Sarayköy Halkevi Building According to Presidential State Archive Documents

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Abstract

With this article, the Sarayköy Halkevi Building, which has not survived to the present day, has been included in the art and architectural history inventory for the first time based on the documents of the Presidential State Archives. The text of the article consists of five sections in general terms. In the introduction section, information about the general course and sections of the article is given, and in the second section, the phenomenon of public houses in general and the establishment process of public houses are mentioned. In the third section, which can also be considered as a catalog, the establishment of Sarayköy Halkevi and the architectural features of the Halkevi building are mentioned. In the fourth section, comparisons are made with other public house buildings that have survived / not survived to the present day, and in the conclusion section, the original value of the study is mentioned.

Keywords: *Republic, architecture, halkevi, Sarayköy.*

Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşiv Belgeleri Işığında Sarayköy Halkevi Binası

Öz

Bu çalışmanın temel amacı; bir Cumhuriyet kurumu olan Halkevlerinin sanat tarihinin bir çalışma alanı olarak belirlenmesine katkı sağlamak ve günümüze gelememiş bir Halkevi binasının sanat tarihi literatürüne kazandırmaktadır. Bu makale ile günümüze gelememiş olan Sarayköy Halkevi Binası, Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri belgelerinden hareketle ilk kez sanat ve mimarlık tarihi envanterine kazandırılmıştır. Makale metni genel hatlarıyla beş kısımdan müteşekkildir. Giriş kısmında makalenin genel seyri ve bölümleri hakkında bilgi verilmekte, ikinci kısımda genel olarak Halkevi olgusundan ve Halkevlerinin kuruluş sürecinden bahsedilmektedir. Katalog olarak da kabul edilebilecek olan üçüncü kısımda, Sarayköy Halkevi'nin kuruluşu ve Halkevi binasının mimari özelliklerinden bahsedilmiş, dördüncü bölüm olan değerlendirme kısmında günümüze ulaşan/ulaşmayan diğer Halkevi binaları ile karşılaştırmalar yapılmış, sonuç kısmında ise çalışmanın özgün değerinden bahsedilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Cumhuriyet, mimari, halkevi, Sarayköy.*

1. Introduction

This study was prepared based on the data obtained from research conducted on the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, Sarayköy Halkevi Building. The study has a descriptive methodology and follows a course centered on the stages of introduction, identification, analysis, comparison-evaluation and conclusion stages. In general terms, the article consists of four sections. The introduction gives information about the course and sections of the article. The next section following the introduction deals with the phenomenon of the Halkevi (people's house) and the establishment and expansion processes of Halkevi in the late Ottoman and Republican Türkiye. In the section that follows, which can also be considered as the catalog section of the article, the architectural analysis of the Sarayköy Halkevi Building was made based on the archival documents in the Presidency of the State Archives. A descriptive methodology was preferred in this analysis. In the evaluation section, Saraykoy Halkevi Building was compared to other Halkevi in Anatolia in terms of its architectural features. Many visuals were used for the comparisons in this section. Due to the large number of images, these were collected into a table. In the conclusion section, general conclusions are mentioned. With this article, Saraykoy Halkevi Building, which has not survived to the present day, has been added to the art and architectural history inventory for the first time as a building type in the First and Second National Architecture movement based on official state archive documents.

2. Material and Method

The subject of this study is the Sarayköy Halkevi Building. Saraykoy Halkevi Building was one of the Halkevi buildings built as a part of the First and Second National Architecture movement. However, the building has not survived to the present day. Therefore, the main basis as a resource is the Documents of the State Archive of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. In this article, CDA was used as the abbreviation of the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. In addition to these, the Sarayköy Municipality Archive was also examined within the scope of the study. In addition, an on-site examination was made in Denizli/Sarayköy. In this study, a descriptive methodology was preferred. In the field of art and architectural history, two methodologies were used: descriptive and hermeneutic. Hermeneutics is mostly preferred in iconographic studies. The descriptive method was preferred in identification and description. Accordingly, all data related to the building were collected. Then, in light of the data obtained (photographs, drawings, archive documents), the architectural description of the building was made. Its drawing was renewed. Based on this description, the building was compared with other contemporary public buildings. The comparison was made in terms of typology and architectural features (especially the facade design). Therefore, the descriptive method was also preferred in the evaluation part. For this comparison, drawings and photographs of similar buildings were accessed. The source of all images taken from different sources was indicated under the images.

