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**NATURE AND FORTIFICATION STRUCTURES  
OF DOWNTOWNS IN THE CITIES OF KYIV REGION  
IN THE 17<sup>th</sup> – END OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES**

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**Abstract.** This article describes the nature and fortification structure of downtowns in the cities of Kyiv region in the 17th – late 18th centuries. Geometric and proportional properties of strengthening downtowns are determined. Stages of formation and features of changes in the fortifications of the downtown and castles during the 17th–18th centuries in the cities of Kyiv region are revealed.

**Key words:** downtowns, castles, nature, fortification, cities of Kyiv region, 17th–18th centuries.

**Formulation of the problem**

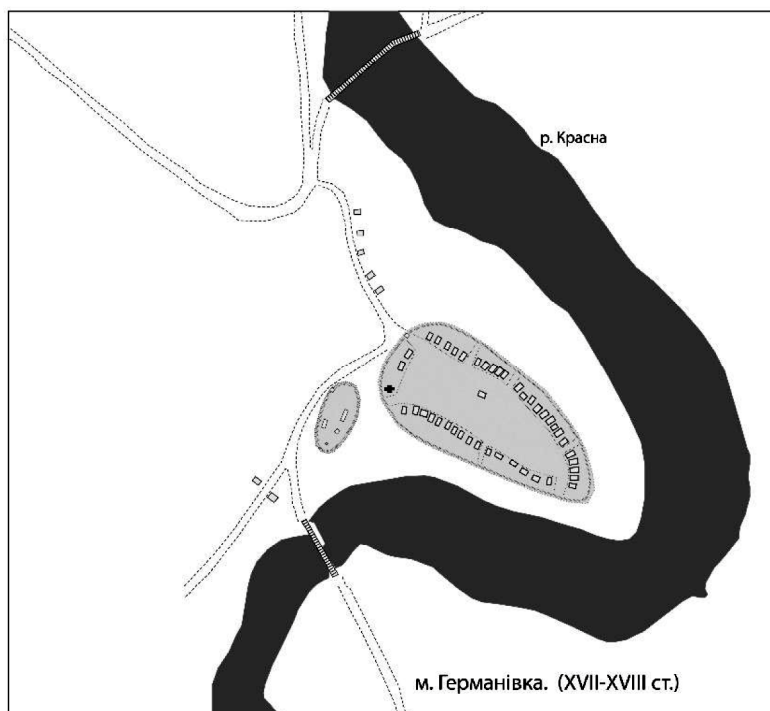
History of historical cities formation in Ukraine is a subject of numerous publications on theory, history and restoration of architecture. In architectural science, the composition of buildings, details and configuration of downtowns' defensive perimeter and connection with an architectural complex of a castle are not established. The material presented in this article on nature and fortification structure is important for the theory and history of architecture, protection, preservation and restoration of the historical and architectural heritage of Ukraine.

**Analysis of researches and publications**

Some of the aspects of the problem of studying and preserving urban complexes in Ukraine were revealed by M. Bevz, V. Vecherskyi, P. Rychkov, G. Petryshyn, O. Boyko, V. Slobodyan, B. Kolosok, O. Mykhailyshyn and others. However, researchers mainly analyze large and medium-sized settlements with a well-preserved historical and cultural heritage. Although, analysis of downtowns shape of the Kyiv region city of the 17th – end of the 18th centuries remains insufficiently disclosed.

**Main research material**

During the 17th – late 18th centuries, the armed forces of Poland, Turkey, Sweden and Russia deployed numerous fronts of military operations in Ukraine. As a result, in response to threats, downtown and castles in towns are beginning to improve: ditches are being dug and embankments, bastions, ravelins and additional traps are being set up. Unfortunately, the fortification system did not become a guarantee of security against Tatar raids. Some towns without resources for reconstruction are gradually declining. For example, the town of Germanivka in the 17th – late 18th centuries underwent several phases of looting and destruction. According to the 1787 lustration, there were 111 settled subjects, a Greek Catholic church, a wooden courtyard in the middle of the castle, surrounded by a moat, fence and piles. (Sulimierski, F., Walewski, W. 1880. T. III p. 66) The downtown of Germanivka was surrounded by a wooden fence with a gate, and in the middle, there was a sprawling and elongated market square (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Germanivka. Downtown in the 17–18 century. Description of the author

