

The Soap Factory Building: An Example of Industrial Heritage in Ayvalık

Ayvalık'tan Bir Endüstriyel Miras Örneği: Sabunhane Yapısı

Esmâ İGÜS*

Abstract: This study concerns a soap factory built in the early years of the twentieth century in Ayvalık Soap factories which are described within the scope of immovable industrial assets of the region, are substantial in terms of the commercial life of Ayvalık, just like the olive oil factories. Soap factories having a crucial role in the industry-based spatial history of Ayvalık, are reviewed in two main groups according to their structure. The first group includes soap factories which were built as individual single buildings. The second group includes soap factories, each of which was built adjacent to an olive oil factory looking like its twin. Many of the soap factories are today either abandoned or being used as cafes, hotels, stores etc. as a result of repurposing. The soap factory forming the subject of this article is located in the 150 Evler District, on the historical industrial manufacturing axis of Ayvalık. Therefore the factory is in an area of Ayvalık which is considered to be hectic in terms of production and trading in its time. Respectively, field research, archival research and a literature review were performed in this study. As a result of the data obtained and finds the soap factory was evaluated in the context of historicity within the framework of architecture and art history disciplines and was analyzed in terms of mass and structure aspects.

Keywords: Ayvalık • Taşınmaz Kültürel Miras • Endüstriyel Mimarlık Mirası • Sabunhane

Öz: Bu çalışma, Ayvalık'ta yirminci yüzyılın başında inşa edilmiş bir sabunhaneye dairdir. Bölgenin taşınmaz endüstriyel mirası içerisinde tanımlanan sabunhaneler, tıpkı zeytinyağı fabrikaları gibi Ayvalık'ın geçmişteki ticari yaşamı açısından önem taşıyor. Ayvalık'ın endüstriye dayalı mekânsal hafızasında önemli bir yer teşkil eden sabunhaneler, biçimsel olarak iki ana grupta değerlendirilir. Birinci grup, bağımsız tekil binalar olarak inşa edilmiş sabunhanelerdir. İkinci grup sabunhaneler ise, bir zeytinyağı fabrikasına bitişik adeta zeytinyağı fabrikasının ikizi gibi inşa edilmiştir. Sabunhanelerin, birçoğu günümüzde ya metruk halindedir ya da yeniden işlevlendirme neticesinde kafe, otel, dükkân gibi amaçlarla kullanılmaktadır. Makalenin konusunu oluşturan sabunhane, Ayvalık 150 Evler mahallesinde ve Ayvalık'ın tarihi endüstriyel üretim aksı üzerinde yer almaktadır. Dolayısıyla sabunhane, mekânsal olarak dönemi içerisinde Ayvalık'ın üretim ve ticari açıdan yoğun olduğu bir alanda konumlanmıştır. Çalışmada öncelikle saha çalışması, daha sonra da arşiv çalışması ve literatür taraması yapılmıştır. Elde edilen bilgiler ve yapılan tespitler neticesinde sabunhane, mimarlık ve sanat tarihi disiplinleri çerçevesinde tarihsellik bağlamında incelenmiş ve kütsel, strüktürel olarak çözümlenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ayvalık • Immovable Cultural Heritage • Industrial Architectural Heritage • Soap Factory Building

Introduction

Ayvalık was included in the *UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List* under the title of *Industrial Heritage* on 15.04.2017 with its historical, architectural, cultural heritage and with up to 1800 registered structures. The fact that Ayvalık has been a home to olive trees for thousands of years and that

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olive oil factories and soap factories have been built due to the increasing olive production are the main reasons for Ayvalık being included in the *UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List* under the title of Industrial Heritage. From the last years of the eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century olives continued to be processed while forming the heritage of the region, shaping the architecture based on processing olives.

With the industrialization in the cities after the Industrial Revolution in the nineteenth century, the industrial structures in Ottoman Empire increased in number. However, as the new manufacturing technologies started developing in the mid-twentieth century these structures were abandoned on account of the fact that they could not meet the requirements of the period. This situation is also true for Ayvalık and the abandoned olive oil factories and soap factories were repurposed in usage far from their specific identities. Today, most of them have an uncertain future.

The soap factory building (sabunhane) which is the topic of this article being an industrial structure based on olive processing, dating from the twentieth century, and is a structure in Ayvalık, representing the relation between regional industrialization and architecture in the historical city texture of Ayvalık. This Sabunhane is an example which translates the design and methods; in a truer sense, the traditional building techniques used in forming the industrial structures of Ayvalık in the early twentieth century. The article discusses the soap factory buildings of Ayvalık, which have not been a subject of publication as much as the olive oil factories, despite having as much importance in the industrial architectural heritage of Ayvalık, within the framework of the soap factory building specifically mentioned in this academic research study.

Ayvalık in the Historical Process, Comprehending Ayvalık

Ayvalık is connected to Balıkesir province in the Western Anatolian region of Turkey. The Aegean Sea is to the west, Bergama to the east, Burhaniye to the north and Dikili to the south, surrounding Ayvalık, together with 23 islands of different sizes (Fig. 1). These islands which were called Hekatonnesoi in Antiquity, in the Mysia region of Asia Minor¹.



Fig. 1. Satellite Image of Ayvalık and Surrounding Islands²

¹ Sevin 2001, 43.

² Yavuz 2018, 3.