3. Research Findings

3.1. An Overview of the Establishment of Halkevi Buildings

The 18th-19th century westernization process, which started to increase as of the 19th century, necessitated a change in Ottoman architecture. Building types and styles with different functions started to be imported in this period (Kuyulu, 1992, p.47,48). Sultan Abdülmecid and Abdülaziz periods are important in this respect. With the Abdülhamid II period, the construction of public buildings mostly related to education increased (Can, 2011, p.27). It should not be forgotten that the reign of Abdülhamid II was a continuation of the Westernization process that preceded it. However, the organizational structure has changed (Duymaz, 2003, p.42). In this context, the proclamation of the Tanzimat Edict and the Constitutional Monarchy should also be mentioned. These two events directly influenced late Ottoman and Republican architecture in terms of democratization and the importance of the public sphere, as well as influencing the development of nationalist and national movements that would develop later, and the dominance of many styles in art (Bozdoğan, 2012, p.41).

Tanzimat, which is derived *from tanzim*, meaning putting in order / to bring order; was used to define all the measures taken and the practices envisaged to be realized in order for the administrative functioning to continue with corrections. With the Tanzimat Edict and the subsequent Tanzimat Period, radical changes were experienced in the Ottoman state structure and social life. With this new process, public buildings such as government mansions, hospitals, banks, schools and municipalities, which had not been built before, entered the Ottoman architectural repertoire (Yazıcı, 2007, p.117).

One of the outcomes of the Tanzimat Period and the process that followed was the proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy. Although at first it was perceived as an attempt to reconstitute the constitutional process (the 1876 constitution), a much more radical transformation was aimed with the re-proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy (Kansu, 2016, p.2). With the Second Constitutional Monarchy, the dominant political trend was Turkism (Tunaya, 1988, p.414). In this process, it was possible to talk about many different factions centered on Turkism. Among these, the Turkish Quarry, which was organized among the students of the Military Medical School, was quite important. Officially established on March 25, 1912, the declaration of the Turkish Hearth was written on May 11, 1911 (Sarınay, 1994, p.127).

After its foundation, the Turkish Hearths established branches in many Anatolian cities, especially in Istanbul. The number of branches reached 16 in 1914, 25 in 1916, 35 in 1918, 71 in 1927, 135 in 1925, 260 in 1928 and 267 in 1931 (Bozdağ, 2013, p.19).

Both having a nationalist ideology and being an institution inherited from the Ottoman Empire, the Turkish Hearths failed to harmonize with the general ideology of Republican Türkiye. Therefore, at the April 10, 1931 congress of the Ankara Turkish Hearths Headquarters, it was decided to close down the Turkish Hearths and transfer all its assets to the CHF (Toksoy, 2007, p.26). Following this transfer decision, Halkevi was officially established on February 19, 1932 (Çeçen, 2018, p.111). In 1932, Ankara, Afyon, Aydın, Bolu, Bursa, Çanakkale, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Eskişehir, İstanbul, İzmir, Konya, Malatya, Samsun; in 1932, Antalya, Bilecik, Edirne, Gaziantep, Silifke, Giresun, Kastamonu, Kayseri, Kırıkkale, Kocaeli, Kütahya, Ordu, Rize, Sinop, Şebinkarahisar, Tekirdağ, Trabzon, Van and Yozgat Halkevi entered into service (Toksoy, 2007, p.42). A total of 479 Halkevi was opened between 1932 and 1946, including 21 in 1933, 25 in 1934, 23 in 1935, 33 in 1936, 31 in 1937, 43 in 1938, 163 in 1939, 6 in 1940, 2 in 1941, 3 in 1942, 4 in 1943, 3 in 1944, 17 in 1945 and 1 in 1946 (Zeyrek, 2006, p.24, 25).

The institutional framework of the Halkevi, whose number of branches rapidly reached five hundred after their establishment, was shaped according to the CHF (CHP) Halkevi Instructions.

> *The foundations of our party's program are republicanism, nationalism, populism, statism, secularism and revolutionism. In order for these main and fundamental principles to prevail and become eternal, our program identifies and points to raising strong citizens with these qualities, raising the national character to the levels inspired by Turkish history, raising fine arts, strengthening national culture and scientific movements and activities as important means. All of these principles and means together aim to raise generations that will regain the long-lost years of Turkishness on the road to civilization with courageous, assertive and tireless moves, and to restore the Turkish position of honor in the field of civilization commensurate with its natural virtues and abilities. The aim of the Halkevi is to be gathering and unifying dormitories for ambitious citizens who will work for this cause* (Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası, 1932, p.5).

