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# The Plan and Facade Typology on Traditional Ottoman - Turkish Houses: A Field Study in Kırklareli

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Abstract: Kirklareli is a city known from the neolithic period (6000 BC), which is known to people to live in there in the Chalcolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. Thracian tribes existence here to permanent settlement area in Roman Byzantine and Ottoman times. From the second half of the 14th century in the Ottoman period, the town's part to know as Yayla Quarter shows an intensive settlement characteristic. Turks, Jews, Greeks and Bulgarians lived together in and around this quarter. The quarter was declared an urban conservation area in 1996. This study includes the examination of the on-site inspection and fixation, the drawing of plans and facades or the drawing and checking of the plan and façade properties of the traditional ottoman houses located in the Kirklareli Yayla Quarter.

Keywords: Ottoman-Turkish, Traditional, House, Typology, Plan, Façade

## 1. Introduction

The province of Kırklareli is located in the Thrace part of the Marmara Region. It is located between the northern latitudes of 41 degrees, 13 minutes, 34 seconds and 42 degrees, 05 minutes, 03 seconds and eastern longitudes of 26 degrees, 54 minutes, 14 seconds and 28 degrees, 06 minutes, 15 seconds according to its position in the world [1]. It is surrounded by Bulgaria in the north, Black Sea in the east, Istanbul in the south east, Tekirdağ in the south and Edirne in the west [2]. Trakya region is commercial and strategically important region because it has passed over one of the two trade routes between Europe and Asia since early history. Therefore, throughout the history, many nations have sustain war to capture this region and have established dominance over certain periods of time [3].

The history of Kırklareli has parallels with the history of Thrace. In ancient times, after the rule of the Scythians, Persians, Thracian tribes, the Odrysian kingdom, Philippos of Macedonia and Galatians, the city joined the Roman territories and was located within the borders of Thrace province of Rome. After the Roman Empire was divided into two parts, the city fell to Byzantium (East Rome) [4]. During the Byzantine period, the name of the city was Saranta Ekklesies. At this time, the Bulgarians were attacked the city occasionally. The Bulgarians used the name Lozengrad for the city. There is no definite information in the first Ottoman sources about the date on which Saranta Ekklesies entered under the Ottoman's rule. It is generally accepted that this place was captured after the conquest of Edirne. The date of the conquest is known as the date of 768-770 (1366-1368) with regard to Islamic Calendar. After entering under the Ottoman's rule, the name of the city was changed as the Kırkkilise, which was the translation of the previous name. This name was used until the Republic period [5].

Kırkkilise was a township affiliated to Vize district in the province of Rumelia in the rule of Ottoman. In the wake of

Tanzimat reforms, the Kırkkilise became a district center affiliated to the province of Edirne owing to the fact that the Ottoman change over the administration from states system to provincial system. The city was conquered by the Russians during the Russo-Turkish war and according to one of the articles of the Treaty of Ayastefanos signed after this war, the Kırkkilise was left to the newly founded Bulgarian Principality. But according to the Berlin Agreement, which was signed the same year, the city was returned to the Turks and continued to be a district center. During the second half of the 19th century, there were eleven mosques, three prayer rooms, six churches, a synagogue, twenty-one inns, two Turkish baths, forty-four stores, and 721 shops in 1874 with a population ranging from 7500-14.000. Kırkkilise was occupied by the Bulgarian forces at the beginning of the Balkan War. The city was saved on July 21, 1913 from this occupation, which lasted for nine months. During the Turkish War of Independence, Kırkkilise, which had been in the Greek occupation, was taken back on November 10, 1922. At the beginning of the Republic period, it became a province in 1924. Towards the end of the same year, the name of the Kırkkilise was changed to Kırklareli [5].

