



An Analysis of a Historical House in Alaçatı, Çeşme

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Research Article

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Abstract

Alaçatı, located on the Çeşme Peninsula in Türkiye, is a historic and touristic coastal settlement. In recent years, despite the growing influence of tourism on its historic center, the settlement has managed to partially preserve its urban fabric and architectural heritage. In the historic center of the settlement, the civil architecture from the Ottoman period stands out as a prominent physical representation of cultural heritage. Historical houses are particularly significant for understanding the socio-cultural history of the settlement. Today, most of them have been restored and lost their original functions. On the other hand, some historical buildings hold a significant place in the city's memory, not only for their residential function but also for their commercial role in the settlement. A notable example is a two-storied stone house named “Yürük Grocery”, situated in the Hacı Memiş Neighborhood, Alaçatı. Among the other historical houses, it stands out with its corner position, shared courtyard design and ground-floor function. This study aims to document the architectural features and cultural heritage values of this historical building, trace its evolution over time, and contribute to the literature. The methodology of this study includes documentation, literature review, archival research, fieldwork, and oral expressions. As a result, this study has identified three periods by examining the building's architectural features, history, construction techniques, and material characteristics in its evolution. In this way, the study contributes to maintain its historical identity.

1. Introduction

Çeşme Peninsula, located on the western coast of Türkiye in the İzmir Province, extends into the Aegean Sea. Çeşme, the town of Çeşme Peninsula, is known for its deep-rooted history, historical settlements and tourism activities. Alaçatı, located in the Çeşme district, is among the most prominent historic and touristic coastal settlements in Türkiye. The town center is located 7 km from Çeşme and 79 km from the center of İzmir. It is famous for its historic settlement, which reflects both Muslim and Greek Orthodox influences in its architecture and traditions, as well as its favorable climate for windsurfing and natural beauty. Although its historic center has become increasingly influenced by tourism in recent years, it has partially preserved its urban structure and architectural features. In the historic center of the settlement, the products of civil architecture belonging to the Ottoman period are seen as the most evident physical elements of cultural heritage.

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Today, the historical houses of Alaçatı are located in three neighborhoods, in chronological order of historical development, the neighborhoods of Hacı Memiş, Tokoğlu, and Yeni Mecidiye (Figure 1) (Kocamanoğlu, 2010). The urban fabric is in a grid layout around Kemalpaşa Street, which runs east-west, and Mektep Street, which intersects it in a north-south direction. In the southern part of the area, in Hacı Memiş Neighborhood, which develops around Mithatpaşa Street, the layout is more organic. The commercial district of the settlement is located around Kemalpaşa Street and its surroundings (Yılmaz, 1983; Hersek; 1990). The buildings in this area have commercial functions on the ground floors and living spaces on the upper floors (Özgönül, 2010). Accordingly, it is vital to provide brief information about the evolution of the Hacı Memiş neighborhood as the oldest neighborhood of the settlement.

