

# FACTORS IN THE FORMATION OF RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS IN KHARKIV: A HISTORICAL AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF THE 17TH–18TH CENTURIES

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**Abstract.** This article presents a historical and spatial analysis of the formation of residential districts in the city of Kharkiv, with a focus on the earliest stages of urban development. The study explores two key periods in the city's evolution: its founding as a Cossack fortress and its transformation into a Sloboda town. Rather than providing a full historical overview of Kharkiv's urban history, the research concentrates on the foundational phases of its residential spatial structure.

The introduction outlines the unique context of Kharkiv's growth, characterized by the combination of spontaneous settlement, adaptation to natural terrain, and shifts in city-forming functions. A significant proportion of the city's area remains occupied by low-rise private housing—tracing its origins to the Sloboda settlements of the 17th–18th centuries – which now faces challenges related to integration into the contemporary urban fabric. The research emphasizes the spatial conflicts that emerge at the interface between these historically formed districts and modern high-density development, which underscores the need for nuanced urban planning strategies.

The study aims to identify the core principles behind the formation of Kharkiv's residential areas and understand how natural conditions, military and administrative logics, and social stratification influenced spatial patterns. It employs an interdisciplinary methodology, combining architectural history, urban planning, cartographic analysis, and socio-geographic approaches. Historical maps, general plans, archival records, and previous academic research are used to trace the transformations of Kharkiv's urban form.

Key results include the identification of two primary spatial models: the fortified city of the mid-17th century and the Sloboda-type settlements that emerged in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The fortress acted as a defensive-administrative nucleus, while Slobodas developed into semi-autonomous residential units with social, functional, and professional differentiation. Over time, the regular planning grid of the growing imperial city overlapped with the organic morphology of the Sloboda settlements, forming a complex, layered spatial structure. Particular attention is given to how landscape factors and social organization influenced settlement location, spatial hierarchy, and the internal logic of neighborhood planning.

The conclusion emphasizes that Kharkiv's development was not a linear progression from primitive to modern, but rather a process of accumulation and adaptation. The resulting urban morphology, shaped by multiple layers of socio-functional and territorial evolution, forms a valuable heritage and resource for future planning. The findings of the study can inform contemporary urban renewal policies by offering models for the integration of historic low-rise residential zones into the evolving structure of large cities, balancing spatial identity with the demands of modernization.

**Keywords:** residential districts, historic city, historical and spatial analysis, urban structure, social stratification, urban morphology, organic planning, Slobozhanshchyna, Sloboda settlement.

**Introduction.** The formation of residential districts within the structure of large historic cities is a multidimensional process shaped by a combination of environmental-geographic, social, economic, and cultural factors. Kharkiv, one of the largest urban centers in Ukraine, has undergone spatial development following a unique model that combines the spontaneity of initial settlement,

adaptation to natural topography, and the gradual transformation of functional zones. A distinctive feature of Kharkiv is the significant share of private low-rise residential (estate-type) development, which occupies more than half of the city's territory and originates from the earliest sloboda settlements.

At the present stage, under conditions of urban pressure, functional reorientation of city territories, and changes in the social structure, the traditional framework of residential districts is undergoing transformation. Challenges emerge in the integration of established low-rise neighborhoods into the structure of a contemporary metropolis. Many of these areas are now surrounded by highly urbanized zones – high-rise housing estates, commercial and business complexes, and transportation hubs. At the boundaries of these districts, conflicts often arise between existing residential typologies and new development functions, leading to unequal land use intensity and imbalances in transportation, social, and recreational infrastructure. As a result, there is an increasing risk of fragmentation of the urban fabric and deterioration of the living environment, both within these neighborhoods and in adjacent urbanized areas. Although estate-type housing remains a relevant and in-demand residential format, its current development is often not supported by sufficient analytical justification or professional planning.

In academic discourse, knowledge about the origins of residential district formation in Kharkiv remains insufficiently systematized – particularly in relation to the influence of shifting city-forming functions over time, as well as the roles of natural landscape conditions and socio-estate stratification. The absence of a generalized explanatory model for the patterns of such development prevents the creation of a coherent concept for integrating historical forms into contemporary urban planning. This underlines the relevance of the present study, which aims to identify the key principles that guided the formation of Kharkiv's residential districts as a foundation for the city's further sustainable development.

**Review of Previous Research and Publications.** The study of the spatial development of Kharkiv as a city begins with an analysis of historical sources, primarily cartographic materials from the 17th–18th centuries. The study of old city plans (Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Kharkiv) [1] allows us to trace the transition from the fortification structure of the Sloboda fortress to the beginnings of regular planning, which took shape during the period of imperial reforms.