## 2. Method

"Field study" was used as a method in this article. The scope of this study involves the traditional houses of the Yayla Quarter which is located in the historical settlement of the city of Kırklareli and dated back to the Roman and Byzantine period, became an important settlement area since the Ottoman period and is now declared as an urban protected area (1996) by the Regional Council for the Conservation of Cultural Property. This study tries to reveal the similarities and differences determining the evaluations of physical and spatial conditions, sequences-fractal constructions of the houses within the settlement and analyses of the spatial constructions and facade typologies of the houses.

Field study was carried out in the area. In archive research,

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archive of Edirne Regional Council for the Conservation of Cultural Property, Cultural Property Inventory of Kırklareli , Kırklareli Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate and The Ottoman Archives of the Prime Minister's Office were searched and literature search was carried out by the way of supporting the subject.

The historical development of Kırklareli is presented of the introduction part of the work. Secondly mentioned of the spatial features of the Ottoman - Turkish city and the traditional Turkish houses. Thirdly, identified of urban fabric and traditioal houses during the Ottoman period in Kırklareli. Were made defination of the physical and spatial conditions and the constructs about fractal arrangements of the settlement. Were mentioned of he characteristics of the traditional houses in Kirklareli. Fourthtly, there were presented analysis of plan and facade typologies of traditional houses was made in the field. The houses are named with parcel numbers and they are examined in terms of plan, facade features, construction technique and materials. There were compared and tabulated facade and plan typologies of all the houses surveyed. Findings are demonstraded in the results section. As a result of this study, similarities and differences were determined as the results of the analysis for determining the spatial constructions and façade typologies of the houses.

## 3. Literature Review

Those books published on this subject; "Efsaneden gerçeğe Kırklareli" [6], Kırklareli İl Yıllığı [1], Yurt Ansiklopedisi [2],[8], "Kalemin Ucundaki Kırklareli ve Trakya" [5], "Kırklareli Vilayetini Tarih Coğrafya Kültür ve Eski Eserleri Yönünden Tetkik" [4], "Kırklareli ve Geleneksel Evleri" [10], "Türk Evi Plan Tipleri" [11], "Anadolu'daki Geleneksel Türk Evinde Mekan Organizasyonu Açısından Odalar" [12], "Türk Evi" [13], "Türk Ahşap Konut Mimarisi" [14], "Türk Kent Düzenlemesi ve Konut Mimarlığı" [15].

Those thesis published on this subject; "Kırklareli'nin Tarihsel Gelişimi İçinde Yayla Mahallesinin Çözümlenmesi ve Koruma Önerileri" [16], Kırklareli Mevcut Geleneksel Konut Çevresinin Kültür Bağlamında İncelenmesi [17], "Kırklareli konut yerleşimi üzerine bir inceleme" [18], "Osmanlı Türk Evi Mekan Kurgusunu Modern Konut Mimarisinde Okumak" [19], and "Kırsal ve kentsel ölçekte geleneksel Trakya konutlarının incelenmesi ve çağdaş kullanımlara uyarlanması için bir yöntem araştırması" [20], "Türkiye'de Taşınmaz Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarının Koruma Olayı ve Korumaya Halkın Katılımı Konusunda Yardımcı Bir Araştırma'"[21].

Those articles published on this subject; "Osmanlı Şehri" [22], and "The Relationship Between Architecture And The Socio-Cultural Structure And Social Perception With An Example Of Istanbul City" [23].

# 4. Ottoman – Turkish Cities and Traditional Turkish House

The formation of the Turkish Ottoman cities is not formal, it can not be defined geometrically. In this city structure, it can be easily adding and removing. They do not damage the feature of the formation. The texture of the cities has usually been the result of a functional building act and lead to not worry about aspect of the homes. Formations usually carry the same characteristics and sets of houses in the same character cause to form narrow, uneven streets. Despite not being a geometrically defined square, it is consciously left around the mosque, fountain and the bazaar and there are openings that appears like self-created [24]. In the cities, the road network is similar and there is no distinction between street and avenue. There are quarters with organic texture. The roads in this texture suddenly change direction without following any rule. There are differences in path lengths. Generally, there are dead-end streets towards into city block [22]. Historical and cultural identity shaping the urban space and dwellings in the city [25] .

