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№1

TOWN GUIDE St PETERSBURG



Stone Town Guide St Petersburg N 1

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STONE

TOWN GUIDE

St PETERSBURG

№1



St Petersburg - Excursion 1
Along by Bolshaya Morskaya Ulitsa
 = Big Naval Street

Start Point - the Arch of the General Staff

End Point – The Nabokova’s House

Route length - 1,6 km

The nearest M - Admiralteyskaya

Bolshaya Morskaya (Great Naval) street

is located in the very centre of the city of St Petersburg. It attracts attention of architecture-lovers over and over again.

In spite of the fact that buildings situated in this and adjoining streets do not represent any unified ensemble because of difference in their styles, ages and used materials, nevertheless, being observed all together, they compose the specific harmony.

In many respects such congruousness results from a great deal of stone decoration that often completely covers facades of buildings where former banks and joint-stock companies were housed lately in the XIX-th — early in the XX-th centuries.

See more in

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№ 1



AZOV-DON TRADE BANK

1907-1910 F.I. Lidval



6





RUSSIAN TRADING AND INDUSTRIAL BANK

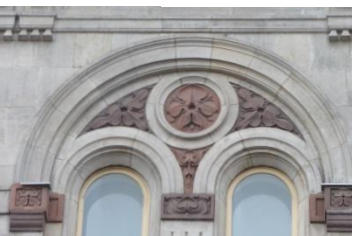
1912-1914 M.M. Peretyatkovich



CENTRAL TELEPHONE STATION



1903-1904
K.V. Baldi





FABERGE'S HOUSE

1899-1902
K.K. Schmidt





RUSSIAN FOREIGN TRADE BANK

1887-1888
V.A. Shreter





DWELLING HOUSE OF THE RUSSIA INSURANCE COMPANY

1905-1907 Architects A.A. Gimpel, V.V. Il'yashev
Artist N. Roerich







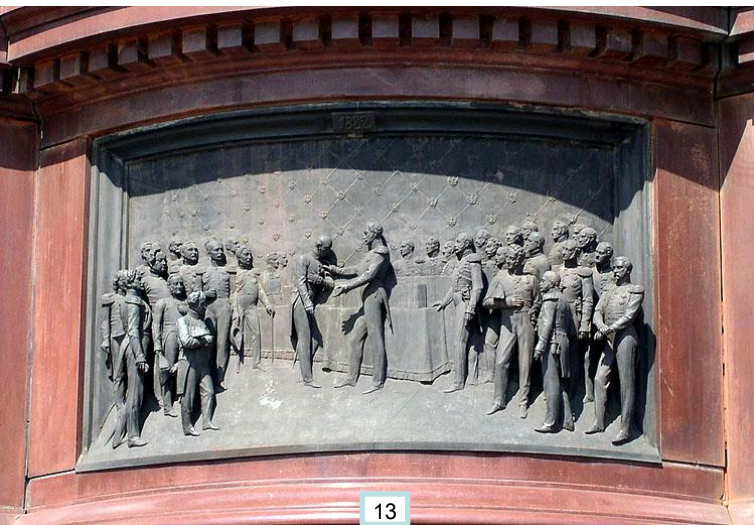
MONUMENT TO NICHOLAS I

1859

Architect Au. Montferrandt

Sculptors P.K. Klodt,

N.A. Ramazanov, R.K. Zaleman



GERMAN EMBASSY

1911-1912

P. Behrens



Здание германского посольства, 1913 г.
Фото из Центрального государственного архива
кинофотодокументов Санкт-Петербурга





DEMIDOV'S HOUSE

№ 12

1840s Au. Montferrandt





NABOKOVA'S HOUSE

1901-1902

M.F. Heisler, B.F. Guslistiy





NABOKOVA'S HOUSE



N 1. 3-5, the Great Naval Street

The building of the former Azov-Don Trading Bank is faced with grey granite from somewhere at the Vuoksa River. That was erected in 1907—1910 by the architect F.I. Lidval in Modern Neo-Classical style. The building has an asymmetrical facade typical for this style. It is decorated with four columns fluted at the bottom and with six pilasters.

Of particular interest are oval medallions fixed between windows of the third floor and stylized multifigured bas-reliefs by the sculptor V.V. Kuznetsov that are arranged on the level of the ground floor.

The main entrance to the bank is decorated outside with glassy-polished, motley-banded, white-black stone. We suppose it to be plagiogneiss. For decoration of interiors of the Azov-Don Bank green and brownish-green marbles from Sweden were applied.

N 2. 15, the Great Naval Street

Grey Nystad Granite was used for the entire facing of the majestic edifice of the former Russian Trading and Industrial Bank built to the design of M.M.Peretyatkovich.

Blocks of the granite have “rocky” or pointed surface structure. Key-stones of windows of the second storey of the building are adorned with masks of the same granite.

