

# Historical Stages of Diplomatic Legations Architecture in Ukraine

## Abstract

The article distinguishes the main historical stages of the Ukrainian diplomacy development and conducts the analysis of diplomatic legations architecture in Ukraine starting from the Cossacks era and up till present days.

Keywords: diplomatic legation, residence, historical building, embassy, and diplomatic mission

## Introduction

The major form of establishing and maintaining official relations between different states under the accepted norms of international law and the practice of international cooperation is constituted by diplomatic relations that are aimed at fostering friendly relations between states, securing peace, friendship, and national safety. Diplomatic representation is a special government institution, the goal of which is to maintain and develop official relations with the country of residence, to protect the rights and interests of their country, its citizens, and legal bodies. Investigation of the historical development stages of Ukrainian diplomatic legations architecture will ensure the possibility to outline the fundamental concepts of graphical, stylistic, space, and plan decisions for designing such facilities abroad and promoting the status of Ukraine in the world.

## The purpose of this publication

On the current stage, the reinforcement of European and Euro-Atlantic integration makes the role and significance of diplomatic legations extremely vital for Ukraine. Therefore, the review of the historical experience of designing and constructing similar buildings in Ukraine allows us to structure them to several periods.

## The analysis of recent researches and publications

The study of history formation of Ukrainian diplomatic missions were engaged such scientists: V.A. Holobutskyi [2], O.O. Popelnytska [3], V.M. Repetsky [4], V.A. Smoliy [5], H.Y. Udovenko V.V. Budyakova [9] and others. This theme is insufficiently studied for future formation of design and architectural image of Ukrainian diplomatic missions.

## The main part

External action service in Ukraine has a long-standing tradition founded, first and foremost, on the diplomatic experience of the Kyivan Rus in late IX – mid. XIII c. Ukrainian diplomacy goes back to the ancient times. The first document certifying the statement was the agreement concluded with the Byzantine Empire in 840 AD. Professor A. Sakharov, who researched this matter, states that the campaign to Constantinople in 860

AD was followed by the diplomatic recognition of the Kyivan Rus [9]. However, origins of the Ukrainian diplomacy are more remote and they can be found at the intersection of the Byzantine and Roman traditions, which underlay all modern European states formation. The ancient Ukrainian state maintained active relations with the Byzantine Empire, the Holy See, the German Empire, Poland, Hungary, France, and Scandinavian states [8].

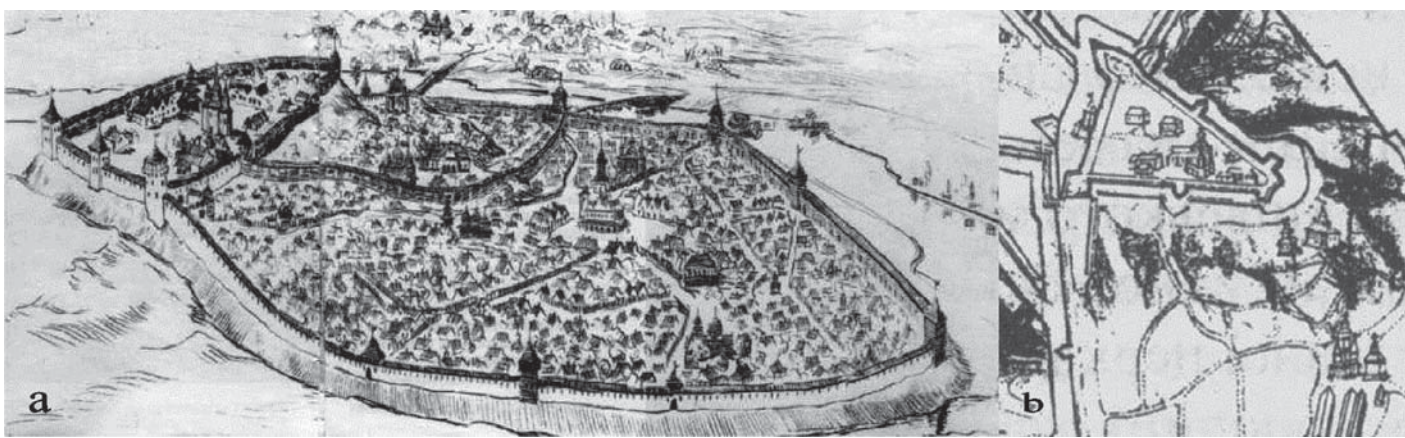
The period of Halychyna and Volhynia principality is the period of the full-fledged establishment of the Ukrainian diplomacy. Special diplomatic embassies, headed sometimes by princes themselves, were sent to conduct negotiations with foreign rulers. Boyars, merchants, and clerics were actively involved into such missions. Foreign diplomatic missions were welcomed with festive receptions in Kyiv or in the capitals of Halychyna and Volhynia principalities – Volodymyr and Halych. There were singers and musicians, as well as spear tournaments organized for them. In the days of Danylo Halytskyi, the diplomacy followed the tendency of western states to use the Latin language [4].

