

Vol. 7, No. 2, 2021

UDC 726.3 (477.4)

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## FEATURES OF THE BERNARDINES DEFENSIVE MONASTERIES OF WESTERN UKRAINE IN THE XVII–XVIII CENTURIES

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*Received: 29.07.2021 / Revised: 18.08.2021 / Accepted: 03.09.2021*

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<https://doi.org/10.23939/as2021.02.189>

**Abstract.** The article analyzes the landscape and urban planning location of monasteries of Bernardines based on desk and field studies. Previously unknown facts about the existence and functioning of individual monastic fortification elements were revealed, and the features of the order's defensive structures were determined.

**Key words:** defensive structures, monastery, Bernardines, Western Ukraine.

### **Problem statement**

Reliable defensive structures in the XVII–XVIII on territories of Western Ukraine were the key to the stable functioning of a castle, city or monastery. Monastic complexes actively dominated the space of settlements or landscapes. Homes for Bernardines were among the most numerous centres among the Western Rite orders in the study area and, due to various factors, played an active defensive role in the system of protecting cities and surrounding territories. Defensive structures, in addition to protection, defined the territory of the object. As a result of the deprivation of the original sacred function in the Soviet period, monasteries, as well as the remains of defensive structures, were actively repurposed (as prisons, warehouses) and, as a result, destroyed. Nowadays, when developing general, historical and architectural reference plans, restoration projects, the question of determining the historical boundaries of objects and the original architectural and compositional integrity of monastery complexes is relevant.

### **Analysis of recent research and publications**

Monasteries of Bernardines were studied by Ukrainian and Polish scientists. Among the Ukrainian ones, it is worth noting the works of Volodymyr Vuytsik, in his significant historical and architectural study of the monastery in Lviv. The monasteries also were explored by O. Boiko and I. Siomochkin (Boyko O., Semenyuk A., 2012). Monasteries of the Western rite are the area of interest of Polish scientists M. Kurzei

(Kurzej M., 2006), E. Kvetsinskaya (Kwiecińska E., 2016). Scientific research focuses mainly on the sacred elements of complexes with descriptions of historical and architectural aspects of monuments. Defensive structures are partially inspected or not mentioned at all.

### Purpose of the article

The article aims to collect, systematize and identify new facts of the functioning and history of the formation of defensive structures of monasteries of Bernardines on the territory of Western Ukraine. The purpose is also to determine the location, dimensions, architectural and planning features of monastery defences.

### Results and discussion

Monasticism in Western Ukraine has been known since the time of Kievan Rus with the adoption of Christianity. The vast majority of monasteries were occupied by the Eastern rite, as mentioned in the annals of that time. The active policy of expansion of Rus lands by the Polish Kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania radically changed the ecclesiastical and political situation on the territory of Ukrainian lands in the second half of the XIV century. The weakening of the material and political position of the church in the Ukrainian lands, caused by the ecclesiastical and political crisis in the Byzantine Empire, contributed to the spread of Latin monasteries. In the studied period, about 50 defensive complexes of the Western rite of various orders can be distinguished (Fig. 1), with a location in or outside the city centre. Monasteries of the Bernardine order are among the most common – 9 objects – in Berezhany, Husyatyn, Dubno, Zbarazh, Izyaslav, Lviv, Leshniv, Sokal and Khrystynopil (Fig. 2). The Bernardine order is an offshoot of the Franciscan Order, which was formed in the XII century. On the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the territories of Western Ukraine, the Bernardine order appeared in the middle of the XV century.



Fig. 1. Layout of defensive monasteries of the Western rite on the territory of Western Ukraine (51 Vol.)

