

## Architectural and historical value - The heritage of the people

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**ABSTRACT:** The article addresses the results of staged restoration of architectural and historical monuments of educational building of Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative University located at Abay street 94, in Semey city and the current state of other valuable historical monuments with spiritual values and historical significance to future generations of the country.

**Keywords:** monuments of architectural and historical value, restoration, major repairs, facade, building built in the style of Russian classicism

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The main focus of the article is devoted to the academic building of the university, which has architectural and historical significance and is distinguished by its cultural and spiritual values, located at Abay Street 94, in Semey city.

This building is notable for its uniqueness and historical value not only in the city of Semey, but also at the national level. (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The building of the Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative University, before restoration.

The building was built in 1872 and is a national historical and architectural monument. From 1894 to 1919 the building was the educational building of the Pedagogical Institute of the Kazakh SSR (former male gymnasium), from 1919 to 1934 the Siberian district headquarters of the 11th White Guard Regiment. Since 1934 the facility served various educational institutions, and now the building is the educational building of the Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative

University. As it can be seen, over the existence of the mentioned building hid many mysterious twists and turns of fate [1,3,5].

The general plan of the building is a 2-storey U-shaped house, made in the style of Russian classics, decorated in a component of white and white-pink colors. The length of the main facade, located on the side of Abay Street, is 40,000 mm (40 m) (Fig. External surface of the building is plastered with a traditional lime-sand mortar. Technically, the building consists of three floors - the 1st and 2nd floors and basement. Height of 1st and 2nd floors from floor to ceiling is 3,90 m, basement's - 2,85 m. (its upper side above the ground level of 1.25 m, the lower side of 1.60 m from ground level).

The load-bearing structure of the building, i.e., the bearing walls are built of burnt red brick, wall thickness is 950 mm (3 bricks), the thickness of the walls in the basement is 1150 mm.

## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research method is based on a systematic analysis of research objects, compositional analysis of graphic measurements and scientific generalizations.

The work is based on the description of the material collected by the authors as a result of studying materials on architectural objects and an analytical review of scientific literature.

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The building has been in continuous use since its construction to the present day, that is, almost a century and a half of use. Up until yesterday no comprehensive research capital repair and restoration work was carried out.

Restoration is not an easy task that can be done in a short time, so research work and restoration work go hand in hand here. Because in reconstruction, namely in the modernization of historic buildings, other additional types of work of varying degrees of complexity is involved. Much of the work is done by hand, with great patience and precision, and requires not only professional skill, but also deep knowledge of history and architecture [1,3]. (Figure 2).



Figure 2. The building of the Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative University, after restoration.

As of today, with the support of the university administration, the overhaul and renovation work on the building has been successfully completed on schedule. Before proceeding to such a very important work, we had to step by step and systematically solve many problems. Especially these few concerns had to be addressed:

- conducting an overall integrated historical and architectural study of the building;
- review and analysis of extant archives and other historical sources;
- determining the suitability of the building’s foundation, the basement fence and the load-bearing walls (resulting in a positive conclusion);
- the phased implementation of a series of rehabilitation measures to prevent further deterioration and deterioration of the building’s roofing and covering structures such as beams, rafters and batten (due to the potential excessive drying out of wooden beams and rotting of rafters from moisture);
- testing the quality of the brick, which is the main building material, to determine the degree of deformation due to various external natural influences (resulting in a positive conclusion). (Figure 3);
- carrying out an inspection and corresponding comprehensive survey on the suitability of the building’s exterior plaster layers to date.

As a result of site-specific investigations, it was found that the external surface of the facade plaster and paint layer has significant damage (abrasions, cracks) at various levels as a result of various external natural influences and long-term use.