After the ancient states decay, the Ukrainian diplomacy made a considerable step forward during the Cossacks era in XV-XVIII c.

Having emerged in the first half of XVI c., the Ukrainian Cossacks have gradually become the bearers of national statehood. In the early XVII c., the Zaporozhian Cossacks Army participated in international relations and was considered to be an influential politico-military factor in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The important role for the Ukrainian diplomacy formation at that time was carried out by hetman residences, which served as the place for official and informal receptions of foreign

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il. 1. a) reconstruction of the residence defensive walls; b) general construction plan of the residence

ambassadors, conclusion of agreements and settlement of the issues of war and peace. The outstanding Ukrainian diplomatic residences were Chyhyryn, Pereyaslav, Subotiv, Baturyn, Hlukhiv, and Kozelets [5].

*Chyhyryn* was the capital of the Zaporozhian Cossacks Army. The Chyhyryn city (now the district center in Cherkasy region), which is located between the Dnieper and the Tiasmyn rivers, played the leading role in the political history for almost 30 years (from 1648 till 1675). The hetman residence (at first, of B. Khmelnytskyi and later of I. Vyhovskyi and P. Doroshenko) was the place, where the destiny of Ukraine and sometimes of the whole Western Europe was decided (il. 1) [3].

The Chyhyryn residence (il. 1 a, b) was constructed as a fortress and performed the defensive function as well. According to the memoir writer P. Alepskyi, Chyhyryn in the days of B. Khmelnytskyi looked impressively, even though already at that time the fortress was in disrepair. The "Small castle" (the fortress citadel) on the Chyhyryn mountain was visible from afar at the city entrances. The castle with "pidzamche" was a spacious and secure stronghold surrounded by swamps and streams. The wall was equipped with 16 cannons, majority of which were military trophies. It was possible to enter the fortress through the only existing gate "Spaska", named in the honour of the most ancient city church. Within the fortifications, there were dwelling residences of the city citizens, Cossacks, a viyt, a city otaman, Cossacks colonels, castle clerks, Greek metropolitans (residing at the Cossacks Hetmanate) and a general scribe. There was as well a "wayside inn", where ambassadors coming to the hetman could stay [3].

