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# Architecture and Evolution of the Simferopol Military Hospital from the Moment of Foundation till Present

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**Abstract.** The article presents history of development of one of the oldest medical institutions, the military hospital named after St. Luke of Crimea, located in the city of Simferopol. For more than 200 years, it has been undergoing many changes and hardships, it has been subjected to many tests, the author considers how the architecture of this institution has changed over the past years.

## INTRODUCTION

Today, the Crimean Peninsula has become one of centers of attention, and the possibilities of its development, its competitive advantages [13], bioclimatic characteristics [12], and identity [14] are being studied. On its territory there are many unique cities, one of the largest is Simferopol. This city is relatively young – it was founded in 1784, by Catherine II, but it has preserved a considerable number of architectural monuments, one of which is the military hospital named St. Luke of Crimea.

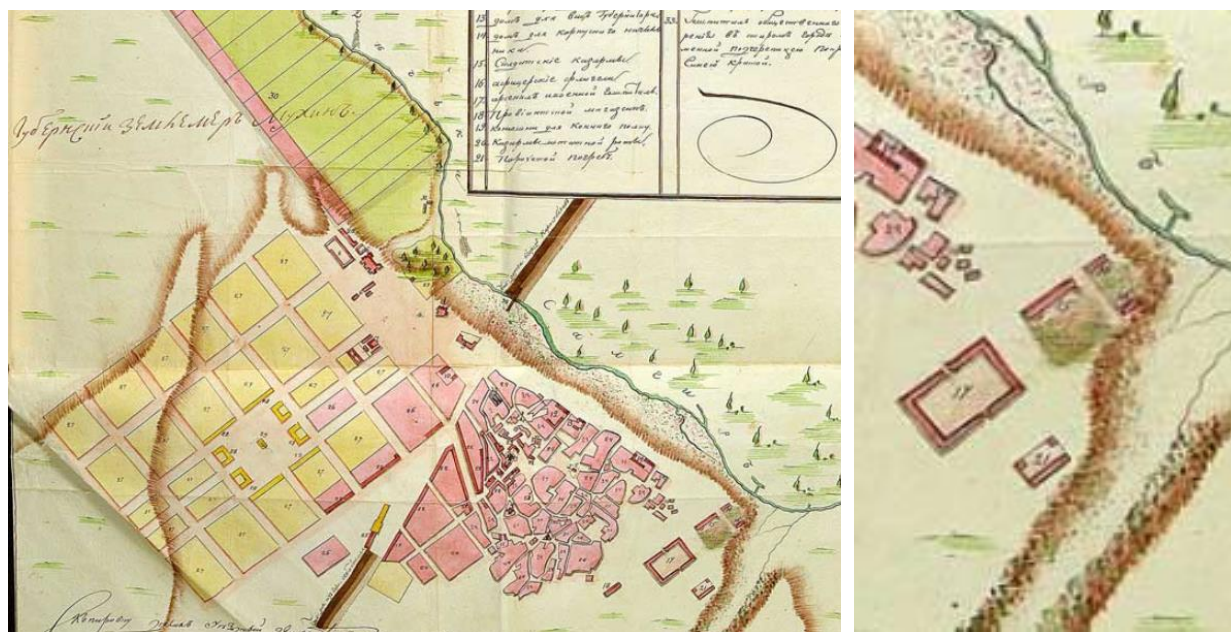
In the late XVII-early XVIII centuries, during the reforms of Peter the Great, Russian medicine underwent significant changes. At that time architecture of military hospitals began to develop in Russia, the first state medical institutions appeared in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kronstadt, Revel, Kazan, Astrakhan and other cities [16]. By decree of Peter the Great (1721), magistrates were obliged to build "state hospitals for the care of the sick and the maimed, and for the most elderly people of both sexes": as a result, even during the life of Peter the Great, 10 hospitals and over 500 infirmaries were built in the country [11]. Already by the 1820s and 1830s, a hospital work was organized, it consisted of constant military hospitals, infirmaries, and temporary military hospitals.