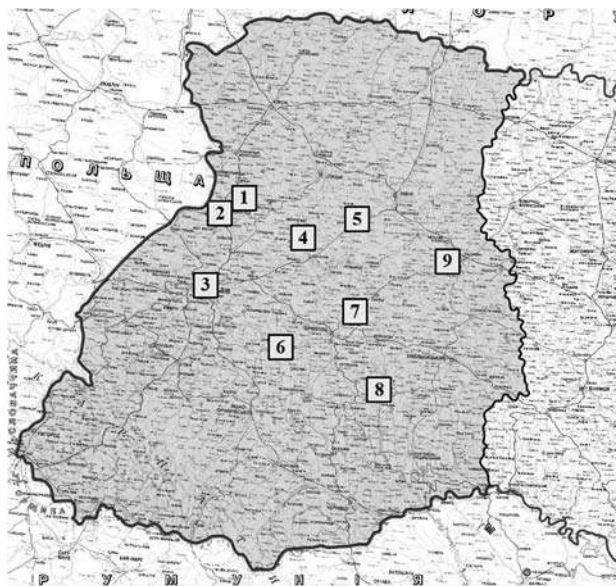


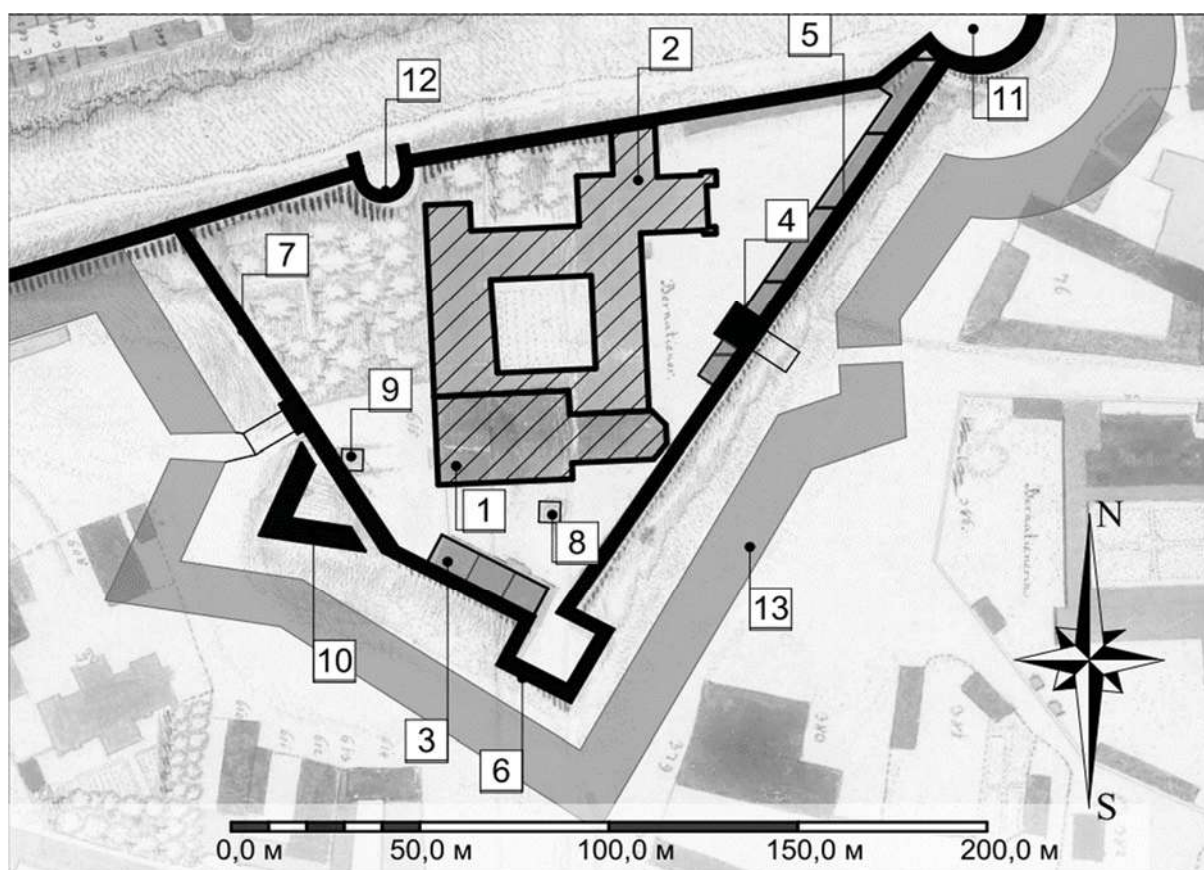
Fig. 2. Layout of defensive monasteries of the Bernardines on the territory of Western Ukraine: 1) Sokal, 2) Khrystynopil; 3) Lviv; 4) Leshniv; 5) Dubno; 6) Berezhany; 7) Zbarazh; 8) Husyatyn; 9) Izyaslav