Powerful fortifications were built in important administrative centres. At the end of the 17th century, the Pechersk Fortress was built in Kyiv. In the four hetman's capitals – Baturyn, Gadyach, Hlukhiv and Chyhyryn – complex defence systems were arranged. In the regimental cities-residences – Bila Tserkva, Bratslav, Vinnytsia, Korsun, Kaniv, Poltava, Nizhyn, Starodub, Lubny, Chernihiv, Pereyaslav, Myrhorod, Pryluky, Uman, Kalnyk, Kropyvny, Cherkasy, defence fortifications were repeatedly rebuilt. Korsun in the 13–15th century, like most Ukrainian towns, was sparsely populated. King Batory in 1584 granted the settlement with the privilege of Magdeburg law and in 1616 there were 1300 Cossack houses (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 510). In 1674 Korsun by order of Hetman Ivan Samoilovich, became a collection centre for Cossack troops. (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 512) In 1765 there were 172 houses in Korsun, the castle was surrounded in a square by an embankment with corner bastions and a deep moat, on the embankment there was an oak fence, a drawbridge, a gate with loopholes, and a summer house on the gate. In the middle of the castle are the governor's house and other buildings. (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 512) However, cities and towns of the lower administrative level also had a proper fortification structure, which was good in the military episodes (Sokyрко, O., 2017).

During the development of cities, natural defensive factors were used – curved banks or estuaries, which affected the size and configuration of the outline of the downtowns. For example, the town of Kagarlyk was built on a significant rise, provided on the one hand with water, and on the other ravines, which complicate the approaches (Sulimierski, F., Walewski, W., 1880. T. III, p. 667). Owners of the cities especially helped to obtain privileges from the king and initiated the construction of fortifications. For example, the town of Smila already existed during the reign of King Casimir. The Lubomyrsky princes built a wooden castle in Smila and kept a garrison in it. The city was surrounded by ramparts and sharp pillars. In 1775, King Stanislaus Augustus granted the Magdeburg law to the city (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 505). The castle in Smila was located on a hill, above the pond, had the shape of a quadrangular earthen fortification, there were bastions in its corners. (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 506) Also, there was a wooden church and chapel on the territory of the downtown in the 17th – late 18th centuries. Already in the middle of the 19 century in Smila, there were 3 Orthodox churches, a Catholic church, an Old Believers Chapel, a Jewish synagogue and two houses of prayer, 60 shops, 1 inn, 10 hostelries. (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 506).

Under similar circumstances, the border town of Stebliv developed, which King Stefan Batory handed over to the Cossack warlord Teteria. He built a castle on an island surrounded by water and rocks on all sides,

fortified it with a rampart and a high fence, and built a church in the middle of the castle. (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 516) Later, in the middle of the 19th century, there were 257 houses in Steblev, of which 2 were brick, 2 Orthodox churches and 5 small shops (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 515).

Pavoloch was an illustrative example of the use of natural factors that influenced the spatial characteristics of the downtown. The town has been known since the 16th century as the private property of the founder of the Zaporizhzhka Sich Evstahiy Dashkevych. Downtown was surrounded on three sides by the river Rastavytsia, and on the fourth, northern side, both banks of the reservoir were connected by a moat and a high embankment. There was a fence on the shaft and a brick gate with a tower in front of which stood stags. In the southern part of the downtown, on a hill above the river, was a castle. It was separated from the town by a moat and a shaft. The castle was surrounded by triple rows of fences, and in the middle was a wooden building (Funduklei, I., 1852. p. 494). Near the castle stood a wooden, three-story church of the Archangel Michael and a Roman Catholic Church. Church owned a bell tower with five bells located above the castle gates. The brick church was built at the expense of Prince Stanislaw Lubomyrsky in the second half of the 18th century (Pohilevich, L., 1864. pp. 213–214).

Most towns were fortified with ramparts and ditches. Thus, in Gostomel (in ancient times it was called Ostromyr) earthen fortifications date back to the 15 century. In the second half of the 17th century, by order of Colonel Semen Paliy, the castle in Gostomel was fortified with a moat and a high rampart, and a wooden church of the Pokrova was built on the yard (Pohilevich, L., 1864. pp. 102–103). In the town of Ivankiv, located on the left bank of the river Teteriv, the castle was surrounded by a high rampart and a deep wet moat. It had two bridges and gates, above one mounted a clock tower. (Pohilevich, L. 1864.p. 156) Archaeological explorations of the 20th century suggest that on the site of the castle in Ivankiv during the 10 – 13 centuries there was an old ruthenian settlement. (Chmil, L. 2012.) The town of Ruzhyn, located on the banks of the river Rastavytsia in the XV century was strengthened by ramparts and ditches. In the city centre was the Church of St. Nicholas. It was wooden until 1821. (Pohilevich, L. 1864.pp. 109–110) In particular, the town of Kornyn, built on a flat plateau, had a castle surrounded by a moat and an embankment. Near the castle stretched long-distance Zmiyiv bulwarks. (Pohilevich, L. 1864.p. 229)