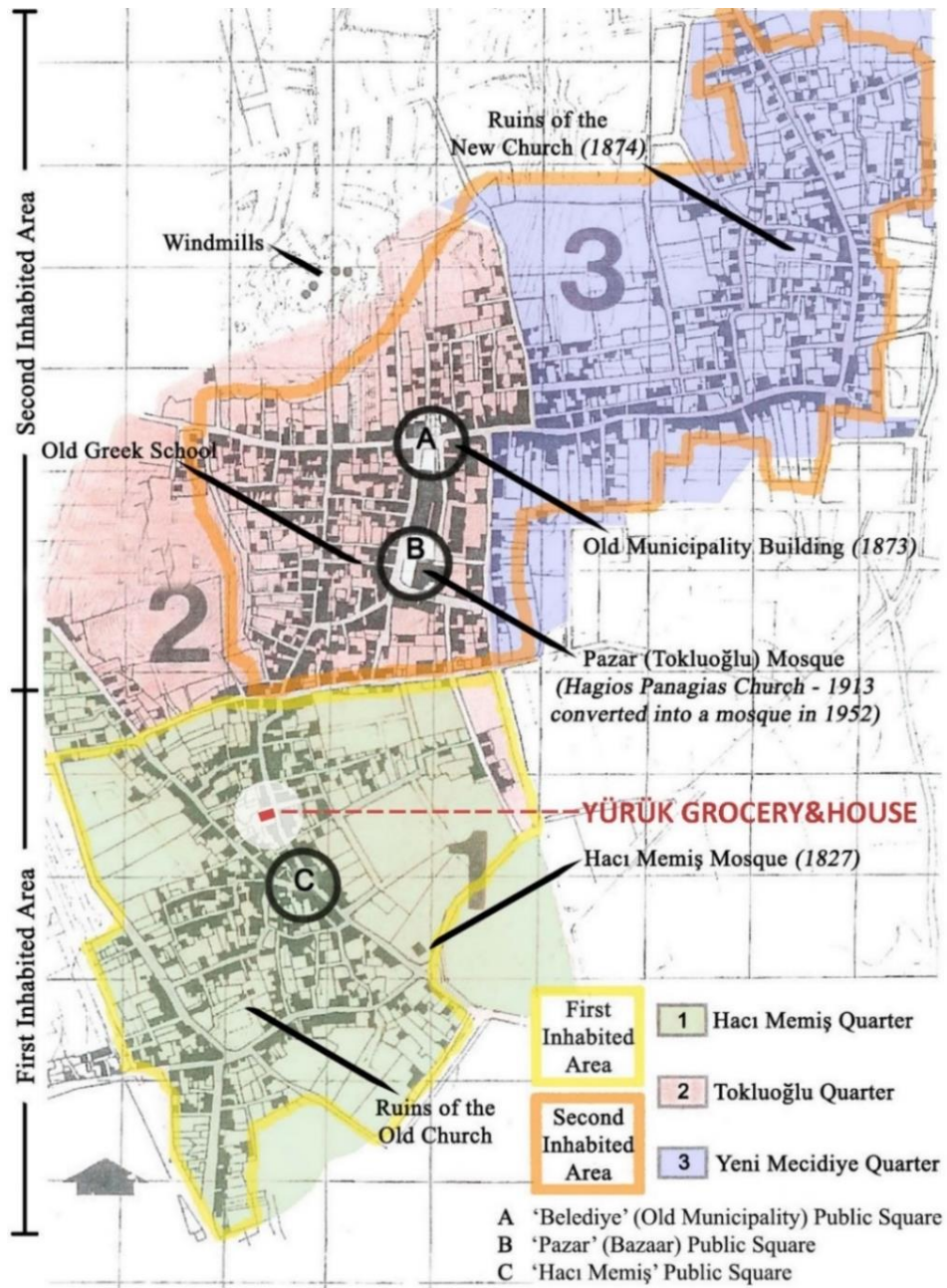


Figure 1. Location of the building (The map, obtained and revised by Akbaylar, 2008 from the Alaçatı Municipality archive, has been reorganized.)

Alaçatı has been an important place where various cultures and population movements have come together throughout history. In the 16th century, approximately 80% of the population was Muslim in Alaçatı. On the Çeşme Peninsula, especially from the second half of the 19th century to the early 20th century, the majority of the population began to be composed of Greek Orthodox Christians. The main reasons for this include earthquakes, epidemics, and decisions regarding land use. According to Baykara, deaths caused by epidemics led to a decrease in the population and created a significant labor shortage in the region. The ongoing population decline at the end of the 18th century presented an important opportunity for Greek workers, and during this period, the population balance shifted, increasing the Greek population on the peninsula (Baykara, 1990). Another reason is the 1881 earthquake, which devastated two-thirds of Chios (Sakız) Island, and because the Çeşme Peninsula was less affected, many displaced people from the island settled on the Çeşme Peninsula (Beyru, 2011). Additionally, it is understood that the foundations with large lands provided labor from the growing, job-seeking population on the islands to work the land (Şimşir, 2018).

Hacı Memiş Ağa, who had been a janissary in the Ottoman Empire, came to Çeşme and settled in Alaçatı at the end of the 18th century. Hacı Memiş Ağa became the owner of a great part of Alaçatı. The south of Alaçatı was totally boggy until 1850's (Atilla and Öztüre, 2006). From the beginning of the 19th century, Greeks living in Chios Island came to Alaçatı in order to work in the fields of Hacı Memiş. Hacı Memiş Ağa took the lead in drying of the bogs at the southern part with a project of opening canals reaching the natural port at the south. He then built the Muslim district at this southern area. Muslim neighborhood was settled down extends from southern of Alaçatı to the port of Alaçatı around the Hacı Memiş Mosque in today's Hacı Memiş District (Gezgin, 2007).

Hacı Memiş neighborhood, as the oldest neighborhood of Alaçatı, has historical residential buildings dating back to the mid-19th century and the early 20th century. Historical houses that are built from stone are important for understanding the socio-cultural background of the settlement. However, most of the historic houses have been restored to serve the tourism industry and have lost their original functions. On the other hand, some historical buildings hold a significant place in the city's memory not only for their residential function but also for their commercial role in the settlement. In Alaçatı, one such example is the "Yürük Grocery" (Turkish: "Yürük Bakkal"), located in the Hacı Memiş Neighborhood. The owner of "Yürük Grocery" and the house was a prominent local figure, with both the grocery store and the home serving as central hubs for the community of Alaçatı. The building is a corner building with two stories and a shared rear courtyard. In its original state, the ground floor is dedicated to commercial and storage purposes, while the upper floor is used for living space. This historical building is noteworthy because, in addition to its residential function, it is one of the few groceries in Alaçatı, and such commercial buildings are often important places for gathering, commerce, and community life in traditional settlements like Alaçatı. Among the other historical houses, it stands out with its corner position with a shared courtyard scheme and its ground floor function. The aim of this study is to document the architectural features and cultural heritage values of a historical building, trace its evolution over time, and contribute to the literature.

2. Method

This study examines a listed historic building in Alaçatı, focusing on its historical and architectural characteristics while documenting its evolution over time. The research methodology integrates several components, including documentation, literature review, archival research, field studies, and oral testimonies. Historical photographs, maps, drawings, legal documents, physical traces from the building, and comparative studies made on the buildings from the same period in the vicinity were utilized to reconstruct the building's

original state. Site surveys were conducted in September 2021, December 2021, and October 2024.