A key source for studying this period is the monograph by D. I. Bahalii "Istoriia mista Kharkova" (1912), which provides a detailed account of the fortress's functions, the social structure of its residents, and the development of the slobodas around the fortified center [2]. An important supplement is the "Opys Kharkivskoho namisnytstva (late 18th century)", which contains information on administrative divisions, the nature of the development, population size, and economic activities [3, 4].

A. F. Paramonov, in a series of local history publications, investigates the historical topography and microgeography of Kharkiv, describing the location of ancient slobodas, trade squares, roads, and fortifications, thus providing valuable data on the physical structure of the city [5].

The dissertation by L. V. Kachemtseva "Stanovlennia arkhitekturno-proiektnoi spravy v mistakh Slobidskoi Ukrainy (second half of the 18th – early 20th century)" and works by A. L. Antonov and V. L. Masliichuk examine the history of Kharkiv's municipal governance and outline the stages of architectural project development in the cities of Slobozhanshchyna. They explore the impact of organizational forms on architectural development and urban environment formation [6].

V. V. Vecherskyi made a significant contribution to the study of architectural and urban development in Left-Bank Ukraine, including Kharkiv. In his monograph "Arkhitekturna ta mistobudivna spadshchyna doby Hetmanshchyny" [7], he examines the spatial organization of sloboda towns, the role of the landscape, the regimental-sotnia structure, and estate-based differentiation as factors in shaping the urban environment. In "Vtracheni obiekty kulturnoi spadshchyny Ukrainy" [8], Vecherskyi reconstructs lost developments, allowing for a deeper understanding of Kharkiv's historical environment. His approach combines historical-urban and environmental analysis, which is valuable for comprehensively studying the city's structure in the 18th century.

To gain a broader understanding of Kharkiv's processes, it is important to turn to European analogues. Foreign approaches to the study of residential district formation have also been analyzed.

An early conceptual foundation for urban spatial development was laid by Lewis Mumford in "The City in History" (1961) [9]. He viewed the city as a reflection of social order, where technology, politics, and culture shape architectural form and residential zoning. Particularly valuable is his analysis of the industrial city as a space of stratification.

Marcel Roncayolo, in his book "La Ville et ses territoires" (1990) [10], studied the city as a "symbolic fabric" in which political power, the church, and social classes determined the division into residential, administrative, and religious zones. His view of the city as a cultural landscape is relevant to Kharkiv as well.

Karl Schlögel in "In Space We Read Time" (2016) [11] interprets Eastern European cities as historical "maps of memory". He examines symbolic landscapes, focusing on ideological changes that influence the formation of specific districts.

In the article "Landscape change and the urbanization process in Europe", Marc Antrop [12] analyzes the transformation of cultural landscapes under urbanization, which is particularly important for understanding Kharkiv's evolution from a fortress into an urban settlement.

L. Jacques, in "La ville industrielle et ses quartiers" (2003) [13], explores the French city of Lyon as an example of a city with functionally divided quarters based on professional criteria, highlighting the role of rivers and industrial guilds.

Overall, the academic tradition of studying the residential development of Kharkiv in the 18th–19th centuries is relatively recent. However, an interdisciplinary foundation has already formed, combining urbanism, history, cartography, and social geography. The main focus is on planning features, the impact of state policy, demographic dynamics, social structure, and parallels with European cities.

**Purpose and Objectives.** The purpose of this study is to identify the key principles behind the formation of residential districts in Kharkiv by analyzing the factors that influenced their spatial organization throughout various historical periods. Special attention is devoted to the genesis of changes in Kharkiv's city-forming functions across different historical stages, and to the role of natural landscape and social structure as fundamental drivers that shaped the unique character of the city's private housing.

**Materials and Research Methods.** The study is based on an interdisciplinary approach that combines methods of historical-architectural, urban planning, cartographic, and socio-geographic analysis. Its aim was to identify the key factors behind the formation of residential districts in Kharkiv during its early stages of development, particularly during the transformation from a Cossack fortress to a Sloboda regional center. Research materials include historical maps, master plans, archival documents, statistical data, memoirs, as well as scholarly works by Ukrainian and international researchers. Particular attention is given to Kharkiv's plans from the 17th–18th centuries, which allow tracing changes in planning structure [1, 2, 5, 14, 15].

The methodology included historical-genetic, morphological, spatial, and socio-demographic analyses, which enabled an exploration of the preconditions for the formation of the urban environment, development structure, functional hierarchy of districts, and the role of social stratification. The study traces the impact of natural conditions, defensive logic, social structure, transport routes, and administrative regulation on the spatial organization of the city.