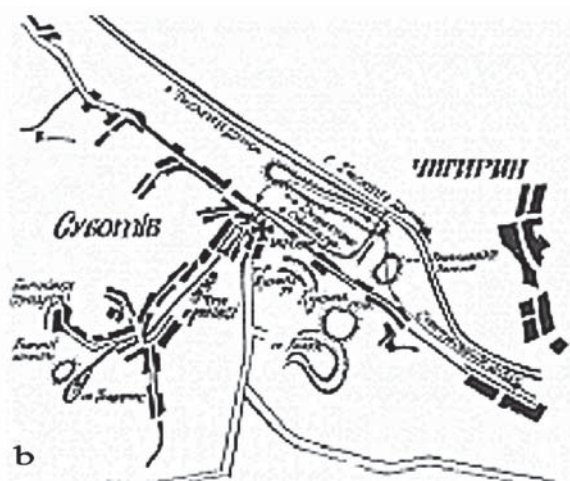
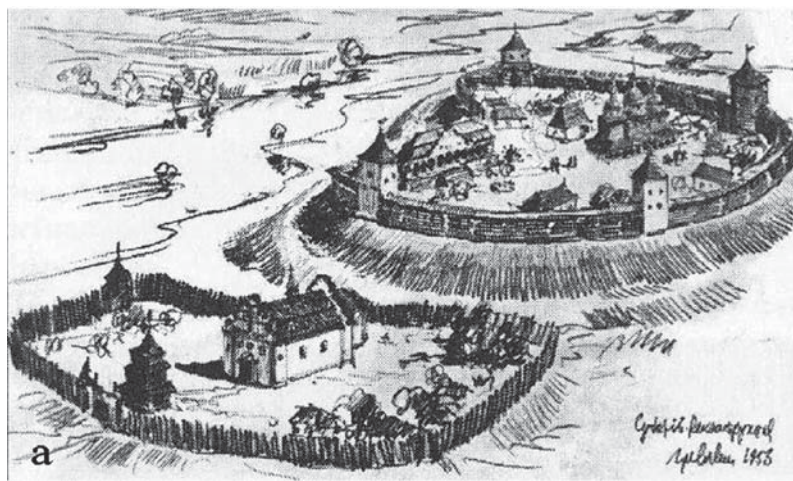
In the years 2006-2009, the historical and architectural complex "Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Residence" in Chyhyryn was partially restored from the ruins (il. 2).

Fortifications of *Subotiv*, which was another residence of the Khmelnytskyi family, and its surroundings can be divided into three groups depending on the place of their location: (1) central – the largest group consisting of two unequal parts, which are the defensive walls of the castle (today known as Zamchyshe) and the fortification of the Illinska church (1653); (2) the Wolf Spire – the warning observation post and the fortification for defending southern boundaries of the territory; (3) Tiasmyna – the farm homesteads on hills or islands (judging from the river surface elevation), which conducted additional control over the Subotiv road [3].

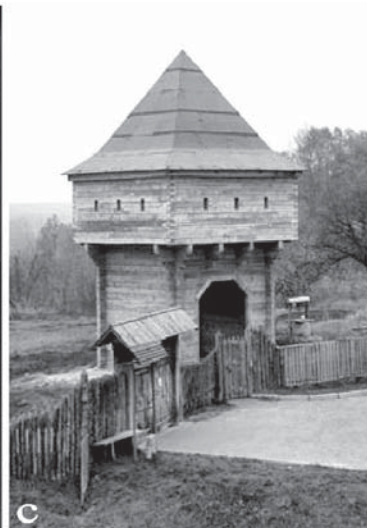
A separate group was made by the underground constructions, including the underpasses. The castle with the square of 2 ha was in the centre of Subotiv and the natural advantages of its location were supported by engineering constructions. The cape surrounded from the north, east and west by swamps and gully cleves was chosen as a building site. The least protected southern side was strengthened by mad-made excavations.

il. 2. Renovated Chyhyryn residence today





il. 3. a) reconstruction of defensive walls; b) general construction plan of the residence



il. 4. a) Illinska church; b) Architectural model of B. Khmelnytskyi's house; c) renovated tower

Subotiv functioned as the second residence, where the Hetman welcomed foreign diplomats "without protocol" in a home-like atmosphere. Fomin, the ambassador of the Moscow king, had an audience there in 1653. Many Hetman's "universals" – legislative documents that were legally binding within the Cossacks Hetmanate – were issued in Subotiv. In the middle XVII c., Subotiv grew from a farmstead into a Cossacks city.

Even though nothing, except the Illinska church (il. 4, b), reminds us today about the foretime mightiness of the Hetman's "beloved city", this small settlement continues to attract public attention as the place, where the destiny of Ukraine was decided numerous times.