Settlement in Ayvalık mostly took place in coastal and flat areas in the historical process³. There are different opinions about when urbanization began in Ayvalık. Georgios Sakkaris⁴ who was member of Greek community of Ayvalık wrote *Istoria ton Kydonion*⁵ in Greek, printed in Athens in 1920, being an early work about the history and urbanization of Ayvalık. Macit Uygur translated the first two parts of this Greek publication into Turkish in the beginning of the 1940's, Hıfzı Erim used this translation in his book, titled *Ayvalık Tarihi (History of Ayvalık)*, which was published in 1948. As H. Erim reflects in his translation; Georgios Sakkaris⁶ asserts that the Christians who lived in the islands surrounding Ayvalık, particularly in Midilli, escaped from the attacks of the pirates either in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, and took shelter/settled in Ayvalık to build a safe castle, which led to the beginning of urbanization in the region. However H. Erim and a few other researchers do not accept this argument as true because Sakkaris could not submit any documents to support this idea⁷. Another standpoint about the habitation of the Greek in Ayvalık states that the Greek who lived in Anatolia came to Ayvalık and settled in Eğribucak, the northeast of Ayvalık, in the area where the harbor was located in the eighteenth century⁸.

Kâtip Çelebi (Hajjî Khalifa), states that settlement of Turks in Ayvalık began in 1462, when Mehmed II conquered Midilli Island¹⁰. Doğan Aka's position is close to Kâtip Çelebi stating that the first time Turks settled in Ayvalık was for military reasons between the years 1430 and 1440. Turks settled in the foot of the hill which is today called İlk Kurşun-Tepesi (First Bullet Hill)¹¹.

Zeki Arıkan passes on in his article about the Ayvalık Event, that Halil Inalcık mentioned in conversation the presence of a Turkish settlement on the Yund/Cunda/Alibey Island near Ayvalık in the fifteenth century. However Arıkan also states that during his research he did not



Fig. 2. Edremit Gulf and Ayvalık in the Book of Bahriye⁹

³ Bayraktar 1998, 11; Akın 2007, 13.

⁴ Georgios Sakkaris was born in Ayvalık, in 1870. There is very limited information about him. However, what is certain is that he worked as an educator and administrator at the Kidonya Gymnasium for a while. <https://kaankoksal.blogspot.com/2019/08/im-al-edilmis-tarih-faydal-eserleri.html>, 2022, January, 2.

⁵ Georgios Sakkaris, *Istoria ton Kydonion*, Athina: Syllogospros Diados in Ofelimon Vivlion, 1920 –Anatyposi. <https://catalog.lib.uchicago.edu/vufind/Record/1453771>, 2022, January, 2.

⁶ Since the common use of the name Georgios was Yorgi in Anatolia, Hıfzı Erim preferred to use the name Yorgi instead of Georgios in his work titled “The History of Ayvalık”.

⁷ Erim 1948, 9; Arıkan 1988, 582; Bayraktar 1998, 12; Akın 2007, 13.

⁸ Doğan 2006, 49.

⁹ Kaptan *et al.* 2019, 19.

¹⁰ Aka 1944, 18; Uzunçarşılı 1998, 3; Kılıç&Göçer 2016, 299.

¹¹ Aka 1944, 19.

come across any document to confirm Halil Inalcık's statement¹².

While Edremit Gulf, Pirgos/Bergos Harbor, Çandarlı Castle and Kadirga Harbor and Yunda/Cunda/Alibey Island are included in The Book of Bahriye by Piri Reis, Ayvalık is not illustrated (Fig. 2). The same can be seen in The Seyahatname (Book of Travels) by Evliya Çelebi¹³. Ayvalık is discarded as a geographical region in an Asia Minor Map drawn in the period of Ahmed III¹⁴. In estimation, the reasons why Ayvalık was not included in such important historical sources can be the fact that Ayvalık was not a constant settlement area, and its commercial capacity and the population in the region were insufficient at that time to record.

The first time the name Ayvalık was mentioned in an official document was in a registration from Karesi Detailed Land Registry Book in 1768 Gregorian, and today this document is preserved in the Archive of the General Directorate of Land Registry in Ankara¹⁵. In the proclamation of "*The Gratification of the Greeks of Ayvalık*" dated 1772 Gregorian, which is now in the Archive of the Topkapı Palace Museum, is another early document about Ayvalık¹⁶. Based on the documents specified above, it is possible to say that the official historical and legal presence of Ayvalık certainly dates back to the second half of the eighteenth century.

There are various claims about the origin of the name 'Ayvalık'. The common belief is that the name comes from the quince (ayva) trees which are grown extensively in the region¹⁷. The British traveller, the Reverend William Jowett, who visited Ayvalık for missionary activities in the early nineteenth century, made the following observations about the geographical location of Ayvalık and the origin of its name:

... "Ayvalı(k) is a town that lies between the north part of Midilli Island and the city (Ayvalık), located opposite Muskonisi Island. The town is called Ayvalık in Turkish, and Kydonia in Greek. Both names define the same trees: quince trees. We do not know yet why the town was given the name. However we surely know that a substantial number of quince trees grow here¹⁸ ..."

In 1774, Greek/Orthodox Autonomy was realized in Ayvalık with a license provided by the Ottoman Empire¹⁹. Priest Dimitrakelis Ikonomos from Ayvalık played an important role in accomplishing the autonomy. Ikonomos, hosted Cezayirli Gazi Hasan Pasha for one week in Ayvalık during the Battle of Chesme and provided him access to the Ottoman navy in Çanakkale. In gratitude for this, the Pa-

¹² Arıkan 1988, 582.

¹³ Arıkan 1988, 582; Hayta 2011, 8.

¹⁴ Unat 1941, 160.

¹⁵ Arıkan 1988, 160.

¹⁶ Arıkan 1988, 583; Bayraktar 1998, 13; Yavuz 2018, 3.