3. Yürük House and Grocery

The historical building is located in the city of İzmir, in Çeşme district, at the address of Alaçatı Neighborhood, Block 129, Parcel 7, at the corner where 12012 Street (formerly Mithatpaşa Street) intersects with the dead-end street continuing from 2019 Street (formerly Uludağ Court -*Uludağ Çıkmazı*) (Figures 1,2). In 2012, Alaçatı was designated a neighborhood of Çeşme under the 6360 Law. However, throughout its history, the building was originally located in the Hacı Memiş Neighborhood, as detailed above. The building has two façades oriented to Mithatpaşa Main Street and Uludağ Court and has a corner chamfer in the area where these streets meet. The building is surrounded by historical houses, both adjacent to it and across from it.

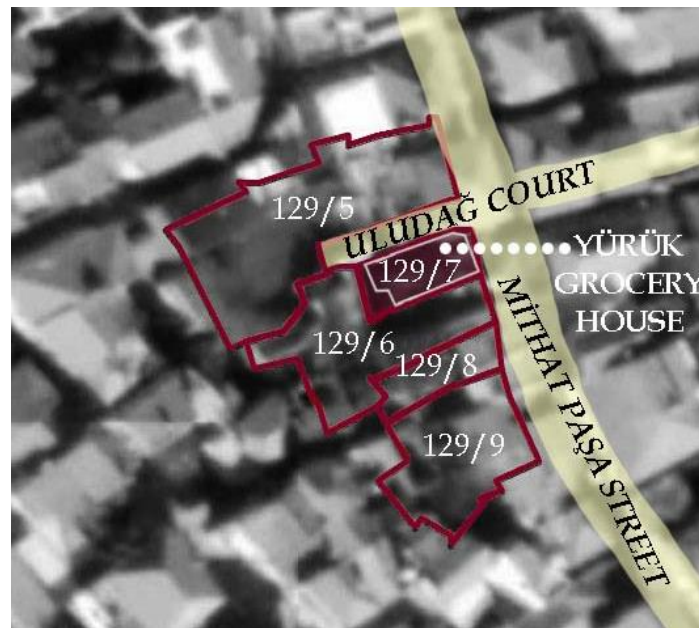


Figure 2. Ownership pattern of the building (URL1)

Today, the building is located within the boundaries of the 'Urban Conservation Area' declared in 1997 and expanded in 2004 by İzmir No 1 Regional Conservation Council of Cultural and Natural Entities (numbered 6766, dated 10.04.1997; dated 04.06.2004). In 2006, the building has been listed as the second group immovable cultural asset to be preserved within the urban conservation boundaries of Alaçatı (numbered 1314, dated 31.03.2016, İzmir No 1 Regional Conservation Council of Cultural and Natural Entities decision).

3.1. Periods of the Building

It was determined that the building has three periods in the historical process, and in this study, these three periods will be examined in detail.

First Period of the Building

The first period represents the time when the building was constructed (Figure 6). The exact date of the building is not known since there are no inscriptions and dates related to the history of the building, inside and outside the building. However, the building dates back to the second half of the 19th century based on the plan and façade typologies (Özgönül, 1996; Çetinel, 2021).

It is known that, like most buildings in Alaçatı at the time, this building belonged to a non-Muslim family. The current owner has confirmed similar information. However, there is limited information about its original Greek Orthodox owners.

In 19th-century Alaçatı, the ground floor and first-floor plans of local residential architecture were designed entirely independent of one another. Accordingly, the houses are categorized into three different typologies based on the ground floor layout: first type (ground floor with commercial functions), second type (ground floor used for production and storage) and third type (ground floor with residential use) (Kocamanoğlu, 2010). Accordingly, this building belongs to the first type of building group. The ground floor and first floor plans of this building have also been designed separately. The building had a residential and commercial function, reflecting a ground floor with a commercial function and an upper floor plan with hall (sofa). The simplest floor plan is observed during this period. Due to its corner location, the eastern façade is angled, and it is believed that the reason for the angled design on the western façade is the water well located in the shared garden/courtyard, which was crucial for water supply.

In this period, based on the literature review and traces from the building, it was determined that the section located to the west of the two-story main building, which includes a warehouse, workshop, and toilet, is a single-story structure. Above these spaces, there is a terrace (*taraça*). Thus, in the early period, it was understood that the building had a terrace located near the kitchen, which is commonly seen at the rear façades of almost all houses in Alaçatı (Yılmaz, 1983; Hersek, 1990; Kocamanoğlu, 2010). The shop (*mağaza*) opening to the street on the ground floor consists of a single, large space. It contains a fireplace located at the corner of the space. In this period, the service areas of the shop, such as the workshop, warehouse, and toilet, were located in the western part of the building. Written sources indicate that toilets were positioned in the garden in the early period (Hersek, 1990; Kocamanoğlu, 2010). However, in this building, which has a shared courtyard/garden, it is thought that these service areas are associated with the garden (Figure 3).