## 4.1 Spatial Characteristics of the Traditional Turkish House:

The Turkish House is a type of house formed in the Rumelia and Anatolian regions within the borders of the former Ottoman State, which has continued for about 500 years and is characterized by its own characteristics [11]. The Turkish House is based on a modular system. The smallest unit of this module is a room with service areas which are before and next to it [15]. According to S. H. Eldem, while the rooms in the Turkish house are reproduced continually, anteroom comes out in front of the rooms as a common area [11]. The form of anteroom determines the type of house. The anteroom can be in front of, or in the middle of or between the rooms. In terms of plan types, Turkish houses are gathered in four categories as without anteroom, exterior anteroom, interior anteroom and central anteroom

## 4.2 Plan Type without Anteroom

Plan type without anteroom is formed by lining up of rooms side-by-side. (Figure 1). The rooms have no connection with each other. Every room is entered from the outside. These species are usually used for garden houses protected by a garden gate and garden walls with inner court. Garden and stony ground take the place of anteroom. If the number of rooms is high, an iwan can be included among them. [13]. There are also two-storey plan types without anteroom. It can be climbed up the upper storey with stairs in court.

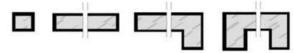


Figure 1: Plan Type without Anteroom [12].

## 4.3 Plan Type with Exterior Anteroom

This plan type is the first phase of the history of wooden houses of the Ottoman period. Connections between the

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rooms of the plan type with exterior anteroom are provided by a common space called anteroom. In the rural part of Anatolia, it can be found many practices of this plan type especially in houses with garden and court. First form of this plan was formed by lining up of the rooms to the only one side of the anteroom, afterwards, L and U shaped plan types came to the fore with the addition of the pavilion to one side of the anteroom and the fact that pavilion takes the form of room and these additions are on one or both ends of the anteroom [11]. Bektaş also classifies the exterior anteroom as side anteroom, anteroom with L-shaped plan type and anteroom with U-shaped plan type. If the rooms are on the one side of the anteroom, it is called side anteroom; if the rooms are arranged on the one side of the anteroom adjacent to each other, the sofa is at a corner or is L shape, it is called L-shaped plan type with exterior anteroom; if the rooms are on the three sides of the anteroom and this is called U-shaped plan type with exterior anteroom (Figure 2) [13].

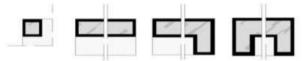


Figure 2: Plan Type with Exterior Anteroom [12].

## 4.4 Plan Type with Interior Anteroom

Plan type with interior anteroom is the most common type of plan implemented in Turkish house. A type of plan called colloquially "karnıyarık" has emerged putting anteroom between the rooms (Figure 3). According to the condition of the ladder, special places such as pavilion or terrace on the one or both ends of the anteroom takes place. There is either a cedar or a large housing space that which is slightly elevated and even separated by railings from anteroom [19]. In the oldest types, the stairs are outside the anteroom. Later on it is taken into the anteroom, but it is randomly positioned. The interior anteroom is enlarged by adding a side anteroom, an iwan or a anteroom with staircase [11]. In the interior anterooms, it is usually preferred two faced anteroom with namely anteroom with open two facades and windows. Later on, along with opening the doors of the rooms bevelled that are brought to the corners of the rooms and expansion of the middle part of the anteroom, this type starts to bear a resemblance to central anteroom [17].

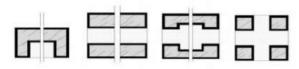


Figure 3: Plan Type with Interior Anteroom [12]

## 4.5 Plan Type with Central Anteroom

Using of the plan type with central anteroom is started to be implemented later than the others. During the 18th and 19th centuries, buildings such as palace, small palace and pavilion in Istanbul had very different and interesting forms, thus adding richness to house designs (Figure 4) [19]. Together with the central anteroom, the house plans have become more square or square-like rectangles. Four rooms are located on four sides of the building, and service spaces such as stairs,

iwan, pantry, and kitchen are put to use between the rooms. Even as the anteroom has four corners at first, in time, that corners are bevelled and formed as octagonal, polygonal, oval or elliptical shapes [11].