The directive also specified how the buildings of the Halkevi would be selected, how they would be constructed and what kind of features they would have.

Facility conditions

In the establishment and organization of Halkevi, first of all, the elements that will ensure the activities of the branches listed in the third article and the building, money and other material means suitable for their work are sought. If there are no working elements sufficient for the organization of all branches at the same time, Halkevi may be opened, provided that the activities of at least three branches are

ensured. And other branches shall be completed gradually.

Building Supply and Arrangement

8) The buildings of the Halkevi shall be provided, designed and furnished by the administrative committees of the Republican People's Party.

If One Building is Not Enough

10) If there is not a building large enough for all the working branches, it is permissible for some branches to work in another building.

What is forbidden and what is allowed?

12) Places shall be allocated for billiards, indoor tennis and other indoor gymnastics in Halkevi. Alcoholic beverages and games are not permitted.

Utilization of Radio and Cinemas

13) The manner of utilization of radios and cinemas in Halkevi buildings will be separately arranged and determined by the center and will be notified.

Monthly Plays

14) Public events with a regular program for the whole public are organized at least once a month in Halkevi. Conference, accounting and music evenings are separate from these (Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası, 1932, p.6,7).

Based on the directive, it could be argued that the reason for the freedom in the choice of buildings was to branch out rapidly and to pursue an active expansion policy. Therefore, in many cities, especially in Anatolia, buildings of different types, most of which were either civil or public buildings, were converted into Halkevi buildings.

The Halkevi, which developed rapidly in approximately twenty years until the mid- 1940s, began to experience institutional problems after the transition to multi-party life. Especially after the multi-party period, Halkevi began to be seen more as a political institution belonging to the Republican People's Party and as a result of the frequent statements that they had gone beyond their founding principle, Halkevi was closed down with the TBMM's law dated August 8, 1951 and numbered 5830 (Arıkan, 1999, p.279).

3.2. Saraykoy Halkevi Building

3.2.1. Establishment Process

As mentioned earlier, at the 1931 (April 10) congress of the Turkish Hearths Headquarters, it was decided to close down the Turkish Hearths and transfer all its assets to the CHF (Toksoy, 2007, p.26). Following this decision, Halkevi across the country experienced a rapid establishment process as a public institution and branched out. In this process, in many provinces and districts, the buildings belonging to the Turkish Hearths were transferred to the Halkevi by local administrations, and in places where there were no buildings under the Turkish Hearths, Halkevi were established by renting or purchasing. In most settlements, Halkevi were planned to operate in CHP party buildings.