The results of the analysis made it possible to describe the main principles of spatial development, determine the influence of social, economic, and environmental factors, assess the adaptation potential of historical districts in the contemporary city, and lay the groundwork for developing strategies for the modernization and integration of Kharkiv's low-rise residential areas within the framework of modern urbanization.

**Main Content.** The historical development of Kharkiv unfolded as a sequence of stages, each characterized by a shift in the city-forming function and, consequently, a transformation in the spatial organization of its residential districts. An important methodological basis for the analysis is the identification of two initial periods: Kharkiv as a fortress and Kharkiv as a Sloboda (settlement) town.

This approach enables not only the tracing of urban planning evolution, but also the examination of the role of natural, social, administrative, and economic factors that influenced the formation of urban space.

In the first stage, in the mid-17th century, the city primarily fulfilled defensive, administrative, and colonization functions, which shaped the character of its development and spatial organization. Later, during the Sloboda development period, Kharkiv gradually transformed into an administrative, craft, and commercial center, and the socio-estate factor became decisive in shaping the residential environment. This analytical lens helps to reveal how the city's spatial models changed, which social groups contributed to its development, and how external factors – military, economic, and administrative – were reflected in planning structures and building typologies.

*Kharkiv as a Fortress (1654–1690s).* The founding of Kharkiv in the mid-17th century marks the first stage in the development of the city's residential fabric. Its establishment should be viewed in the context of the complex political, military, and social processes affecting Ukraine and the Muscovite State at that time. The conventional founding date – 1654 – symbolizes the beginning of the settlement of the southern frontier of the Muscovite State, which required enhanced protection due to the constant threat of raids by Crimean Tatars and Nogais. Kharkiv emerged as a fortified settlement inhabited by migrants from the Right-Bank Ukraine – primarily Cossacks and peasants seeking security and opportunities to cultivate new lands.

At this stage, Kharkiv primarily fulfilled military-defensive and colonization functions, and its spatial development was determined less by urban planning regulations and more by the needs for survival, protection, and self-sufficiency. The city's main formative function was defensive: a fortress on the high right bank of the Kharkiv and Lopan rivers became a key military-administrative center for controlling and defending the borderlands. Its strategic importance was reinforced by the advantageous terrain and a system of fortifications – ramparts, moats, wooden walls, and towers.

In addition to defense, the fortress also served as a center of craftsmanship, trade, and administration. Within its walls, *sluzhili liudy* (service-class people performing military or administrative duties) – cossacks, *striltsi* (armed guards or gunners with firearms), *posadski* (townspeople), and clergy – were concentrated, laying the foundations of the city's initial urban structure. The analysis of this stage makes it possible to distinguish the key factors influencing the formation of spatial organization and residential development – particularly natural-geographical, fortification-related, and social factors.

**Fortification Factor.** The fortification factor played a decisive role in the initial stage of Kharkiv's formation. Already in the first years after its foundation, around 1655, defensive fortifications were erected on the high right bank of the Kharkiv and Lopan rivers "according to the Cossack custom" – using earth ramparts, ditches, palisades, and wooden towers. Initially, Kharkiv functioned as a fortified settlement, where the main population resided predominantly during the winter. In warmer seasons, residents moved to farmsteads, mills, apiaries, or went to work, particularly to the Torske salt lakes, the road to which was laid in the very first year of the city's founding.

According to the book by A. F. Paramonov "Istoriia Kharkivskoho horodskoho samoupravlennia 1654–1917 rr.", which refers to the research of D. I. Bahalii, it was the presence of fortifications that defined the status of a "city" within the conditions of Slobidska Ukraine, whereas the lifestyle remained traditionally rural. As surrounding areas became settled, fortified points acquired administrative, trade, and craft significance. The logic of defensive planning is clearly visible in the reconstructed layout of the original Kharkiv fortress (Fig. 1), where it is already possible to distinguish the main directions of the city's development – corresponding to the locations of the main gates, which determined the vectors of further spatial expansion beyond the fortified zone.

Earthen fortresses with internal planning at that time were typical for most newly founded settlements of Slobozhanshchyna. In Kharkiv, the fortress was located in the center of a natural fortification created by the terrain. The main roads radiated from its gates, forming the future transport structure of the city. These roads became rays that connected the fortress with surrounding slobodas, mills, crossings, and later – with suburbs and marketplaces.