**Figure 4:** Plan Type with Central Anteroom [12].

## 5. A Field Study in Kirklareli

Kırklareli, which was included in the Ottoman's territory in the mid-14th century, came into prominence due to its proximity to Istanbul and the ways of campaign to the west. Under the rule of Ottoman, in Kırklareli, minorities were settled in Yayla, and on the sides of Kırklar Hill, the Muslim Turks were generally settled. In 1492, in the wake of the Jewish massacre in Spain, Jewish people rescued by the Ottoman fleet brought to the Ottoman lands. A separate district was established in the Karakaş quarter for the Jewish people arrived in Kırklareli [10]. It is known that during the Byzantine period the city spread out on the axis of Yayla Quarter and Kırklar Hill. Afterwards, the city enlarged in the south direction [26].

#### 5.1 Urban Tissue

It is known that the Kırklareli township had 6 districts in the Ottoman period in the title registry dated 1530 according to the Ottoman Archives of the Prime Minister's Office [7]. The second document dated 1642 is "Maliyeden Müdevver, Avâriz Defter" [9]. In this document, it is seen that the number of quarters has increased to 10 [10]. The historical center of the province of Kırklareli is the Cumhuriyet Square, which is also the city center today. Hızırbey Kulliye built by Hızır Bey in 1383 is located in the square. In Kırklareli, the housing zones and the bazaar district developed separately. The commercial activity in the city centered on the Cumhuriyet Square and along the roads separated from it in various directions especially on Edirne Street [26] .

The Ministry of Culture carried out inventory studies in the city before 1990 and 31 examples of civil architecture were registered [16]. However, many historical buildings and houses were destroyed, in the pre-1990 period. The reason is the basic principles of the Urban Conservation Policy not detected before 1990 in Turkey [27]. The Regional Conservation Council declared the district consisting of the Yayla and Demirtaş Quarters as "Urban protected area" on the date of 19.09.1996 started the zoning plan studies for protection (Figure 5). This plan has been in force since 2001. Yayla region, which is the urban protected area today; it is located in the north of Cumhuriyet Square, which is the center of the city.

Residential and residential areas demonstrate very properly of the social, economic and cultural structure of the physical space; according to other urban functions in historic or not historic cities [23]. One of the best examples for this traces of the organic form of the traditional Turkish quarter are visible

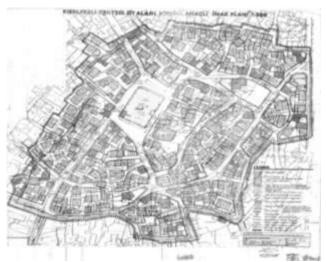
Volume 7 Issue 10, October 2018

www.ijsr.net

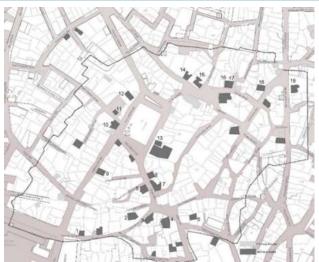
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Index Copernicus Value (2016): 79.57 | Impact Factor (2017): 7.296

