

Old 'Jewish' Shop

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District of Marmara, Merkez Neighbourhood	Construction period/date: 19 th century
	Current status: The western space on Lot 851 is abandoned. The eastern space on Lot 852 functions as an internet café
GPS: 40°35'10.9"N 27°33'19.8"E	Ownership status: Private ownership
Registration date and number: GEEAYK 20.12.1975 - 8791, TKTVYK 27.02.1987 - 3045, Bursa KTVKBK 15.01.1996 - 4904	

History

There are two buildings known as the 'Jewish' Shop in the Merkez Neighbourhood on Marmara Island. According to A. Enön, the shop on the corner of Hamam Street was the drapery store of Avram Kalvo (Enön 2003, 74). After moving to Istanbul in 1950, Kalvo continued his fabric business there for years. Avram Kalvo's shop currently functions as a ceramic store.

The other shop, which constitutes the scope of this report, was formerly the workshop of the tinsmith Nahman. Until the World War II, the Nahman family carried out the tin works of the island. Enön mentions that half of this building has maintained its authenticity and the other half, which currently serves as an internet cafe, has been altered. The latter section is where tin manufacturing works were

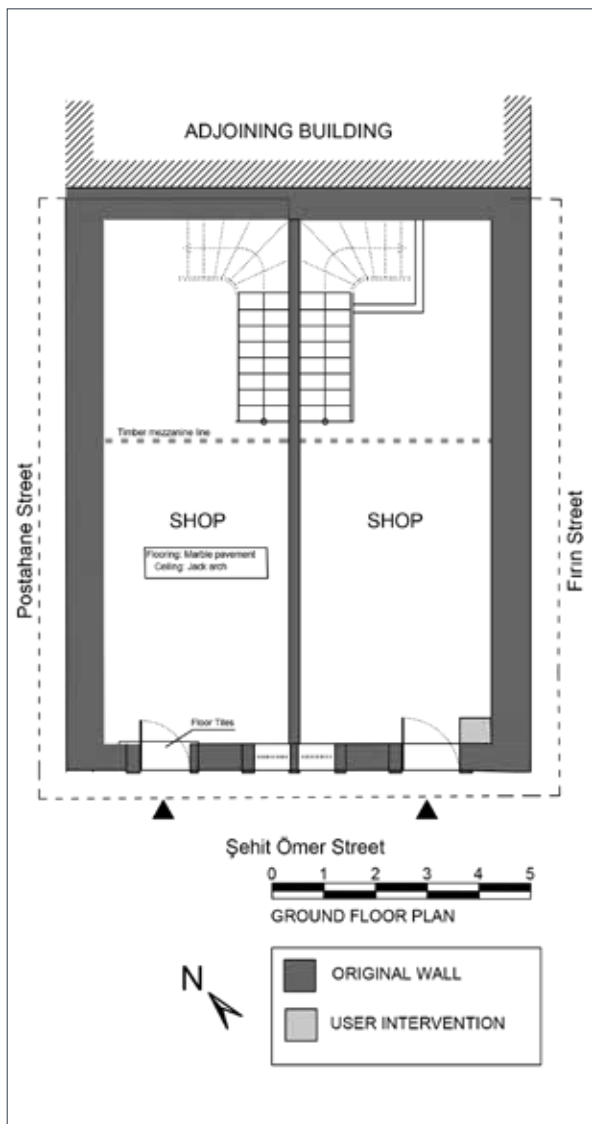


Fig. 1: General view from the southwest

done. The western half that has maintained its authenticity, was a wine shop (Enön 2003, 73; Papachristou 2019a, 51-52, 155).

Architecture

This commercial building is a single-storey structure built in stone masonry (Fig. 1). The plan organization and the interior features indicate that the building was designed as a commercial structure. The building has a total floor area of 100 m² and consists of two symmetrical spaces. These are separated by a wall in the north-south direction and each have a rectangular plan organization (interior space: 4.0x9.4 m). Both spaces have a 4-m-deep, timber mezzanine floor in the north, which is accessed via a timber staircase attached to the partition wall.



