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CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESERVE “ILISU” AND IT’S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INDUSTRY

Abstract. Ilisu village has its own clean ecological condition located away 12 km from the town of Gakh of Azerbaijan, in a trench on the left bank of the Kurmuk river that surrounded by mountains on all sides, always attracted tourists with its beautiful nature and rich architectural heritage. The territory of Ilisu village from the point of view of architecture and history, shows the importance of declaring it as a reserve village. The reserve has been implemented since June 1, 2005. Ilisu village became the center of Ilisu sultanate in the last Middle ages, in the beginning of XVII–XIX centuries, which played an important role in the history of the region. Ilisu Nature and Historical and Cultural Reserve is a clear proof that it will play a positive role in the development of tourism in Azerbaijan with its Came or neighborhood mosques that located in Ilisu’sBucag, Tovlatala, Sangar neighborhoods and study of civil and memorial buildings as examples of cultural heritage. At the end of the Middle Ages, depending on the military situation, special attention was paid to defensive architecture in the territory of the Sultanate. Such military defenses include the fortress of Sumu, Hassan Khan, Ruslar.

Along with the defensive and religious monuments of the village of Ilisu, its residential buildings of the “mansion” type also attract attention with its architectural interpretation. Residential areas in the old part of Ilisu attract attention with their unique architectural solutions. Today, Ilisu Reserve is of great importance for the development of the tourism industry in Azerbaijan with its clean ecology, healing properties, mineral waters, beautiful nature, as well as rich cultural monuments.

Key words: cultural and historical monuments, religious, protective, civil buildings, tourism.

Introduction. Located at a distance of 12 km from the city of Gakh, in the lowlands on the left bank of the Kurmuk River, surrounded by mountains on four sides with its history, cultural heritage, clean ecological condition, beautiful nature has always attracted tourists to itself. In recent years, along with local tourists, tourists from foreign countries have also become acquainted with the Ilisu nature and cultural reserve. The purpose of the study, presenting the cultural and historical heritage of Ilisu, to explore the development of tourism here.

According to the Decree of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 26, 2002 under the number 100 in the village of Ilisu and in the adjacent territories, the State Cultural and Historical Reserve Ilisu was created. The importance of the territory of Ilisu village from the point of view of architecture and history indicates the importance of declaring it a city-reserve. Monuments on the territory of the Ilisu cultural and historical reserve are protected by the state, studied from the scientific side, control over the use of immovable cultural and historical monuments, their preservation. The reserve has been operating since June 1, 2005 [9]. The combination of Ilisu, Sarybash, Agchay and Gorug villages included in the unified urban development structure of Ilisu, along with the creation of the unity of historical urban development in the reserve, can be perceived as a single space in the protection of cultural heritage, cultural and ecological tourism. [2]

The interpretation of the main material. The natural beauty of Ilisu, rich flora and fauna, contributed along with the announcement of the village of the Cultural and Historical Reserve, as well as its registration as a nature reserve. The Ilisu State Nature Reserve was created with the aim of protecting and enhancing the natural complex of the southern slopes of the Caucasus, rare fauna and flora, which is threatened with extinction, restoration of the former state of forests and prevention of erosion and flooding of soils by the decision of the Government of Azerbaijan No. 57 dated February 20, 1987 at the territory of 9345 hectares. The nature reserve is located on the southern slope of the Greater Caucasus (Gakh district), between Zaqatala and Ismayilli reserves at an altitude of 700–2100 meters. In 2003, by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 31, the territory of the reserve was expanded. At the moment, the territory of the reserve is 17,381.6 hectares. It is likely that Ilisu, with its rich flora and fauna, streams and waterfalls, will become a tourist center [8].

Favorable from the point of view of defense, the location and proximity to the flat villages determine a special place in the village of Ilisu in the region. The

road, combining the inaccessible mountain villages of Azerbaijan and Dagestan with the region's plain, trading centers of the and finally with the entire South.