¹⁷ Özçanak 2009, 30.

¹⁸ Jowett 1825, 65. There is no trace of the quince trees, which Jowett mentions, in today's Ayvalık. Most probably the quince trees had been cut to plant olive trees which have been an important factor for commercial activities in Ayvalık. The following lines also support this argument. ... "Olive and Olive Oil Producers Association established in Ayvalık, Edremit and Havrani, started to distribute the seedlings without any fee to increase the number of olive trees in 1963. ... Efe *et al.* 2013, 11.

¹⁹ Niğdelioğlu 2000, 18.

sha did not object to the autonomous management system *Ikonomos* wished for Ayvalık²⁰. The most reputable and wealthy bankers of Galata, the Baltazzi Family of Venetian origin from İzmir were another factor enabling autonomy in Ayvalık. The Baltazzi family, who had an enormous economic fortune in addition to political power due to the loan they provided to the Ottoman Palace, made an effort just like Priest Dimitrakelis to achieve autonomous management in Ayvalık.

Ayvalık became an autonomous city with the new regime. Crete and Mytiliene (Lesbos) Greeks migrated to Ayvalık due to the environment the autonomy provided. Thus Ayvalık turned into an Orthodox city. This demographic change/transformation also determined the character of the structures in the city. The Neoclassical style approved by the Greek enlightenment became the language of architectural heritage in Ayvalık. Public, religious, educational, (Fig. 3) especially industrial and commercial structures built with the style approved by the official authorities formed the city texture of nineteenth century Ayvalık.

Spatial Growth of Ayvalık in the Historical Process

Spatial change and transition have been witnessed in Ayvalık from the end of the eighteenth century. This spatial differentiation is highly associated with autonomy and its wealth due to the increasing commercial capacity of the region. Ayvalık which had been a small seafront keeping to itself, turned into coastal town distinguishing itself in international trade such that it started competing with İzmir, due to its high export capacity following autonomy²¹. The urban settlement in Ayvalık started on Kurufitalya (Profit Ilias)/First Bullet Hill. The urban/spatial structuring which continued throughout the nineteenth century developed around Kurufitalya hill and the harbor²².

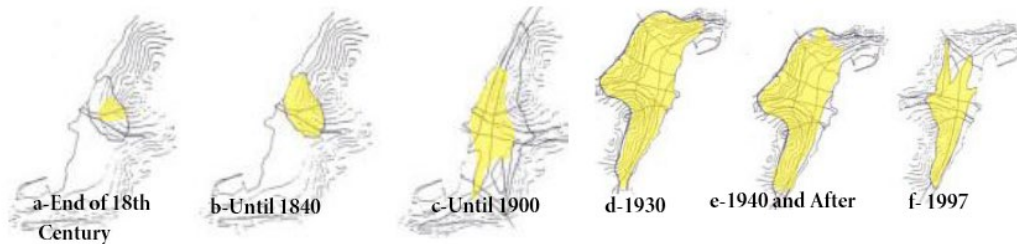


Fig. 3. Historical Growth of Ayvalık City Center²³

In pre-modern times, the most prestigious sanctuary of the region would hold the center point during physical and spatial formation of settlements. The city areas/town textures would be constructed virtually via radial lines extending from the sanctuary placed in the center. In general, the situation above is also true for Ottoman society based on the community in the organizing of space.

As it can be seen in figure 4- 2b, there were four districts in Ayvalık before autonomy. These were formed around Taksiarhis, Ayos Yannis, Ayos Dimitrios and Messi Panagia Churches and each district was given the name of its church. In 1821 Kato Panagia, Ayos Yorgos, Ayos Nikolaos and Ayos Basileos joined as new districts (Fig. 5). These urban spaces were also living quarters built around churches and carrying their names (Fig. 4/2c). The population in Ayvalık increased to nearly 15.000

²⁰ Özçonak 2009, 33-34.

²¹ Aka 1944, 23; Erim 1948, 36.

²² Doğan 2006, 49.

²³ Hayta 2011, 8.

with these developments²⁴. By the year 1850, the number of districts in Ayvalık, the social welfare of which had increased with the well-functioning economy, was now 11. The tradition was pursued in the formation of these new districts, they were formed around churches and were called Profitis Ilias, Ayos Haralambos Aya Triada (Fig. 4/2d)²⁵.

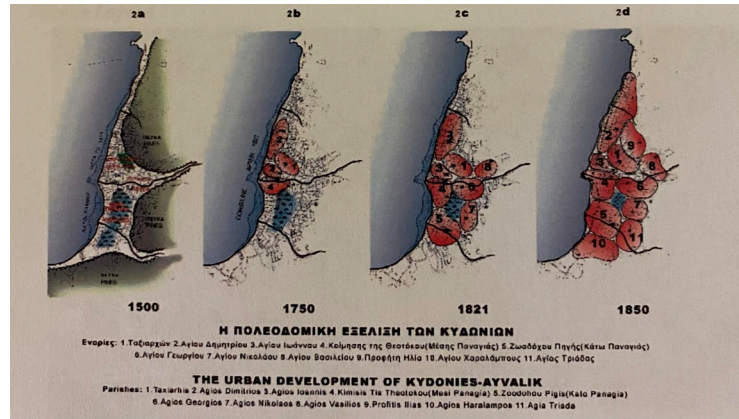


Fig. 4. Urban Spaces//Neighborhood Developments Around Churches in Ayvalık Between the 16 and 19 Centuries²⁶

In one of the studies to define the urban spaces of end-of-eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century Ayvalık, the urban spaces of Ayvalık were described in three sides of town according to the economic level of the society and different occupational groups: upper, middle and lower. Whereas, the wealthy, aristocrats, and large landowners lived around Taksiarhis Church which formed the upper-town. The periphery of Aya Triada Church which was in the center of middle-town was the place for boat owners, and good-income fishermen. The Lower-town was formed in the fringe of Aya Dimitri Church and the poor of the city lived in this area²⁷.