## Building of the Simferopol Military Hospital

First mention about the Simferopol military hospital refers to June 23, 1805, when a civilian hospital was first organized on its base. On the far outskirts of the city, the first "charitable institution", in accordance with the decree of His Imperial Majesty, "hospitals to cure the sick, should the Order of public charity to try to establish them for crowded cities, out of town, but near thereof down the river." That's why the place was chosen near the Salgir river. The hospital changed its location after 2 years, and its premises were occupied by the Crimean Psychiatric Hospital No. 1, located in the center of the Crimean capital.

Further placement of the hospital can be determined by the preserved maps of Simferopol. The city plan of 1811 shows a military hospital located at a distance from the city, along with barracks in the vicinity of the river (Figure 1). Its location partially meets the requirements of the time described in the regulations and hospitals: "To build a state-

owned house, choose the position of the place elevated, not surrounded by swampy places... along the river below the city and to the north side of it".



**FIGURE 1.** Map of the city of Simferopol in 1811, indicating the location of the hospital [12].

The shape and layout of the hospital building can be determined by the preserved reconstruction of B. Kondratsky (Figure 2). On the plan, the hospital is marked with the number IV and is a complex of buildings that form a closed courtyard. According to the reconstruction, the hospital was one-story, and the free adjacent territories could be used for the construction of barracks in case of an increasing number of wounded.



**FIGURE 2.** Map of Simferopol at the beginning of the XIX century. View of old town (Akmechet). Reconstruction of B. Kondratsky.

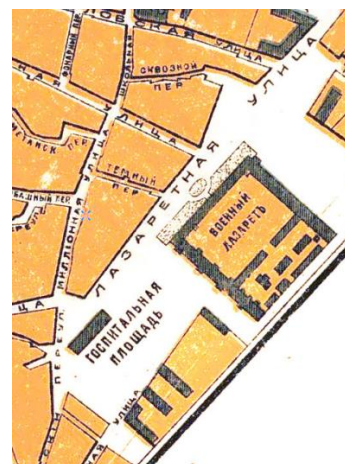
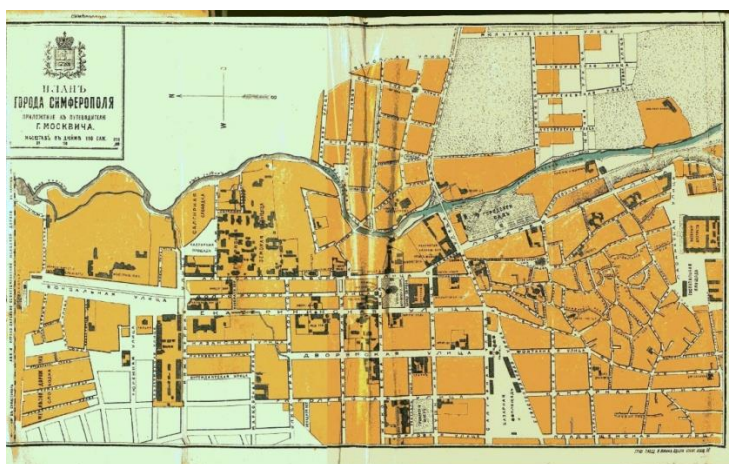


The Crimean war, which began almost 50 years after the hospital building in Simferopol, exposed all the shortcomings of the organization, supply and tactics of the medical service of that time. By the beginning of the allied troops landing in the Crimea, there were only 5 military-land, (constant) hospitals and 1 naval hospital with a total capacity of 1,950 beds, the hospital in Simferopol was planned for 310 places [10].

Special difficulties were in Simferopol, which became the main place gathering of the sick and wounded from all over the Peninsula. There were so many wounded and patients that the whole town became the hospital: by the end of October 1854 -5,000 patients, and by the end of February 1855 – up to 7 000, despite the fact that there were only 2 hospitals, military and civil. Every public building, hut, and barracks was used for all the wounded soldiers and officers. And each new military operation increased the flow of wounded to the already overcrowded Simferopol, further transportation of them through the vast Perekop steppe and the narrow isthmus was very difficult.

In 1853-1856, during the Crimean war, the world-famous doctor M. I. Pirogov worked in the Simferopol military hospital. As he later wrote about this time: "The most terrible thing is the lack of vehicles, which causes the sick to constantly accumulate in various places, have to stay sometimes for days and nights on the floor without mattresses and linen, and suffer from transportation in jolting carts and on the worst road in the world; this causes the simplest wounds to deteriorate and the sick to become even more ill...I saw 700 patients go from Simferopol to Perekop; they put three or four... without litter, without tires, in some soldiers 'uniforms, some wearing only a shirt, and so lucky in a way, continued for one week, and nights nowhere, hence we spend the night under the open sky"[12]. Only in April 1855, two temporary military hospitals were established in Simferopol from Odessa, after that the number of places deployed for the wounded and sick was increased to 14,000.