One of the Halkevi thus formed was the Denizli Saraykoy Halkevi Building. In a document dated 1937 in the State Archives Department of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye and dedicated to the CHP Presidency, it is mentioned that there was a building and a sports field in Saraykoy District that was transferred to the CHP from the disbanded Turkish Quarry (CDA. 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 29, 1945b). Based on this official document, it was understood that the Sarayköy Halkevi District started its service in 1937 in a building transferred from the Turkish Quarry. According to another document dated 1939 in the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic, it was understood that the sports field that was transferred to the party was later transferred to the General Directorate of
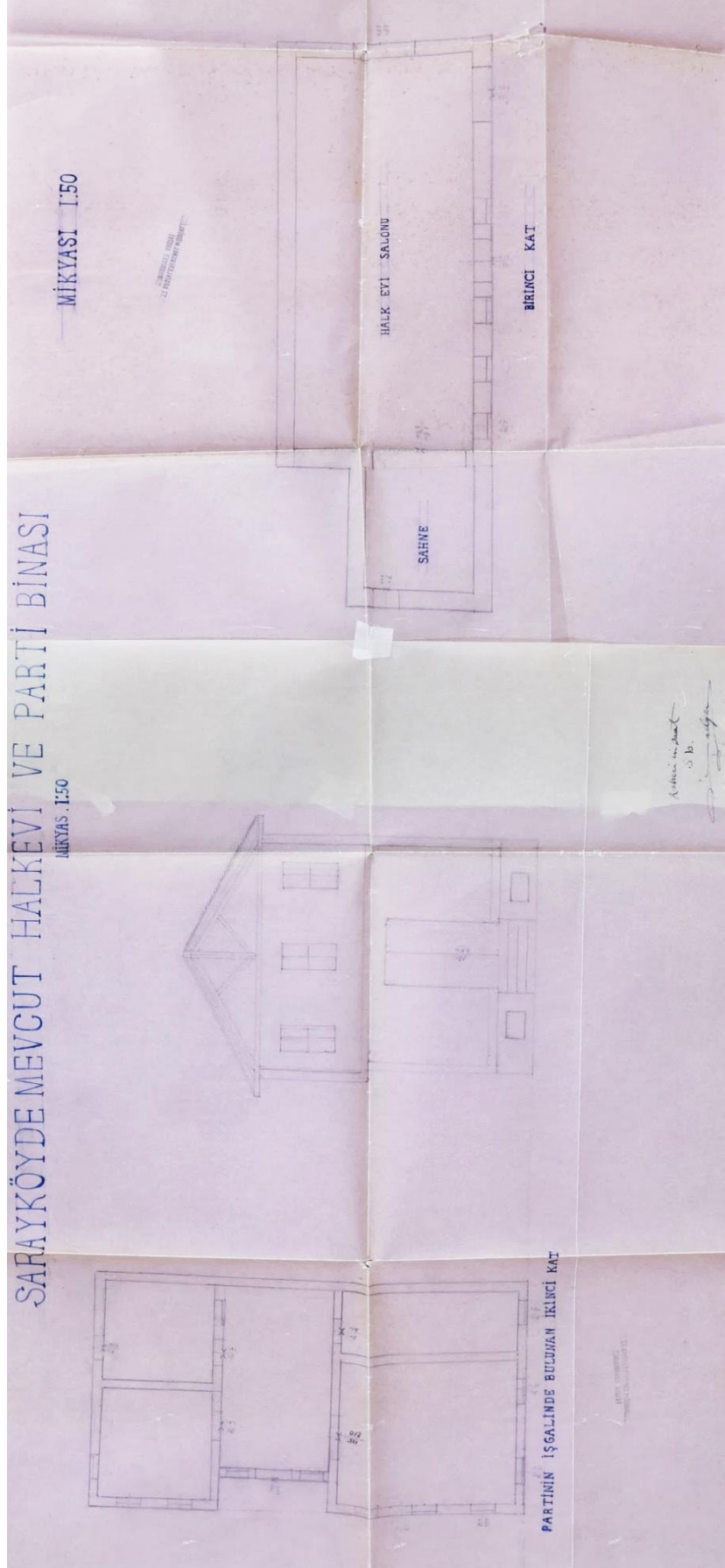
Physical Education free of charge (CDA. 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 20, 1945a).

3.2.2. Architectural Features

In a document dated 1945 in the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, many features of the building can be found in the inventory receipt and the accompanying drawings, which were prepared by the CHP and based on a template applied to all Halkevi across the country (Figure 1-2). The architectural and plan features of the Sarayköy Halkevi Building were be made according to these official documents.

Figure 1. CDA 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / No: 31. (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA), 1945c)

Figure 2. CDA 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / No: 32. (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA), 1945d)

According to this:

Sitting on a 115 square meter land share and built as a two-storey building made of wooden material, Sarayköy Halkevi Building, in addition to having the appearance of a mansion (partially), also resembled the commercial buildings encountered in late Ottoman architecture, whose lower floors served as shops, had two-stories and a product of civil architecture. It was understood from the existing building photograph in the inventory receipt that the Sarayköy Halkevi Building had at least two facades. The fact that the ground floor of the north façade of the building was deaf on the plan suggested that this façade was blind. When the existing building photograph and the plan were compared, it was understood that the photograph belonged to the southeast façade of the building. Based on the plan, it was understood that the ground floor of the building consisted of a single volume with a vertical rectangular plan, that the ground floor was entered through a wide door on the east façade and that there were four windows and two more entrance doors on the south façade of the unit that was used as a hall. To the west of this hall, there was a square planned stage section connected to the hall with another door on the west wall that provided contact with the outside (Figure 3).
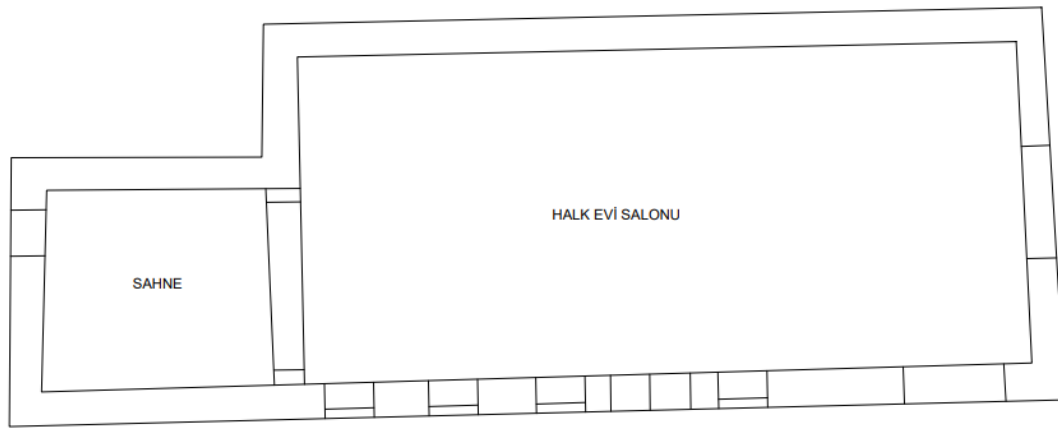
Scale 1/50