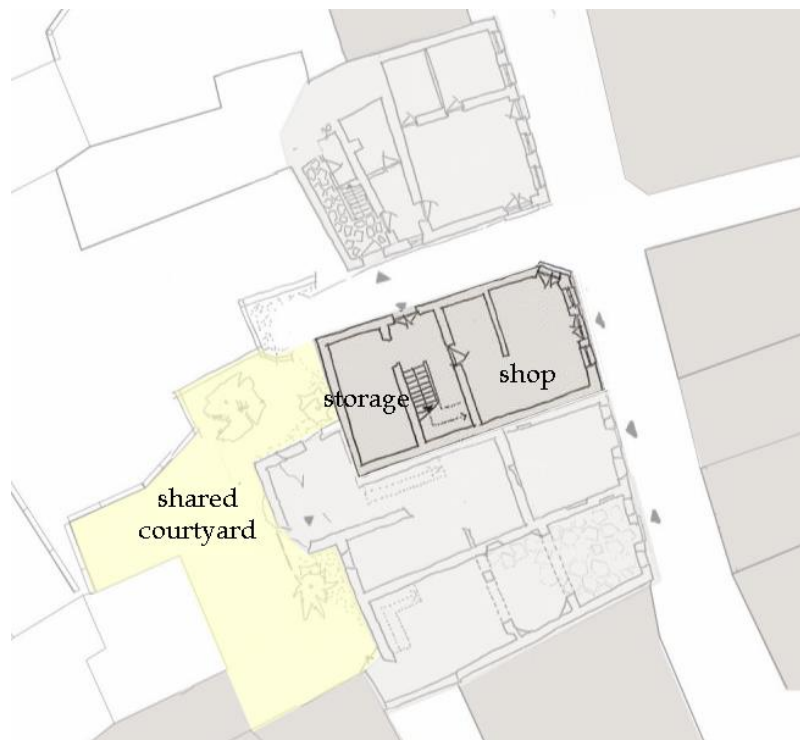


Figure 3. Schematic plan drawing of “Yürük Grocery” in 2011 (Kocamanoğlu, 2010)

Access to the residential entrance and service areas is provided directly from a side street. The entrance hall (*taşlık*) has a staircase leading up to the first floor. This stone staircase leads to a hall (*sofa*) on the upper floor, which has residential function. In these plan types, the rooms and kitchen are arranged around the hall. The staircase is positioned against the wall in the planning. The main room and kitchen are accessed from the hall. According to the traces from the building, it has been shown that the original kitchen wall continues and meets the stone wall at an angle (slanted), dividing the hall and indicating that the front part of the building was used as the main room. It is thought that this wall, which starts from the kitchen, is original and made of wooden frame up to the section where it angles. The connection of this wall with the balcony door, which was converted into a window by the users, also supports this idea. The main room is a spacious room with openings on both façades of the corner of the building and a balcony. The fireplace inside the kitchen is directed toward the terrace. Access to the terrace, which overlooks the shared courtyard, is also provided from the hall.

Second Period of the Building

In the second period, after the population exchange, non-Muslim residents left Alaçatı. The Yürük family, who are the current owners of the building, began living here. The ancestors of the present users migrated from Kınalı village, Kavala and Thessaloniki to Alaçatı in 1924 (Aslankan, 2008). The residential and commercial functions continued in this period. During this period, the ground floor was used as a grocery store. “Yürük Grocery” has been one of the few grocery stores in Alaçatı and a well-known commercial space (Figures 4-6). In this period, various changes were made to the upper floor, particularly to the terrace and the main room, to meet housing needs.

In this period, a part of the terrace was enclosed and used as a kitchen and a toilet/bath. It has been found that the toilets were removed from the garden after the Greeks migrated. The toilet/ritual bath that was originally located on the ground floor was added to the terrace in this period, and the workspace/stable area on the ground floor was expanded. Additionally, based on traces from the building, a storage area was added under the stone staircase to serve as a shop/store space. On the first floor, it was understood that the users divided the main room into two parts, creating an additional room.



Figure 4. “Yürük Grocery” in the early 1990s; (a) the window at the corner converted into a door, (b) eastern façade (URL2)

In the recent period when the building was used as a grocery store, changes were made to the ground floor façade. While the original wooden door was preserved, the windows were fitted with double-winged iron frames and fixed iron grille. The original window on the corner was enlarged and turned into a double-winged iron-framed door. The front façade of the structure is covered with a large ivy. On the upper floor, the balcony usage was canceled by the users, or the demolished balcony was replaced with a window instead of a door opening. The wooden shutters have disappeared, and as seen in old photographs, the windows were originally double-winged, unglazed, and wooden. The wall and chamfered section of the north façade of the main room were repaired and renewed after damage and demolition to the original wall. Traces from the building, oral history research, and old photographs show that the kitchen and toilet were renewed with modern construction techniques after damage and demolition to the original walls and flooring. These areas feature concrete flooring and ceramic tiles.



Figure 5. Main entrance of “Yürük Grocery” in 2011 (URL3)

Third Period of the Building

In the third period (probably after 2010s), the building gained its current function of accommodation (boutique hotel) and commerce (café), reaching its present physical state (Figure 7). This period describes the building's current condition (Figure 6).

Today, the ground floor of the building, used for commercial purposes, was open for use as a café until the implementation of the restoration project began, while the upper floor has been unused for a long time. Implementation of restoration project of the building will be started on 2025.