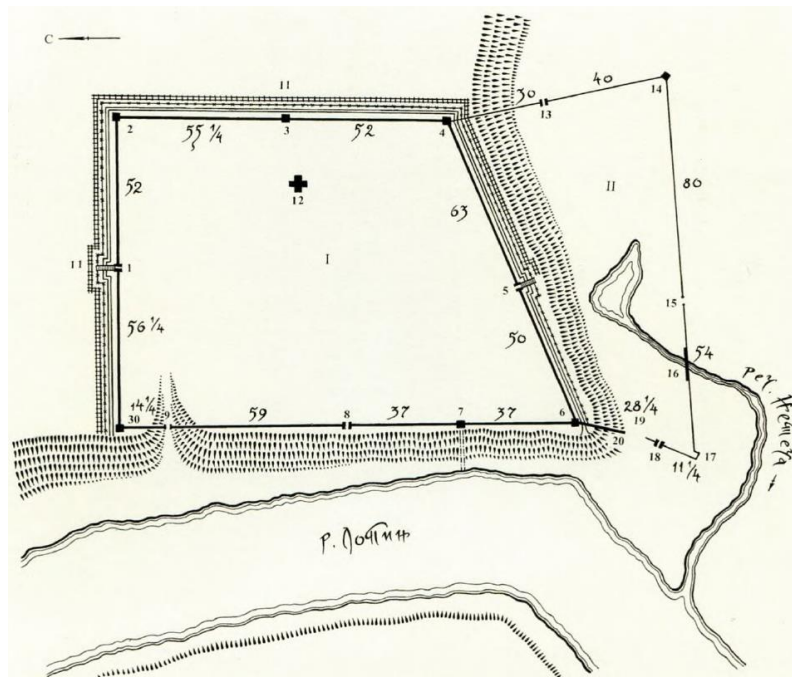


Fig. 1. Plan of the Kharkiv Fortress in the second half of the 17th century.

Reconstruction by V.M. Nedielin based on the Rozpysnyi spysok of 1668.

I. Old town. Towers: 1 – Moskovski Vorota (Moscow Gate); 2 – Nakutna Vestova (corner guard tower facing the Kharkiv River); 3 – middle corner tower; 4 – corner tower from the Kharkiv River; 5 – Chuhuivska Brama (Chuhuiv Gate); 6 – corner tower from the Lopan River; 7 – Taynytska; 8 – glukha from the Lopan River (blind tower); 9 – gate to the Lopan River; 10 – nakutna Verkhna Lopanska (Upper Lopan Corner Tower). Other buildings and structures: 11 – fortress moat, chastynok and nadolby (palisade sections and obstacles); 12 – wooden Uspenskyi Cathedral; II. Water Outpost: 13 – Mykilski Gate (unfinished); 14 – nakutnyi zrub (corner timber block); 15 – Troitski Gate (unbuilt); 16 – section of timber wall above the washout; 17 – diversion channel; 18 – Rizdvyana Gate (without roof or covering, and no gate constructed); 19 – unbuilt wall section; 20 – timber wall; 21 – sections and defensive logs. Distances between towers are marked in *sazhens* (old Russian fathom units)

Ramparts and moats served not only a defensive function. They marked the boundaries of residential territory and created a clear perimeter for development. In Cossack-type towns, earthen ramparts were significant not only as barriers but also as spatial compositional lines that defined the placement of public buildings – churches, squares, and gates. In the case of Kharkiv, as shown in Fig. 2, the first sacred and administrative structures were located precisely on the fortified high grounds.

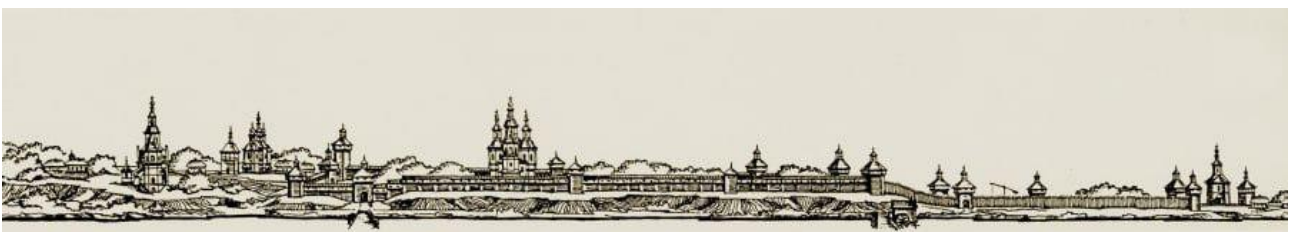


Fig. 2. Panorama of the Kharkiv Fortress. Late 17th century.

