WOODEN CHURCHES OF KENOZERO NP AND THEIR RESTORATION

- One of the last pockets of pristine ancient Rus, the original Russian lifestyle, culture, traditions, landscape and architecture is a remote area of the Russian North located around Lake Kenozero.
- For a long time, the remoteness of the area facilitated the preservation of the ancient features of the local language and culture.
- Geographically, this area has always been isolated from the external cataclysms and wars. This unique land has not experienced the Tatar Yoke or serfdom a factor that helped preserving the traditional lifestyle of the Holy Orthodox Russia. In reality, Kenozero never was an oasis at the end of the Earth. Its significance increased thanks to the so-called Kensky Volochek (the Kena Portage), first mentioned in the written sources in the early XII century. In the colonization of the North, the Novgorodians competed with the people from the "Lower Land", as they referred to the duchies south-east of the Novgorodian land, including the Duchy of Moscow. At the time, rivers and lakes were the main, sometimes the only routes of travel.
- Already in the middle of the XVI century there were more than 70 villages in the Kenozero Volost. It is for a reason that the Kenozero land is referred to as the land of myths and fairy tales. The Kenozero heroic epos made a huge contribution (83 bylinas, epic narrative poems) into the treasury of the Russian folkloristics. The first bylinas and the traditions of their performance were brought to Kenozero by the Novgorodians in XII-XV centuries.

- The architecture of this land is amazing and unique. There are no accidental buildings or structures here, no random choice of location. The severe climate, the traditions of land use, as well as dependence on the waterways for travel all this makes impact on the development of the villages. Each community is a one-of-a-kind social unit on a one-of-a-kind landscape. All the dominating elevations are occupied by sacred groves with churches and chapels. These serve not only as architectural dominants for each individual village, but also as navigation reference for travel across the Kenozero lake system.
- All the monuments of religious architecture in Kenozero National Park (chapels, churches and two unique pogosts, or parish center ensembles Porzhensky Pogost and the Filippovskaya village pogost) are in their original locations, which is what gives them their unique value. They are not only architectural monuments, but also the focal points that organize the adjacent space and landscape.
- The original woodworking techniques and the carefully re-created carpenter tools used in XVII-XIX centuries are utilized for conservation and restoration of the monuments of wooden architecture



Roof ridge cap log (okhlupen) made using ancient technologies

Traditional termination of a chapel - an onion dome covered with aspen shingles





Chapel of Three Holy Hierarchs, (early XIX century), Nemyata village, after restoration

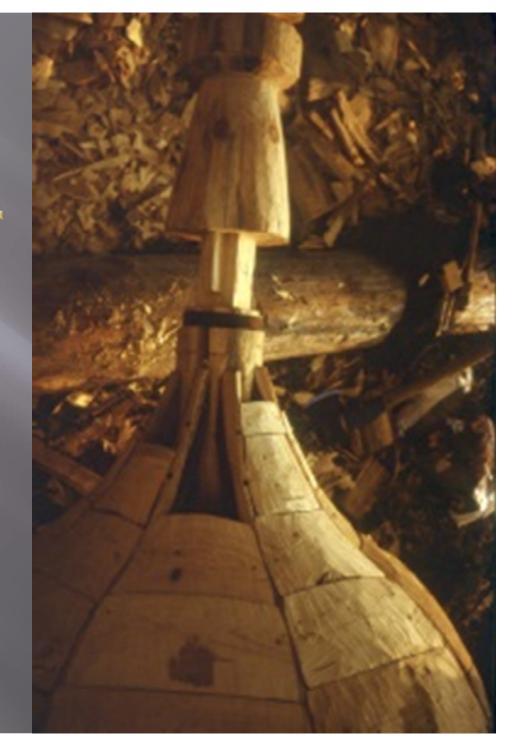
St. Elijah Chapel in the village of Vedyagino. 1991 restoration





Chapel of Three Holy Hierarchs (early XIX century), Nemyata village, before restoration

Design of an onion dome

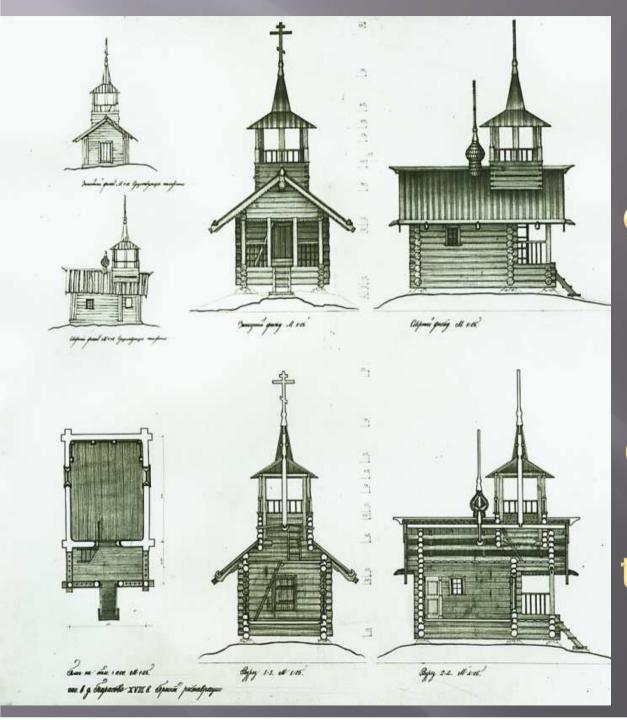




Porzhensky Pogost (XVIII century). 1988 conservation

Porzhensky Pogost (XVIII century). After the 2016 restoration





Design of the conservation -restoration of the St. Pachomius Chapel (XVIII century) in the village of **Tarasovo**























Фотофиксация реставрации Никольской часовни









1996-1997 год





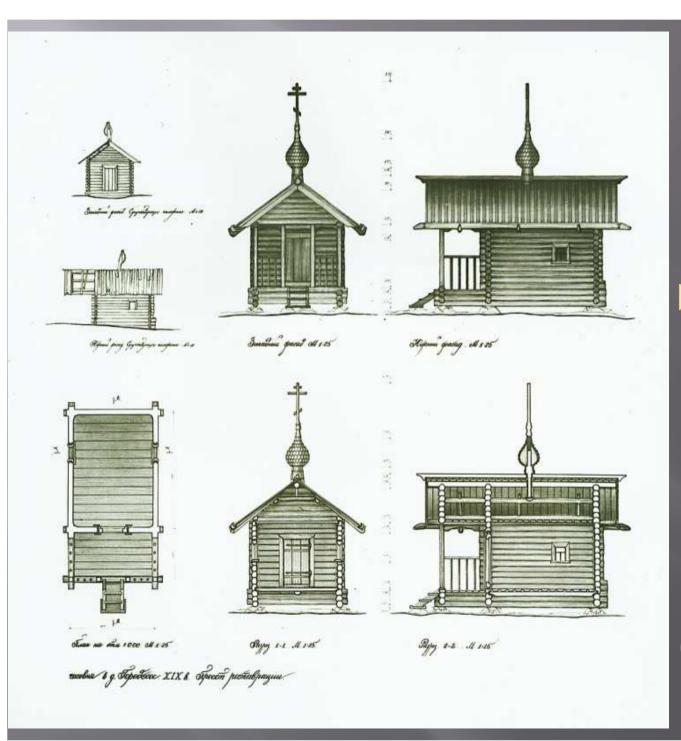








Conservati on photograp hy during the restoration of the St. **Nicholas** Chapel (late XVIIearly XVIII century).



Design of the conservati onrestoration of a XVIIIcentury chapel in the village Gorodskoy