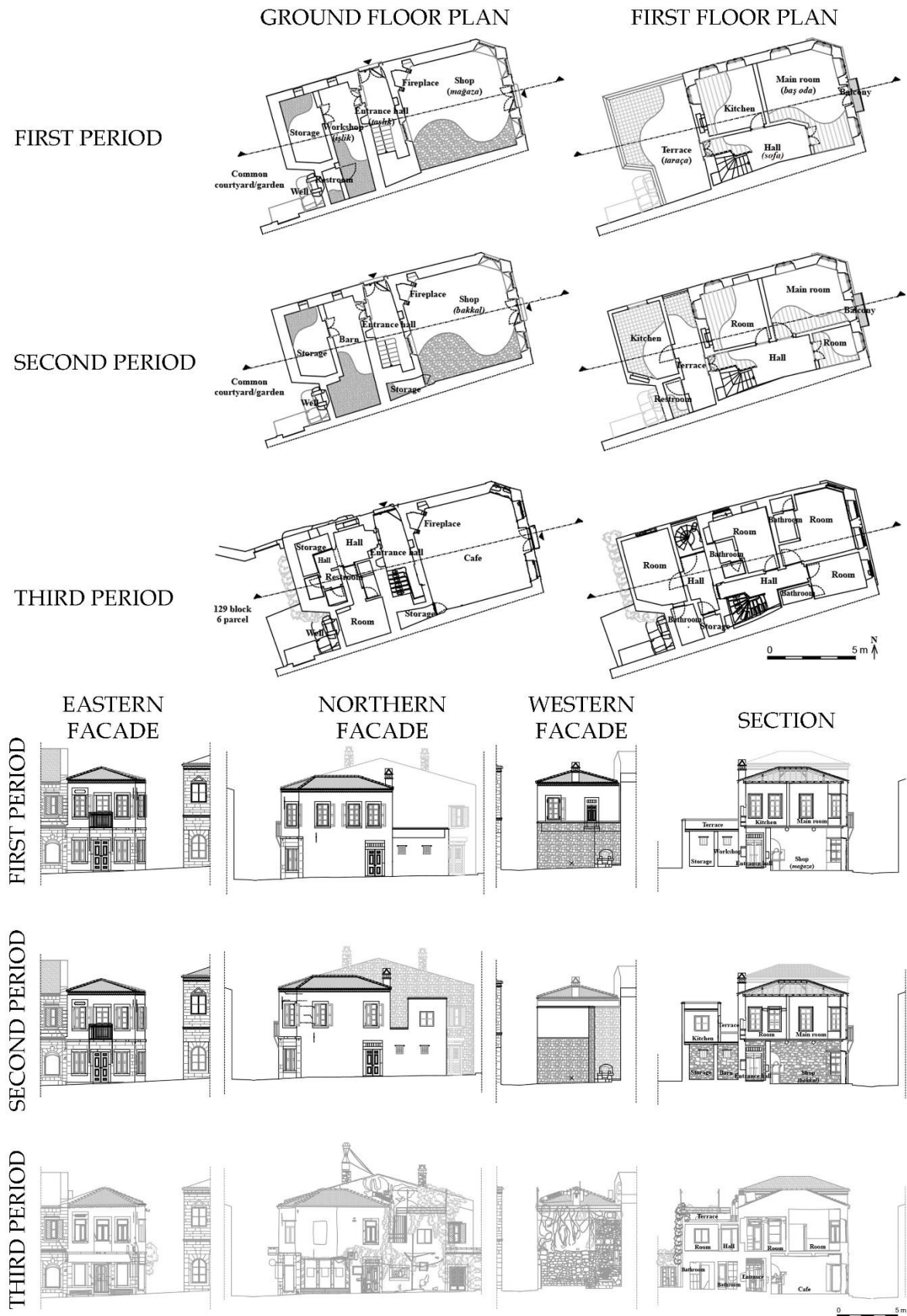


Figure 6. Drawings showing the three periods of the building



Figure 7. Façade view of the building in 2015 (Yandex, 2015)

3.2. The Plan Characteristics of the Building

The plan characteristics of the building will be examined on a room-by-room basis, separated into the ground floor and first floor, based on its current condition.

Ground Floor

The ground floor consists of a shop (*mağaza*), entrance hall (*taşlık*), workshop (*işlik*), storage/barn, and restroom.

Shop

The stone-framed door and window openings leading from the street to the shop are original. It has been found from traces in the building and oral history research that the shop is connected to the entrance hall through a window opening. It has been determined through traces from the structure and oral history research that the shop was connected to the entrance hall by a window opening. There is an original stone fireplace located at the corner of the shop (Figure 8). Right next to this fireplace, there is an original niche in the wall. The shop features original iron hook eyes belonging to the doors and windows. Based on traces from the building and comparative studies with surrounding buildings, it has been determined that the stone-framed, stone-silled windows were covered with wooden shutters. The stone-framed door, as seen in old photographs of the building, is a double-winged wooden door. It is known from traces in the building, old photographs, and oral sources that the original window at the corner was converted into a door for a period, but it has been restored as a window today. According to written sources and comparative studies with surrounding buildings, the walls are made of unplastered stone. On the opposite wall of the entrance door, on the western wall of the space, there is a trace that protrudes from the wall. According to information obtained from oral sources, this trace belongs to the opening that connects the entrance hall with the shop. This opening is believed to have a stone frame and wooden shutters based on comparative studies within the building. The original flooring of the shop has been identified as stone, based on traces from the building and information from written sources. The two wooden beam rafters in the ceiling are original (Figure 8). In the second period, according to traces from the building, a storage area was added under the stone staircase to serve the shop. Additionally, changes were made to the ground floor façade while the building was used as a grocery store. While the original wooden door was preserved, double-winged iron frames and fixed iron grilles were installed on the windows instead of wooden shutters. The original window at the

corner was enlarged and converted into a double-winged iron-framed door. The ivy on the front façade is notable in this period (Figure 4).