Graphic reconstruction by V.E. Novhorodov

In the 18th century, most fortifications gradually lost their military function, although their form remained inscribed into the urban structure. As evidenced by later historical sources [17–21], old ramparts and moats often became the basis for new streets or block boundaries. Thus, even after losing their defensive purpose, they continued to define the spatial logic of the city.

Therefore, the fortification factor in Kharkiv influenced not only its security but also its functional organization, compositional planning, and structural identity. It set the framework upon which subsequent urban planning decisions were layered.

*Environmental and geographical factor.* Natural and geographical conditions played a key role in the choice of location for the first settlement on the territory of future Kharkiv. According to contemporary researchers, particularly [5, 22], it was the natural landscape – rivers, ravines, water springs, floodplains, forested areas – that determined not only protection but also the functional parameters of the future urban space. The geographical position of Kharkiv between the Lopan and Kharkiv rivers created a natural fortification advantage. The confluence of the rivers formed a swampy floodplain, difficult to cross for cavalry, which significantly limited the possibility of a surprise attack from three directions. The fourth side – the elevation where the present-day cathedral is located – was covered with dense forest and also served as a natural shield.

This terrain provided not only defensive advantages but also directly influenced the layout of streets and blocks. In terms of urban planning, the first streets were formed according to the logic of bypassing natural obstacles, following the rivers and watersheds, which later became the basis of the radial-ray structure of Kharkiv's central part. The irregular, "organic" network of roads and buildings in Kharkiv did not arise randomly, but as a direct adaptation to the complex geography of the area.

In addition to general topography, the presence of fresh water sources played a crucial role. The availability of a spring – the so-called Bilhorodska krynytsia – is considered the initial settlement point of the area [2]. Constant access to water was vital for survival and determined the location of the first houses and homesteads. At the same time, the presence of natural surroundings contributed to the development of household activities: grazing livestock, gardening, farming, and constructing mills on the rivers.

Besides its utilitarian and defensive functions, the landscape also held symbolic significance. The highest point – the ridge between the rivers – later became a spatial dominant not only for defense but also for sacred architecture. According to tradition, churches were built on elevations, emphasizing the importance of interaction with the natural vertical of space – the line of the sky, horizon, and ridge. Thus, the natural and geographical factor acted not merely as a condition for settlement, but as a complex precondition for shaping the city's structure. It simultaneously defined its safety, functionality, planning logic, and archetypal imagery.

*Social stratification factor.* The city did not emerge as the result of centralized planning, but rather as a community of settlers who arrived from various parts of Left-Bank Ukraine, Kyiv region, Poltavshchyna, and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. According to contemporary researchers [22–24], these settlers typically formed not isolated khutors (homesteads), but slobodas – fortified communities with a high degree of self-governance, shared defense, and internal order.

At this early stage, the socio-estate factor had not yet become dominant, as the urban community was still in formation. Its structure was primarily composed of sluzhili liudy (service-class people performing military or administrative duties) – cossacks, striltsi (armed guards or gunners with firearms), posadski (townspeople), and, later, clergy. They occupied the territory within the fortress based on military-administrative principles rather than professional or estate-based specialization. Nonetheless, social ties were already beginning to play a role: a core urban community began to form, laying the groundwork for self-governance, mutual assistance, and collective management. The area surrounding the fortress began to be settled by small villages, which had not yet developed clear social stratification but were already setting the direction for further colonization of the territory. Thus, during this stage, the socio-estate factor played an auxiliary role, gradually reinforcing the importance of community alongside the dominant defensive function.

Accordingly, the first stage of residential district formation in Kharkiv can be characterized as a period of organic, naturally defensive development. These features laid the foundation for the city's future evolution in subsequent periods and remained embedded in the planning structure of Kharkiv's older districts – even after the radical urban transformations of the 19th–20th centuries.

*Kharkiv as a Sloboda Town (1690s–1765).* The late 17th to 18th centuries marked a new stage in the development of Kharkiv, as the city transitioned from its military-defensive role to that of an

administrative, economic, and social center of Slobozhanshchyna. This process is particularly evident in Fig. 3, which shows the transformation of the city panorama: public, administrative, and social buildings gradually began to replace dominant defensive structures, indicating a shift in the functional profile of the city. Over time, the city became the administrative center of the Kharkiv Sloboda Cossack Regiment and, later, the capital of the Slobidsko-Ukrainska Governorate, established in 1765. This contributed to the expansion of its influence over the surrounding territories and to the transformation of its overall urban structure.

During this period, Kharkiv's primary city-forming function became administrative-economic and trade-craft oriented. A network of slobodas – settlements – actively developed around the city and acquired specific professional or social specializations. The formation of suburbs supported the growth of craftsmanship, fair trade, interregional economic connections, as well as a steady increase in population.