In the town of Lypovets, near the bend of the river Sob, there was a castle, which was separated from the city centre by a deep moat. (Pohilevich, L. 1864.p. 300 ) In the town of Vilkhovets near Zvenyhorodka, the fortifications consisted of bulwark and moat that ran along the isthmus between two rivers. The moat was filled with water, and a fence stood on the shaft. According to legend, merchants from Greece and Lviv lived in Vilkhovets until the middle of the 17th century (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 392). In the town of Kivshovata, the castle was located on a hill on the right side of the river Shtana. It was provided with a bulwark and a double palisade (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 419).

The defensive circle was arranged so that it created a territorial separation of the downtown from the rest of the settlement. For example, downtown of Tetiyiv, surrounded by an embankment, in which the centre of the spatial composition on the market square was a wooden church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 447). The principle of spatial independence is used in the town of Zhyvotiv. In it, the downtown located on the peninsula had good fortifications. The isthmus connecting the peninsula with the earth's surface was dug by a canal. The settlement around was surrounded by a palisade (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 458).

The town of Rokytne had earthen fortifications around it, and the castle was surrounded by a moat and a high bulwarks. The three-dimensional integrity of the downtown was emphasized by the wooden Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 527). In the town of Medvyn, the city center and the castle were surrounded by bulwarks. The settlement had wooden churches of St. Nicholas, St. George, Savior, All Saints and shoemaker's guild church (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 576). The city of Mezhyrich also had reliable earthen fortifications (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 636).

In several settlements, only castles were securely fortified. This was the case in the town of Rasava (now the village of Rasavka) where the castle was surrounded by a high bulwark (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 559). In the town of Zhabotyn on the mountain, there was a castle with buildings that had cellars, (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 11) and in the centre, there were three wooden churches – the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, St. Nicholas and the Transfiguration (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 658). In 1867, there was a wooden trading building on a brick

basement on the market square, covered with boards, with a wooden floor, 6 compartments, with 6 windows and 6 doors, 7 fathoms long and 4 fathoms wide (Derzhavnyi Arhiv Cherkaskoyi Oblasti, pp. 374–381).

Among the established examples of the fortification system, non-standard solutions were also used. For example, in Brusyliv, the castle was surrounded by five bulwarks and ditches, which were filled with water from the river. They came to the castle from the south and west (Sulimierski, F., Walewski W., 1880. T. I, p. 398). In the centre was a brick church, and near it the monastery of the Capuchins. An important place in the city centre was occupied by a wooden church of the Resurrection built in 1711 (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 167). Brusyliv is divided into Old and New City. The New City was formed after the charter of King Henry IV and began with a drawbridge near the stone gate with a tower. It ended with a separate gate (Ogiyenko I., 2012).

In the town of Lysyanka, which received the Magdeburg law in 1622, there was an example of the use of various materials in the fortification of the downtown and the castle. The downtown was surrounded by a high fence, and the castle was square, brick and had towers in the corners (Funduklei I., 1852, p. 499). The castle was located at the bend of the river Gnylyi Tikich. The downtown was formed around an elongated market square and had four wooden churches. In 1846, there were 13 Jewish inns in the downtown and a brick house with 8 shops (Derzhavnyi Arhiv Cherkaskoyi Oblasti).

