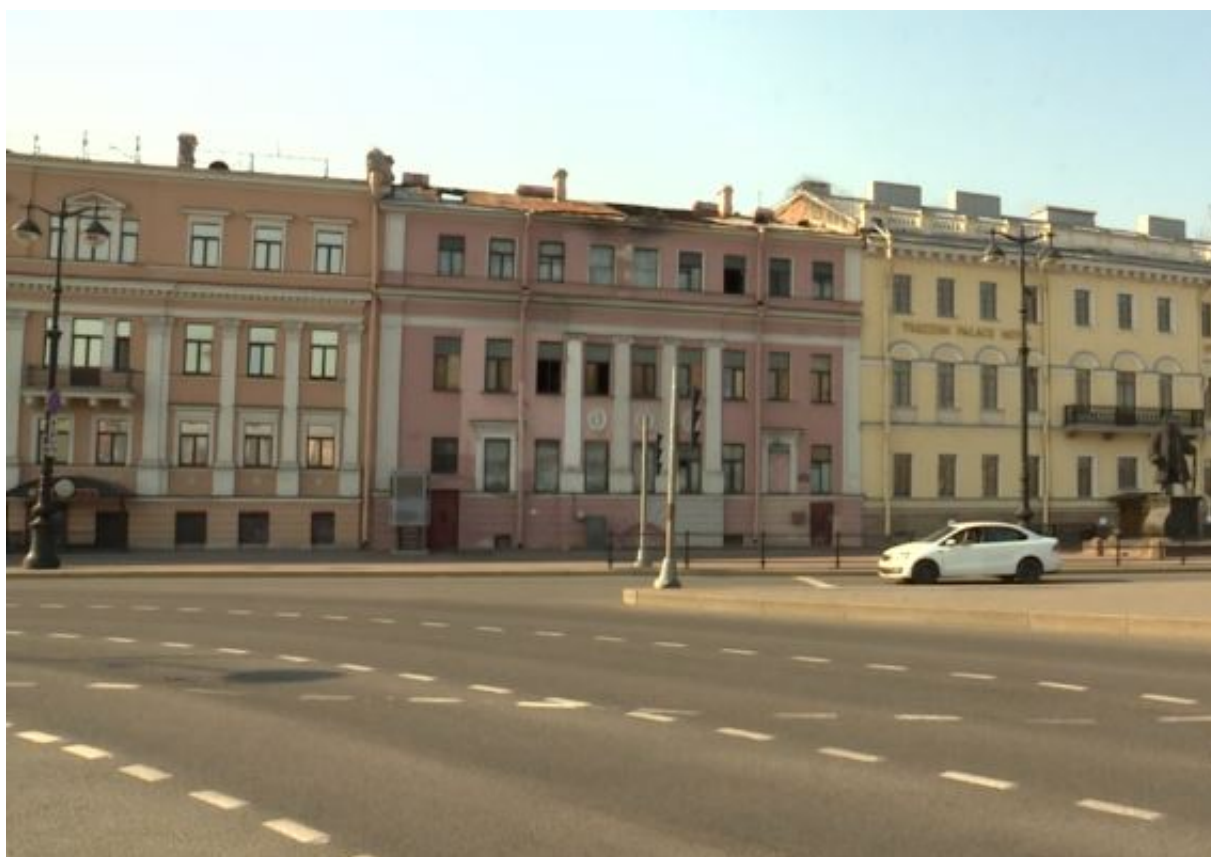

In St. Petersburg, criminal investigation into violation of requirements for maintenance and use of cultural heritage objects is ongoing



The St. Petersburg Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia proceeded to investigation of a probe launched by police bodies under Article 243.1 of the Criminal Code of Russia (violation of requirements for maintenance and use of cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural memorials) of peoples of the Russian Federation) into a fire that occurred on June 4, 2019 in a house of Andrey Cherkassky (Ritter) located on Universitetskaya embankment. As reported earlier, one of TV channels criticized process of investigation of a probe related to the mansion of duke Alexey Cherkassky in Universitetskaya embankment in St. Petersburg. The Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia instructed the direction of the investigative department to examine the situation and give adequate legal assessment to all arguments pronounced in the TV story.

It was established during investigation that Boris Berson was the owner of a majority of premises of the Andrey Cherkassky (Ritter) house that had been recognised as a cultural heritage object. The building hasn't been used and secured for a long time, it is disconnected from all communications and all premises are filled with garbage. Since 2016 the building has seen multiple fires in terms of garbage ignition due to homeless people living and drinking alcohol there. The officers of the State Control Committee over Maintenance and Securing of Historical and Cultural Monuments have repeatedly fixed facts of systematic deterioration of condition of the object. B. Berson was brought to administrative responsibility by the court in the form of a fine in 2019 and 2020. At present investigators and police officers are carrying out a search in Adamant office to seize items and documents of interest for investigation.

The criminal investigation is ongoing.

20 May 2021

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