Fig. 3. Panorama of the Kharkiv Fortress. Late 18th century.  
Graphic reconstruction by V.E. Novhorodov

During the period of Kharkiv's development as a sloboda town (1690s–1765), the landscape played a significant role in shaping its spatial structure. As shown in Fig. 4, slobodas were typically established along the banks of rivers – Kharkiv, Lopan, and Udy – since access to water was critically important not only for everyday needs but also for crafts, milling, gardening, and agriculture. The hydrography and orography of the area determined both the choice of settlement locations and the nature of development: settlements were clustered along waterways, taking advantage of the natural protective features of river floodplains, elevated terrain, and forested areas.

Gradually, there emerged a need to "tame" water resources – by regulating riverbeds, constructing dams, bridges, and mills. These interventions not only served economic purposes but also influenced the planning of streets and urban blocks. As slobodas expanded, their built environment adapted to the terrain: community centers – churches, squares, schools – were placed on elevated ground, while residential development occupied lower areas to maintain access to water.

Landscape features also played a role in defining the boundaries between settlements, shaping the direction of transport networks and guiding the expansion of inhabited areas. Through the combination of natural factors (rivers, ravines, hills) and socio-estate structure, a mosaic spatial-functional pattern emerged in Kharkiv, in which each sloboda retained its own identity while gradually integrating into the broader urban system.

Thus, the interaction between built form and landscape during the sloboda period laid the foundation for the morphological diversity of Kharkiv, which persisted even after the introduction of regular planning in the 18th–19th centuries. As population increased and community needs evolved, the spatial-functional organization of the city became more complex, which in turn led to a more intricate planning structure. Whereas landscape factors were decisive in the early stages of settlement development, over time, socio-estate factors came to the fore, shaping not only functional zoning but also the spatial hierarchy of the urban environment. The socio-estate factor gained particular significance, directly influencing the development of residential districts. Depending on the social status of residents, specific slobodas were formed – Cossack, artisan, clerical, or commercial. This resulted in both functional and spatial differentiation of the urban environment: from street layout to building typologies, from construction materials to the organization of household plots.

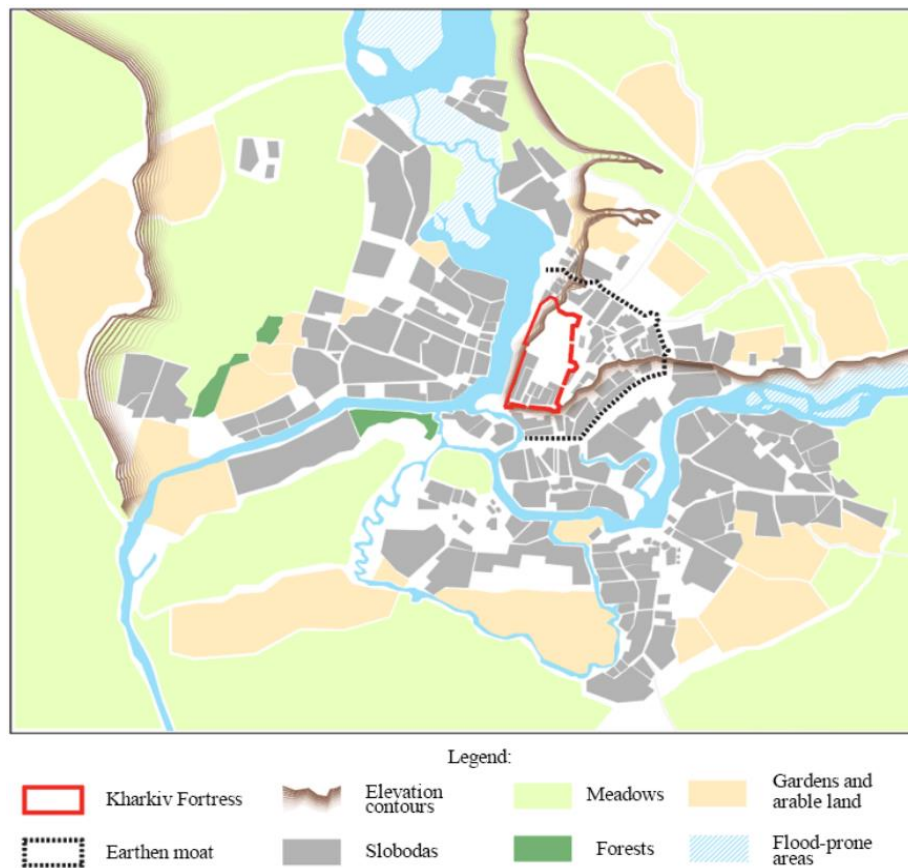


Fig. 4. Scheme of Kharkiv. Late 17th century, based on the 1742 map

Slobodas were characterized by strong social homogeneity. Often, they were formed based on occupational or estate criteria: Cossack, service-class, clerical, or artisan. This determined the functional structure of space – each community sought to establish its own church, square, well, school, and cemetery. Residents of slobodas jointly organized their living environment, made collective decisions regarding the placement of buildings, street orientation, and locations for economic activity. Such a level of autonomy was typical of Ukrainian slobodas, which operated on the basis of traditional customary norms and military discipline.