Figure 3. Sarayköy Halkevi Building ground floor drawing (Yılmaz, 2024)

The first floor of the building was in the plan type of a house with an inner living room. In general, the first floor consisted of four spaces, one of which was square and rectangular and the other two were rectangular, located around a rectangular central area complemented by a balcony. The upper floor units had a total of twelve windows for lighting purposes, two of which were located on the balcony (Figure 4).
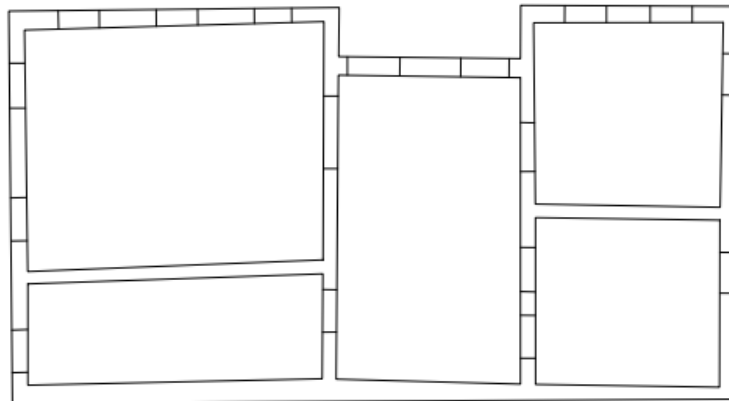
Scale 1/50

Figure 4. Sarayköy Halkevi Building first floor drawing ((Yılmaz, 2024)

Based on the available archival documents, it was understood that the Sarayköy Halkevi Building had electricity and a stage, but not a heating system or a garden.

As a result of the evaluations made on the archival documents, it was also determined that there were some inconsistencies between the plan of the building and the photograph. One of these was the roof condition of the building. Although it was understood from both the façade drawing and the photograph that there was a roof arrangement covered with Marseille type tiles, it was understood that the Halkevi had a gable roof in the façade drawing of the building, but the upper cover was not perceived as such in the photograph. In addition, the basement floor windows in the façade drawing of the building could not be selected in the photograph of the building. It was considered that this situation could be related to the angle of the photograph. In particular, it was considered that this roof discrepancy was related to the fact that the plan of the building was older and reflected the original state of the building, while the visual was dated later. Unfortunately, no source or official document related to this process and the possible change in the building could be found.

In the archive document, it is stated that the building, which started to be used as a Halkevi, was built as the Turkish Quarry in 1899. Regarding the current status of the building, the building was not found in the observations made in Sarayköy. Denizli Museum Directorate was contacted regarding the current status of the building, but no information or registration record of the building was found. Later, as a result of the examinations made in the archive of Sarayköy Municipality Zoning Affairs Department the investigations made in Sarayköy and the interviews with the residents of the city who were over eighty years old, the location of the building was largely determined (According to archival records, the area where the building was located was expropriated in the 1970s. It is thought that the Sarayköy Halkevi Building was demolished in this process. At this point, I would like to thank Murat Mustafa Ayhan, Director of Sarayköy Municipality Zoning and Urbanization Unit, for his great contributions). There is a square in its place today (Figure 5).

