History and architecture of Ekaterinburg
Governor’s residence

Governor’s residence is one of the oldest buildings in our city. It is one of a few constructions built in XVIII century.
Ivan Sofkov, head of Monetary yard built this house. Then plant-owner V. Zlobin bought the house. Old believers Tarasovs were the last owners of the building.

House on Tarasovskaya embankment.
Rastorguev’s palace

Lev Rastorguev built his house in 1820s. It was the most luxurious construction of our city. Even Russian Emperors admired this building.

Palace on Vosnesenskaya gorka.
Malachov was an architect that projected house on Vosnesenskaya Gorka. He is author of Mountain Pharmacy, house of main mountain chief and many other constructions.

Malachov’s house.
After the Collision in December, 1825 Nicholas I decided to increase his influence. He turned his sight to Visantium Empire. Visantium style became very popular in arts, and architecture wasn’t an exception.
Constantine Ton was considered as a founder of Visantium style. Temple of Christ the Saviour in Moscow was built in this style. Many seminaries and churches were constructed in Visantium style in Ekaterinburg.
Visantium style stopped being popular in 1860s. But it revived in 1870s and became known as Russian style. Many buildings of this style were made of wood.
Wooden architecture

Unfortunately, a few wooden constructions remained well in Ekaterinburg. But they have always been very spiritual and played a very important part in architectural face of our city.
Folk wooden architecture combined strangely with Classicism in our city. As a result, odd half-stone, half-wooden constructions with queer decoration appeared.
Window casings were very important in decoration of every wooden house. They were divided in 5 classes, depending on complication of their construction.
Old Believers in Ekaterinburg

Dissidence

Patriarch Nikon’s reforms in 1652-1658 divided Russian religion to Orthodoxy and Old Believers (Dissidents).
How did Ekaterinburg become a Dissident center?

In XVII-XVIII centuries Old believers were forced to live in Urals and Siberia. In the second half of XVIII century Dissidents gathered to Ekaterinburg, which became Old belief center of the region. It happened so, because influential and rich plant-owners and merchants of our city, like Demidovs, Tolstikovs, Ryazanovs and others were Dissidents.
Alexander I was the most liberal Russian ruler. Dissidents were prospering during his reign. Old belief absolutely dominated in 1815-1825 in Ekaterinburg. It was a golden age of Dissidence.
But Alexander I died in 1825 and was replaced by his brother, Nicholas I, who wasn’t liberal at all. New Emperor did everything to destroy Dissidence and its followers. For decades Old believers were being forced to abandon their faith. And many had to do that.