The factor of urban planning influence was one of the most significant in the formation of the defence of Monastery complexes. Among the selected research objects in the centre were 7 monasteries: Husyatyn,

Khrystynopil, Lviv, Zbarazh, Berezhany, Dubno, Leshniv. The Bernardine monasteries in Sokal and Izyaslav were located outside the city centre and were defended only by their defensive structures.

The Bernardine monastery in Gusyatin was formed at the beginning of the XVII century. The territory of the complex had a regular layout and occupied a place on the terrace of the slope, adjacent to the south-western corner of the city centre near the barbican. The monastery was surrounded by defensive walls and connected to the wall of the city centre. The territory of the monastery is in the form of an irregular parallelogram; no corner elements were found. The length of the western flank of the wall around the monastery is 275 m, the northern flank is 175 m, the eastern flank is 220 m, and the southern flank is 145 m. The additional natural defence was provided by the river Zbruch. In the middle of the XVII century it was destroyed and during 1690–1723 rebuilt at the expense of Adam Jerome Senyavsky (Kwiecińska, 2016). The cadastral map of 1827 shows the stone fence of the complex, the temple and the scattered buildings of the monastery (Gesher Galicia, 2015).

The Bernardine monastery in Khrystynopil began to develop at the end of the XVI century. In 1692, Felix Kazimir Potocki began to develop a city named Khrystynopil after his wife Khrystina Lubomirska on the territory of the new courtyard. Potocki could not fully implement the planned spatial image of the city, because, on May 15, 1702, he died and was buried in the church of the Bernardines, the founder of which he was in 1695 (at first it was a wooden structure with a stone crypt). In 1702 Josef, the son of Felix Casimir Potocki, began to rule Khrystynopil (Czernecki, 1939). He continued and completed the construction of the stone church in 1703 and eventually the monastery building. He died in 1723 and is also buried in the crypts of the church. Near the monastery of the Bernardines on the northern side of the city centre was a gate with a bridge. The monastery was built on a hill near the corner of the city centre.



*Fig. 3. Reconstruction of the defensive structures of the monastery of Bernardines in Lviv on the map of Huber of 1777: 1. Church; 2. Cells; 3. Bell tower; 4. Hlynska Gate; 5. reserved curtain of the south-eastern flank of the monastery's defensive wall; 6. Bernardine bastey; 7. Lost south-western flank of the monastery's defensive wall; 8. Well; 9. Column; 10. Ravelin; 11. Royal Bastey; 12. Strumilova Bastey; 13. Hypothetical sketch of an earthen rampart*