With the opportunities and enrichment, which autonomy provided to the region from the beginning of the century XIX, Ayvalık almost gained the appearance of a western city. Compared to the other Anatolian towns, its spatial organization in the modernist sense caught the eye of the British orientalist and statesman Sir Charles Eliot when he visits the region. Eliot, almost mesmerized by the richness and clean-streets of Ayvalık, speaks highly of the city's Town Hall, Kydonia Academy and libraries. He even compares Ayvalık as the Boston of the East²⁸.

Due to the unrest and conflict following the Greek Rebellion in 1821 a rebellion arose in Ayvalık. Numerous buildings were pulled down and the city was left with large damage from the three-day revolt. The Greek of Ayvalık who were thought to be involved in the rebellion were expelled from the country, excused in 1822 and 20.000 Greeks were allowed to return to the city. The damaged regions remained in wrack and ruin until 1832. In the following period Ayvalık was re-built within twenty years. Most of the historical structures which survived to this day date from the 1850's and later. The Neoclassical²⁹ style (Fig. 6) is mainly used for all kinds of structures from schools, churches, and hos-

²⁴ Saban Ergi 2015, 121-135.

²⁵ Hayta 2011, 11; Saban Ergi 2015, 135.

²⁶ Hayta 2011, 11; Saban Ergi 2015, 135.

²⁷ Tibet 2013, 11.

²⁸ İnce & Güney 2010, 168; Hayta 2011, 10.

²⁹ Neoclassicism, a conception of painting, sculpture, and architecture, which was born in reaction to the Late Ba-

pitals to houses³⁰. The most important reason of the mutation to the neoclassicism style was the need and will of the town people to reconnect to Ancient Greece and Rome due to their Hellenic history.

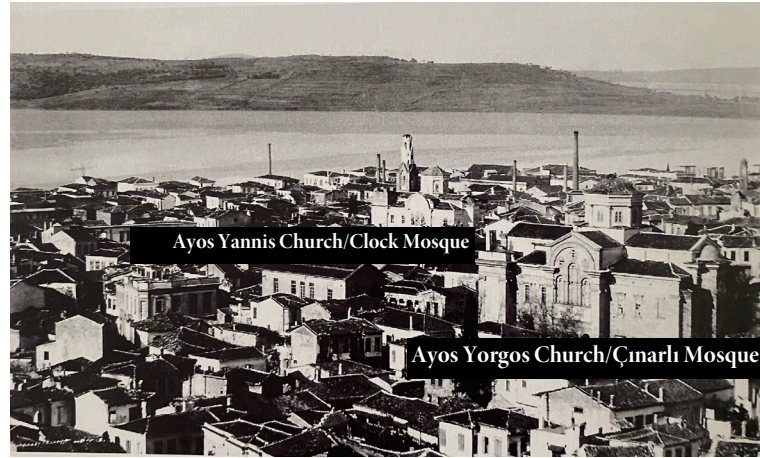


Fig. 5. Ayos Yorgos and Ayos Yannis Churches and the Urban Areas/Districts Built Around Them in the 19th Century (Kaptan *et al.* 2019, 222)



Fig. 6. Kydonia Gymnasium / Ayvalık Academy with its Neoclassical Facade³¹

Autonomy in Ayvalık was terminated in 1850 and Ayvalık was connected to the Hüdavendigâr Demain. According to the 1887 Karesi Annual, Ayvalık was a predestination connected to the Karesi district (Öden 1999, 76). In 1919, Ayvalık was occupied by Greece and then in 1922 was included within Turkey's borders. Following the proclamation of the republic and in the subsequent population exchange period the Greek residents in Ayvalık migrated to Greece, and the Turks arriving from Mytiliène (Lesbos), Crete and Macedonia via the population exchange became the new residents of

roque and Rococo and imitates the architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome, or the classical trend that developed in Italy in the 16th century, namely the Renaissance, with an admiration for the classical style (Hasol 2005, 493).

³⁰ Turan 2008, 2; Saban Ergi 2015, 121-122.

³¹ Kaptan *et al.* 2019, 58. Kydonia Gymnasium / Ayvalık Academia, which was built in 1857, had been first a boys' elementary school since 1923. It continued to be used as a school building, taking the name of Numune School for Boys in 1924 1925, and Cumhuriyet Primary School in 1927. However, it was demolished due to road widening work in the 1950's. Today, the District Governor's Office is located in its garden (Kaptan *et al.* 2019, 256).

Ayvalık³².

An Example of Industrial Heritage from 150 Evler District of Ayvalık: Soap Factory Building

The Location of the Soap Factory Building

Ayvalık gained a high economic power as a result of the privileges granted to Christians with the Autonomy and the Edict of Reform. Industrial olive oil and soap production lies in the center of this power³⁴. Ayvalık which developed with industrialization, became the second coast town with the largest commercial capacity in Western Anatolia, after Izmir at the top. The manifestation of industrialization practices in architecture can be described with the increase of industrial building stock in Ayvalık. Olive oil business and soap factories along with their production, storing and sales units, were located on the coastline of Ayvalık for logistic reasons. The soap factory building, which is the subject of this article, built in the early twentieth century, is one part of the architectural heritage, an immovable industrial cultural asset in the olive-based industry of Ayvalık.