Figure 8. In 2021, (a) shop used as a café and (b) fireplace

Entrance hall

The stone-framed, double-winged wooden door with a vent on top, providing access from the side street to entrance hall, is original (Figure 9). In the entrance hall, there are two original stone niches facing each other. Access to the service spaces, including the workspace, storage, and toilet, is provided through the original stone-framed opening. Based on a comparative study in the building, this opening has been closed with a double-winged wooden door. The original L-shaped stone staircase in the entrance hall leads to the living floor (Figure 10).

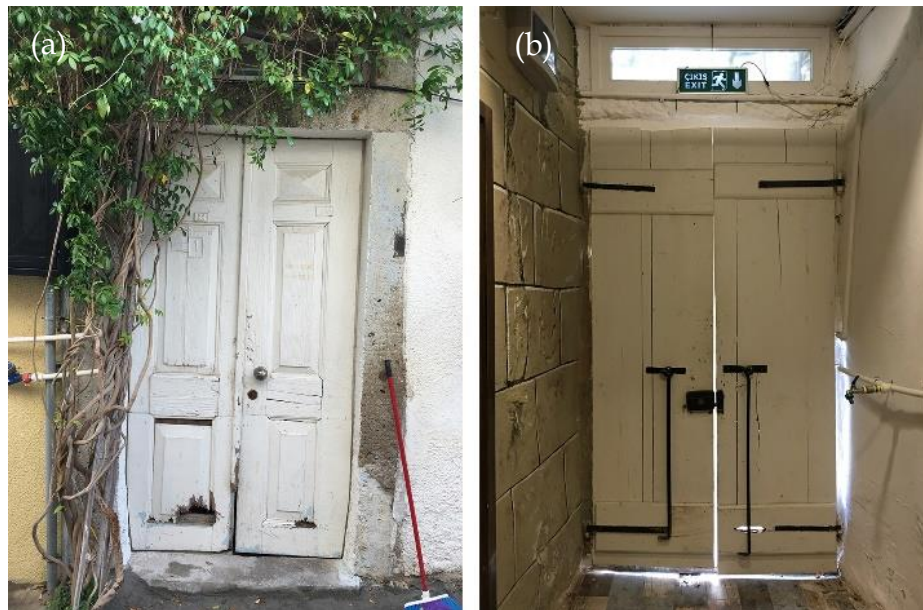


Figure 9. Original wooden door in the entrance hall (a) front, (b) the back

The walls, according to information from written sources and comparative studies with surrounding buildings, are made of unplastered stone. The original flooring of the entrance

hall, as seen in old photographs and written sources, is made of stone. The original ceiling, according to a comparative study within the building and information from written sources, consists of wooden beams. The walls of the entrance hall, as seen in old photographs, are plastered and painted.



Figure 10. Entrance hall with (a) stone staircase and (b) wooden balustrade, in 2021

Workshop

The shape of the workshop has been determined based on traces from the building (due to deformation in the stone wall of the storage/stable, located at the corner). The window opening on the north façade has been created based on traces from the building and a comparative study within the building. The window opening has been closed with a wooden shutter on the interior and a wrought iron grille on the façade, based on a comparative study with surrounding buildings. According to information obtained from written sources and based on a comparative study with the surrounding area, the walls are made of unplastered stone and the original flooring is compressed earth. The ceiling, based on traces from the building, is made of wooden beams. In the second period, the toilet/ritual bath was added to the terrace, and the workshop/stable area on the ground floor was expanded.

Storage/Barn

Access to the storage/barn is provided through an original stone-framed opening. This opening has been closed with a wooden door, based on a comparative study with the surrounding area. There is an original window opening on the north façade. The window opening has been closed with a wooden shutter on the interior and a wrought iron grille on the façade, based on a comparative study with surrounding buildings. The walls, according to information from written sources and comparative studies with surrounding buildings, are made of unplastered stone. According to information obtained from written sources, the original flooring is compressed earth. The ceiling, based on traces from the building and a comparative study within the building, consists of wooden beams. During the period when the building gained its function as a boutique hotel and café/restaurant, several wet areas and storage rooms were added to this area, divided by brick walls.

Restroom

In this building, which does not have a garden, the restroom is located in relation to the ground floor service areas based on information obtained from written sources and architectural requirements. Access to the toilet is provided through a wooden door, based on a comparative study of the surrounding area. The walls, according to information from written sources and comparative studies with surrounding buildings, are made of unplastered stone. The floor, according to information obtained from written sources, is compressed earth. The ceiling, based on traces from the building and a comparative study within the building, consists of wooden beams.

First Floor

The first floor is comprised of one main room (*baş oda*), kitchen, hall (*sofa*), and terrace (*taraça*).