The monastery of Bernardines in Lviv (Fig. 3) is one of the most striking monuments of Renaissance architecture in the city. According to typological features, the complex is located in lowland, near the main road and is blocked to the corner of the walls of the city centre. It has a complex configuration of defence lines – Urban fortifications and developed its defensive structures. The site for the construction of the monastery was chosen on the Galician suburb, between the Galician gate and the Royal Tower. The stone monastery was built on the site of the half-timbered Bernardine monastery. On September 16, 1600, the cornerstone for the new shrine was laid and consecrated (Vuysytsyk, 2012). The defensive fortifications consisted of two flanks. South-East (approx. 200 m long) flank originated from the Royal Tower and headed southwest to the Bernardine Bastey. The Hlynsky gate was built in the middle of the flank. To the curtain of the flank, from the courtyard between the Royal Bastey and the gate, the utility rooms adjoined. Field surveys revealed that the curtain consists of two conditional parts: the lower one is made of stone and the upper one is made of brick. Loopholes are arranged only in the upper tier of the defensive wall. The increased arch of the loopholes made it possible to remove gases after firing muskets or shooters. It seems like the southwest flank (approx. 165 m long) was not implemented as a straight line, as indicated on the plan of the monastery in 1622. On the project of Jan Behrens in 1674, a broken curtain and gate with a small Ravelin were recorded, closer to the line of fortifications of the city. According to the proposals of Jan Behrens, the entire complex was surrounded by wet moat and earthen trenches that repeated the geometry of the monastery's defensive walls. The cornerstone of the south-eastern and south-western flanks was the Bernardine Bastey, the configuration of the plan of which is recorded on many cartographic materials. Its illustration, made by Jean Weining in 1795, has also been preserved. It is rectangular in plan, made of stone and brick without a roof covering. The flanks of Bastey reached 10–11 m, and the facades were about 20 m. According to the plan of 1622, two cannon loopholes were arranged in the flanks of the first tier to shoot through the monastery curtains. In general, the structure consisted of three tiers. On the second level, according to the lithograph of Jean Weining, three loopholes are arranged in the facades. Presumably, they were intended for cannon protection of the pre-field. The walls of the second and third tiers were separated by a parapet. On the third level, there are five loopholes for muskets and riflemen in each face. Nowadays, the remains of the Bastey at the ground level have not been preserved.

Bernardine monastery in Leshniv (Fig. 4) is located in the northern part of the city centre, on a flat territory, in a corner near the gate. It was built during 1629–1697. (*Leszniow*, 1884). The monastery was founded by the Belz castellan, owner of Leshniv, Maciej Lesznewski. Initially, the church was made of stone, and the cells were made of wood. The founder ordered his descendants to build a defensive monastery and fill it with the necessary weapons due to the frequent raids of the Tatars. In 1648, as a result of the national liberation struggle, the monastery was looted and burned (Kurzej M., 2006). Restoration of already built structures continued until 1697 (Chadam, 1985). A full-scale survey revealed loopholes in the upper tier of the monastery church from the north, which made it possible to additionally defend the northern gate of the city centre (Hohon, 2018). The length of the western flank of the wall around the monastery is 110 m, the northern flank is 185 m, the eastern flank is 102 m, and the southern flank is 207 m.

The Bernardine monastery in Zbarazh is located in the southern part of the city centre near the gate. It was built during the XVII – mid-XVIII centuries. The Mig's map shows a stone fence around the complex. There are no fortifications of the monastery on the cadastral map of 1830. The church and monastery building were connected. In the middle of the monastery, there is a closed courtyard. From the south and west, the monastery was provided with a pond area. The length of the western flank of the wall around the monastery is 106 m, the northern flank is 200 m, the eastern flank is 117 m, and the southern flank is 198 m.

The Bernardine monastery in Berezhany was built during the XVII century. It is located on a hill in the north-western part of the city centre. The monastery was defended only with the help of city defences – stone walls with loopholes, ditches and a bastion that protected the city (Rybachynskyi and Khokhon, 2017a).