Social structure was also evident in everyday life. A typical sloboda-era homestead was not merely an individual dwelling, but a space of collective interaction: shared boundaries between yards, common gardens, service paths, and pastures. Neighborly ties were as significant as kinship relations [23, 24]. For this reason, residential areas within slobodas were not formed as isolated units, but as cohesive settlements with strong social interaction and functional interdependence.

Furthermore, social mobility during the early period was limited: most residents remained within the same sloboda for generations. This contributed to the stability of spatial structure and the continuity of building traditions. Some slobodas in Kharkiv – such as Lysogirska and Ivanivska – retained their identity in spatial layout even into the 19th century, despite administrative reforms and the city's growth.

The social factor played a crucial role not only in shaping human capital but also in forming the spatial structure of the city. During this period, the trade factor also became increasingly important: the development of fairs and commerce stimulated the emergence of new routes, which in turn influenced the formation of the street network and areas of active spatial growth.

As a result of the early stages of development, a new spatial model of Kharkiv had already taken shape by this period: the city was no longer confined to the fortified area (ostroh) but came to include the posad and surrounding slobodas, where the majority of the urban population resided. From the earliest years of Kharkiv's existence, its inhabitants began to establish khutors and pasiky (beekeeping farms) around the fortress, engaging in agricultural and household activities. These plots

of land – gardens, apiaries, and homestead allotments – surrounded the city, forming the first suburban structures of spatial settlement.

Part of the population lived permanently in slobodas and khutors located outside the fortified zone, which over time transformed into new urban districts. This gave rise to a territorial structure in which the fortified core functioned as the nucleus, around which the districts of Podil, Zalopanska, and Zakharkivska evolved. These areas would later receive official status as city districts, although in the early stages they functioned as posad-type suburbs (Fig. 5). The diagram also shows the main directions of the city's development, which corresponded to the key transportation rays extending from the central fortress. Settlement expansion occurred without strict regularization, guided instead by the practical needs of the population, natural conditions, and economic feasibility.

By the second half of the 17th century, Kharkiv's territorial structure had already begun to form as polycentric – comprising multiple local centers of habitation and economic activity, which were gradually integrated into the city's urban fabric.