Main room

The double-leaf wooden door providing access from the hall to the main room was determined based on a comparative study with the surrounding area (Figure 11). Based on traces from the building, it is clearly understood that one corner of the main room has a beveled edge (as the original wall continues in a beveled manner). In the main room, the vented window directly opposite the door, along with the vented door opening to the terrace, serves the purpose of ventilation (Terim, 2011). There is a window opening on the north façade that was later closed by the users. Based on a comparative study with the surrounding area, in its original state, the double-leaf wooden windows facing the front and side façades are wooden shuttered, with wooden sills (as determined in a comparative study within the building) and stone jambs. The original iron hinges for the wooden shutters are located on the façade. In the main room, based on traces from the building, oral history research, and a comparative study with the surrounding area, it is understood that there was a balcony. The original stone-framed door leading to the balcony was later closed by the users and converted into a window. A double-leaf wooden door was placed in this opening, based on a comparative study with the surrounding area. The balcony, based on a comparative study with the surrounding area, is framed with iron railing and its floor is covered with timber. The walls were originally plastered and painted. The original floor, based on a comparative study within the building, consists of timber. The original ceiling, according to information from written sources and a comparative study with surrounding buildings, is a wooden beam ceiling. In the second period, it is believed that the users divided the main room into two (by demolishing most of the beveled wall) with a brick wall to create an additional room. The entrance to the main room, based on traces from the building, is through a single-leaf wooden door. The balcony in the main room has either been removed or its use discontinued, with the door opening converted into a window. Additionally, the wall facing the north façade of the main room and the beveled part has undergone repairs and restoration after damage and destruction to the original wall. The original window in this wall has been closed. Other windows, as seen in old photographs, are double-leaf and wooden.

Kitchen

The kitchen is accessed from the hall through a single-leaf wooden door placed in the original opening (Figure 11). In its original state, the kitchen had a window opening facing the terrace. However, when the building was converted into a boutique hotel, the window was closed and transformed into a niche. Based on oral history research, it has been determined that there was a fireplace in the same wall that was closed by the users. The placement of the fireplace in the kitchen was confirmed by combining this information with the projection of the original chimney on the roof and data obtained from written sources. When the building was converted into a boutique hotel, the fireplace was closed, and a bathroom was added in front of it. The wooden shelf niche in the kitchen, as seen in elevation photo dated 2015, was created

in the second period by closing the original window. The original wooden sill of the stone-framed window facing the north façade is still present. Based on a comparative study with the surrounding area, the kitchen windows, in their original state, are double-leaf wooden windows, with wooden shutters, wooden, and stone jambs. The original iron hinges for the wooden shutters are present on the façade. The walls were originally plastered and painted. The original floor, as determined by a comparative study within the building, is made of timber. The original ceiling, according to information from written sources and a comparative study with surrounding buildings, is a wooden beam ceiling. In the second period, based on traces from the building and oral history research, it is observed that the kitchen was moved to the terrace, and the window in the north wall was closed, converting the wooden shelf niche into a cupboard. Based on written sources and oral history research, it is known that the kitchen section was repaired and renovated with modern techniques following the damage and destruction in the wooden-frame walls filled with stone.



Figure 11. (a) Main room, and (b) kitchen used as a room, in 2021

Hall

The hall is accessed via the original stone staircase. There is an original niche in the staircase wall. In the hall, there is an original wooden railing with a wooden baluster from the staircase. The walls are plastered and painted. The floor of the hall, based on traces from the building, is made of timber. The original ceiling, according to information from written sources and a comparative study with surrounding buildings, is a wooden beam ceiling.

Terrace

The vented opening with stone jambs, which provides the transition from the hall to the terrace, has been closed with a double-leaf wooden door as a result of the comparative study within the building. This door has its original iron hinge eyes. The presence of a ventilated door and window on this façade confirms that the hall opens to an open area like a terrace. In Alaçatı, terraces are typically found on the rear façades of nearly all traditional houses. In this building, the open terrace is surrounded by a stone parapet, as confirmed by a comparative study with the surrounding area. The original floor is believed to be made of tile mosaic based on information from written sources and architectural requirements due to climatic conditions. In the second period, it was determined through traces from the building and oral history research that users added a kitchen and bathroom/restroom to the terrace. In the second period, a wooden-frame wall with stone filling was built on the terrace to add a kitchen. Access to the kitchen is provided through a single-leaf wooden door, determined through a comparative study with the surrounding area. The floor is tiled with mosaic, the walls are

plastered and painted, and the ceiling has wooden beam construction. Based on oral history research, the location of the fireplace in the kitchen is referenced by the angled stone wall. The wooden window with plastered sills on the north façade of the kitchen was added based on old photographs and traces from the building.

In the phase when the upper floor was converted into a boutique hotel, a room with a bathroom and storage were added, with access to the terrace roof via a round metal staircase.

3.3. Façade properties

Eastern façade

The eastern façade of the building is covered with cut stone on the ground floor (Figure 12). The upper floor, due to traces of plaster and paint visible in old photos and based on information from written sources and comparative studies with nearby buildings, is determined to be plastered and painted. The stone jambs and stone floor cornice on the eastern façade are original. On the upper floor, the demolished balcony and the balcony door, which was converted into a window, have been replaced with a balcony featuring an iron railing. The balcony is supported by a wrought iron element, according to traces in the structure and data obtained from written sources. In old photos, double-winged iron windows and iron railings are visible on the ground floor. In the angled section, the original window has been converted into an iron door. As a result of the balcony's demolition, the balcony door has been closed and turned into a window by the users. The windows on the first floor, as seen in old photos, are double-winged, without divisions, and wooden. In the angled section, Ottoman-style roof tiles eaves cornices have disappeared and been replaced with plaster eaves cornice.