The southern façade of the building, which faces Şehit Ömer Street, has openings providing access to both commercial spaces (Fig. 1). A multi-storey, reinforced concrete building is attached to the northern structure. The eastern and western façades were originally blind, i.e. there were not any doors or windows; the existing openings probably result from later interventions (Fig. 2). The southern façade, which is approximately 9 m wide, has a symmetrical arrangement; the arched opening in the centre is flanked by a doorway with a stone lintel on either side, providing access to the commercial spaces. The extant plastered sections on the façade indicate that it was originally plastered. The openings are highlighted by a slight protrusion of profiled lintels and jambs from the plastered wall surface. The arched opening in the middle is left open above the level of the springing line to benefit from natural light. An iron lattice with radial geometry is placed on this opening. A corbelled eave runs along all the façades on the top level.

The main walls of the building are rubble masonry with a thickness of 60-70 cm. The partition wall separating the two commercial spaces is of brick masonry. Stones of the main walls do not have a regular course or horizontal levelling, and they do not lap upon one another (Figs. 1-2). Pieces of brick and tile pieces are occasionally inserted between the stones. The most striking details on the façades are the original iron elements seen in the masonry walls, which are usually used to consolidate the irregular rubble walls (Fig. 3). It is plausible that the principles and details of these iron elements are very similar to the timber bands seen in traditional masonry structures. The flat iron bars (thickness 9-10 mm, width 45 mm) are used at different levels of the masonry wall as a continuous band of two parallel rows. The vertical distance between these bands is approximately 125 cm. The iron bars used along the thickness of the walls are connected to each other via smaller iron elements (thickness 5 mm, width 45 mm) with the help of rivets. Attention has been paid to guarantee the continuity of this system that frames the structure; flat iron bars perpendicular to each other at the corners of the wall are connected.



Fig. 2: Western façade

There are brick arches on top of all the openings on the southern façade (Fig. 1). The arches above the flat lintels on the sides of the openings are mainly relieving arches. The areas between the arches and lintels are filled with hollow bricks (21x11x6 cm). Marble is used in the thresholds and windowsills, while natural stone is used for lintels and jambs. The jambs are supported from the bottom by iron elements with cross-sections of 3x3 cm. The eaves of the building are composed of corbelled bricks. There is a single row of thin stones among the rows of brick.

The interior spaces have a ceiling height of approximately 4.5 m and are covered by jack arches (Fig. 4). The steel I-beams of the jack arches (flange width 5 cm, web height about 16 cm) are used on the east-west axis (short edge) and connected to wall plates in the masonry wall. The hipped roof with over-and-under tiles lies on top of the jack arches. The floor by the entranceway is paved with square, terrazzo tiles (Fig. 5).

Current Condition

The building has been neglected for a long time. The space to the west, on Lot 851, is abandoned; the space to the east, on Lot 852, is currently used as an internet café. Interventions carried out by the occupants on the façades and in the interior are inappropriate; for example, new openings were created in the main walls, and the window and door joinery was renovated clumsily.

There are structural cracks in the main walls, extending from the floor to the eaves. The



Fig. 3: Detail of masonry and iron bands

connection points of iron bands are severely damaged, particularly at the corners.

The roof of the building is in poor condition. Since rainwater penetrates the structure, corrosion issues were attested in the I-beams of the jack vaults.

Risk Analysis and Recommendations

The building is one of the few extant commercial buildings on Marmara Island and preserves its authenticity to a large extent. Despite the repairs it has undergone in the past, the structure should officially be conserved as cultural property since it has unique aspects such as the construction techniques and materials.

Traces of illicit excavations were noted on both the ground and mezzanine levels of the northern wall of the store on Lot 851. Due to abandonment and negligence, the building is susceptible to vandalism. It is necessary that the structure be fully documented, and that



Fig. 4: General view of the interior

an architectural conservation project should be prepared with a commercial function that will not compromise the building's authenticity. Otherwise, the building is doomed to collapse in the near future. The roof needs to be maintained urgently, until a conservation project can be prepared.

The structural cracks in the masonry walls should be inspected carefully and a civil engineer experienced in the restoration of historic buildings should be consulted during the preparation of the conservation project. While the existing damage will not cause a complete collapse of the building in the near future, they can intensify in the case of a possible earthquake.

The changes in the wall course, the irregularities of the iron elements, and the details of the openings on the southern façade indicate that the building has undergone interventions



Fig. 5: Floor Tiles

in the past. The current façade arrangement and spatial layout may be linked to these interventions. Therefore, traces and changes in material should be considered carefully, especially during the preparation of restitution proposals under the scope of the conservation project.