at the Yayla quarter (Figure 6). The locations of the buildings within the parcel influences the relation of the buildings with each other and with the streets. Tissue of the streets are formed by the positioning of buildings. Some of the buildings have entries only in the street while others have entries also in the garden. Dead-end streets are common. The highest point of the land is Yayla Square, where the Yayla Mosque is located. From this point the area descends to the east and south. The slope is less in areas close to the square, while in regions close to the border of the protected area, it is more. Topography of the region has an effect on positioning of buildings. The basement floor obtained by utilizing the elevation difference is used with functions such as cellar, pantry, warehouse. It should be noted that only the architectural heritage must be protected along with its surroundings. It is important to be aware of the fact that this heritage must be protected along with its surroundings in order to protect the architectural heritage in Yayla Quarter. Although it is not stated in definitions, historical, urban and street fabrics, squares, traditional construction practices, material, color, fabric and folk architecture; regional, traditional and rural architecture are accepted as going to be protected assets [27]. The most important means of protecting cultural and natural heritage is planning. It is implied that in the site areas defined within laws, by taking interaction-transition field of the area into consideration, the necessity of making reconstruction plan for protect cultural and natural assets in the direction of sustainability principle is stated [28]. The "Kırklareli Urban Site Conservation Development Plan" (Figure, 5) which includes the Yayla quarter, should have contents that effectively protect the urban texture and pattern (square, street, material, color, technique, etc.).



**Figure 5:** Plan of Urban Conservation Area in Kırklareli [30][31]



**Figure 6:** Traditional Urban Tissue in Yayla Quarter [30][31].

#### **5.2 Traditional Houses**

In Kırklareli, the houses in Yayla and Demirtas Quarters are generally two-storey buildings that made of masonry or wooden Masonry buildings are designed especially in the neo-classical style and they are widely prevalent. As a result, the former Governor's Mansion (Figure 7), the Turkish Ocağı (Figure 8), and the Celepoğlu Mansion (Figure 9), all of which were originally designed as a house, were designed as neo classical styles. But there was build public structure as a Kocahidir primary school (Figure 10) known as the Hamidiye Elementary School and is now a museum building (Figure 11) was designed the town hall. And all of them designed same style. On the other hand, it is also possible to see that traditional houses that made of mainly wooden also take its place in the texture of the city Orhan Özmadenci (Figure 12) and Aydın Akkul's houses (Figure 13) are some of these.



Figure 7: Old Governor Hall



Figure 8: Türk Ocağı

Volume 7 Issue 10, October 2018 www.ijsr.net

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Figure 9: Celepoğlu Mansion



Figure 10: Kocahıdır School



Figure 11: Kırklareli Museum



Figure 12: Ozmadenci's House



Figure 13: Akkul's House

Outside of the Yayla Quarter, the Muslim Turkish people, who settled down on plain,the lower part of the city, usually built adobe houses with frame walls in the garden surrounded by walls. The roofs of these houses, which were single-storey and sometimes two-storey, were covered with tiles [10]. According to Karaçam, they were the houses with facing garden and had no window on the street. In the houses with garden, large court and high garden walls, there were large doors with two wings where animals and cars entered and

there would be a small door next to it [6]. These houses usually had a water well.

In the interior of the houses there were shelves in the rooms, lockers and cells embedded in the walls. In the rooms this would usually be a bedroom, in a corner of it, or in another room, a house bath. The bathhouses were more modest, as the wealthy families had different shape of baths. The houses of these families differed in terms of architecture, decoration, workmanship and materials. There were ornaments motifs in the wooden parts. These houses were called "Ekabir, Bey, Paṣa, Ağa Houses" [6].

It has been observed that the traditional items brought by the Western Thrace immigrants since the 19th century participated in the local architecture. These are the kümbet and the commonly used heating devices called 'maşinga'. In the following years (1930), became widespread the use of sacred cousins called mashing. Lignite has been used for both of cooking and cooking on maşingas. Then cooker was made of plaster of red soil in outside ,the houses is renewed every first summer when entering [8].

In the traditional houses of Kirklareli, the chimneys of the heating quarries are often overturned. These chimneys located on the exterior are formed on the elbows by forming overhang. These different sizes of chimneys have given interesting plastic effects to the facades (Figure 14) [10].