Figure 12. Façade views of the building, (a, b) eastern, (c) northern, and (d) western

Northern façade

The northern façade (except for the cut stone-clad angled ground floor) is considered to be plastered and painted based on comparative studies with surrounding buildings (Figure 12). The stone jambs on this façade, where the original residential entrance is located, are original. Traces of a closed window are visible on the façade. It has been determined through comparative studies with the surrounding area that the windows of the workshop and storage have iron grilles. Based on traces from the building and comparative study in the building, it is believed that eaves cornices on this façade were originally made of Ottoman-style roof tiles.

Due to repairs, the eaves cornices made of Ottoman-style roof tiles have disappeared from the first floor of the building, and traces of the closed window are visible. The façade of the

renovated kitchen is plastered and painted, and its wooden window, as seen in old photographs, is divided into three sections. The terrace is surrounded by a mosaic parapet.

Western façade

Today, the western façade is largely covered with ivy; however, in its original state, the façade was made of unplastered rubble stone on the ground floor, and plastered and painted on the upper floor (Figure 12). A terrace with a stone parapet is visible on the upper floor. The stone jambs of the vented door leading to the terrace on the western façade are original. In this stone-arched opening, a wooden, double-leaf door has been identified through comparative analysis. This façade also features a stone-arched, wooden shuttered, double-leaf wooden window. Based on traces from the building and internal comparative analysis, it is believed that there was Ottoman-style roof tiles eaves cornice. The chimney of the kitchen fireplace is visible on this façade. It is known that traditional houses in Alaçatı commonly had wells in either shared or individual gardens, which were crucial for water supply. It is believed that the space created by the western façade was intended for a well, important for water provision in the shared garden. The ground in front of the well, which belongs to the building, is paved with stone. The façade of the kitchen added to the terrace in the second phase is plastered and painted, while the restroom façade is made of unplastered rubble stone.

3.4. Construction technique and material

The load-bearing stone walls that form the structural system of the main building on the ground and upper floors are original elements. The original partition walls made of wooden framework on the upper floor provide the division of rooms. The brick walls added to the service areas on the ground floor to create wet spaces, are not original. On the upper floor, the spatial organization of the master room was altered by the users, and the space was divided into two with a brick wall. The roof covering material in its original state was Ottoman-style roof tile, as determined through traces found in the building, data from written sources, and comparative studies with nearby structures. In the second phase, the kitchen and toilet added to the terrace, with a stone parapet flat roof, were identified based on oral history research and traces from the building. The ground floor is covered with mosaic tiles as per architectural requirements, and the terrace is surrounded by stone parapet. Access to this terrace was provided by a portable wooden staircase when necessary. Later, the terrace area, renovated with modern materials, now features the use of a terrace roof on a reinforced concrete floor. In this period, the ground floor is covered with ceramic tiles, and the terrace is surrounded by mosaic parapet as per architectural requirements. When the building was converted into a boutique hotel, the original roof covered with Ottoman-style roof tiles was replaced with a roof covered with Marseille tiles, with the first row still covered in Ottoman-style roof tiles on the east and north façades. Based on traces from the building, it is observed that there is eaves molding made of Ottoman-style roof tiles on the east façade. It is believed that this eaves molding continues the north and west façades, as determined through comparative studies within the building. Additionally, the iron ties found on the façades are original.

4. Conclusions

A notable example of a historical building is the two-story stone house known as “Yürük Grocery,” located in the Hacı Memiş Neighborhood of Alaçatı. Its distinctive corner position, shared courtyard design, and ground-floor commercial function distinguish it from other traditional houses in the area. This building has hosted both a non-Muslim family and a Muslim family over time and was also well-known in Alaçatı for serving as a grocery store. Its documentation is important as it reflects the integration of both cultures, providing valuable insights into the cultural dynamics of the region. The building’s historical and architectural significance is further underscored by the way it encapsulates the societal transitions of the

area. It has served as a testament to the blending of distinct communities and their lifestyles throughout different periods. This study identifies three distinct periods by examining the building's architectural features, history, construction techniques, and material characteristics throughout its evolution. It highlights the layered history of the structure, offering a glimpse into the changing socio-economic and cultural environment of Alaçatı. Although the historical building has undergone changes in its layout and additions over the years, it is clear that its front façade character, in particular, has not been lost. The careful preservation of its front elevation underscores the building's enduring cultural importance. In the second phase, the spaces added by enclosing the terrace were of low quality and diminished the spatial and cultural value of the building. Despite these alterations, the study reveals the importance of maintaining the building's authentic features to ensure its historical identity is preserved. In this way, the study not only highlights the architectural evolution of "Yürük Grocery," but also contributes to the broader understanding of preserving historical landmarks in the face of modern development, ensuring that they remain valuable cultural assets for future generations.

Authorship Contribution Statement

The author confirms sole responsibility for the following: study conception and design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results, and manuscript preparation.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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