*Baturyn* was the residence of hetmans Ivan Mazepa and Kyrylo Rozumovskiy. According to the description of those times, in 1654 the Baturyn fortress, located on the high bank of the Seym river, was surrounded by a dike and walls with stockade, six towers and three gates: Sosnytski, Konotopski and Nizhynski [9]. On the high hill inside the castle, there was a citadel with gates ("Lytovskiy castle" or "panskyi dvir") fortified by a dike and an oak pikes wall. In 1669–1708, the Hetman and his officials resided there. The wooden Mykolayivska church was in the citadel. Another church of St. Trinity was situated in the fortress trading quarter outside the citadel. At the turn of XVII–XVIII c., flinty treasury, small Hetman's house and two churches – St. Trinity church and Mykola Chu-

dotvoret's church – were build in the citadel. Remains of I. Mazepa's house, which looked as a monumental rectangular construction (20x60 m), were destroyed by fire [3].

In the days of Ivan Mazepa, the new hetman residence was built within 2 km distance from the city on *Honcharivka*, the high cape over the Seym river. The brick castle with a wooden church surrounded by a marvelous garden and a birch-wood were located there (il. 6) [3].

The next step in establishing Ukrainian diplomatic service and building the network of diplomatic and consular institutions governed by state laws and legislative acts of the General Secretary of International Affairs (later – Ministry of Foreign Affairs) was made in November, 1917, together with creation of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR), headed by Mykhailo Hrushevskiy [8].

During 1918, twenty five countries – countries of the Quadruple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey), Poland, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Finland, Kuban, Romania, etc – had their diplomatic, consular and military



a



b

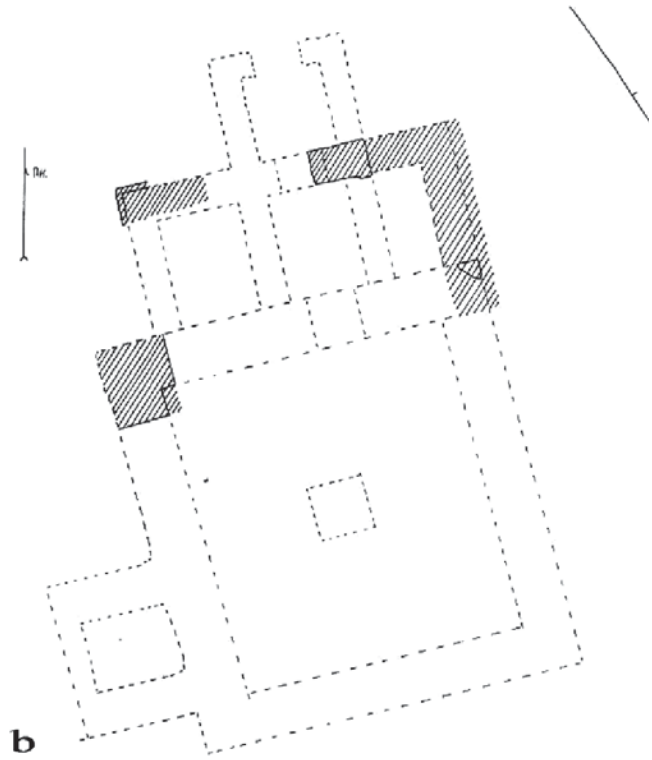
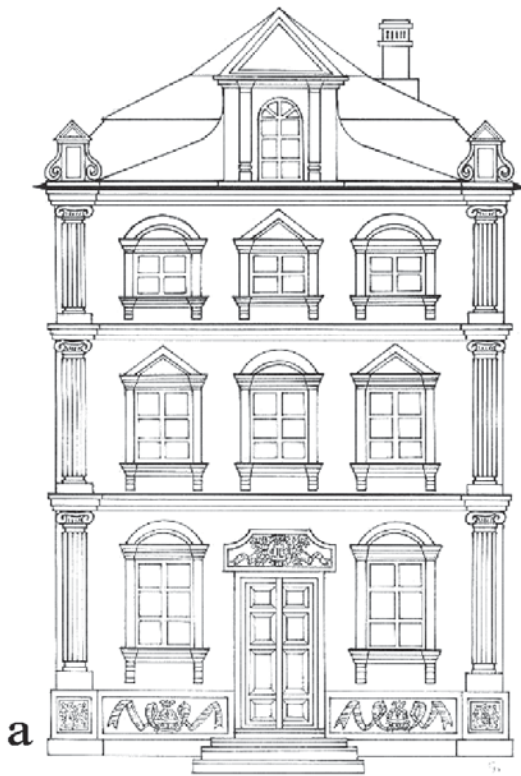
il. 5. a) visualization of residence territory; b) Hetman's house