In order to protect and transfer to the future of the traditional dwellings which are largely destroyed and have been shrouded since 1990, the participation of the people in protection must be ensured as well as the community [21]. For this purpose, it will be natural procedure to protect these dwellings by taking the concept of sustainability into consideration evaluating and functioning them within the concept of Sustainable Tourism [29].



**Figure 14:** Suspended chimney examples in Yayla Quarter (106 Block of Buildings 4 Parcel, 728 Block of Buildings 23 Parcel, 87 Block of Buildings 8 Parcel number houses)

# 5.3. Analysis of The Houses of Yayla Quarter in Kirklareli

Nineteen houses of Yayla Quarter in Kırklareli are renumbered with block of buildings and parcel numbers and examined according to location, plan features, facade features, construction techniques (Figure 15). The study shows that the entrances of the houses are generally in the south. There are five houses with the entrance located in the southwest, four houses with entrance located in the south, two of them in the southeast, three of them in the west, three in the northwest and one of the in the east. The examination of the garden and street connections of the entrances shows that they have both garden and street entrances. On the other

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hand, six houses are entered only through the street and their gardens are in the back. The houses numbered 2, 4, 5, 12, 13, 19 are entered from the garden. The houses numbered 1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16 are entered only from the street. The houses numbered 3, 6, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18 have street and garden entrances.

According to the plan features, it is determined that most of them are of plan type with interior anteroom. The frontfacing rooms have living spaces while back-side has mostly service spaces. There are two houses (houses numbered 3 and 13) with exterior anteroom plan type, and four houses with central anteroom plan type (houses numbered 2, 4, 10, 12). The houses are generally two-storey above the basement. In places where there is no slope, the ground floor is elevated and formed basement or the houses are made up of ground floor and first floor. The houses also have large rectangular windows, double-leaf wooden doors. Entrances are elevated in all structures with at least a few steps and are withdrawn to create entrances. The edges of the windows have jambs and there are mouldings between storeys and eaves-cornices. These houses usually have balconies instead of oriel. Only three houses have oriel.

Filled wooden carcass and masonry system are applied as a construction technique. The fillings between the wooden carcass are brick and stone. These are applied on the inner surface as plaster or as a timber cover on the outer surface. It is discovered three houses with timber cover.

## 5.3.1. Comparison by Type of Anteroom

When the houses are examined according to the plan features, it is seen that the twelve of them are in the plan type with interior anteroom, in the six of them stairs are located on the entrance axis of the stairs, and in the five houses stairs are located behind one of the rooms next to the entrance. There are no stairs in the house numbered seven. There are two houses with the exterior anteroom plan type. In the one of them, the stairs is located on the edge facing the outside where there are no rooms, and in the other, located between the two rooms in the part where the rooms are located. There are four houses with the central anteroom plan type, in the one of them, stairs are located on the entrance axis and in the other, stairs are between the rooms, on the other hand, two houses have no stairs.

## **5.3.2.** Comparison by Entrance Type

All of the houses have an entrance with iwan and all of them are reached by ascending at least one or two steps. In four houses the stairs are located on the entrance axis overflowed from facade, four houses are in the niche on the entrance axis. In two houses the stairs are in the niche on the one side, in the one house it is on the one side again but overflowed and it is entered from a small niche following the landing, while in one house the stairs are located in the niche and on the two sides. Unlike these, in the house numbered 19, a few steps of the wide stairs built by overflowing from the entrance are in the niche, then a landing is built and the steps are widened and extended to the street.

#### 5.3.3. Evaluation of Oriel, Balcony and Pinnacle

Most of the houses have an balcony above the entrance in the view of facade features. In the six houses there are balconies above the entrance, pinnacle in the two houses, and oriels in the three houses. Except for these, four houses do not have any of these features.

## 5.3.4. Comparison by Window Types

The windows are mostly wooden windows with 1/2 ratio. In one house, the ratio is 1/1. Eight houses have arched jambs. Six windows are rectangular windows with 1/2 ratio. One of them is flat jamb, and the other is wooden sill.