The third and fourth storeys are united by massive round columns, especially attracts our attention the stone balustrade on the third floor. The relieved frieze is decorated with mascarons in the form of male profiles and heads of rams, as well as with cartouches and compositions of armour.

All those sculptural details of the bank building had been carved by L.A.Ditrich and V.V.Kozlov constantly co-operating with M.M.Peretyatkovich.

The diversity of the finishing and variety of the stone decor reliefs make light and shade play on the plastic architectural details of the building and yet more accentuate its monumental bottom part supporting the upper storey colonnade up.

N 3. 22, the Great Naval Street

Rich and complex decoration of stone is shown by this house. Two-coloured sandstone from Poland was used for its facing.

The ground floor is faced with red sandstone worked up in different manners. One can see the stone surfaces that are either roughly uneven, or wavy (fluted, or corrugated), or speckled with small points.

The upper storeys are faced with grey sandstone. The same stone was used for carving of ornaments over the windows, complex garlands disposed on each side of the big window of the clock-tower and the emblem (coat of arms) of Petersburg that represents a crossed sceptre and two anchors: one of which is marine (with 2 flukes) and another — river (with 4 flukes).

The stone ornaments were complemented with small details of ceramics.

N 4. 24, the Great Naval Street

The building was erected by the architect K.K.Schmidt in 1899—1902 for a shop of a well known jewellery firm — the Faberge House.

The whole of the facade of the house was clad with nothing but the red Gangut Granite. However the granite was worked up in different techniques, so at least three shades can be distinguished in the colouration of the building.

The facing was executed in a highly masterly way, the slabs being brought to the conformity in the stone pattern with extreme precision and delicacy.

Slabs facing the ground floor embellished with massive columns have polished surfaces. The polish had intensified the deep red colour of the granite. Slabs of dark-red colour are placed above the columns. The upper storeys were faced with slabs having a fine-pointed surface structure giving rise to the smoky light-rosy colouration of the granite, while the outstanding window frames and some other details have the “rocky” facture and, as a consequence of it — the darker rosy colour.

N 5. 32, the Great Naval Street

Coloured sandstones from Germany were applied for cladding of the house. This building intended for the Russian Foreign Trade Bank was erected in 1877—1888 to the design of architect V.A.Shreter.

Both the socle floor and high, carved portal with two columns were faced with slabs of red sandstone. The first floor was finished with rustication of green sandstone.

The two upper storeys are cased with yellow sandstone and united with Corinthian pilasters cut from the yellow sandstone as well.

The stone decor is complemented with complex ornamental details made of ceramics.

N 6. 35, the Great Naval Street

Blocks of the red Gangut Granite finished in the “rocky” techniques were also used for the revetment of the ground floor of the house N 35 built in the style of Modern in 1910.

The upper storeys were covered with the smoky-pink granite from the deposit Kovantsaary, while for the bottom of the edifice black polished slabs of the specific small-spotty rock known as gabbro were applied.

The combination of the black, red and greyish-pink stones makes the whole construction very effective. Together with the stone decor of the building, majolica compositions created after drawings of N.K.Roerich on the subject of Russian North plays the important role here.

N 7. 37, the Great Naval Street

The house is built for the Insurance Company "Russia" in the beginning of our century the upper storeys were plastered and only the plinth, cornices and portals were faced with the red Gangut Granite. The granitic decor was complemented by the light-yellow Württemberg Sandstone, outside frames of huge windows having been cut from the rock.

N 8. At the corner of the Great Naval str. and Isaac Square

Here is the building of the Astoria Hotel. It was one of the biggest hotels of Petrograd set up by the architect F.I.Lidval in 1914. The edifice was built in Modern style with use of some elements of Classicism. The two lower storeys are faced with pink and pink-grey granite from the deposit Antrea. The facades are decorated with oval medallions with masks, garlands and stylized vases cut out of the same granite.

N 9. N 40, the Great Naval Street

The casing of the house is made of sandstone. It is the former building of the First Russian Insurance Company erected in 1889—1901 after the project by L.N.Benois day. The basement of the building is finished with well-polished pink-red Valaam Granite having very heterogeneous, spotted, or banded structure and turning in places into gneissoid granite. The upper storeys are faced with pink and yellow Sandstones and covered with a complex ornament carved of light-grey sandstone.

**N 10. A square opposite
the Hotel Astoria**

The monument to Nicholas I

The equestrian statue of Nicolas I stands in the centre of St Isaac's Square. The monument was designed by the sculptor Pyotr Klodt and by architect August Monferrand and was erected in 1859. The base of monument is constructed with pink Rapakivi and grey Serdobol granites. The pedestal is decorated with red Shoksha quartzite and white Italian marble. Four high reliefs and allegories of Justice, Faith, Wisdom, and Strength surround the statue. It is worth mentioning that the tomb of Napoleon in the *Hôtel des Invalides* in Paris is also cut from the Shoksha stone.