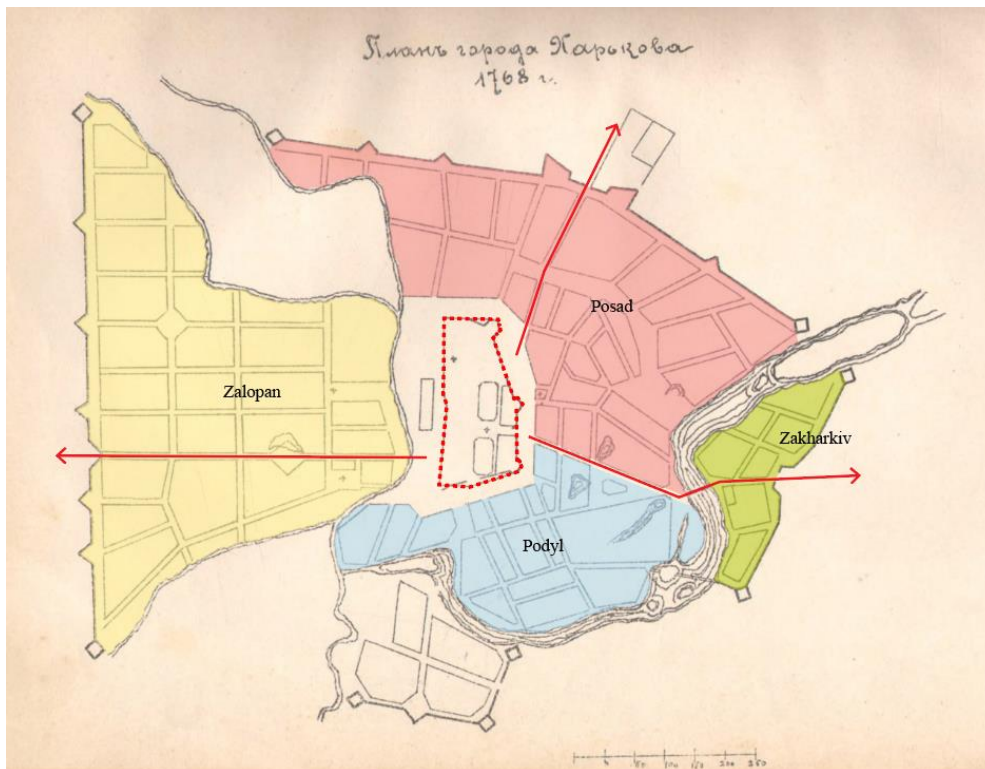


Fig. 5. Diagram of the formed districts of Kharkiv based on the 1768 city plan

**Conclusions.** The study found that the formation of residential districts in Kharkiv throughout the 17th–18th centuries was a multi-layered process influenced by a combination of natural landscape conditions, socio-estate structure, changes in the administrative status of the city, and the development of infrastructure networks. The spatial organization of Kharkiv did not emerge instantaneously but was formed through the gradual layering of functional structures onto the original sloboda environment, creating morphological complexity and diversity.

The first stage, associated with the city's foundation as a fortress, laid down the spatial framework and key development vectors aligned with the natural topography and defensive needs. The second stage – the formation of Kharkiv as a sloboda-type settlement – reinforced a polycentric settlement model, where the fortified core coexisted with peripheral suburbs (slobodas) that had professional or estate-based specialization. It was during this period that the crystallization of the urban structure took place, with defined directions of expansion and the emergence of transport-functional axes that remained embedded in the city's layout.

Landscape features and social stratification factors determined the structure of the slobodas as spatially and socially distinct, yet interconnected, entities that were gradually integrated into the

overall urban fabric. The organic combination of regular and irregular planning, characteristic of Kharkiv, is the result of this transformation: the regular grid of imperial-era quarters coexists with historical fragments of the earlier sloboda development.

Thus, Kharkiv presents a unique example of phased urban structure formation, where the historical residential districts of the sloboda type are not archaic remnants but a structural resource for contemporary development. Understanding these processes makes it possible to address the integration of established residential areas into modernization strategies, ensuring the continuity of spatial heritage, environmental cohesion, and the social resilience of the city amid ongoing urban transformations.

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## ФАКТОРИ ФОРМУВАННЯ ЖИТЛОВИХ РАЙОНІВ У ХАРКОВІ: ІСТОРИКО-ПРОСТОРОВИЙ АНАЛІЗ XVII- XVIII СТ.

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**Анотація.** У статті проведено історико-просторовий аналіз формування житлових районів Харкова, зосереджений на перших етапах становлення міста. Розглянуто два періоди: заснування Харкова як козацької фортеці та розвиток як слобідського міста. Дослідження не претендує на висвітлення всіх ключових етапів історії Харкова, а саме акцентує увагу на початкових фазах формування міського середовища.

Проаналізовано вплив природно-географічних умов, фортифікаційної логіки, соціальної структури населення, розвитку адміністративного регламентування та міжміських зв'язків на просторову організацію Харкова. Особлива увага приділена процесам просторової стратифікації, що проявлялися у розшаруванні міського середовища за соціальною, функціональною та морфологічною ознаками. В умовах трансформації слобод від напівавтономних поселень до інтегрованих частин міста формувалася складна мозаїчна морфологія Харкова: регулярна сітка кварталів міста нашаровувалася на органічну структуру слобід, створюючи контрастну картину просторової організації. В другій половині XVIII століття це призвело до формування ієрархії міських просторів, де центри з репрезентативною забудовою співіснували з периферійними районами, що зберігали риси традиційної слобідської забудови. Таке нашарування структур забезпечило специфічну морфологічну композицію міста, яка стала основою його подальшого розвитку.

Результати дослідження можуть стати підґрунтям для розробки концепцій модернізації та інтеграції сформованих історично житлових малоповерхових районів Харкова в умови сучасної урбанізації. Вони можуть бути корисними для архітекторів, урбаністів і планувальників, що займаються питаннями розвитку міських територій, оновлення інфраструктури, формування комфортного житлового середовища та пошуку збалансованих рішень між збереженням просторової структури і потребами сучасного міста.

**Ключові слова:** житлові райони, історичне місто, історико-просторовий аналіз, містобудівна структура, соціальна стратифікація, морфологія міста, органічне планування, Слобожанщина, слобода.

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