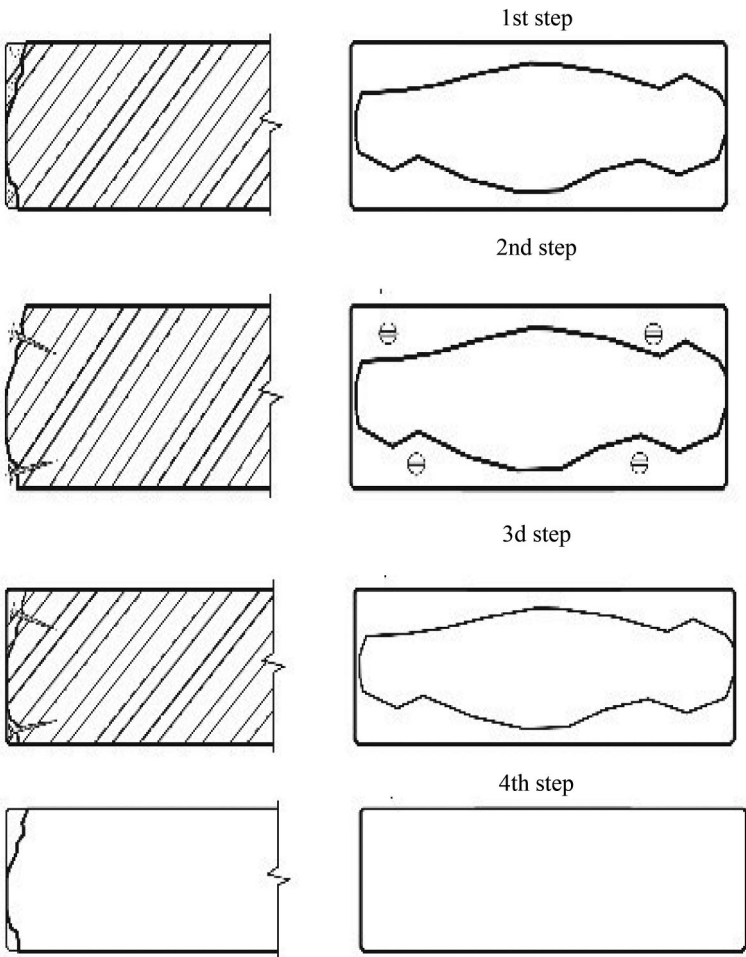


Figure 3. Steps of restoration of deformed parts of building bricks due to various external natural influences (in section and front view).

Subsequently, external plaster layers and brick surfaces deemed unsuitable are routinely removed (dismantled) and replaced with new plaster (4,5-drawings);

When the building was reconstructed, tiles of various shapes were made and used on the basis of previous architectural elements in order to preserve the artistic and stylistic features of its facade.(Figure 6) In spite of the long period of use, the building has survived to this day in reasonably good condition [1,5].



Figure 4. The building of the Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative University, after restoration (fragment).



Figure 5. The building of the Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative University, after restoration (fragment)

During the renovation and restoration work, the university administration fully understood the importance of the project, took great responsibility for it and contributed actively to the successful completion of the work.

