

# Temel Şorta House

*İnci Türkoğlu*

District of Marmara, Asmalı Neighbourhood, Köyiçi Locality	Construction period/date: <b>Second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century</b>
GPS: 40°37'02.3"N 27°42'25.8"E	Current status: <b>Abandoned</b>
	Ownership status: <b>Private ownership</b>
Registration date and number: <b>Bursa KTVKKBK 15.01.1996 - 4904</b>	

## History

The residential building does not have an inscription, but it can be dated to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century based on materials, façades, decorative features and similar examples.

## Architecture

Temel Şorta House is a two-storey building with a rectangular plan extending in the north-south direction. The northern half of the building is ruined at present (Fig. 1). The

traces of the northern wall, attached to the wall of the neighbouring house, are currently exposed. The ground level of the building is bounded by a street to the west and south. It has a small yard in the east, which cannot be accessed since it is overgrown with trees and weeds. The lower floor is constructed as timber frame with rubble infill and the upper floor is timber frame covered with timber planks. The hipped roof, which is currently in



Fig. 1: Western façade

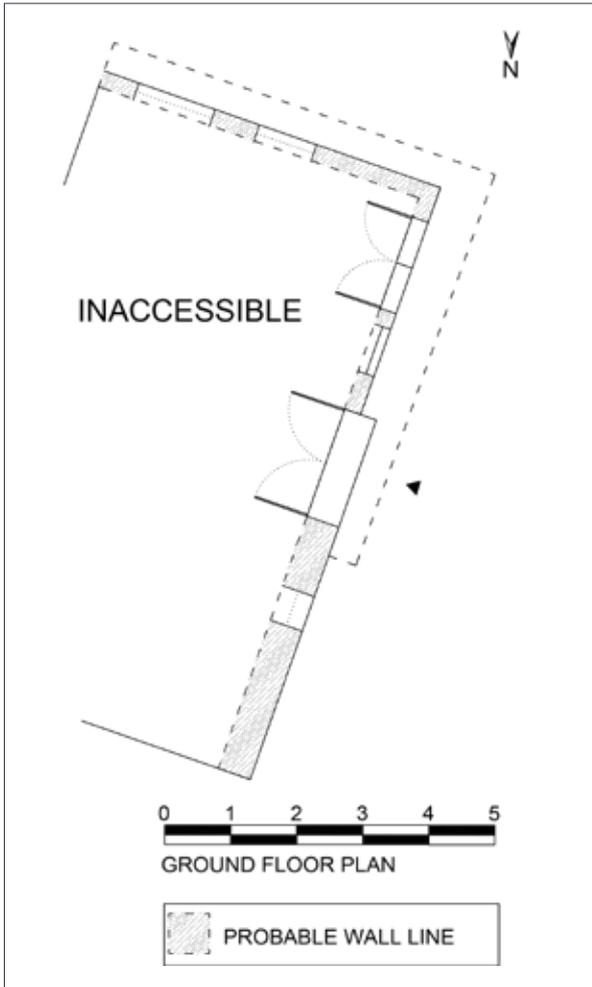


Fig. 2: Southern façade

ruinous condition, is covered with over and under tiles.

The western and southern façades of the house facing the street have an elaborate organization (Figs. 1-2). Access into the house was provided by two doorways on the western façade - one on the central axis and the other to the south of the façade. The large, double-winged door in the south provided access to the commercial space downstairs. The main entrance to the house is from the door in the middle. Although it is narrower than the other door, it is still double-winged. The door is elevated from the street level and accessed by steps. There are two rectangular windows with double casements on the ground floor of the southern façade. The upper floor projects along the entire western and southern façades. The projection sits on a timber bracket (*eliböğründe*) covered by wood laths. Above the main entrance of the house on the western façade is a narrow balcony (open *sofa*, *gezemek*). There are two window

