



## Research on the change of Ankara Ulus City Center identified with its historical texture

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### Abstract

When we look at the history of the city centers, it is seen that these centers were formed around an important religious structure, a special structure or an administrative structure. City centers are cultural spaces that mirror the culture of that city and build bridges between the past and the future. At the same time, these centers are an important place of the city and contribute to the identity of the city. These centers, which form the core of the establishment of cities, have changed over time and have altered. Changes and transformations in these centers, which give the city an identity, continue regardless of the historical value of the place. As a protection issue in this article; the problems brought by the reorganization of historical city centers are discussed. In the article, the changes in the square in the Ulus Historical City Center, the Temple of Augustus, which is a Roman monument, and the Hacı Bayram Mosque, which is an Ottoman Period monument are examined.



## 1. Introduction

There is spatial definition in historical city center settlements. The historical urban texture, which includes the social and cultural meaning here, is important for the definition of cities. Historical city centers with cultural heritage are the elements that make up the historical environment. It is important to protect these areas.

ICOMOS an important international conservation organization states that historical city centers are in danger of losing their structural or visual authenticity and integrity. In this context, it is recommended to protect historical environments with the convention adopted by UNESCO in 2011 [1]. The origin of the preservation of cities dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The understanding of protecting the monument with its surroundings, which started to develop at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, begins with the 11-item Restoration Card (Carta Del Restaura) created by the High Council of Antiquities and Fine Arts in Italy in 1931 [1]. The Venice Charter adopted in 1964 is expanded with the scale of urban protection in the province of Rome. This statute forms the basis of today's conservation understanding [2]. UNESCO adopted the "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" in

1972. It is aimed to protect cultural and natural heritage values as the heritage of all humanity and has played an important role in the development of conservation thought in the world [3]. If the protection of archaeological sites is the first contract; The "European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage" was accepted in 1969 and revised and expanded in 1992 [4]. The Convention leaves the protection of the archaeological heritage to the responsibility of states. It also holds the state responsible for the preservation of the archaeological heritage in situ. The Convention adopts that archaeological research should be carried out with the financial support of the relevant public institutions and that the entire cost of the archaeological site centers required in large-scale public and private sector investments shall be covered from the relevant public and private sector funds. In addition, the Convention provides for educational activities and exhibitions of sites in appropriate conditions in order to awaken and develop public conscience about the value of cultural heritage, and holds the relevant state responsible for the regulation of these issues [1].

Ankara is a city containing ancient structures and historical sites. It remained under the rule of the Roman

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Empire for about 1500 years. Before that, Galatians and Phrygians lived here. It is known that there are temples dedicated to the Cybele and Men Gods and Phrygian Gods in this area [5]. The Temple of Augustus and the Hacı Bayram Mosque are in this city centre called “Ulus” since republican. It has a symbolic dimension.

“The city has a symbolic dimension. Monuments, squares, spaces, wide streets symbolize the universe, the world, society or simply the state.” [6]. Ankara Ulus city center contributes to the identity of Ankara with its unique elements. It characterizes the city with its historical texture.

Hacıbayram and the around of Augustus Temple, Galatians, which was formed around a temple in the past, was used as a part of the Agora during the Roman period. It is an area where it is a center of commercial administrative and social activities were experienced, especially during the Roman period. The city center, which was a part of the Turkish principalities after the Roman and Byzantine domination, continued to exist as a city center because the areas that provided the opportunity to gather in Islamic cities were formed around religious structures, palaces, city walls and similar places in Ankara. In the 13-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, Atpazarı, Samanpazarı and Koyunpazarı traditional bazaars, Mahmud Pasha Bedesten and Hanlar started the first commercial center development here. Later, Tahtakale and Karaoğlan bazaars developed through Uzunçarşı road towards Sulu Han [7].

With the construction of the Hacı Bayram-ı Veli Mosque in the Ottoman period, the area gained even more importance as a place of holy. After the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, Ulus continues to be an area where political, administrative, commercial, financial and entertainment activities are carried out as a city center.