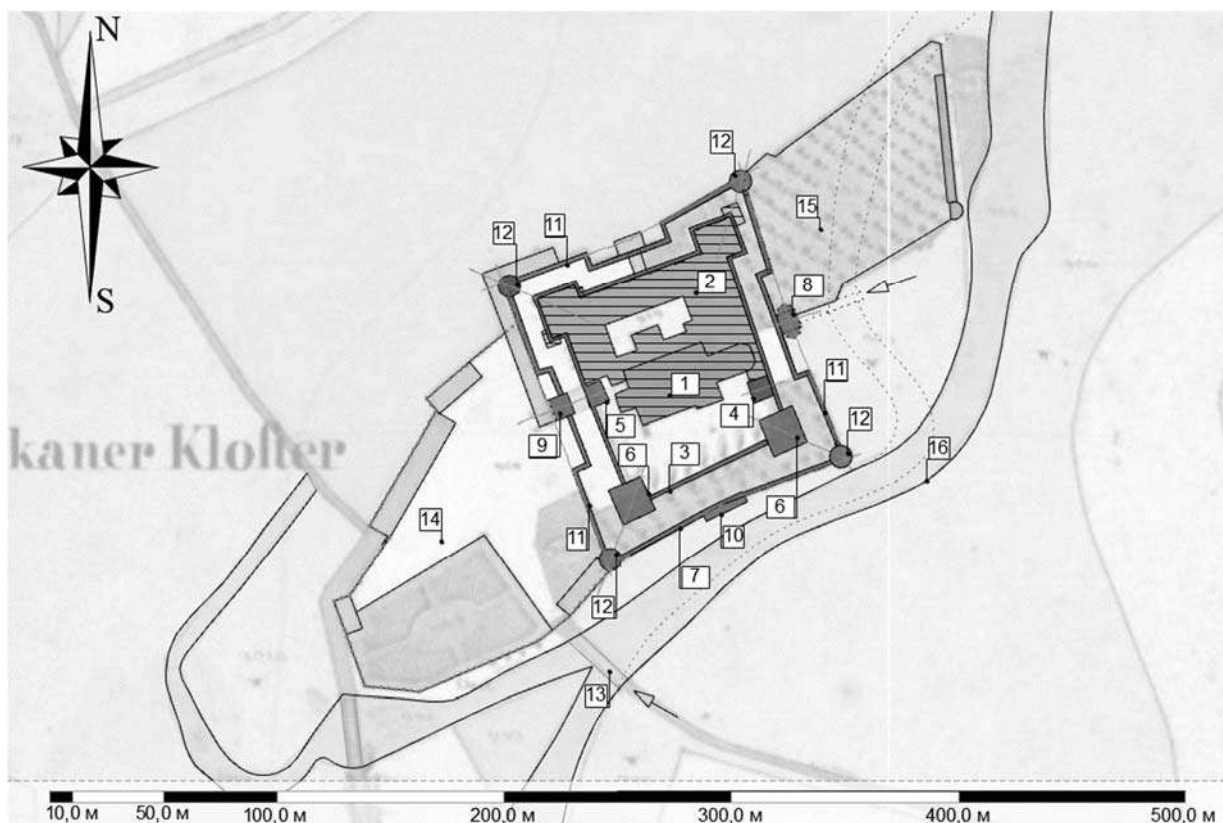


Fig. 4. Reconstruction of the defensive structures of the monastery of Bernardines in Leshniv on a topographic survey in 2016: 1. Church; 2. Cells; 3. Clause; 4. City entrance gate; 5. Bridge; 6. Shaft; 7. Rondel; 8. Fosa; 9. Glassis line; 10. Cornerstone rondel; 11. Palisade

The Bernardine monastery in Dubno is located next to the Lutsk gate in the western part of the city centre on the sloping terrace. It had a simple defence system – the defence was conducted only by the defensive structures of the city walls, ramparts and ditches. It was built during the first half of the XVII century. On the map of the early XIX century, the temple and monastery are combined. The territory of the complex is surrounded by a stone wall. From the north, an additional defence was a low-lying swampy area (Rybachynskyi and Khokhon, 2017b). The territory of the monastery, as a result of fitting into the corner of the city centre, acquired a trapezoidal shape, was extended from West to East with dimensions of approximately 150×110 m.

The Bernardine monastery in Izyaslav was built during 1606–1610 by architect Yakub Madline (Tokarzewski, 1913). The monastery is located to the east of the city centre on a high hill on the left bank of the Horyn River. The monastery consisted of a church, cells, economic premisses, walls, four towers, western and northern gates and a bell tower. The wall reached a height of six meters with loopholes for cannons and a second row for muskets. The buildings of the monastery were destroyed during the national liberation struggle under the leadership of B. Khmelnytsky. From the analysis of cartographic materials, it was revealed that the monastery consisted of two parts: the original core with a church, cells surrounded by defensive structures, and a later one, probably added as a result of restoration work on the territory in 1727 from the east and north (Zharikov, 1986). The length of the western flank of the defensive wall of the original core is 165 m, the northern flank is 170 m, the eastern flank is 145 m, and the southern flank is 172 m.