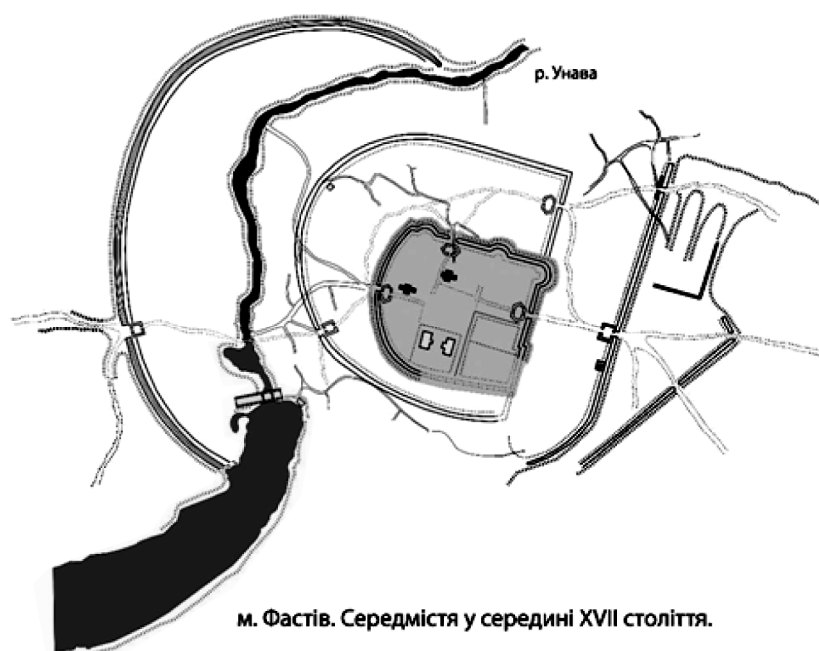
In the town of Makariv (first name Voronyn) the castle stood at a distance from the downtown. It had a rounded shape of the plan, surrounded by a bulwark and a moat (Kuchera M., 1976). Figure 1651 shows a panorama of the settlement, which represents the architectural solution of the castle and the fortification of the downtown (Volkov N., 2016). The castle was surrounded by a shingled roof, and in the middle stood a wooden courtyard with corner alcoves. The downtown was dominated by a three-storey wooden parish church surrounded by a single-storey detached building. Around the centre were towers connected by a fence and defensive barriers – slingshots.

Valuable from a historical point of view was Trakhtemyriv, which began to build in the late XVI century for the hospital of the Zaporozhian Cossacks. Probably, at this time the city centre had fortifications, as Stanislav Zholkevski army looted the settlement, in particular looted salt warehouses, which caused great damage to the Cossacks. In 1664, after many decades of destruction, the monastery-hospital in Trakhtemir continues to function and fight for privileges (Heidenstein R., 1857). In 1626, in a letter, the Greek Catholic Metropolitan Joseph Veliamyn-Rutsky mentions the Cossack fortress of Trakhtemyriv and the fact that it has a treasury (Golubiev S., 1883). In 1664, after many decades of destruction, the monastery-hospital in Trakhtemyr continues to function and fight for privileges (Krykun M., 1999). At the beginning of the 18th century, the settlement declined, and the lustration of 1765 testified to the absence of the castle and other fortifications (Sulimierski F., Walewski, W., 1880. T. II, pp. 580–581). The character and fortification of Trakhtemirov is revealed by a romantic engraving of 1687 (Boplan G., 1990). It suggests that the downtown of Terekhtemyriv was located on a mountain plateau, was surrounded by a wall with towers, gates, and in the centre of the settlement was dominated by the monastery watchtower.

The nature of the location and fortification structure in the 17 – late 18th centuries in most places retained the properties typical of Old Ruthynian and Lithuanian times. This is confirmed by the typology of the location of Slavic-Ruthynian settlements formulated by archaeologist Mykhailo Kuchera, namely, settlements on remains; settlements on remnant-like capes; cape settlements; settlements on the edge of a natural obstacle; settlements on elevations; settlements on flat terrain (Kuchera M., 1976, p. 252). The outlines of the downtown and castles repeated the shape of natural relief. Instead, deep ditches and high embankments were dug in the areas to be stored.

In Fastiv, the castle was surrounded by a trapezoidal section of a high shaft, and its area was 800 square yards (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 26) (Fig. 2). In Rzhyshev, the castle was surrounded by a moat and a shaft 2 fathoms high, the length of each side was 30 fathoms. The old church was provided with a similar shaft and moat. The downtown of Rzhyshev was surrounded by a shaft 1 yard high, the length and width were about 40 yards (Funduklei I., 1848, pp. 36–37).

In Brusyliv, the height of the shafts was 4 yardsticks, the southern bulwarks were 135 yardsticks, the eastern and western 124, and the other two, which formed an angle, had 4 yardsticks (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 40). In the Pohrebyshe, the castle was located between two ponds and was 400 yards long (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 43). The downtown of Romanivka was surrounded by a semicircle by an embankment.