**Figure 1.** Registered buildings in Ankara Historical Ulus Square and its surroundings.

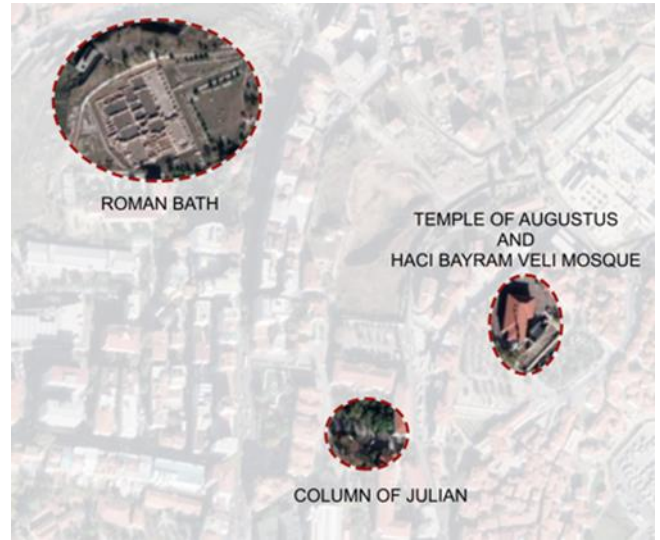
## 2. Method

In this study, it is aimed to examine the changes in Ulus Square and the structures around it in the Historical Ulus City Center. Again, the ruins of Roman Ancyra in the Ancient City Center and the changes around of the Hacı

Bayram mosque are discussed. The research areas were compared in the context of old and new photographs, and their changes were examined.

### 2.1. Cultural heritage and changes in Ulus Historical City Center

The City Center has lived through the pre-Roman, Roman Period, Byzantine Period, Seljuk Period, Ottoman Period and Republic Periods. Some of them partially survived and some of them survived to the present day.



**Figure 2.** The Roman Ruins in Ulus City Center

#### 2.1.1. Ankara Roman Ruins

##### *The Temple of Augustus*

The Temple of Augustus is one of the most valuable monuments of Ankara. It is known as the Ankara Monument. It is the work that the World Monuments Foundation has included in the 100 monuments that need to be protected in the world in 2002. The Temple of Augustus has been listed Unesco World Heritage with Hacıbayram in 2016. The Temple of Augustus (also known as the Monumental Ancyranum) was built between 25-20 BC on the ruins of an earlier site of a sanctuary belonging to the Phrygian God Men [8]. This is one of the most important historical, cultural and religious heritage points in the world [4].



**Figure 3.** Reconstruction drawing of the temple [9]



Figure 4. The Temple today

**Original status:** The marble temple has a pseudodipteral plan rising on a 2 meter platform over an area of 36mx54.82m. It is located in the south-west-northeast direction. It is decorated with 8 ionic columns on the short sides and 15 on the long sides, forming its peristyle. The interior complex (naos) consisted of three parts: 'pronaos' (inner area of the portico), 'cella' (central room) and 'opithodomos' (back porch). Between the extensions of the side walls, there were four Corinthian columns in the pronaos and two in the opisthodomos. The entrance to the cella is through the main door with an ornate lintel located at the rear end of the pronaos. The cella was the sanctuary of the temple, where only priests were allowed [10].

**Change:** The monument has undergone various changes in its architecture in later periods. It was converted into a Christian church during the Byzantine Period in the 6th century. Originally an enclosed space designed to exclude sunlight, the Cella is fitted with three large windows on the southwest wall. The raised floor was leveled to the height of the platform, the wall between the cella and the opisthodomos was removed, and the apse wall and crypt were built in its place. It was used as a church until 806. Ancient Wall is currently protected by structural aids from collapsing which was oriented around Fountain [5].

#### Hacı Bayram Mosque

**Original status:** Hacı Bayram Mosque is located next to the Temple of Augustus. It built in 1427. Hacı Bayram Mosque is one of the important religious buildings of the Ottoman period. It has a rectangular plan and the

northern and western sections were added later. On the southeast wall of the tomb, there is a square planned, stone pedestal, cylindrical brick walled minaret with two balconies. The main interior is covered with a wooden ceiling. The lower windows of the mosque are rectangular. It is bordered externally by pointed arched niches. The upper windows have pointed arches, plaster gratings and stained glass, and are bordered by carved plant motifs [11].