N 11. N 41, the Great Naval Street

Natural stone abounds in the decor of the house erected after the project of the prominent German architect P.Behrens in 1911—1912 (the German Embassy was housed there).

Through all their height the facades of the edifice were faced with thick slabs of Swedish granite coloured uniform rich red. Due to the rocky and small-knobby surface structure of the stone its bright colouration is lusterless.

The three-quarter columns of the main (eastern) facade of the building are very impressive. They were clad of rounded blocks of granite, each of them being 0.7 m in height.

The building was topped with a heavy sculptural group presenting bronze statues of two youths restraining horses. In 1914 they were thrown down on to the ground and drowned in the river Moika by a crowd of people incited by patriotic sentiments.

N 12. N 43, the Great Naval Street

House at was erected to the design of Au. Montferrand in 1836 for the owner of factories at the Urals P.N.Demidov.

The base of the house is faced with polished Serdobol Granite and the ground floor is finished with rustics of white Italian marble. The marble slab surface was worked up in the original manner, so that it was speckled with rare small holes of round or elongated forms. Such a technique of finish made smooth stone to look like porous tuff.

Carved of white marble are six germae with male and female half-figures propping up a marble balcony of the first floor. The marble bas-relief group "Glory" created after a model of the sculptor T.Jacquot is fixed above the balcony in the centre of the facade.

On each side of the gate there are two niches for fountains. The niches are lined with slabs of white polished marble.

N 13. N 45, the Great Naval Street

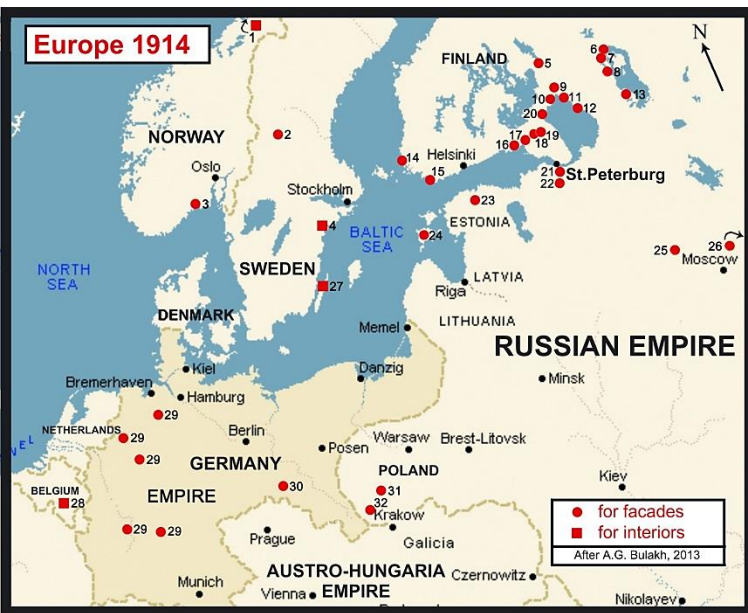
Adjacent to Demidov's house this edifice built by Au.Montferrand in 1840 and possessed by V.F.Gagarina is located. The asymmetrical facade of the mansion is decorated with a large open balcony adorned with four marble busts wrecked rather considerably at present.

N 14. N 47, the Great Naval Street

Appearing smart is the former house of Nabokovs the ground storey of which is faced with red sandstone and the upper storeys are faced with grey sandstone. The facing slabs of sandstone are finished in such a way that some of them are smooth while others have rocky surfaces.

Garlands carved of sandstone and a mosaic frieze of majolica that depicts red tulips and light-blue lilies against a golden background embellish the top of the building facade.

Deposits of St Petersburg ornamental stone



See more in:

A. G. Bulakh. ORNAMENTAL STONE IN THE HISTORY OF ST PETERSBURG ARCHITECTURE / Towards International Recognition of Building and Ornamental Stones. Geological Society Spec. Publ. London. 2014.

1	Marble pink*, €-S
2	Blyberg porphyry, PR
2	Garberg granite, PR
2	Åsby diabas (dolerite), PR
3	Larvikite, P
4	Marbles green and other*, PR
5	Soap stone, PR
6, 7, 9, 11	Marble, PR
8	Black schist, PR
10, 19	Granite grey, PR
13	Quartzite, PR
14	Granite grey, PR
12, 15-18, 19	Granite pink, AR-PR
20	Almandine gneiss, PR
21	Platy limestone, O
22	Tufa, Q
23, 27	Limestone, Marbled limestone*, O
25	Limestone, C
26, 28	Marble, Marble black*, C, and others
29-31	Colored sandstones, T - K
32	Marble, J
-	Marbles from France, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Germany*

* Only in interiors

No 1

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