Caucasus, passes through the center of the Ilisu village. It is no accident that the village of Ilisu in the late Mid Ages, at the beginning of the XVII–XIX centuries, played an important role in the history of the region, became the center of the Ilisu Sultanate. It was the location on the border with Dagestan that also influenced the architecture of Ilisu.

During the Ilisu Sultanate, the brightest period of the Ilisu Sultanate, during its 300-year existence, sometimes accepting the vassalism of Iran, and sometimes the Ottoman Empire, it almost always maintained its independence[4]. In the middle of the 18th century, the influence of the sultanate grew so much that the Ottoman Empire, giving the sultan the rank of pasha with two flags considered to be a high rank at that time, recognized it as Sheki Beylerbey.

Since the beginning of the XIX century, the village of Ilisu has become a center of resistance against the Russian army. In 1803, the Sultanate of Ilisu was included in the Russian Empire. However, despite this, she was able to maintain her independent form of government. Danial Sultan, who was appointed ruler of Ilisu in 1830 after dissatisfaction with the Russian ruling circles in 1844, having raised an uprising, raised the people of the Sultanate against the Russians, however, after the defeat, he sided with the head of the national liberation movement of the Highlanders Sheikh Shamil. The Russians burned the village of Ilisu, which is the center of the sultanate. The territory of the sultanate was divided into makhals and subordinated to the Dzhar-Belokan district [7].

All these historical facts influenced the development, as well as the decline of the village, and this, in turn, on the structure of urban development of a re-sidential settlement. The main central axis, which makes up the Ilisu city-planning artery, is a continuation of the road leading from Gakh to Ilisu and continues from the Sangyar quarter at the entrance to the village to the very end. This street, being also the community center of the village, concentrated 3 blocks around itself, the Juma mosque, the tombs of the Ilisu sultans on the side of the mosque, several springs, residential buildings, which are the architectural and historical buildings of Ilisu

The secondary streets of the village, which has a straightforward planning form, having joined like capillaries to the main artery – the shopping street on the side, formed the town-planning structure of the village (fig.1). Such ribbon-like shopping streets were characteristic of some medieval streets of Azerbaijan in the 16th–18th centuries. (Icherisheher Baku, Shusha, Sheki, Lahij, Gakh).



Figure 1. Ilisu shopping street.



Figure 2. Sumu castle



Figure 3. The Great Mosque



Figure 4. Albanian monument



Figure 5. Ilisun neighborhood mosques. Tavatala Mosque



Figure 6. Corner neighborhood mosque



Figure 7. Sangar neighborhood mosque



Figure 8. Remains of a 19th century neighborhood mosque



Figure 9. Tombs of sultans



Figure 10. Great Bridge



Figure 11. Ilisu residential buildings



Figure 12. Ilisu residential buildings and entrance portal



Figure 13. Interior of the house

At the end of the Mid Ages, depending on the martial law in the territory of the Sultanate, special attention was paid to defensive and fortification architecture. Fortresses Sumu, Hasan Khan, Ruslar can be included in such military defenses.

Sumu Gala is located on the side of the mountains, on the outskirts of Ilisu village (fig. 2). Sumu-gala consists of a five-tier, square-shaped layout of the building (6x6). In the villages of the northwestern region of Azerbaijan (Chenghis Gala, Part in the village of Kabaloba, the Yunaukh tower, the tower in the village of Masekh) there are its close analogues. Although the date of construction of the tower is not accurate, by analogy we can say that it dates from the 17th century. The building is an excellent example of housing and fortresses common in the Caucasus. The monument is built of limestone and river boulders. The wall thickness is 70–80 cm at the bottom and 60–65 cm at the top. On the walls of the second and third floors are arched window spaces. The fortress was restored in 2003 and is now used as a museum [7].

To the north of the city of Gakh, on the right bank of the Kurmuk River, in the territory of the village of Gakhbash, there is a small fortress called Hassan Khan Castle. The castle consists of towers and walls. On the towers are two rows of loopholes and arched window openings, and on the walls are embrasures. During the construction of the tower, river boulders and lime mortar were used. The history of the construction of the fortress dates back to the second half of the 19th century [6].