The plan dated by 1880 shows the hospital in more detail, but its location remains the same (Figure 3). You can see that the building has become more complex in terms of plan, we can assume that all the support services were in the backyard.



**FIGURE 3.** Plan Simferopol from the guide 1880.

Russian army veterans of the liberation campaign in the Balkans were recovering in the hospital during the fighting of the Russian-Turkish war. Many participants of the Russian Japanese war, the first world war and the civil war were treated here [10].

On the map of 1914, we can easily find the hospital in the same place (Figure 4). it is already noticeable how much the city had grown, and the hospital that once stood on the outskirts became part of the urban fabric.

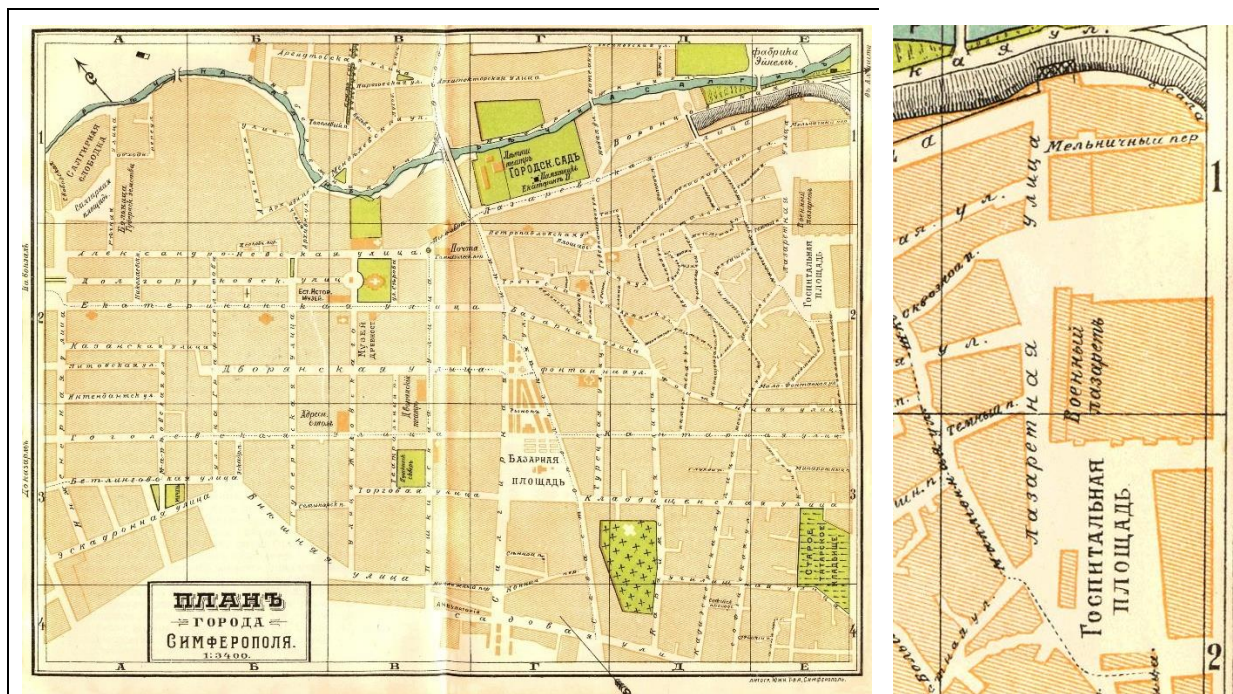


FIGURE 4. Plan of the Simferopol city in 1914.

### Relocation of a Military Hospital

In 1924, the hospital changed its location and moved to the building of the former women's gymnasium. A University is being opened on the site of the hospital, and the street where it was located will soon change its name from Hospital to Student street (Figure5).