Fig. 7. Current Aerial Photograph of the Soap Factory Building with It's Twin Building and Island Plot Display³³

The soap factory is located at 150 Evler District, on Atatürk Boulevard, in block 2088, parcel 17 on the north side of Ayvalık. It is across from the Ayvalık Sea Border Crossing and posterior to Ayvalık Harbor. It is on the axis defined to largely cover the industrial architectural heritage of Ayvalık. Today this axis is called Atatürk Boulevard (Fig. 7).

The soap factory used to be located in the linear trading area along the coastline prior to the land reclamation, after which the level of the road rose by 1 meter and the structure became about 75 meters away from the coast. The location of the soap factory when it was first built was an informed choice. It was built based on the olive groves providing the commodity for production, connections between the main transport axis and the location on the coast for logistic reasons. In the picture taken in the 1940s and showing the Ayvalık coastline from Cunda Island (Fig. 8) the soap factory is seen (Fig. 8/A) with its other twin building. As it can be observed, it is the last industrial structure on the coastline of Ayvalık. Next to the soap factory on the left, respectively, the windmill (Fig. 8/B), Despot Evi (Fig. 8/C) and the Ayvalık Hamidiye Mosque (Fig. 8/D) are located.

³² Niğdelioğlu 2000, 20.

³³ General Directorate of Land and Registers-Parcel Query, <https://parselsorgu.tkgm.gov.tr/#ara/idari/169418/2088/13/16489880437029>, 2022, February 12,

³⁴ Olive oil production which endured due to the industrialization in Ayvalık was first started by the British entrepreneur R. Hadkinson in 1884. Hadkinson imported a machine worth £1,500 and built the first olive oil press factory on the shores of Ayvalık (Turan 2008, 16; Uçar 2014, 23; Oğuz 2019, 59).

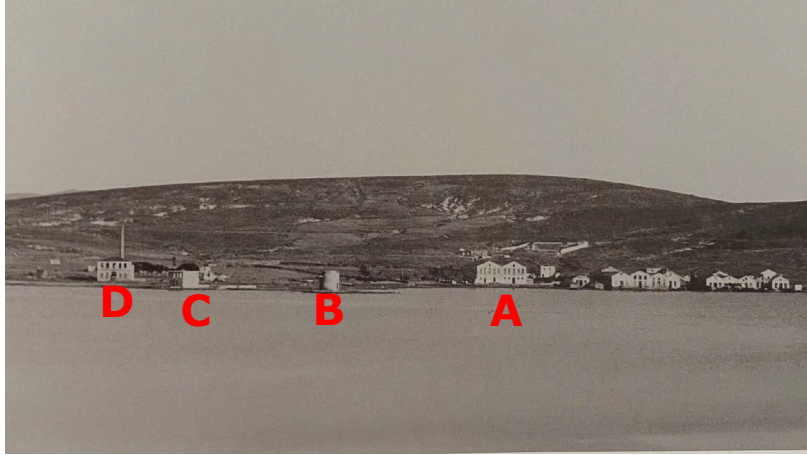


Fig. 8. Soap Factory Building which is Shown with “A” from Cunda Island³⁵

The History of the Soap Factory Building

Unfortunately, there is no written source or archive document regarding the specific time and exact purpose of construction of the soap factory. It was built as a private property with individual financial resources using traditional construction techniques and material. However, what is definite about this structure is that it was designed as an industrial structure, from its design and the urban space in which it is located. According to the landholder, a short period after his family bought the building in 1937, it was still operated as a soap factory. The soap factories of importance in terms of the industrial heritage of nineteenth and twentieth-century Ayvalık are classified into two groups according to their planning. The first includes individual single-storey soap factories made of stone and built with masonry technique, not connected to any other structure. On the other hand, the soap factories included in the second group were built together with olive oil factories, twins with the olive oil factory building, with the ground floor built of stone, the first floor built of brick with masonry technique³⁶. Actually, these structures have the function of evaluating the olive pulp in olive oil factories and turning it into another way of production. The building which is the subject of our article can be evaluated under the second group of soap factories due to its design, its two-storey structure and its twin building. The building next to it was most probably an olive oil factory. What is stated above increases the possibility that the structure might have been built as a soap factory. In the undergraduate dissertation dated 1939 and titled *Ayvalık and Soap Making in Ayvalık District*, it is stated that the soap factories were from the time when the Greek migrated with the population exchange and new soap factories were not built in the republican period, but production continued with the soap factories that were present at that time³⁷. Sanrı’s finding confirms the building is a soap factory which was built before the year 1922.

The authentic entrance of the soap factory, on the south facade of the building, was closed on a date which we could not determine. In the section of the facade, where the door used to be located, an area of a-half-window width was arranged for ventilation and illumination. On the iron bars of this opening there is a rectangular plate with “1911” written on it in reverse, legible from the inside of

³⁵ Kaptan *et al.* 2019, 256.

³⁶ Yıldız 2017, 92. Ayvalık Ertemler Olive Oil Factory and Soap Factory is an example of the second group.

³⁷ Sanrı 1939, 12.

the building (Fig. 9). In 1911, we can also find the Sabuncugil Oil Factory which is a currently-active historical oil workshop. 1911 is written on the arch of the main entrance door of the oil factory³⁸. As we see it, the original site of the iron plate, on which the date 1911 is written, on the north facade of the soap factory, used to be on the arch of the door just as is the case for the Sabuncugil Oil Factory. To presume on the basis of this similarity, we can say that both the soap factory and Sabuncugil Oil Factory were built in 1911 and both were built by the same architect.