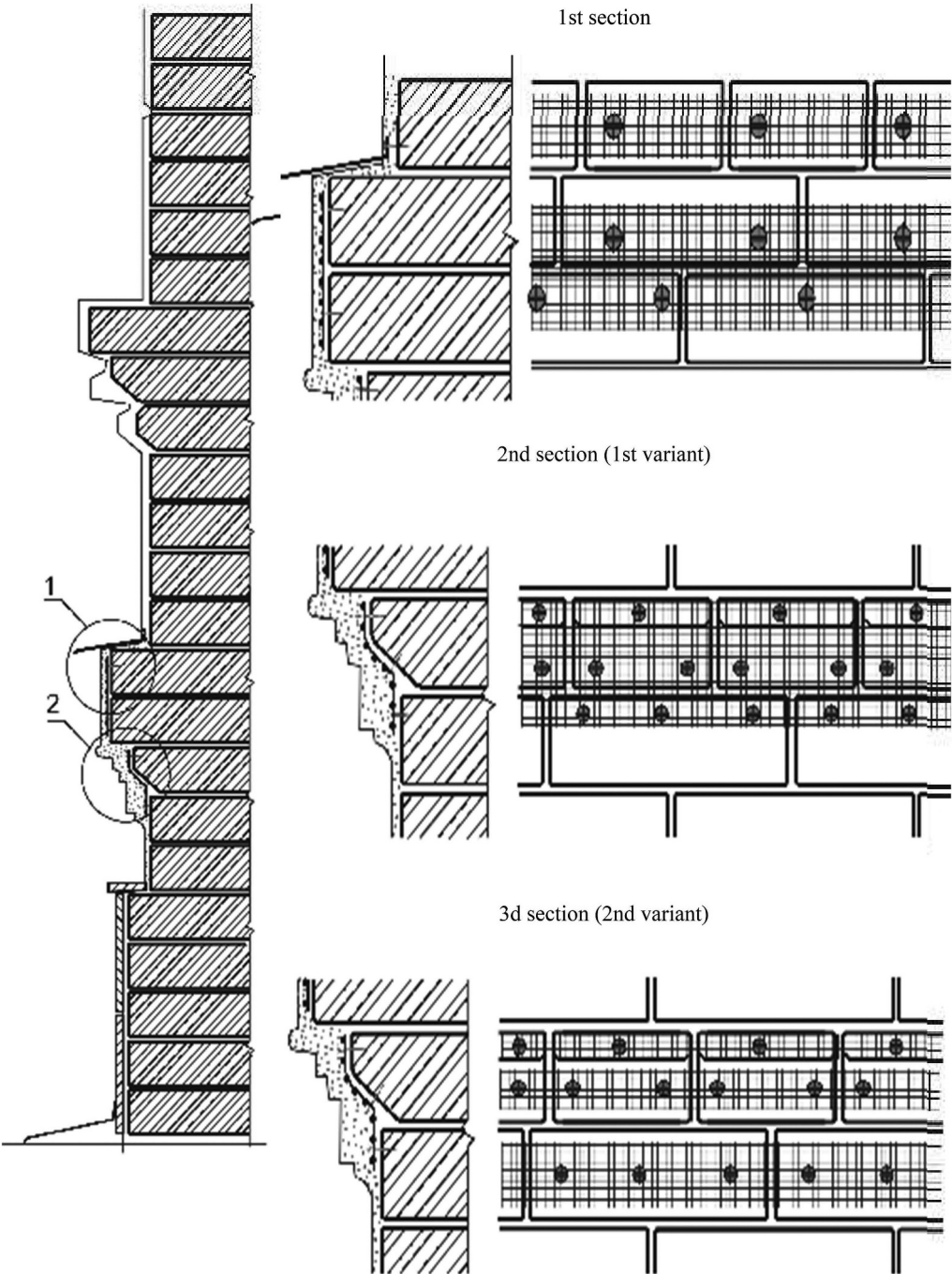


Figure 6. Measures to preserve artistic and stylistic features and external architectural elements of the exterior of buildings.



In the near future, in addition to continuing the exterior restoration of the building, there are plans to restore its interior historic finish, improve the quality of the wooden roof structures, and study and, if possible, run the interior natural ventilation, air purification and heating systems. This means going beyond the exterior architectural restoration of a building and trying to restore it to its original interior working condition in a comprehensive way [2].

On the basis of the research and restoration work carried out to date and the results of future work, there are plans to write digital catalogues and monographs on the restoration and reconstruction of architectural monuments in Semey.

It is worth noting that this is the first time such a positive initiative has been launched in Semey from a building belonging to this university. We hope that such activities will continue at the city level and Semey could, with its rich architectural and historical gems of the 18th-19th centuries, be counted among the number of cities such as Turkestan, Taraz, Sayram, having architectural and historical value of the world level. We believe that the restoration and preservation of such architectural and historical treasures should be one of the most pressing problems facing the citizens [3].

Currently, the state of architectural monuments with historical values in the city of Semey is critical. Suffice it to mention as an example the fate of the former Semey Veterinary Institute. This building is unique with its architectural and stylistic features and obviously a very valuable architectural object, that does not have got any analogues not only in Kazakhstan but also in other neighboring countries, including Russia [4,5].



Figure 7. Current view of the former Semey Veterinary Institute building.

The building, built before the revolution (at that time a female gymnasium) burned down for the first time in the assembly hall in the evening of December 10, 1917, and for the second time on December 9, 1986, 69 years later. Since then, 36 years have passed; now the walls of the magnificent building gradually crumble with each year, it is impossible to pass by such a deplorable appearance of buildings without sympathy. (Figure 7).

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

The fact that such buildings over the years are severely affected by nature and neglect by society is deeply troubling and saddening, another spiritual value «disappearing before our very eyes»!

High spiritual values, such as the architectural and historical heritage of the people, have always been and will remain one of the important aspects of the country's development. We want to believe that the preservation of architectural monuments will become one of the priority tasks of our republic.

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