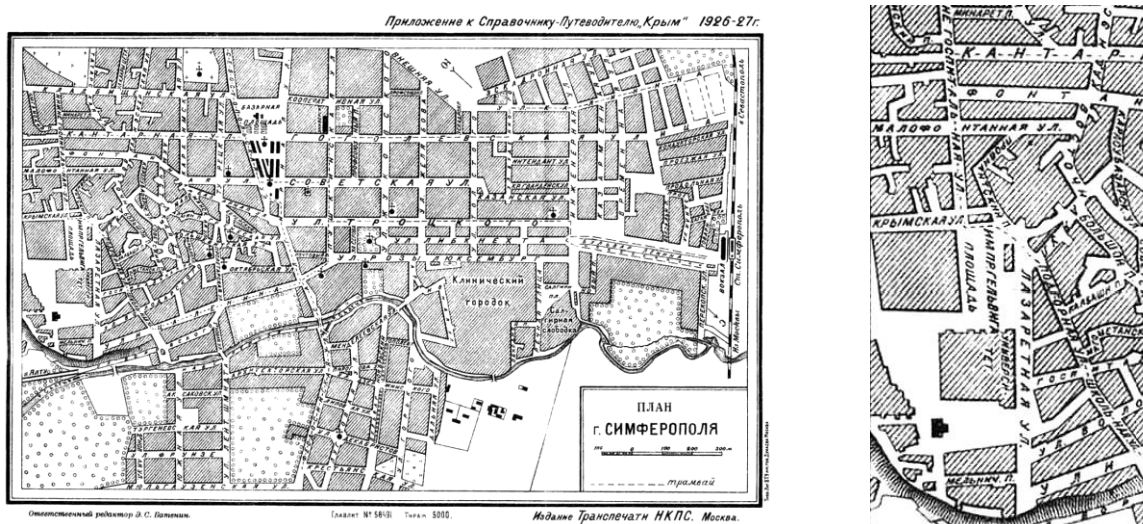


FIGURE 5. Plan of the Simferopol city. Appendix to the reference Guide "Crimea" 1926-1927.

The use of schools and gymnasiums for hospital needs was a frequent practice in the country. The similar functional scheme of these two types of institutions makes it easy to operate in a new quality, school corridors are



wide enough to transport gurneys, classrooms are easily turned into wards, teachers' offices into doctors' offices. The gymnasium building was built in 1899 and was originally located in the possessions of Perovskiy counts. The buildings located on this territory were first used as a hospital during the Crimean war. After the war, the building again turned into a residential estate, in the 1880s it was sold to a new owner, and in the 1890s the buildings were purchased by the Board of Trustees of the 1st Simferopol state women's gymnasium. By 1899, a new 700-seat academic building was added. Later, an Assembly hall with a corner building was built - now it is the corner of Gorky and Zhukovsky streets. Gymnasium building on a postcard of 1900s (Figure 6) [14]



**FIGURE 6.** Photo of the gymnasium building where the hospital is located.

In 1946-1947, in a military hospital the founder of the doctrine of purulent infection, Valentin Felixovich Voyno-Yasenetsky, known as St. Luke, worked. In honor of the 130th anniversary of his birth, the name of the hospital building was changed (according to the decree No. 689/2009 "About the naming of St. Luke (Professor V. F. Voyno-Yasenetsky) 386th military hospital of Military medical clinical center of the Crimean region"[8]).

Today, the 100-bed hospital annually treats 4-5 thousand soldiers and officers, pensioners of the Ministry of defense, war invalids, and participants in war actions.

For today most of the buildings have been preserved, but their condition leaves much to be desired. Some elements of the exterior decoration were lost, and the corner building lost its characteristic turret and part of the facade decorations. Pilasters on the facade of the building, arches and proportions are preserved (Figure7). The entrance group has retained its former shape, and there is no ramp on the porch, which makes difficult access for people with limited mobility.



**FIGURE 7.** Photos of the military hospital in the Simferopol city.

## CONCLUSION

The history of the military hospital in Simferopol is different from all others, this story is not only about the formation of the structure, the development of medicine, but also demonstrate a turning point in helping the wounded. Overcrowding, lack of space, personnel, drugs put doctors in new extreme conditions.

Simferopol had a lot of difficult trials, and the history of this city will always be associated with the events of the Crimean war, when the borders between the hospital and the city it was located went away and the whole city became a hospital.

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