Fig. 9. "1911" Written Plate on the Iron Bars of the Window on the North Façade (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)

According to the current land registry of the 392.94-square meter soap factory which is mentioned as a masonry courtyard warehouse, it is owned by two brothers at 1/2 share³⁹.

In the previous land registries, the building was registered with the decision of the land registry commission dated 14.09.1937 and numbered 101, by being declared in the 1493 negotiation dated 22.05.1937, pursuant to Law No. 1771 on the Final Liquidation and Reconciliation of Exchange and Interpretation Affairs, published in 1931. Ayvalık Municipality sold the soap factory by auction to the father of the current owner brothers, who lived in Kemal Paşa District, in the last months of 1937⁴⁰. Unfortunately, there is no data of who owned the building, and for which purpose it was used from 1911 until it was sold in 1937. However, the property owner states that as far as he could remember the building used to be a tannery at the time he purchased it. Yet still no information could be found to prove this statement of the owner. Right after the purchase, olive oil and raw hide trading was carried out for a short period of time and later it continued to be used as a soap factory until it went out of use⁴¹.

³⁸ Efeet *al.* 2013, 68.

³⁹ Personal data such as the name and personal information of the property owners are not included.

⁴⁰ Based on this information from the registry of deeds, it can be said that the building was in the group of Emval-i Metruke (Abandoned properties) which means that it is one of many buildings abandoned in Ayvalık following the population exchange. The olive-oil factory established by Anastasyos Yorgolos in 1910 is another example. The factory established by Yorgolos is included in the Emval-I Metruke. The factory building taken over by the treasury after the population exchange, was first bought by Kahraman Bahadır, then was passed to the Güldenöglü Family before it finally became the property of the Ertem Family in 1952 (Yıldız 2017, 109).

⁴¹ From the oral history study with the property owner between October 2019-January 2020 in Ayvalık. Names withheld - personal information.

Architectural Analysis of the Soap Factory Building

The soap factory building orientated in a north-south direction, has a rectangular plan and a courtyard. It was built of stone using masonry technique and has only the ground floor and the first floor. The attic story which originally was present is incorporated into the first floor today. The facades are in the neoclassical style. The building has overall a plain architectural plan, function was surely considered the first priority and ornamentation were not included in the architectural planning. According to the owner of the building, once it was bought, a reinforcement system including concrete column-beam system and wooden-steel hip roof was applied to the interior and flooring of the ground floor and first floor without interfering with the original plan⁴².

The Ground Floor Plan of the Soap Factory Building

The entrance of the soap factory today is on the north facade of the ground floor which means it can be entered through the metal-barred door at the front located on Atatürk Boulevard. In the authentic version of the building, this part must be the window space through which the production transport was made by roller or scaffolding system. Therefore, the original main entrance of the building was in the south facade.

The ground floor was designed as an indoor space of massive, undivided volume, uninterrupted in depth. The concept of integrative space is useful here as this space was to be expected for the placement of machinery, such as steam machine, shaper, and soap boiler. Thus, a functional hierarchy was established between energy and production of goods/space layout. As it could be seen in the plan; there is a doorway, located on the B axis, which crosses the horizontal A axis vertically, which is the connection of the soap factory with its twin building, yet the doorway space is closed today (Fig. 10). The presence of this doorway proves the connection between the two buildings. These twin buildings connected to one another with this door, define the second group in the design typology of Ayvalık soap factories.

The ceiling of the ground floor is covered in pvc material and is not original. In addition, in the

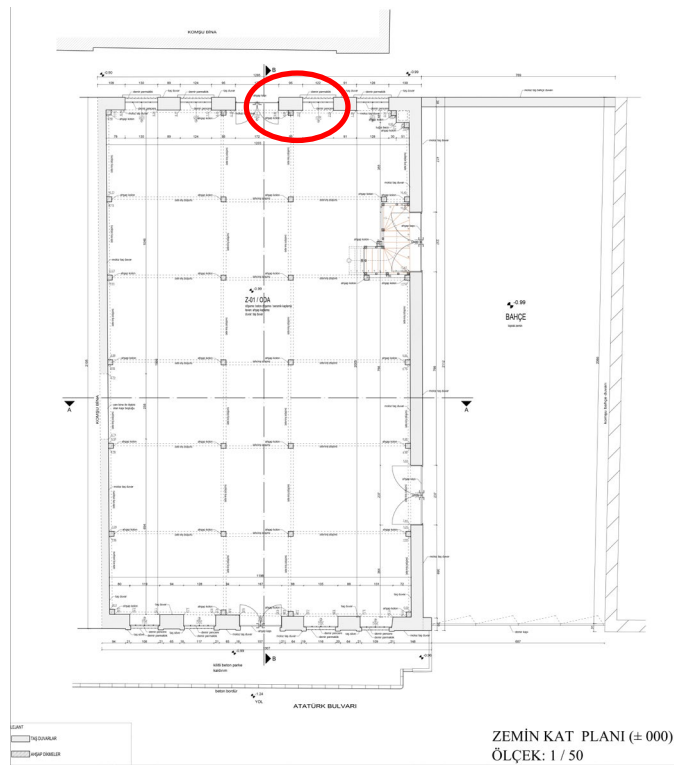


Fig. 10. Ground Floor Plan of the Soap Factory (Drawn by Gedik Architectural Office)

⁴² This information was transmitted to Interior Architect Elif Türkmen from the owner of the soap factory in January 2020 in Ayvalık and all the information was recorded in writing. Name and personal information of property owner soap factory owner not included, being personal data. These records were shared with us by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen in February, 2020.

area which is equivalent to the back facade on the south side, there is an extensional room with ceramic floors and walls and concrete ceilings covered with pvc material (Fig. 11). There is a rectangular backyard on the east side of the ground floor.