## **5.3.5.** Comparison by Door Types

Considering doors, it is seen that all of them are wooden and double-leaf doors. Eleven of these have upper windows, two of them have both upper and side windows; in the two house, on the other hand, there are no windows.



Figure 15: The location of the houses in the parcel [30][31].

## 6. Conclusions

The houses examined in Kırklareli Yayla Quarter are all of the plan type with anteroom. The most common type is the plan type with interior anteroom. Most of the houses have basement floors. Anyone can get through to the ground floor with a few steps. While basement floor is mostly accessed from inside the house, there are also entrances from the garden without connection with the house. The stairs are usually located either directly opposite the entrance axis or behind one of the rooms situated symmetrically to the facade. It is known that, in the two houses, the stairs are overflowed from the facade and protruded cylindrically. The kitchens and wet areas are generally located on the rear facade, not towards the facade facing street, but towards the garden. In all of the houses, there is usually an elevated entrance. This entrance is inside of the facade. The entrance doors of the houses are double-leaf and wooden. In general, they all have an upper window, there are a few houses with upper side window or without window. The houses have central entrance. In general, there is balcony above the entrance. The windows are placed symmetrically on both sides of the entrance. The windows are of long rectangular shape, and most of them are inside of the arched jamb. A small number

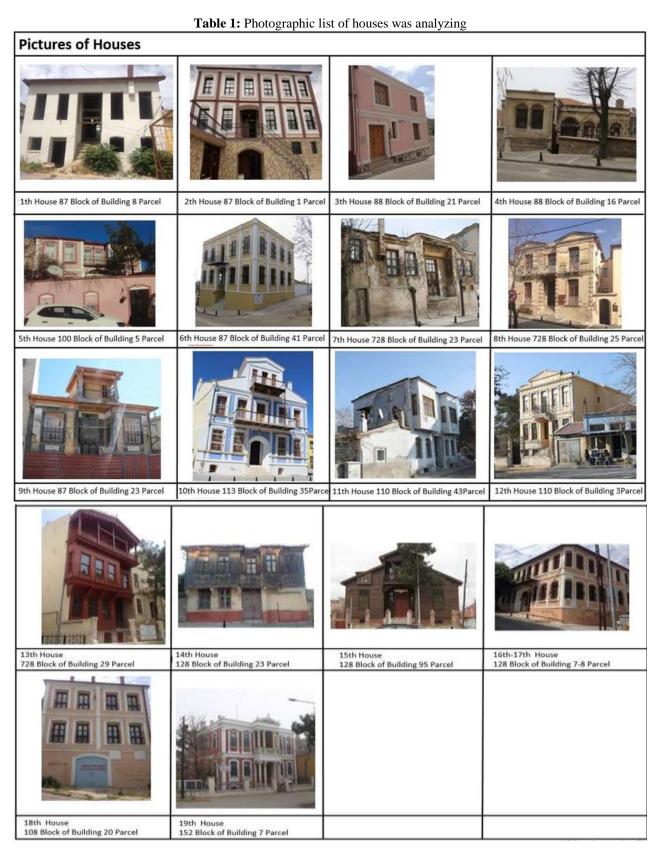
Volume 7 Issue 10, October 2018

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of buildings have wooden sills and ornaments. The most prominent features on the facades are the wide fronts, the mouldings between the storeys, the window jambs and the stone facings ranging from the roof of the building to the floor. Filled wooden carcass and masonry system are applied as a construction technique. The fillings in between the wooden carcass are brick and stone. These are applied on the inner surface as plaster or as a timber cover on the outer surface. The foundation walls are usually rubble stone walls. Brick and stone are used in the masonry system. The brick is applied as both bearing and backfill material in the masonry system.



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Table 2: Classification of Yayla Quarter Houses According to Interior, Central and Exterior Anteroom Plan Typologies



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**Table 3:** Façade Typlogy of the Houses in the Yayla Quarter



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## Volume 7 Issue 10, October 2018

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