Marmara Greek School for Boys (Kyriakidia)

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District of Marmara, Merkez Neighbourhood	Construction period/date: **1910**
	Current status: **Public Education Centre**
GPS: **40°35'11.9"N 27°33'30.4"E**	Ownership status: **State Treasury**
Registration date and number: **GEEAYK 20.12.1975 – 8791, TKTVYK 27.02.1987 – 3045, Bursa KTVKBK 15.01.1996 – 4904**	

History

According to the Almanac of 1889, there were 515 male students in the village of Marmara. Although there were nine schools on Marmara Island, the Greek School for Boys is one of the few that have survived. The school was completed between 1908 and 1910, then started functioning (Pl. IV.11). Nikolaos Kyriakidis, who commissioned the building's construction, was a rich shipowner. He covered all kinds of expenses for the school until World War I (Pl. IV.12). According to Enön, the building was constructed on top of an old monastery, but there are not any sources supporting this argument (Enön 2003, 79).

The architect of the building was Dimitrios Karagiannakis (Δημήτριος Καραγιαννάκης), who was brought from Istanbul. His name is still inscribed on a marble console on the façade. In addition, the architect's initials –Δ and K– were engraved on some of the granite blocks in the walls. On the marble architrave

Fig. 1: Southern façade

of the main façade is a Greek inscription that reads, 'ΚΤΗΜΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ 1910 ¸απι'', meaning 'Property of the Greek Orthodox Community 1910' (Papachristou 2019a, 162).

According to the third clause of the Kyriakidia Schools Regulation published in Istanbul on 15 July 1911, the school consisted of four primary grades, three Greek grades, and one kindergarten. Moreover, the sixth clause envisaged that Turkish, English, and French would be taught (*Kanonismos*, §3, §6).

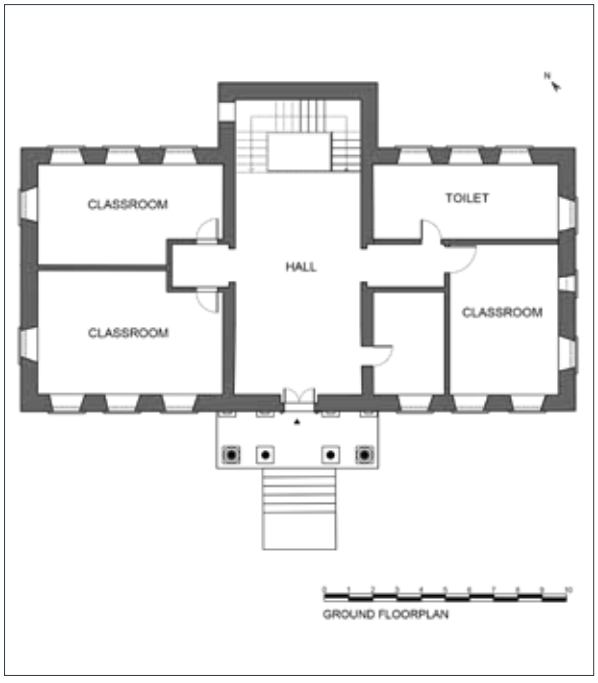
Spyridon Nestoridis, the school's first principal, described the opening as the most spectacular and magical event Marmara has ever seen. Among the speakers at the opening ceremony on 21 August 1910 were the shipowner Nikolaos Kyriakidis, the school principal Spyridon Nestoridis, Archbishop Sofronios, Governor of the District of Marmara Abdul Hadi Effendi, teacher İsmail Hakkı Effendi, Ekinlik Island's physician Ioannis Anagnostidis, and Gündoğdu Village School's principal Dimitris Pavlidis. Moreover, representatives of Associations and Brotherhoods of Greek Marmarians from Istanbul and the United States also attended the opening ceremony (Papachristou 2019a, 59). Spyridon Nestoridis prepared a marble inscription to commemorate the opening of Kyriakidia. This inscription is still on the interior next to the main entrance.