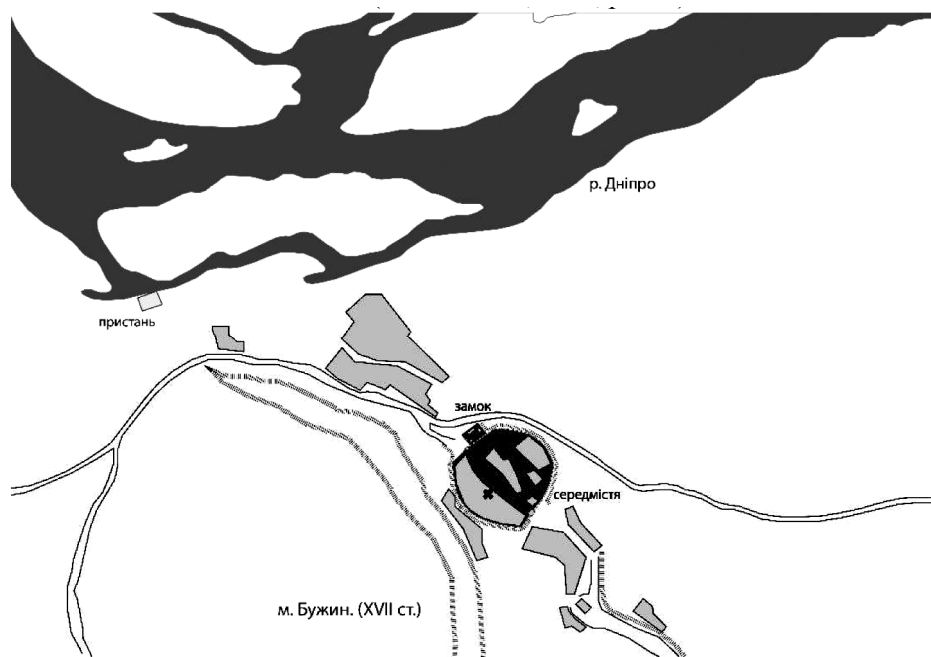
**Fig. 2.** Fastiv. The downtown in the 17th century. Description of the author

Unava River at both ends. It had 437 fathoms long and 1 to 4 fathoms wide (Funduklei, I., 1848. p. 50). The downtown of Tetiev was surrounded by a shaft 3 fathoms wide and 2 fathoms high. (Funduklei I., 1848. p. 56).

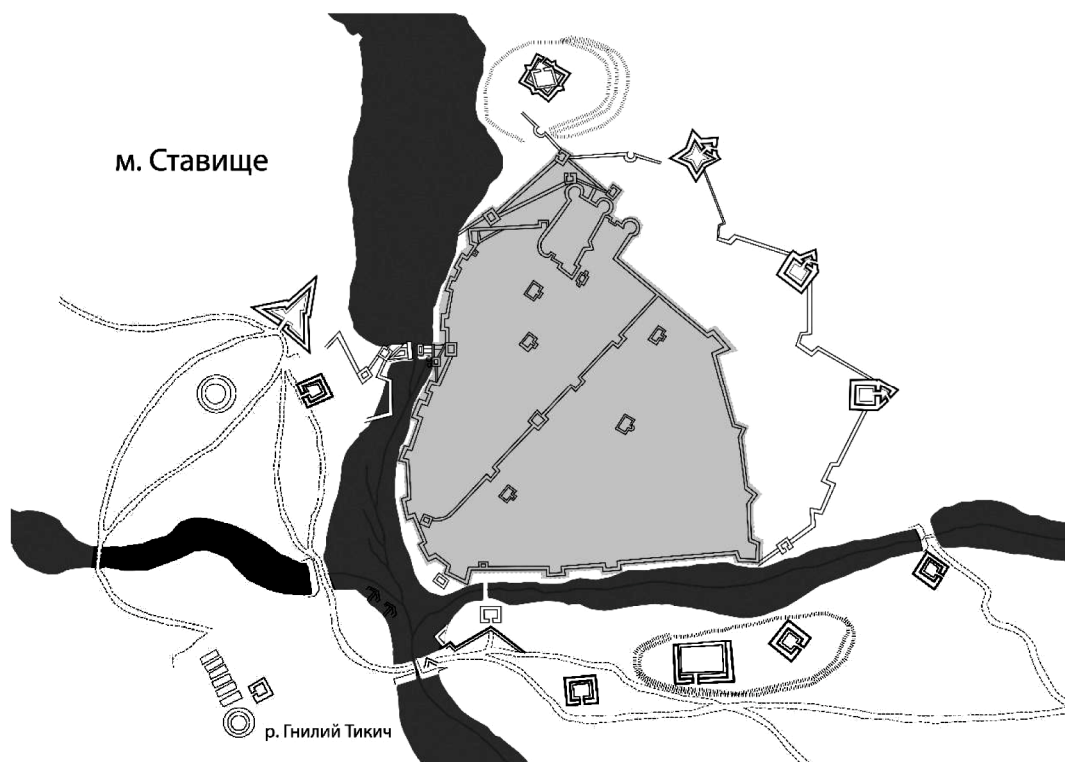
On the map of Guillaume Levasser de Boplan in 1650, cities with reliable fortifications were: Lysyanka, Vilshana, Smila, Chyhyryn, Kryliv, Borovytsia, Cherkasy, Moshny, Korsun, Boguslav and others. This indicates the existence of a territorial defence strategy. Instead, numerous wars and Tatar raids, a small number of hostages and small arms, the decline and lack of repairs to the fortifications determined its low effectiveness. There were more private cities than royal ones. Thus, nature and fortification structure of the city centre during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries depended primarily on the resources, ambitions and erudition of the landowner.

