

Holy Trinity Church – historical background

It is known that about 300 years ago the Trinity Church was located in the so-called *Upper Part* of Kyiv and was a spiritual outpost of one of the city's defence fortifications in the 17th century. At that time, there were about six such fortifications and all of them were named after churches located nearby. So the Holy Trinity Church existed in the city until the middle of the 19th century.

At the beginning of the 19th century, by the decree of Emperor Nicholas I, new residential areas were set up in Kyiv. Streets were being built and widened. Thus, a "new build-up area" appeared in the city, which today is considered part of Pecherskyi district, not far from the Olympic National Sports Complex (NSC Olimpiyskyi).

"St. Philaret of Kyiv (Amphiteatrov) paid attention to the fact that new residential quarters were being built in this district without a single orthodox church, while the old part of the city had much more churches than necessary.

Therefore, the Metropolitan turned to Governor-General Bibikov with a request to relocate the wooden Trinity Church from the Old Kyiv part of the capital to the new residential block of the city. The small church was dismantled and soon a new church appeared on the corner of Zhylianska and Velyka Vasylkivska streets. Its construction began in 1856 and on 12 October 1859, the consecration of the new church took place," S. Shumylo.

The shrine of the church was an old icon of Our Lady of Kazan. It is also known from archived sources that at the beginning of the 20th century the church community decided to build a large stone church. "A specially established committee was engaged in it. The design of the new church was developed by the diocesan architect Yevhen Yermakov. On 11 September 1911, the construction of the new church began. In 1913, the walls of the church were completely ready, and later, four small domes were erected. The height of the Trinity Church was 56.5 metres. It remained to erect the central tent-shaped dome and proceed to the interior decoration work. However, the events of the revolution prevented the completion of construction. With the establishment of Soviet regime in Kyiv, the construction of the church was completely stopped. In 1931, by order of the People's Commissariat of Education of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the unfinished church was demolished and the church building was dismantled to extract the bricks. However, the old Trinity Church, which was located nearby, continued to operate for some time during the years of the godless communist regime. In September 1920, a church community was registered with it," S. Shumylo.

The church remained active until 1934, and then, at the direction of the local authorities, it was transformed into a granary, and many of the clergy who served in it were subject to repressions.

The church service in the Trinity Church resumed only during the years of German occupation. The church also remained active in the post-war period. The parish life of the Trinity Church was so active in the post-war period that the Soviet authorities noted the influence and large congregation of this parish.

Such active service in the church continued until 1963, when the authorities of Kyiv decided to abolish the Trinity Parish, transfer its community to the Holy Ascension Church at Demiyivka, and destroy the Trinity Church.

In 1963, during one July night, the church was dismantled by the military, and soon a summer cafe was opened on that site. And until 2011, there was nothing on the site that could remind us of the church.