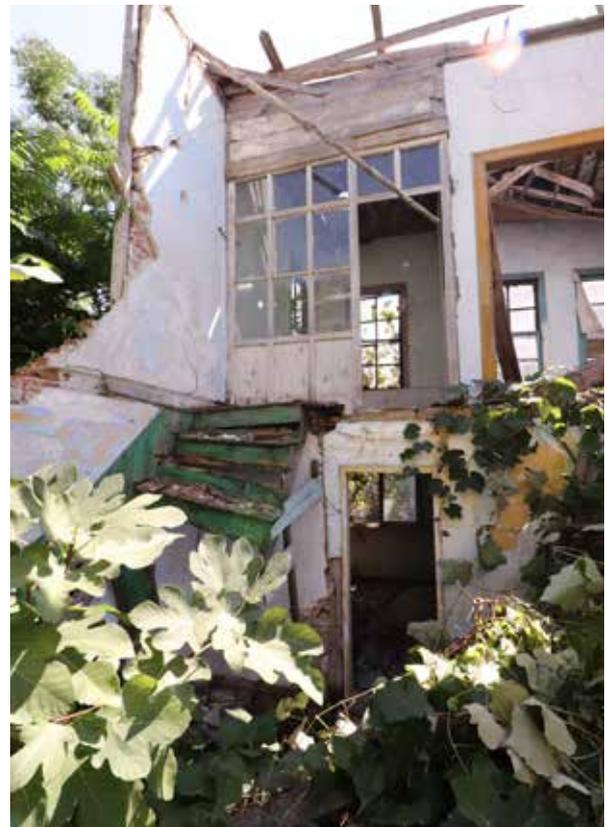


Fig. 3: Interior view of the south wing



Fig. 4: Store door



Fig. 5: The detail of the window bar at the ground floor level of the western façade

openings to the south of this balcony; one of these openings is closed with cement plaster. Since the northern part of the upper floor collapsed starting at the northern edge of the balcony, the symmetrical window arrangement in this section was determined from the building's photograph in the registration document. There are three rectangular window openings on the upper level of the southern façade. These are sash windows, accentuated with timber jambs, sills, lintels, and protruding bracket-like elements.

At present, the interior can be observed from the ruinous part to the north (Fig. 3). Although the northern section of the house has collapsed, the remaining spaces reveal that the building had a plan organization with rooms flanking an inner *sofa*. There are two rooms on the southern side of the *sofa* –in the extant section– on both the ground and first floors. The green-painted, timber staircase leading upstairs is attached to the eastern wall. As it is understood from the ruinous section, there is a fireplace on the northern wall, indicating that a kitchen was probably in this area.

The decorations cluster around the doors and windows. There are two timber-frame mouldings on the door to the south of the western wall, arranged as two vertical rectangles constructed by gluing the timber elements together and nailing them on the door wing. Two layers of rhombuses are placed at an angle at the corners of the spiralling frame mouldings (Fig. 4). Although the windows are quite plain, the one between the two doors has iron bars that terminate in bud motifs at the bottom and as pinecones at the top, which is a rare type of ornamentation (Fig. 5).

### Current Condition

The building is completely abandoned and the former residents of the house have moved to a modern building across the street to the south. According to the information obtained from the Şorta Family, one of the families originally from Sürmene, the house has been abandoned for nearly 20 years. The building's northern part has almost completely collapsed after abandonment, but the plan organization and spatial characteristics are still perceivable. There is no information panel

about the building. The details of the interior features are described based on the observations of the ruinous section.

It can be understood from the differences in material that additions and repairs had been made before the building was abandoned. These differences are especially prevalent in the section used as commercial space. Structural cracks, vegetation, surface weathering, and material loss are observed in the extant walls. Half of the roof has collapsed; damages such as collapsed flooring, loosened timber planks, and fallen roof tiles are also noted. The building is structurally in poor condition, thus it poses a danger to its surroundings. The partially-preserved balcony and eaves are in similar condition.

Serious surface weathering and decay are observed in the timber and stone elements of the entire building. The building probably will not survive for a few more years in hot or cold weather conditions.

### **Risk Assessment and Recommendations**

This registered building in Asmalı Neighbourhood has deteriorated; some of its timber parts have decayed and fallen day by

day. There are also collapses in some of its stone sections. The timber components of the eaves have decayed and fallen; serious structural cracks in the walls threaten the surroundings and the street. Since half of the roof has collapsed, roof tiles are likely to slip and fall.

The building faces a high risk of deterioration and loss of further materials. It should be structurally supported or consolidated in order to prevent the ongoing deformations and collapses, especially to stop the collapse of load-bearing walls. Structural timber elements should also be consolidated. It is necessary to renew the timber flooring and ceilings urgently.

A restoration and conservation project should be prepared for the building and necessary measures should be taken within this framework. There is no information panel about the house, which draws attention especially with its decorated, iron window bars and wooden door ornamentations. The placement of information panels will raise awareness in the region and the surroundings. The building should be opened to visitors with an appropriate function based on a conservation project.