The strategically important location of the settlement caused conflicts between the owners. Thus, the town of Buzhyn in the early 17th century belonged to the Kyiv St. Nicholas Monastery. Korsun elder Danylovych selected him. The location of a profitable pier, a convenient crossing of the Dnipro and a strategically valuable area of concentration of troops led to the construction of powerful fortifications of the castle and the downtown. Here, in 1654, the Kosh Ataman Sirko escaped from the encirclement of the voivode Chernetski. To avenge Chernetski burned the city. Near Buzhyn in 1663, Yuri Khmelnytsky's army defeated an army of Moscovites led by Romodanovski. In 1677 Buzhyn was destroyed by the Turkish army. (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 674–676). Boplan's map shows that the castle is located on the north side of the fortified downtown to control the crossing of the Dnipro. According to Schubert's map, the city centre had a large, sprawling spindle-shaped market square, on the west side of which stood a church (Fig. 3).

Town of Stavyshe, (old name Lubomyr), had a complex system of earthen fortifications. The lustration of 1629–1632 states that this town was founded by the mayor eight years ago and had 800 houses. Instead, this year it burned down almost completely, leaving barely 60 houses. (Derzharchiv u Krakovi) Already on the map of 1664 with images of the siege of Stavyshe, four earthen redoubts were recorded, which protected the bulwarks of the city with bastions (Fig. 4). Downtown had a triangular outline, and in the northern corner was a castle with corner earthen ramparts, pots and a bastion. Before the destruction of the settlement in 1665, there were 6 churches by the Polish Crown Hetman Stefan Charnetsky. The ensemble of the market square was emphasized by the wooden churches of the Intercession and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The brick Roman Catholic church was built in 1756 (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 435).



