

Kazakh dwellings in South Kazakhstan of XV-XIX centuries

The interesting material was obtained as a result of several years of SKCAE's work in South Kazakhstan, which led research related to the material culture of Kazakh people according to archaeology, it allowed characterizing residential architecture of the Kazakh population of the region.

One of the main types of dwelling of Kazakh people was yurta. Its description was in many publications of pre-revolutionary and Soviet scholars. The work by academician of AS KazSSR A.Kh.Margulan was particularly noteworthy in this field.

Recent studies carried out by Kazakhstan historians, archaeologists and ethnographers gave evidence that in addition to cattle breeding, Kazakh people were involved in farming, which take traditions from previous periods. The sufficient scientific material, which gives evidence about Karatau is gathered as a result of systematic study of monuments on the territory of South Kazakhstan. Excavations conducted by an author in various parts of South Kazakhstan gave materials for emphasizing of the main types of immovable dwellings of the Kazakh population of South Kazakhstan.

The description of permanent dwellings of the second half of XIX century is distinguished.

Archaeological research of recent years suggests that the beginning of settlement process of Kazakh people should not be sought in the north, but in the south and south-east of Kazakhstan.

A scholar Ruzbekhan from Central Asia wrote that the Syrdarya flows through Uzbek villages. At that time, Ruzbekhan could not distinguish Uzbeks from the Kazakhs. However, he referred to Kazakh winter huts, which extend for distances up to three hundred Mongolian tash. This information is confirmed by archaeological works that documented the remains of Kazakh settlement ruins. Archaeological works conducted in South and Central Kazakhstan provided materials that allowed considering about the nature and structure of permanent dwellings of Kazakh people related to XV-XVIII centuries.

Dwellings in the villages can be divided into two types: inground, i.e. dugouts and half-dugouts and ground-based structures.

Dugouts and half-dugouts (zherkope, zherui, zhertole) studied in the settlements Aktasmechet and in the vicinities of Sauran differ in depth.

Another kind of inground dwellings are round yurta-type half-dugouts. The roof of such half-dugouts has a conical shape, the building buried in the ground for 50-60 cm. The pieces of shanyrak were found in the center of the room during the excavations. Such dwellings in the mountains are built of stone on the ground, but their height does not exceed four-rope yurta. Such dwellings related to XV-XVIII centuries in the middle reaches of the Syrdarya are common. According to ethnographic data, they are met on the whole territory of Kazakhstan and called differently in each region: "shoshala", "toshala". Ethnographers tend to assume these types of dwellings as original type of Kazakh main dwelling. According to archaeological data, such layout takes its root from the Bronze Age and survived until present. At present, such inground yurta-type buildings are used in rural areas for wintering as service space.