Bernardine monastery in Sokal (Fig. 5) was founded in 1599 on the left bank, even though the new city itself was located in 1524 on the right, the highest bank after the Tatar attack. Thanks to the confirmation of the foundation by King Sigmund III, construction of the monastery began in 1604. The project was developed by an unknown architect of the sandomierz voivode Yuriy Mnishka and father Bernard Avelidis, who also supervised the construction of the Bernardine monastery in Lviv (Бойко і Семенюк, 2012). Since the place for construction was chosen swampy, to strengthen the foundation, alder piles had to be driven into deep ditches, filled with slag and quicklime and filled with oil. Construction lasted 15 years.



*Fig. 5. Bernardine monastery in Sokal on the cadastral map of 1851:*

- 1. Church; 2. Cells; 3. Curtain of the first defensive line; 4. Eastern gate of the first defensive line;*
- 5. West gate of the first defensive line; 6. Southern towers of the first defensive line; 7. Curtain of the second defensive line; 8. Eastern gate of the second defensive line; 9. West Gate of the second defensive line;*
- 10. Bell tower; 11. Bastions of the second defensive line; 12. Corner towers of bastions; 13. Bridge;*
- 14. Western suburbs; 15. Eastern suburbs; 16. Flow*

In the monastery, there was a well-known Sokal Miraculous Icon, the coronation of which took place on September 8, 1724, and in 1732 the monastery walls were strengthened, in particular, their height was raised. Most likely, the second line of defence of the complex was built at that time.

According to the typological system, the monastery is located outside the city walls, near a local road and is a low-lying monastery (Rybachynskyi and Khokhon, 2016). Defensive fortifications, as well as the monastery itself, are little studied since at the moment the monastery has preserved high-security prison No. 47 (there are no prisoners in it). In addition, throughout its history, the monastery has suffered great destruction from fires and wars, which led to a change in the characteristic original appearance.

According to Friedrich von Mig's 1772 map, the monastery was surrounded by two streams and a swampy area that served as the main natural protection. The monastery consisted of a church and cells adjacent to the temple from the north, outbuildings and two lines of defence. The first line had a regular outline of the wall with towers at the corners and Gates to the east and west. The church was located in the centre of dytynets. Monastic cells adjoined the church from the north and the defensive wall from the south, forming an atrium. The maximum dimensions of the first line were 104×93 m. The second defence line surrounded the monastery with a high defensive wall with loopholes and merlons. It had regular planning. The maximum dimensions of the second line were 140×120 m. The corners are formed with a bastion outline, the corners of which were completed by two-tiered, round in plan towers with a dome cover. The eastern flank was equipped with additional cavaliers, since it had an entrance gate from the Buh river in the centre. The gate consisted of a main structure, rectangular in plan, and two additional towers attached symmetrically to the north and south. The second defensive line was complemented by a



moat filled with water. The entrance was made along a wooden bridge. Information about the western gates of the first and second lines has not been found, probably they were built like the eastern ones. In addition, approximately at the end of the XVII century, the territory was added to the monastery from the west and it was surrounded by a wall. In the wall, near the south-western tower of the second defensive line, a tower-type Southern gate was constructed.

## Conclusions

As a result of the study of nine monasteries of the Bernardine order, and the systematization of the facts of the history of monasteries, it was revealed that the defensive architecture of the order can be traced in the construction of its defensive structures. The location relative to the urban planning factor, configuration and dimensions of defensive lines of objects are determined. The Bernardines owned some of the most powerful defensive monasteries in western Ukraine: in Sokal, Izyaslav, Lviv. Monasteries of this order tended to be located in the city centres. Three of them, namely in Berezhany, Dubno, Leshniv, were located in the corners of the city centre near the gate. A separate type should be considered monasteries in Lviv, Husiatyn and Khrystynopil, which were blocked to the corner of the walls of the city centre from the outside. In Zbarazh, the monastery was located in the middle of the defence line near the gate and had its walls. At this stage, the study revealed one defensive monastery church – in Leshnev. The monasteries of Dubno and Berezhany were defended by powerful fortifications of the city. The defensive structures of monasteries in Lviv and Sokal are different. In Lviv, due to the status of the city and responsibility, the monastery was obliged to actively defend itself which explains the presence of a three-tiered bastey, a powerful wall with a loophole and a ravelin at the entrance. In Sokal, the monastery was an outpost of the territory and a powerful centre of pilgrimage, and therefore economically secure. It is revealed that the Bernardines' complexes used mostly newer forms of defence: basteys, bastions, and ramparts.