**Fig. 3.** Buzhyn. The downtown in the 17th century. Description of the author

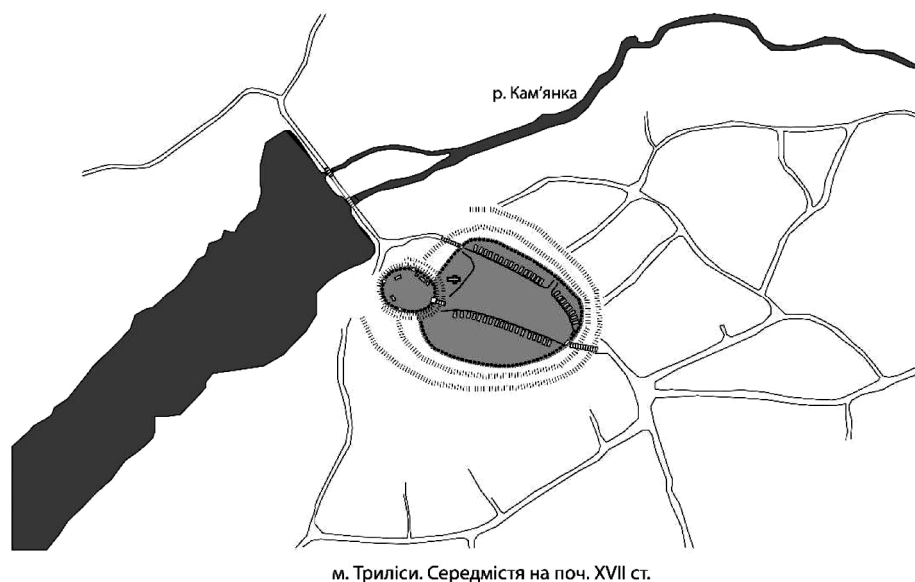


**Fig. 4.** Stavyshe. The downtown in the 17th century. Description of the author

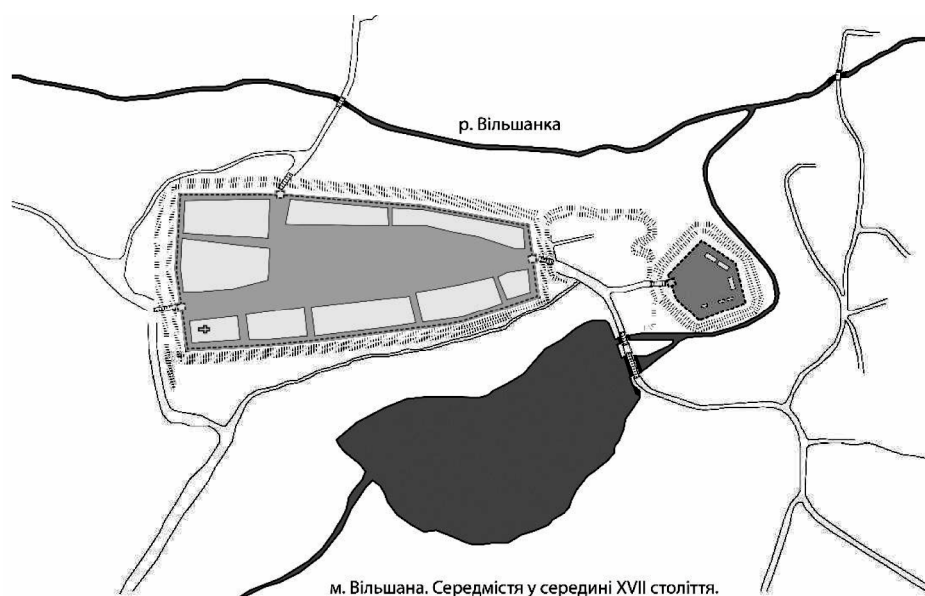
The similar fortification was in Kryliv (now flooded by the Kremenchuk Reservoir). The surrounding system of bulk redoubts was also used here, and a castle stood in the centre (Pohilevich L. 1864, pp. 670–671).

The combination of the contours of the round castle and the downtown is the most common variant of the fortification structure of the Kyiv region of the 17th – the end of the 18th centuries. For example, this planning composition has survived to this day in Trylisy near Fastiv (Fig. 5). The lustration of 1629–1632 describes in detail the characteristic features of this settlement: “this town lies above the river Kamyanka. Surrounded by an

*oak fence and a deep moat dug. In this town, there is a castle set on a hill. It is surrounded by a moat, an embankment and piles. The castle has one entrance gate and three towers. It has old buildings. There are three rooms with rooms. Cellar and kitchen. There are 60 houses in the town, 10 of which are under castle order. ”* (Derzharchiv u Krakovi) To the north of the castle was a wooden church. In 1779 another building dedicated to the Great Martyr Dmytriy was built, and in 1856 a new one was built – to St. Basil the Great (Pohilevich L., 1864, p. 696).



**Fig. 5.** Trylisy. The downtown in the 17th century. Description of the author



**Fig. 6.** Vilshana. The downtown in the 17th century. Description of the author

In the town of Dyer, the downtown is formed around an elongated trapezoidal market square. After the destruction of the town in 1703 by the army of Colonel Semen Paliy, it was rebuilt for several decades. In the 18th century, downtown was no longer protected by reliable fortifications. Only the castle was rebuilt. This is confirmed by the lustration of 1767: “*Dymer Castle stands in a new place, above Ruda. There is a moat around this castle. It is surrounded by a fence. There is a new gate at the entrance to the castle. There are two small*

*huts at this gate. In the middle of the castle is an old house. It has four rooms. The baby has a lyamus, a bakery, a kitchen, a spy, a stable, a cart and a well. Behind this castle, in front of the gate, there is a new courtyard with two huts and two porches. It is surrounded by piles and built under the residence of the governor.” (V. Stefanyk LNNBU)*

As a result of calculating the ratio of the size of the city centre and the castle, it was found that the most common correspondences were 4: 1 (Buzhyn, Vilshana (Fig. 6), Germanivka, Dymer, Pavoloch and others), less often 3:1 (Trylisy, Skvyra) and 5:1 (Lysyanka, Stavyshe).