Ruslar Fortress. Most of the buildings and structures were destroyed after Russian troops occupied the Ilisu Sultanate. To protect themselves from the attacks of freedom-loving highlanders, new castles were erected by Russian troops. Only two of them have survived to our time. Built of uncouth stone, a two-story circular-shaped fortress near the Ulu mosque in the center of Ilisu village is one of them. The thickness of the walls at the bottom is 150 cm and 130 cm at the top. On the second floor there are six large square windows for cannons and two narrow loopholes between them. On the ground floor there are only loopholes. The part of Ilisu village adjacent to the castle is called “Gala-Mehellesi” (“Fortress quarter”).

Being the central mosque, The Jame Mosque, built on the central street of Ilisu, is called the Ulu Masjid (Great Mosque - Old Mosque). The epigraphic stone found in the attic of the mosque during restoration work shows that the mosque existed in 1027 hijri / 1617-1618. The second inscription to the right of the door, with a complex composition of floral

ornaments with a beautiful handwriting of suls, says that the mosque was thoroughly renovated, enlarged in 1112 / 1700–1701 by Sultan Sahur-İlisu, known for his generosity, wisdom and honesty [1]. Ulu mosque is one of the rare monuments that survived the destructions of Russian troops and today showing the glorious history of the İlisu Sultanate. The mosque was built in the traditional style inherent in the region. Its characteristic element is a three-arch balcony on the main facade. The use of river boulder and brick during masonry gives a pleasant color to the exterior of the mosque (fig.3). The mosque found a solution being with three naves in the interior and with three-span porticoes in the exterior.

Quarter mosques located in the İlisu's quarters of Bujag, Tovlegala, Sangyar, despite their small size in terms of spatial, volumetric and in-depth solutions, nevertheless formed the quarter nodes of the village around the square. The mosques, being built with one lobby and a balcony, are based on a beam-post system. (fig.5,6,7,8)

The graves of Ali-Sultan-Bey, Muhammad-Bey, Khalil-Sultan-Bey, Ahmad Khan, originating from the Sultan clan and resting behind Ulu Jame in the İlisu cemetery, were turned into a place of pilgrimage by the locals. The architectural solution of tombs being regional in nature can be considered as an analogue of Dagestan tombs (fig.9) [4].

The Bridge of Ulu of the İlisu reserve is the bridge constructed on a Kur-muk river on the road leads from İlisu to Gakh (fig.10). The single-span bridge construction is constructed from a solution of limestone and a river boulder.

Residential buildings of the village also cause special attention. Besides with the civil, defensive and religious monuments of İlisu village, its residential buildings of the "imarat" type attract attention due to its architectural interpretation. Residential quarters in the old part of causes attention with its specific architectural solution. They consist mainly of houses built of uncouth stone using bricks, of houses of the "imarat" type with head facades facing the courtyard. Window spaces highlight the exterior with arched or rectangular shapes. Ground floors of street facades are windowless. Here, only the entrance of the building deserves attention. The abundance of timber in this area has contributed to the decision of houses with wooden columns and beam-rack systems. All historical and architectural heritage, with the exception of some residential buildings in İlisu, is included in the state register, inventoried and protected by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Conclusion. Today, Ilisu Reserve plays an important role in the development of the tourism industry in Azerbaijan with its clean ecology, healing properties, mineral waters, beautiful nature and rich cultural monuments. Cold summers and snowy winters contribute to summer and winter tourism. The lack of hotels in the countryside necessitates the construction of recreation centers and hotels outside the reserve. It is considered advisable to use residential buildings in the village as hostels, a teahouse, restaurants, cafes, as well as displaying exhibits reflecting the history of the sultanate and local ethnography in unused monuments as museums. The central public street of Ilisu can be transformed into a trading space where handicraft works of national holidays, festivals, and fairs are sold. In addition, the organization of the hunting season in the protected area, the creation of sports tourism (mountaineering, Chovgan national games, horse riding, skiing, etc.) can help attract tourists to Ilisu, which, in turn, will ensure employment of the population in the service sector, the flow of investment in the country's economy and the popularization of the history and culture of Azerbaijan throughout the world.

