above criteria are not unique and require a serious complex approach to the selection of objects and defining their boundaries as well as attracting archaeologists, art historians, urban planners, landscape designers, the analysis of the historical site development of Bashkortostan permits,

in our opinion, at this stage, to allocate a number of settlements in the territory of the Republic of Bashkortostan such as Ufa City, Birsk, villages Zilair (Preobrazhensky plant), Kaga, Nicholas-Berezovka (historical part). But we refer to rural settlements only in this study.

CONCLUSION

Subsequent to the results of the All-Russian census of 2002, there were 4586 rural settlements (Bashkir Encyclopedia, 2009) in Bashkortostan but only 34 of them preserved almost unchanged historical layout and a certain number of traditional residential buildings, places of worship (churches or mosques) and other facilities (shops, hospitals or School).

Along with that pioneer settlers bring in alien elements while building new houses (in designs, heights, materials, etc.) that violates the originality of these villages. New site development threatens both the historical layout and accordingly, volume-spatial structure and other components that can be referred to the subject of the protection of the historical settlement by the above-mentioned Federal Law.

All this causes damage to both material and spiritual culture of the local population and the interests of the tourist development of the territory and puts on the agenda the fastest carrying out set of works on specifying the list of historic rural settlements of the republic, project development of boundaries of the territories and objects of protection of historical settlements.

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