

The problem of Russian nobiliary homesteads preservation on the territory of Moscow region

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Russian nobiliary homesteads are often called a phenomenon of Russian culture. This is a truly unique and outstanding phenomenon in the history of our country that thrived in the period of 1762 to 1861. After that there was a noticeable decline in the construction of new estates as well as the development of already existing ones. Currently, the problem of preserving of cultural and historical heritage in Russian regions is extremely urgent as cultural heritage sites are under serious threat of total destruction. There has been a little action aimed at protecting the crumbling noble nests not only from destruction, but also from illegal actions. A large number of homesteads, as well as other historical monuments throughout the country, are neglected. Based on statistical data, over the past 10 years, about 2.5 thousand monuments of historical and cultural heritage have been destroyed on the territory of the Russian Federation, annual losses amount to about 150-180 items, and these figures do not stop growing. [2] The researchers are anticipating the irrecoverable losses of cultural and historical sites in the future if such trend will be continued. "In the conditions of the impending destruction of the "we-identity", the material and intangible cultural heritage of the peoples of Russia can and should become the basis of the spiritual unity of the civilization of Russia," states Z.M. Babayan. [1, c.15]

The Russian nobiliary homestead is not only a symbiosis of unique architecture, lifestyle, special traditions, but it is also a cultural legacy, the cradle of the "golden" age of literature and poetry. The "homestead" literature holds a special place in the cultural history of our country. This phenomenon is unique, filled with special moral and esthetic feelings, including patriotism, memories about past, and aspiration to realize one's place in a row of generations. [4, c. 1] A huge amount of home museums was created within the estates consisted of unique cultural items. Furthermore, a new generation of highly educated and talented scientists, generals, writers, musicians originated from there. [5]

The preservation of Russian nobiliary homesteads and their heritage is an urgent subject to be placed high at the top of the agenda. Nowadays, after a century filled with revolutions, dramatic changes and wars, scarcely small percentage of estate complexes are left. We consider it necessary to attract more attention of the general public, authorities, investors, patrons, businessmen to this issue in order to save and protect Russian national identity. Cultural heritage acts as a guardian of the historical memory of the people, preserves the experience accumulated by previous generations and connects the past with the present, helping to understand the prospects for future development.

Currently, there is a governor's program called "Homesteads of the Moscow region", which is aimed at saving endangered cultural heritage sites that are in poor condition. [3] The estates

are put up for auction and are given to a private investor at the market rate for 49 years. In return, the investor must restore it and afterwards receive the preferential rent that equals 1 ruble per 1 sq. m. m per year. According to recent data, 35 nobiliary homesteads were handed over to investors for restoration and two of which were completely restored. Such program is considered to be a good start to effective problem solving. The entrepreneur's participation is on demand as they will not only be able to restore cultural heritage objects, but also adapt them to contemporary use.

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