representations in Kyiv [2]. Accordingly, the Ukrainian state has also launched diplomatic missions in Romania, Bulgaria (il. 7, c), Turkey (il. 7, b), Azerbaijan (il. 7, d), Germany (il. 7, a), Finland, Switzerland, Sweden (il. 7, d) – 10 countries in total [8]. It is defined that diplomatic legations were located mainly in historical parts of cities, particularly in the listed architectural buildings. Among them we can distinguish hotels, architectural buildings, and private residences (il. 7).

The architectural and historical approach to analysis of diplomatic buildings in Ukraine (1917–1920) resulted in distinguishing three variants of locating diplomatic institutions:

- Allocation of the whole diplomatic legation or its department in an architectural and historical building or in a building of architectural legacy;
- Allocation in a historical building and its modern extension;
- Allocation in a historical building complex.

The new historical period in development of the Ukrainian diplomacy started in July, 16, 1990, when the USSR Supreme Council adopted the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine. After adoption of the historical Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine in August, 24, 1991, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs faced the necessity to focus on the brand-new tasks related to the international recognition of Ukraine, establishment of the diplomatic relations, organization of the effective network of diplomatic and consular legations, elaboration of full-fledged bilateral relations with foreign countries, and acquisition of membership and affirmation in leading international organizations [1].



il. 6. a) Facade of I. Mazepa's castle; b) construction plan of the castle

il. 7. Diplomatic legations of the UNR abroad in 1918-1920: a) Berlin, German (architectural legacy building); b) Istanbul, Turkey (historical building); c) Sofia, Bulgaria (historical building); d) Baku, Azerbaijan (Mirzabekov's house, architectural legacy building); e) Stockholm, Sweden ("Grand" hotel, historical building)



**a** Ukrainian Legation in Berlin, Germany.



**b** Ukrainien Legation in Istanbul, Turkey



**c**



**d**



**e**



il. 8. Modern diplomatic legations of Ukraine abroad: a) Hamburg, Germany (historical building); b) San-Francisco, the USA (office building); c) Gdansk, Poland (private house, historical building)

During the first years of its independence, Ukraine was recognized by 170 foreign countries. Practically all of them established diplomatic relations with Ukraine and actively develop bilateral cooperation [8]. In total, 102 legations of foreign countries and international organizations function on the territory of Ukraine. Ukraine has established a rather effective network of its own diplomatic and consular legations. As of September 2012, Ukraine has 87 embassies, 30 Consulate-generals, and 6 consulates abroad (il. 8) [8].

### Conclusions

Development of diplomatic legations architecture in Ukraine can be relatively divided into five historical periods:

- *First period – Kyivan Rus* of late IX- middle XIII c. It is characterized by preservation of the interim status of diplomatic missions exclusively with borderline countries and, consequently, their temporary residence in buildings, which were different in size and solidity and varied from military camps to religious or governmental complexes.
- *Second period – Halychyna-Volhynia Principality* of XII–XIV c. The defining feature of this period is the formation of permanent diplomatic missions in rather distant countries as based on the criterion of their political and economic status.
- *Third period – Cossacks era* of XV–XVIII c. At this period, diplomatic missions have established their regular residences on the territories of capital cities.
- *Fourth period – Ukrainian National Republic (UNR)* in 1917–1920. The period is significant due to practical establishment of the Ukrainian diplomatic service with its network of diplomatic and consular institutions regulated by state laws and normative documents.

- *Fifth period – Independent Ukraine*, starting from 1990's and up to now. Diplomatic missions are allocated in permanent residences with extraterritorial status as based on the accepted norms of international law and in accordance with equitable relationships between sovereign states. Depending on their intended purpose, diplomatic missions can earn the status as consistent with the level of bilateral diplomatic relations, namely an embassy, a permanent representation, and a consulate.

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