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“İLİSU” TARİX-MƏDƏNİYYƏT QORUĞU

VƏ ONUN TURİZM SƏNAYESİNİN İNKİŞAFINDA ROLU

Azərbaycanın Qax şəhərindən 12 km məsafədə, Kürmük çayının sol sahilində çökəklikdə, dörd tərəfdən dağlarla əhatə olunmuş İlisu kəndi özünün təmiz ekoloji durumu, gözəl təbiəti və zəngin memarlıq irsi ilə daima turistləri cəlb etmişdir. İlisu kəndi ərazisinin memarlıq və tarix nöqtəyi-nəzərindən mühüm əhəmiyyət kəsb etməsi, onun qoruq şəhəri elan olunmasının vacibliyini göstərir. Qoruq 1 iyun 2005-ci ildən fəaliyyət göstərir. İlisu kəndi son orta əsrlərdə, XVII–XIX əsrin əvvəllərində regionun tarixində mühüm rol oynamış İlisu sultanlığının mərkəzinə çevrilmişdir. İlisunun Bucaq, Tövlətala, Səngər məhəllələrində yerləşən Came, məhəllə məscidləri, mülki və xatirə tikililəri mədəni irs nümunələri kimi diqqət çəkir. Orta əsrlərin sonlarında hərbi vəziyyətdən asılı olaraq, Sultanlıq ərazisində müdafiə memarlığına xüsusi diqqət yetirildi. Bu cür hərbi müdafiə tikililərinə Sumu qala, Həsən xan, Ruslar qalaları daxildir. İlisu kəndinin müdafiə və dini abidələri ilə yanaşı, “malikanə” tipli yaşayış binaları da memarlıq təfsiri ilə diqqəti cəlb edir. Bu gün İlisu qoruğu təmiz ekologiyası, müalicəvi xüsusiyyətləri, mineral suları, gözəl təbiəti, eləcə də zəngin mədəniyyət abidələri ilə Azərbaycanda turizm sənayesinin inkişafı üçün böyük əhəmiyyətə malikdir.

Açar sözlər: mədəniyyət və tarixi abidələr, dini, müdafiə, mülki tikililər, turizm

Рахиба Алиева (Азербайджан)

ИСТОРИКО-КУЛЬТУРНЫЙ ЗАПОВЕДНИК «ИЛИСУ»

И ЕГО РОЛЬ В РАЗВИТИИ ТУРИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ИНДУСТРИИ

Село Илису имеющее чистое экологическое состояние, расположено в 12 км от Гахского района Азербайджана, в траншее на левом берегу реки Курмук, окруженное горами со всех сторон, всегда привлекало туристов своей красивой природой и богатым архитектурным наследием. Территория поселка Илису с точки зрения архитектуры и истории свидетельствует о важности объявления его заповедной деревней. Заповедник был введен в действие с 1 июня 2005 года. Деревня Илису стала центром султаната Илису в последнее средневековье, в начале XVII–XIX веков, что сыграло важную роль в истории края. Природно-исторический и культурный заповедник Илису является ярким доказательством

того, что он будет играть положительную роль в развитии туризма в Азербайджане с его мечетями, которые расположены в кварталах Илису Бучаг, Товлатала, Сангар, и примерами изучения гражданских и мемориальных сооружений культурного наследия. В конце средневековья, в зависимости от военной обстановки, особое внимание уделялось оборонительной архитектуре на территории султаната. К таким военно-оборонительным сооружениям можно отнести крепости Суму, Хасан-хан, Руслар.

Наряду с оборонительными и культовыми памятниками села Илису, его жилые здания типа “особняк” также привлекают внимание своей архитектурной интерпретацией. Жилые районы в старой части Илису привлекают внимание своими уникальными архитектурными решениями. Сегодня заповедник Илису имеет большое значение для развития туристической индустрии в Азербайджане с его чистой экологией, целебными свойствами, минеральными водами, красивой природой, а также богатыми культурными памятниками.

Ключевые слова: культурно-исторические памятники, культовые, защитные, гражданские здания, туризм.