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**ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ОБОРОННИХ МОНАСТИРІВ ОРДЕНУ БЕРНАРДИНІВ  
ЗАХІДНОЇ УКРАЇНИ У XVII–XVIII СТОЛІТТЯХ**

**Анотація.** Надійні оборонні споруди у XVII–XVIII на теренах Західної України були запорукою стабільного функціонування замку, міста чи монастиря. Монастирські комплекси активно домінували у просторі населених пунктів чи ландшафту. Обителі оо. бернардинів були одними з найчисленніших осередків серед орденів західного обряду на території дослідження та в силу різних чинників відігравали активну оборонну роль у системі захисту міст та навколишніх теренів. Оборонні споруди, окрім захисту, визначали територію об'єкта. Унаслідок позбавлення первісної сакральної функції у совітський період, монастирі, як і залишки оборонних споруд, зазнали активного неприцяманного перепрофілювання (в'язниці, склади) та, як наслідок, руйнування. Сьогодні під час розроблення генеральних, історико-архітектурних опорних планів, проектів реставрації актуальним виникає питання визначення історичних меж об'єктів та первісної архітектурно-композиційної цілісності монастирських комплексів.

У дослідженому періоді можна виділити близько 50 оборонних комплексів Західного обряду різних орденів (рис. 1), з розташуванням у чи за межами середмістя. Монастирі ордену отців бернардинів є одними з найпоширеніших – 9 об'єктів – у Бережанах, Гусятині, Дубно, Збаражсі, Ізяславі, Львові, Лешеневі, Сокалі та Христинополі (рис. 2). Орден бернардинів є відгалуженням від францисканського чину, яке сформувалося ще у XII столітті. На території Речі Посполитої та теренах Західної України орден бернардинів з'явився у середині XV століття.

У результаті опрацювання дев'ятьох монастирів ордену бернардинів та систематизації фактів історії обителів виявлено, що оборонна архітектура ордену яскраво простежується у спорудженні власних оборонних споруд. Визначено розташування щодо містобудівельного чинника, конфігурацію та габарити оборонних ліній об'єктів. Бернардинам належали одні з найпотужніших оборонних обителів на території Західної України: у Сокалі, Ізяславі, Львові. Монастирі цього ордену тяжіли до розташування у середмістях. Три з них, а саме у Бережанах, Дубно, Лешеневі розташовувались у кутах середмістя біля брам. Окремим типом варто вважати монастирі у Львові, Гусятині та Христинополі, що блокувались до рогу мурів середмістя ззовні. У Збаражсі монастир розташовувався посередині лінії оборони біля брамки та мав власні мури. На цьому етапі дослідженням виявлено один оборонний монастирський костел – у Лешеневі. Монастирі ж Дубно і Бережан оборонялися потужними фортифікаціями міста. Варто окремо виділити оборонні споруди монастирів у Львові та Сокалі. У Львові через статусність міста і відповідальність монастир зобов'язувався до активної оборони, що і пояснює наявність трьохъярусної бастей, потужного муру з бійничним рядом та рavelіну на в'їзді. У Сокалі монастир був форпостом території та потужним центром паломництва, а відповідно, економічно забезпеченим. Виявлено, що комплекси оо. бернардинів використовували переважно новіші форми захисту – бастей, бастіони та вали.

**Ключові слова:** оборонні споруди, монастир, отці бернардини, Західна Україна.