

## Amurskaya Street



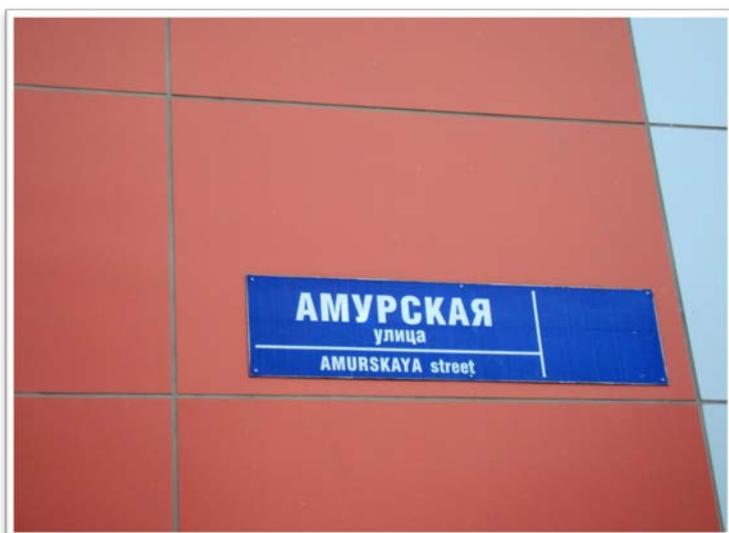
If you imagine a rectangle which consists of Lenina, Chekhova, Sakhalinskaya and Yemelyanova Streets, you will notice that right in the middle it is crossed by Amurskaya Street. In Mongolian «amur» means «calm», and it is a perfect description for quiet Amurskaya Street, especially in a comparison with lively and rush central streets.

Amurskaya Street is a wonderful example of a formation of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk population in postwar years as a result of mass arrivals of new settlers. You can also add Tikhookeanskaya, Kurilskaya and Ostrovnaya Streets to this group.

In January 1946 the city was developing gradually, so were public utilities. Amurskaya Street was covered with gravel. With help of different design organizations a lot of city's problems have been finally solved. A large number of street reconstruction and utility lines construction measures have been also taken.

Residential buildings have been mostly constructed according to Japanese plans, being non-concrete, typically made of wooden planks, cardboard, plywood and a frame. The city center was very dull, with no green spaces at all. In 1949 paving-stones placement works in Amurskaya, Chekhova and Kurilskaya Streets were almost done. There was also a Buddhist temple in Amurskaya Street in the 50s. In 1963 district heat supply works were launched in Amurskaya, Tikhookeanskaya, Yuzhnaya areas, etc.

According to the Decree of the Town Civilian Office all workers had to finish their work two hours earlier twice a week to provide and take part in repairing and construction works, paving and planting. The city had a clear rectangle system of street planning. There also was a railway, which cut city into two parts: the Eastern part with big residential complexes and the Western with a comparably small district.

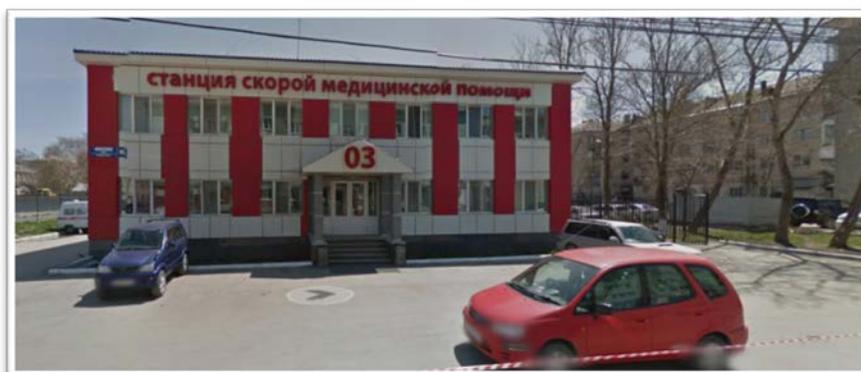


On 1 September 1947 the first School-Pedagogical College was opened in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. It consisted of three classes with 100 students. The history of Amurskaya Street itself cannot be separated from the whole city's history, as it developed and smartened along with it.

Nowadays the biggest healthcare centers are concentrated in the regional capital. For example, the Medical Emergency service in Amurskaya Street began upon 1946. At first it took an old and unadapted two-storey Japanese building. It also had a backyard with an open-air trestle, a small garage for only three cars, a boiler-room, a shed and a warehouse. The station had heating and running water, but there was no drain. But lately in 1966 a new and well-equipped two-storey building with a drugstore and a lounge was built and became operational.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is a city with strong scientific traditions. On 12 July 2002 Project Institute «Sakhalin Morneft» was constructed on the crossing of Khabarovskaya and Amurskaya Streets. The institute itself was established in 1938. It remains the one and only complex, which deals with projects, connected with exploration, development, production, transporting and recycling the energetic resources both on a land and on a shelf.

Different security forces have been also concentrated in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. As an example, there are three units of fire departments. The first firehouse was constructed in Amurskaya Street in



1970. Now it is called Crisis Management Center of Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia). The main functions are management of the forces and supplies intended for prevention and elimination of emergencies in

Sakhalin Region and management of proper functioning of the number of the Emergency Service («112») and the central the Fire Department («01»).

In 1996 an exhibition was established in the administrative building of the Fire Department. Nowadays it includes a historical hall, a hall of fire equipment and a movie hall. The Fire-



Control Propaganda can be named as the main idea of the exhibition, as well as educating citizens with the latest developments and breakthroughs in the field of the Fire Fighting System.

Under the circumstances of welfare gains and increasing demand for banking services a great banking network has been created. A lot of bank branches are located in Amurskaya Street as well.



Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk was always claimed as a green city in the middle of forests and fields. But there are also a lot of green in the city itself, like a unique little square park, connected with the history of Asahikawa and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk cities relationships. On 10 October 2003 at Asahikawa Square in Amurskaya Street a traditional Japanese gazebo was constructed as a gift from Asahikawa for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of successful relationships.



The capital of the Sakhalin region can be claimed as the center of the educational system. Not far from the square in Amurskaya Street you can easily find a general education school №1. Its history starts on 10 October 1945, when the school was opened in one of the old Japanese huts. Due to a great lack of teachers, a lot of them were sent from the military bases. There was no electricity; the whole school was lit

with candles and oil lamps. There were also small ovens to heat the rooms, as children studied in three shifts. A new building was constructed on 15 January 1966. This building was one of the first in the town to have modern IT, geography, physics and literature classes, which were the best in the city for a very long time. A lot of the graduates of the schools became teachers themselves.

Amurskaya Street is never late for the development. Each and every year government and businessmen increase the number of markets, shops and grocery stores. A big shopping mall «Berezka» was opened in 2009 at the crossing of Amurskaya and Pogranichnaya Streets. This modern and specialized building became a useful and sought spot in the city.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk has already adopted the features of the European town, as well as Amurskaya Street, which is not the main street of the city; nevertheless it can be named as one of the most important ones.