Figure 5. The area where Sarayköy Halkevi Building was located: Sarayköy Atatürk Square

4.   Conclusion and Suggestions

In her doctoral dissertation (Durukan, 2006: p.146), Ayşe Durukan examined the Halkevi built between 1930 and 1940 and created a typology for Halkevi by focusing on the hall, administration department, library and classrooms. Accordingly, Durukan categorized the Halkevi as I, L, T and U. Neşe Gürallar Yeşilkaya, on the other hand, stated that Halkevi had similar plan features and that T, L and I types were seen in the buildings (Yesilkaya, 1999, p.165). The findings of both researchers are in fact valid for the buildings built as Halkevi within a specific program in big cities. Because the Halkevi buildings in Denizli and its surroundings did not form a common typology and did not have similar architectural features (In this context, two architectural elements that were essential for Halkevi could be mentioned: The hall and the stage). Therefore, making evaluations and determinations based on the approaches of both Durukan and Yeşilkaya would be an extremely forced choice for the Sarayköy Halkevi Building (Yeşilkaya, who does not make a complete typological grouping, states that the L-plan

types are mostly associated with small-sized Halkevi and that this situation is directly related to the garden space). This situation is also clearly seen in the plans and photographs of Kızılcabölük, Honaz, Akalan and Kale Halkevi-party buildings in and around Denizli, which are available in the State Archives of the Presidency (In fact, this grouping is not a new approach in the case of Halkevi but is a classification that applies to all public buildings of the Republican period) (Figure 6a-b-c-d-e-f-g).

a. Kızılca Halkevi Building (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 33, 1945e)
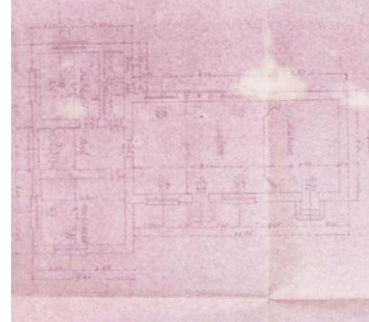
b. Kızılca Halkevi Building Plan (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 34, 1945f)
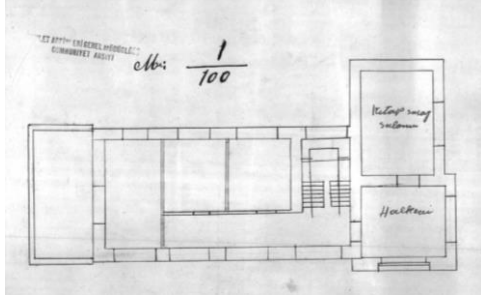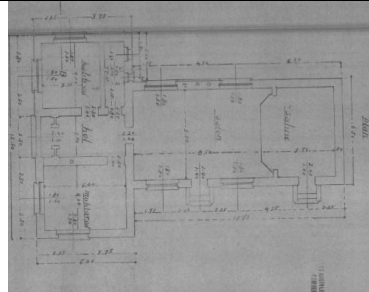
c. Honaz Halkevi Building Plan (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 36, 1945h)

d. Akalan Halkevi Building (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 37, 1945i)
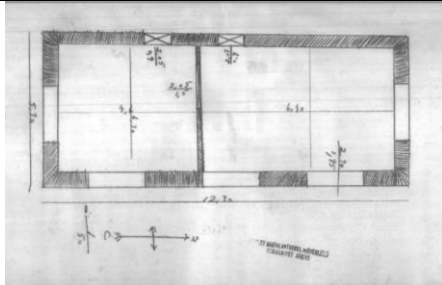
e. Akalan Halkevi Building Plan (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 38, 1945j)

f. Nikfer Halkevi Building Plan (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876-1 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 40, 194k)

g. Kale Halkevi Building Plan (Republic of Türkiye Presidential State Archive (CDA) 1691 - 876 - 1 / 00.00.1943-16.05.1945 / no: 41, 1945l)

Figure 6a-b-c-d-e-f-g. Plans and photographs of Halkevi around Denizli

In fact, this is the case for all Halkevi buildings (not located in major centers) built or converted
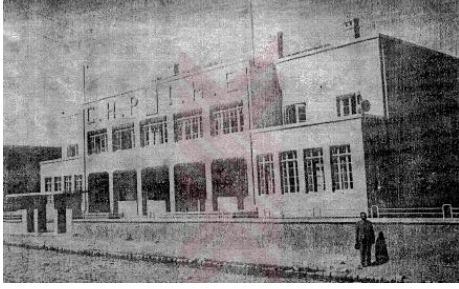
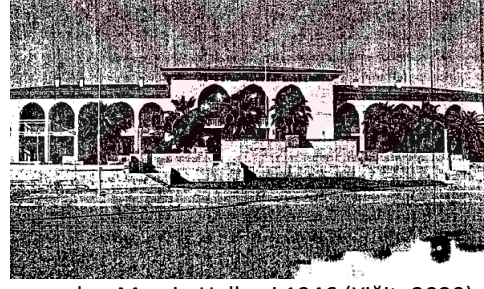throughout the country (Figure 7a-b-c-d-e-f-g-h).