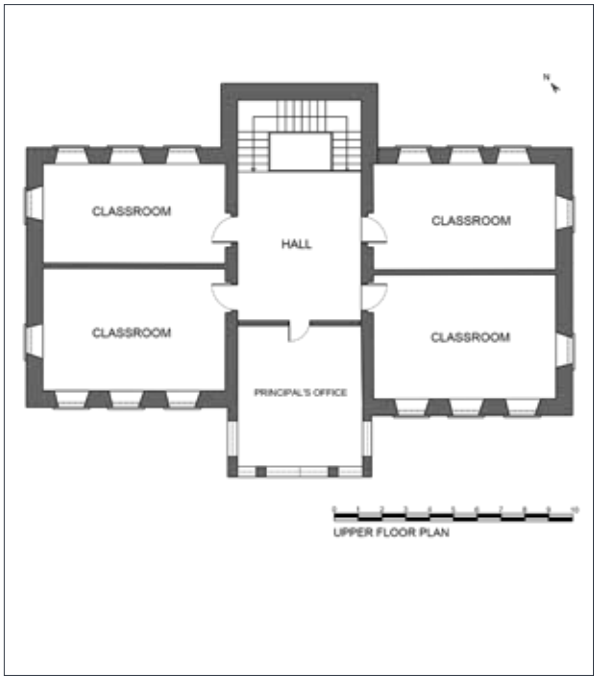
The building was used as a primary school after the population exchange and repaired after the 1935 earthquake. It was used as a Fishery School between 1936-1938 and afterwards reopened as a primary school. The original timber flooring was destroyed in a fire in 1977. The building, which served as a high school after 1982, currently functions as a *Halk Eğitim Merkezi* (Public Education Centre).

Architecture

The building, which is constructed in a detached order, has a green yard overlooking the Okul Street to its south (Fig. 1). Its main entrance at a higher level is accessed by a single-flight staircase. To the school's north, there is a prefabricated building and a high-rise courtyard used as a carpark (Fig. 2). There is a second entrance at the lower level of the northern yard, located on the west side of the projection.

Located in a lot of 2324 m² the school is a monumental building with a basement, ground floor, and first floor. It extends in the east-west direction with a floor area of approximately 275 m² (outer dimensions are about 23x12 m). The basement is visible on the southern façade, while only the ground and first floors are seen on the northern façade (Figs. 1-2). The entrance is at the centre of the oblong building and protrudes from it, forming a cruciform plan. The outer corners of the cross's arms are accentuated by granite





blocks. In the entrance section facing south, the first floor projects by 220 cm from the main mass, while the same section projects by about 190 cm to the north.

The southern façade, which is the main entrance, was deliberately constructed to be more impressive and decorated than the others (Fig. 1). The yard on this side leads to an intermediary landing via eight steps, then the ground-floor entrance landing via five more steps. Above this landing, at the centre of the symmetry axis, rises the projected first floor. This projection is supported by four columns with Ionic capitals (Fig. 3). Behind the columns are pilasters with Doric-like capitals, forming a two-row load-bearing system. Above the Ionic capitals is the architrave with the inscription reading Kyriakidia and the architect's name. The columns, which carry the projection on the ground floor, continue on the first floor in the same style. The arrangement of the southern façade's upper floor is composed of windows between engaged columns with Ionic capitals, and marble blocks atop the columns that form the architrave. Above the entablature on the southern façade, there is a triangular pediment crowned with acroters on the corners and at the centre. These acroters are embellished with anthemions, which comprise lotus flowers and palmettes. Anthemions are arranged as full motifs at the centre and half motifs at the corners. The building has a timber, hipped roof covered by Marseille tiles.

The southern façade is approximately 23 m long. Its walls are rubble masonry without plaster, except the entrance section (Fig. 1). The parts flanking the main doorway are embellished with stucco marble. The arched door has two wings. There are six windows with round arches on the ground and first floors, to the east and west of the entrance section. The arches on the doors and windows are accentuated with keystone ornamentations. The profiled floor and roof mouldings are among other decorations of the school building. While there are not any openings on the eastern side of the basement of the southern façade, the western side has two small rectangular ones.