Fig. 11. Ground Floor of the Soap Factory and the Extensional Room on This Floor (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)

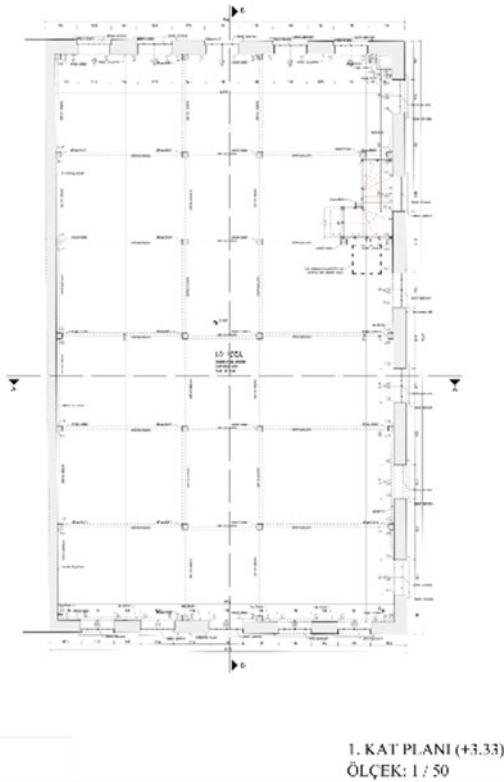


Fig. 12. First Floor Plan (Drawn by Gedik Architectural Office)

which confirms our argument (Fig. 15). We believe that when the building was sold in 1937, the attic was removed as a result of some interventions/ amendments. Thus, the originally two-and-a-half-storey building became a two-storey building.

The First Floor Plan of Soap Factory Building

The first floor, just like the ground floor, was designed as an indoor space of a massive, undivided volume, uninterrupted in-depth, for making use of the place (Fig. 12). Today, the first floor is accessed by a portable ladder from the ground floor. The work which requires simple technology such as molding, drying and packaging was most probably performed on this floor. The first floor is designed to have more windows than the ground floor has (Fig. 13). An atmosphere with multiple windows of wide opening allows sunlight, thus heat, to enter the place from different angles at different hours of the day. Design-for-production is the basis of the architecture of factory buildings. The presence of lots of windows on the first floor provides a suitable environment for the drying of the soap. The functionality in this respect supports our argument that the building was designed to function as a soap factory.

The Roof

In the carrier system of the building's roof, wooden-steel hip roof construction was used to cover the wide and large open space (Fig. 14). The eaves were made from brick cornices (kirpi saçak) in the roof which is covered by Marseille tiles.

The traces on the wall and the skylight on a level close to the roof, prove that the structure originally had an attic in the floor plan. The skylight which is very close to the roof on the north facade is the most important feature



Fig. 13. First Floor and Windows of Soap Factory Building (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)



Fig. 14. Roof Construction of the Soap Factory Building (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)



Fig. 15. Skylight Window on the Upper Level of the First Floor, Proving the Presence of an Attic (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)



Fig. 16. Carrier Systems of the Ground Floor (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)

The carrier system of the building (Fig. 16) is a wooden column/beam. The columns and beams are covered with pvc material today. These additions are extensional rooms and need to be removed to restore its authentic appearance.

The smokestack of the soap factory, located on the south facade, is not one of the conical smokestacks symbolic of the industrial structures of Ayvalık, instead, it is cylindrical in shape, has a simple design and is built of brick (Fig. 17).

Facade Layout

All the facades of the soap factory were designed in the neoclassical style. Their authenticity has been substantially preserved to today, leaving them with the symmetric and balanced nature of the neoclassical style with no adornment (Fig. 18). On the ground floor of the north facade (Fig. 19a) facing Atatürk Boulevard, there is a rectangular door opening centered on the facade. Today, it presents itself as a metal-barred door being changed from its original version. This unauthentic entrance opening disfigures the neoclassical order of the structure. There are four barred windows on the facade; two on each side of the door. While these windows demonstrate a symmetry



Fig. 17. Brick Smokestack of the Soap Factory (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)

between each other, their rectangular formed distinctive keystones and frames, which fall on the middle axis, are emphasized by round arches. These windows have been interfered with over time. The size of the windows has been reduced by building bricks almost 50 cm high in the window openings. Therefore, this intervention, drew the windows away from their original version. There is a total of five barred windows at the first-floor level of the north facade. The size of the first-floor windows reaches the height of two storeys. Two windows can be seen on each side of the one window placed in the middle of the facade right above the entrance door which shapes the same pattern of the ground floor windows. All the windows on this floor were designed to a rectangular shape with round arches and there are evident keystones in the middle axis of these arches. At roof level on the north facade, the rectangular shaped, barred skylight window with its prominent keystone that is in the middle axis of the round arch, can be seen, half the size of the previously mentioned windows. Window arrangements with stone jamb margins on the north facade, not only enrich the look of the facade but also alleviate its massiveness. The jerkinhead is finished with brick cornices.