## Conclusion

At the beginning of the 17th century, most of the defensive perimeter of the downtown had the awry configuration. Towers and bastions were not used in their defence system. For some examples, the gate structures were architecturally different. The defence system of castles was almost the same as the fortifications of the city centre.

In the second half of the 17th century, towers and bastions appeared in only a few castles as a result of reconstruction and modernization. Downtowns maintain a simple defence system. Only in some examples of the defensive perimeter earthen bastions and redoubts are built.

In the 18th century, as a result of Swedish expansion (1700–1721) and the Haydamat uprisings (1734, 1750, and 1768), the fortification system gradually declined. In some cities, fortifications are being strengthened. Thus, in 1737 additional fortifications were built around Vasylkiv (Arhiv Yugo-zapadnoi Rossii). Instead, the fortifications of the downtowns did not become an obstacle for the Haidamaks. A large number of fortified cities marked on the map of Boplan lose their status and fortification.

The defensive architecture of the castles continues to be maintained, partially regenerated and assigned to penitentiaries. For example, the audit of Zvenygorod Castle in 1765 states that the castle is surrounded by an oak fence, near the gate there are covered buildings for Cossacks and prisoners. A watchtower was built on them. In front of the gate, there is a building covered with bast, an oak barn with a gallery for defence against haidamaks, a ground-covered stable and a cart. (Funduklei I. 1848, p. 450) At the beginning of the 18th century, a wooden castle with a double palisade and a rampart in Kivshovata was destroyed (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 55). As a result of the capture in 1768, the Haidamaks destroyed the castle with four corner towers in Lysyanka, (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 499) and a castle with high ramparts in Smila (Funduklei I., 1848, p. 11).

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### **ХАРАКТЕР ТА ФОРТИФІКАЦІЙНИЙ УКЛАД СЕРЕДМІСТЬ У МІСТАХ КИЇВЩИНИ XVII – КІНЦЯ XVIII СТОЛІТЬ**

**Анотація.** У статті описано характер та фортифікаційний уклад середмість у містах Київщини XVII – кінця XVIII століть. Збройні війська Польщі, Туреччини, Швеції, Росії впродовж XVII – кінця XVIII століть розгортали в Україні численні фронти воєнних операцій. Відтак, у відповідь загрозам, середмістя та замки у містах починають покращувати: копають рови та насипають вали, бастіони, рavelіни та влаштовують додаткові пастки. Під час розбудови міст використовували природні оборонні чинники – вигнуті береги або гирла річок, які впливали на розмір та конфігурацію абрису середмість. В кількох поселеннях надійно укріпленими були лише замки. На карта Гійома Левассера де Боплана 1650 року вирізняє міста з надійним фортифікаційним забезпеченням, а саме: Лисянка, Вільшана, Сміла, Чигирин, Крилів, Боровиця, Черкаси, Мошини, Корсунь, Богуслав та інші. Це свідчить про існування територіальної оборонної стратегії. Натомість численні війни і татарські набіги, мала чисельність залоги і незначне озброєння, занепад та відсутність ремонтів фортифікацій визначили її малу ефективність. Приватних міст було більше, ніж королівських. Відтак, характер та фортифікаційний уклад середмістя впродовж XVII–XVIII століть, в першу чергу залежав від ресурсів, амбіцій та ерудиції землевласника. В результаті обрахунку співвідношення розмірів територій середмістя та замку встановлено, що найбільш розповсюдженими були відповідності 4:1 (Бужин, Вільшана, Германівка, Димер, Паволоч та інші), рідше 3:1 (Триліси, Сквир) та 5:1 (Лисянка, Ставище). У другій половині XVII століття, в результаті відбудови та модернізації, лише в кількох замках з'являються бапти та бастіони. Середмістя зберігають просту оборонну систему. Лише в окремих прикладах оборонного периметру, будують земляні бастіони та редути. У XVIII столітті, внаслідок шведської експансії (1700–1721 рр.) та гайдамацьких повстань (1734 р., 1750 р. та 1768 р.) фортифікаційний уклад середмість поступово занепадає. Оборонна архітектура замків продовжує підтримуватися, частково регенерується і призначається під пенітенціарні заклади.

**Ключові слова.** Середмістя, замок, характер, фортифікаційний уклад, міста Київщини, XVII–XVIII століття.