**Change:** Two inscriptions on the south wall indicate that the mosque was restored in 1714. In 1940 and 1947, it was restored by the General Directorate of Foundations and added to the mosque, and the originality of the work was not preserved. With its current layout, it bears the characteristics of late 17<sup>th</sup> century or 18<sup>th</sup> century mosques. It is thought that the religious and historical mosque has lost its original value [12].



Figure 5. Hacı Bayram Mosque [13]



Figure 6. Hacı Bayram Mosque today

### 2.1.2. Ulus Squares and their changes in Ulus Historical City Center

#### Ulus Square

Ulus (Taşhan) Square was built in 1876, after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, by the Governor of Ankara, Dr. It was opened by Reşit Bey. The surrounding buildings reflect the changes.

Change: The square, whose name changed from Taşhan Square to Hâkimiyet-i Milliye Square, was changed to Ulus Square in the 1930s [14]. The first assembly was built in Ulus Square. Then, due to inadequacy of the first assembly, the second assembly

was built. In addition to these, Ankara Palace was built to host state elders and foreign leaders.

The Municipal City Garden was located around the square in 1927. However, today Ulus 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commercial Center (Çarşı) has been built in this area. The square has turned into a congested closed intersection square with the increasing vehicle traffic by the construction of the open areas around it.

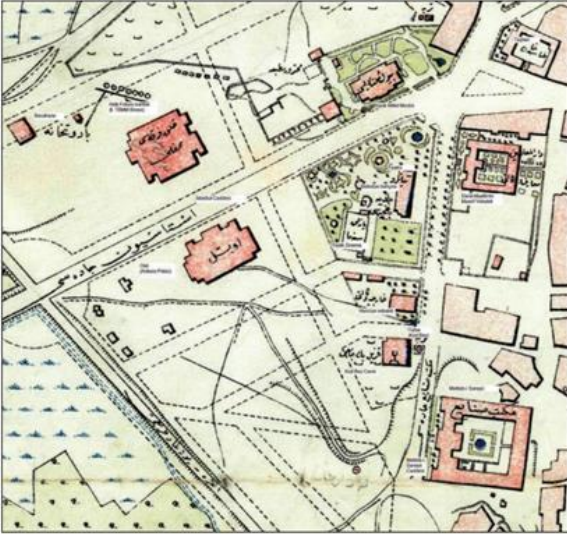


Figure 7. Ulus Square in 1924 Map Source: [15]



Figure 8. Ulus Square today



Figure 9. Ulus Square non-existent Millet Garden



Figure 10. Photograph from the Millet Garden, which does not exist today



Figure 11. Ulus Square 1931 Source: Inv. No:1687 [16]

### Change of structures around Ulus Square

#### *Darülmüallimin Building (Ulus Office Building)*

The building, which was built as an art school in the late Ottoman period, first served as The Darülmüallimin Building /Teacher School and then as the Ministry of Education. After the fire, it was demolished in 1954 and replaced with Ulus İşhanı complex.



Figure 12. Ulus Darülmüallimin Building, 1925 Source: Inv.No: ACF0367\_01 [16]

**Change:** The building, which was built as a school building in 1914, was demolished in 1934. The building, which was completely destroyed, was replaced by the Ulus İşhanı block in 1955.

### Taşhan Building

The building, which was built in the last years of the Ottoman Empire, gave its name to the square. The building, built of cut stone, served as a hotel for a long time. The Sümerbank Building was built in place of the building, which was later demolished (1933). The building of Sümerbank in Ulus Square, whose name was given by Atatürk, was built by German Architect Martin Elsaesser.



**Figure 13.** Taşhan Building Source: Inv. No: 0975 [16]



**Figure 14.** Sümerbank, which was built on the place of Taşhan Building Source: Inv. No: 1792 (VEKAM) [16]

**Change:** The Taşhan building, which was built as a guest house in 1880, was demolished and the Sümerbank Building was built in 1937-38. The building was used as a store in 1988 and transferred to the university in 2013. Today it is used as a university building by Ankara Social Sciences University.