On the building's northern façade, there is a second entrance in the middle of the rectangular mass, protruding from the façade.

Fig. 2: Northern façade

All the walls on this side of the structure are plastered (Fig. 2). Unlike the projection on the southern façade where the first floor covers the entrance landing, the northern entrance protrudes on both the ground and first floor. This section houses a staircase that provides vertical circulation in the building. The middle section has an arched opening on the first floor, while the eastern and western sections of the façade have six windows with round arches, three on each floor.

Rubble masonry is seen on the eastern and western façades as well. Both have two arched windows on each floor. On the eastern façade, there is a rectangular window between the two arched windows on the ground floor. The basement is accessed from the western façade through an arched door closer to the south.

The ground and first floor plans obtained from the Ottoman Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Cumhurbaşkanlığı Osmanlı Arşivi) were examined on-site during the field survey. It is understood that the original plan layout was partially altered after the fire in 1978. In the current situation, the entrance opens into a wide hall. To the east and west of this hall are the classrooms and the administrative offices. Across the hall, there is a staircase with three flights and two landings that has two openings to its east. The opening closer to the entrance provides access to the janitor's room, while the other one leads to a small foyer, beyond which are the deputy principal's room and the archive room. The opening to the west of the staircase leads into another small foyer that connects to two classrooms situated across each other. The opening close to the northern section leads to the secondary entrance and the above-mentioned backyard. On the first floor, which is reached by a staircase with three flights and two landings, are four classrooms, two to the east and two to the west of the hall. The space that projects from the southern façade is located across the stairs, and it is currently used as the principal's office.

The structure was constructed in rubble masonry and reinforced concrete. This technique may be observed on the ground and first floors as well as on the southern, eastern, and western façades. Stairs and flooring were later rebuilt with reinforced concrete system. According to the information obtained from the past or current administrative staff and teachers, the original flooring before the fire was timber. The use of reinforced concrete columns and beams in the area around the staircase supports this information.

Fig. 3: Connection detail for column capitals

During the fieldwork, the basement was explored and the wall thickness here were determined to be approximately 90 cm. The flooring of the ground floor was attested as reinforced concrete from the basement. The arch spanning the doorway is of brick measuring 25~30x3 cm.

The columns with Ionic capitals and the pilasters with Doric-like capitals are connected to each other with steel beams, which also support the flooring of the projection on the first floor (Fig. 3). The double-row elements with closed cross-sections that connect the column capitals have a width of 8-9 cm. The joinery around the window openings was changed to PVC during recent repairs.

Current Condition

The building's use as a Public Education Centre is close to its original function, which can

Fig. 4: Deterioration

be evaluated as positive. It is important that historical buildings have valuable usage for the conservation and continuity of the architectural heritage. Severe structural damage is not observed; therefore, it can be stated that the building does not have any structural damage.

On the other hand, some damage caused by recent interventions that affect the historical structure are discernible from the exterior. The replacement of the window joinery with PVC, the use of reinforced-concrete structural elements in the stone masonry structure, the use of cement-based mortar and plaster on the interior walls, and the improper implementations of certain details have caused various deteriorations arising from dampness. Dampness has caused the plaster layers to deteriorate. Mould and staining are attested on the northern wall of stairwell, the western wall of the deputy principal's room, and the janitor's room, as well as on the walls of the north-facing classrooms on the first floor. Due to high humidity, flaking is seen on the interior surfaces (Fig. 4). These issues in the building, which affect its material strength and the health of its users, pose an important risk since it is currently a functioning structure.

Risk Assessment and Recommendations

The masonry walls that meet concrete flooring should be examined in detail. The structural and chemical effects of the cement-based material clearly cause deterioration in the original building elements (e.g. salt deposits, decrease in material strength). Therefore, necessary maintenance and repairs should be undertaken. The reinforced-concrete additions also pose a structural risk. Reinforced-concrete floors, built after the removal of the original timber flooring, add further load to the structure. The structural behaviour of the masonry structure in conjunction with the reinforced concrete slab should be further examined, since Marmara Island is in an earthquake zone.