a.   Bursa Halkevi 1932 (Akkuş, 2020)

b. Antalya Halkevi 1932 (Kapusuzoğlu, 2020)

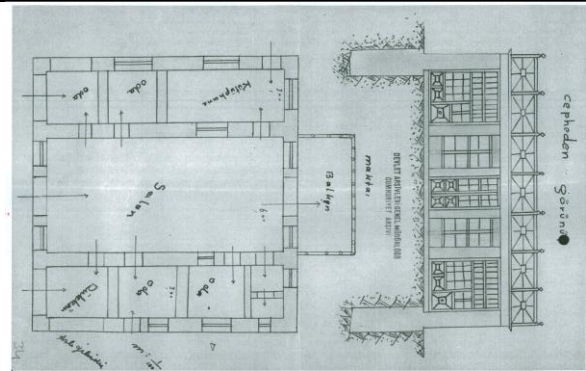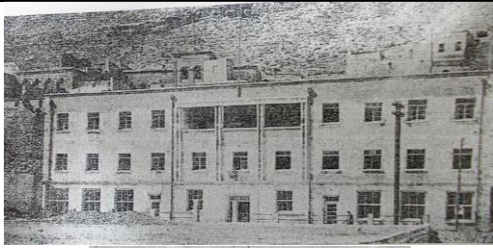c.   Isparta Halkevi 1933 (Turan, 2020)

d.   Mersin Halkevi 1946 (Yiğit, 2020)
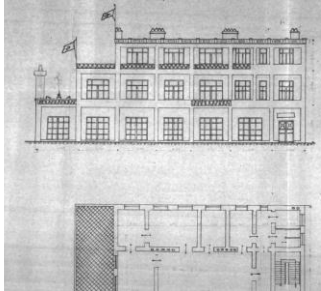
e.   Niğde Halkevi 1933 (Sürme, 2020)

f.   Maraş Halkevi 1934 (Doğan, 2020)

g.   Mardin Halkevi 1934 (Dilek, 2020)

h.   Cizre Halkevi 1938 (Altan, 2020)

Figure 7a-b-c-d-e-f-g-h. Photographs and Plans of Different Halkevi from Anatolia

The fact that the twelve Halkevi buildings in the city center and districts of Aydın, which is neighboring and quite close to Denizli, had dissimilar plans and architectural features could be presented as a proof of this situation (Yılmaz, 2019, p.39-107). This difference in plan type and architectural features was undoubtedly the same for materials and techniques. With its current appearance, the building was not very similar to the registered civil architecture buildings in Sarayköy (Figure 8). The only difference between these examples and Sarayköy Halkevi Building was the use of materials.

Figure 8. Saraykoy Hisar Neighborhood General View. (Denizli Kültür Envanteri, 2020)