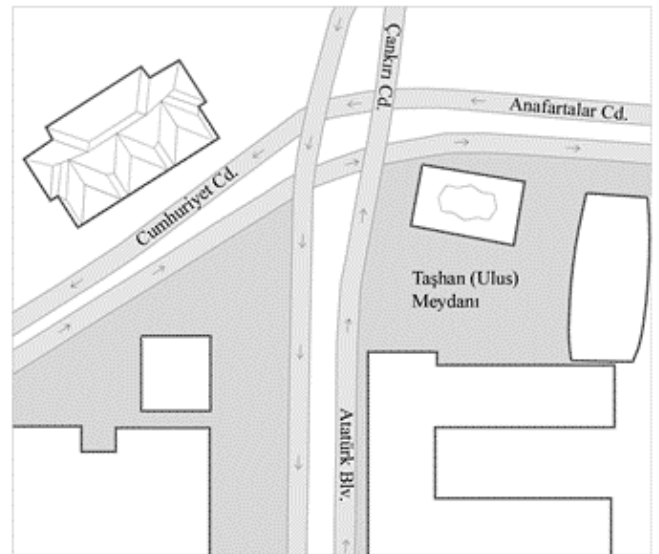
### Nation Victory Monument

It is located in Ankara Ulus Square. It was built in the first years of the Republic. He took part in printed publications and commemorative works as a symbolic work. For a long time, it served as a memorial ceremony area in official organizations on important national days.

**Change:** It was built in 1927 by the Austrian Sculptor Heinrich Krippel. In 1960, the location of the Monument was changed due to road widening works.



**Figure 15.** Schematic drawing of the first place of the Monument



**Figure 16.** New location of the Monument due to road widening

### 3. Results

Findings in the research:

- In the 1st degree archaeological site where the Roman ruins and Hacı Bayram Mosque are located, concreting was carried out under the heading of renovation.
- Additions-enlargements were made without preserving the originality of the Hacı Bayram Mosque. For example, during the foundation excavation of Ulus City Bazaar, some historical artifacts were unearthed. Later, the remains of a late Roman road were found when the official archaeological studies conducted here in 1995 were examined. In 2006, the continuation of this Roman road was found during construction of the parking lot by the Ankara Governor's Office (URL-4).
- Ulus Square is surrounded by commercial centers, the existing green area is not protected, new buildings with no identity are built around the square.

- Ulus Square is not saved from vehicle traffic, but used as a nodal point.

- It has been observed that the Government Square has ceased to be a public space and has become a university inner garden.

Changes in identity structures and loss of identity are:

- Taşhan Building was demolished and Sümerbank Building was built in its place.

- The traditional texture of the square and its surroundings has been destroyed.

- The 100th Anniversary Bazaar was built in place of the Millet Garden.

- Ulus City Bazaar was built.

- In the fire that broke out in 1950, today's Ulus Office Building was built instead of the Ministry of Education building.

#### 4. Discussion

Ulus Historical City Center has been changing and disappearing as a result of years of neglect and mistakes. Sensational and profit-oriented projects are implemented under the guise of "Renovation Area". It has caused destruction and irreversible destruction in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site, which contains Roman ruins. The surroundings of Ulus and Hacı Bayram containing Roman ruins; It has been declared as an urban transformation and renewal area. It is planned to create commercial areas that are thought to generate income through renovations. These mistakes damage the Ulus City Center, which both contains the archaeological site and has witnessed various periods.

#### 5. Conclusion

The historical texture of Ulus and its surroundings has been destroyed by the changes mentioned above. The shopping malls, which were built for profit, caused the destruction of ancient artifacts. The Roman Road between the ancient Roman bath and the Roman Palace could not be preserved. Again, the historical Ankara houses around Ulus Square could not be preserved. Some existing structures were demolished and turned into structures that are far from their functions.

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#### Author contributions

**Necmi Ateş:** Methodology, Field study, writing original draft preparation **Süheyla Birlik:** Writing-Reviewing and Editing, validation

#### Conflicts of interest

There is no conflict of interest between the authors.

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