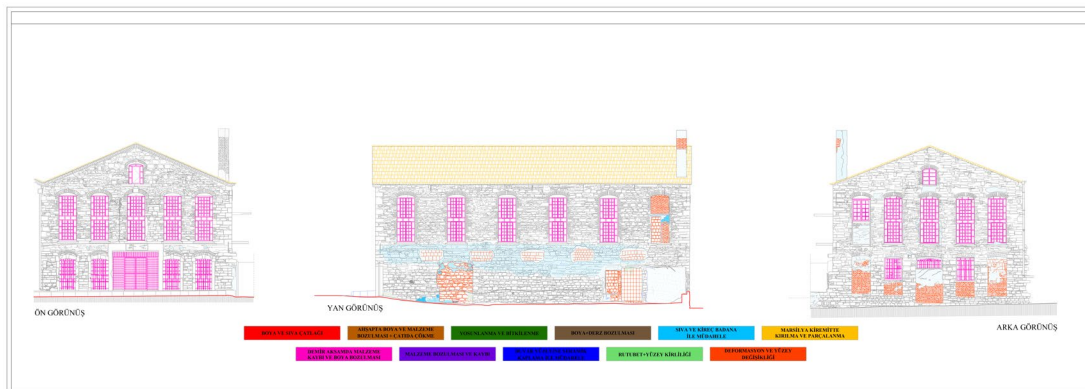


Fig. 18. South/Rear, Side and Front Facade Center of the Soap Factory Building (Drawn by Gedik Architectural Office)

The facade and window order on the north facade is repeated on the south face of the building as we today call it the south facade. A door opening is also present on this facade in a site that coincides with the place where the entrance door was located, yet this opening is currently filled with bricks, up to a level which converted it into about a-50-cm window space (Fig. 19a-b). The plate with the date 1911 which we think is the construction date of the soap factory (Fig. 9), is located on this new window space formed behind iron bars.

Just as on the north facade, there are four rectangular windows, two on the left and another two on the right side of the door opening, which was turned into a window in the south/rear facade. The outermost window space on the right of the facade was made smaller with bricks from the inside. The windows located on both sides of the door (turned into a window today) close to the outer side of the facade, were also reduced in size with bricks from the inside at a rate of 3/4. The first floor of the south facade is the same as the first floor of the north facade. There are a total of five iron-barred windows above the door (turned into a window today). The window placed in the center of the facade, right above the door, has two other windows on each side, left and right. All the windows on this floor are rectangular-shaped and have round arches. The window space to the left of the window in the middle of the facade and closest to the outermost part of the facade, was reduced in size with bricks from the inside at a rate of 3/4. At the roof level of on the south/rear facade, there is a skylight window, half the size of the windows on the other floors, with round arches and iron bars.



Fig. 19a. North Facade View of the Soap Factory and its Twin Building⁴³



Fig. 19b. South/Rear View of the Soap Factory (Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen)

There are five rectangular, round-arched windows at the first-floor level of the east facade of the soap factory. The facade was finished with brick cornices (kirpi saçak). The west facade is blind and adjoins the adjacent building (Fig. 20).

Conclusion

The name has become synonymous with the industry formed by olive and olive production from the nineteenth century until the middle of the twentieth century, even to this day in Ayvalık. The olive-based geographic landscape of Ayvalık which comes to mind first when olive is the topic of conversation, has shaped its urban architecture. This soap factory, the subject of the article is a part of the industrial architectural heritage of Ayvalık.

In terms of the size of the soap factory, it would be correct to say that it was a small-scale workshop or atelier, or even a studio. It is obvious that this structure was not a soap factory having a large-scale production capacity. It is fair to say that the cylindrical smokestacks of olive oil and soap factories are the iconic indicators of industrial architectural heritage of Ayvalık.

However, the soap factory, subject to the article, does not have a cylindrical smokestack identified with the city Ayvalık. On the contrary, it has an ordinary square-shaped brick smokestack (Fig. 17). Yet it should not be overlooked that, the presence of the smokestack is an important indication showing the soap factory actually was an industrial building.

⁴³ Google Earth, <https://earth.google.com/web/search>, 2022, February 24.



Fig. 20. South/Rear and Lateral Facade of the Soap Factory Building Photographed by Interior Architect Elif Türkmen

The two-storey soap factory was built of stone in masonry technique, in a rectangular plan, expanding horizontally to the shore, and it is an industrial building with a non-complex structure, yet catering for the needs of its time. The functionality in its design for it to be used as a soap factory attracts attention immediately. The twin building built adjacent to the soap factory was also designed to be an olive oil factory. The architectural style of the soap factory on the other hand is in the neoclassical style which conforms with the spirit of the region and the period. No adornments of any kind can be seen on the building's facades.

The date 1911 on the half-size window space above the bricked entrance door on the south facade is probably the year when the soap factory was built. In Ayvalık houses, there are other examples of construction plaques of this type, like the one placed on the iron bars of the light window of the soap factory.

As small-scale soap factory unable to respond to the needs of the changing world since the 1980s, the structure subject to this article also completed the process of serving as a soap workshop. The uninterrupted opening on the ground floor was put to good use as a supermarket for a while by the owners. All the production equipment of the soap factory was most probably sold for scrap in this period. The building is non-functional today. However, it is highly possible that it will be transformed into a new place that will serve regional tourism by being subjected to a re-functioning process, as is the case, for other industrial structures in the city.

The Soap Factory is a traditional structure which reflects local traditions of construction and local identity, as described in the traditional architectural heritage group defined in the Declaration of Conservation of the Architectural Heritage published by ICOMOS in 2013. The fact the holes made for use of caustic, which is important in soap production, are still present on the ground floor of the soap factory, shows the relation between architecture and traditional manufacturing. Based on all this, the original material of the building, the principles of its design and its historical and documentary value should be carefully preserved in any intervention to the soap factory. Passing on the industrial heritage of Ayvalık, particularly the soap factory subject of this article, to future generations with the principles of universal restoration and protection is crucial in terms of keeping the spatial memory of Ayvalık alive.

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