However, it was similar in terms of stylistic features to the two-storey civil architecture examples in the city center of Aydın, some of which were designed to have shops on the lower floors (Figure 9).
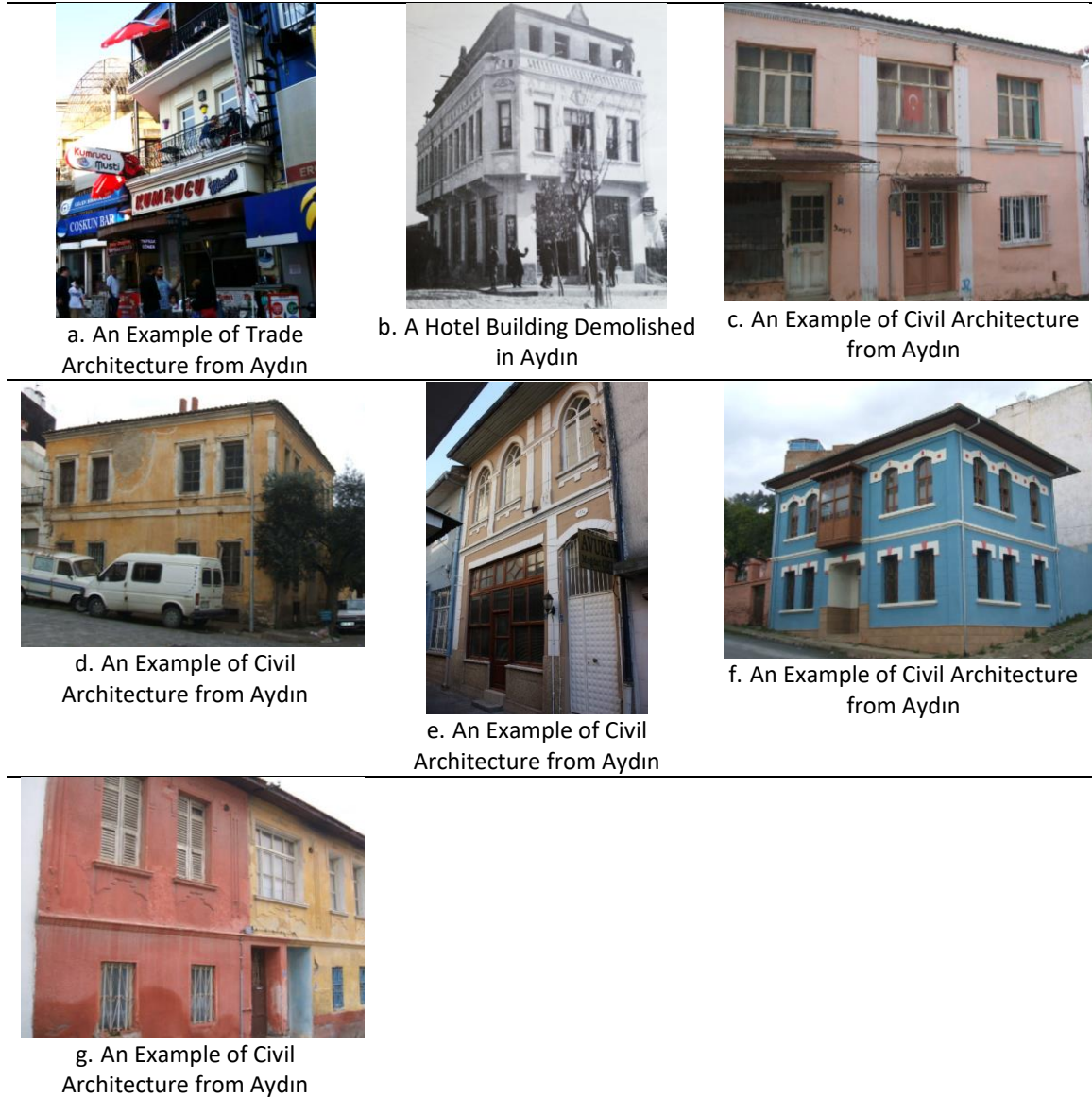
a. An Example of Trade Architecture from Aydın

b. A Hotel Building Demolished in Aydın

c. An Example of Civil Architecture from Aydın

d. An Example of Civil Architecture from Aydın

e. An Example of Civil Architecture from Aydın

f. An Example of Civil Architecture from Aydın

g. An Example of Civil Architecture from Aydın

Figure 9a-b-c-d-e-f-g. Registered civil architecture examples in Aydin City Center (All images belong to the author)

Therefore, the Sarayköy Halkevi Building was built on the basis of functionality as a product of a local architectural tradition in the provinces. It cannot contain the hall and stage, which are the minimum conditions of a Halkevi, and it is a Halkevi building with an individual plan that was taken over from a Turkish hearth building and built to serve similar purposes.

Halkevi is public, official and political buildings in terms of their founding principles. They emerged as a product of the official understanding of a period. They were also the architectural products of an ideology. In this respect, they can be considered as the last great experiment of Turkish architecture in terms of the influence of ideology on architecture. Despite this, unfortunately, Halkevi buildings have not managed to become a focus of art and architectural historians. Halkevi buildings, especially in the provinces, were institutions organized on the basis of functionality. This form of organization was directly reflected in architecture.

Therefore, the People's Houses were sometimes converted from a Turkish Quarry, sometimes from a mansion, and sometimes from a commercial building. Halkevi buildings served a specific purpose in the region in which they were located. In this respect, although the buildings were not originally built

as public houses and thus did not reflect a certain typology and architectural characteristic, these public houses operating in different buildings are the most important ideological-public architectural phenomena of Republican Turkey. Therefore, this subject is worthy of research in itself.

This study is a research on a public house building that has never been published before and was published as a result of the research conducted in the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. In this respect, it is hoped that the study will accelerate the studies on the subject and contribute to those who will conduct research on similar issues.

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Author Contribution and Conflict of Interest Declaration Information

There is no conflict of interest in this single-author article.

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