



Other Structures that History Gifted for Today

There is a bridge from 19th century in Cami-i Sığır District of Süleymaniye with round arch, made of rubble and cut stones with piling technique. Similarly, there is a fountain from 19th century named "Komiserin Çeşmesi" (Fountain of Commander) at the left side of the road going to Süleymaniye, which was built in a single piece on two pieces of support and with lancet style. Another fountain on the road is Hıdır - İlyas Fountain, similarly from 19th century and made with flat, hewn stone on a square plan. This work is substantially damaged due to natural conditions. Paşa Hamamı, one of the Turkish baths of 15th century, was built with stones and bricks in small dimensions and with a dome. Another 15th century bath, built from rubble stone and bricks, with classical, four-ivan, cross temperature, is Kavaklık Hamamı. Similarly, Çaput Hamamı, which has three iwans, two corners and cellular temperature is a structure which was built with Ottoman bath style and few portions of which survived today due to natural conditions.



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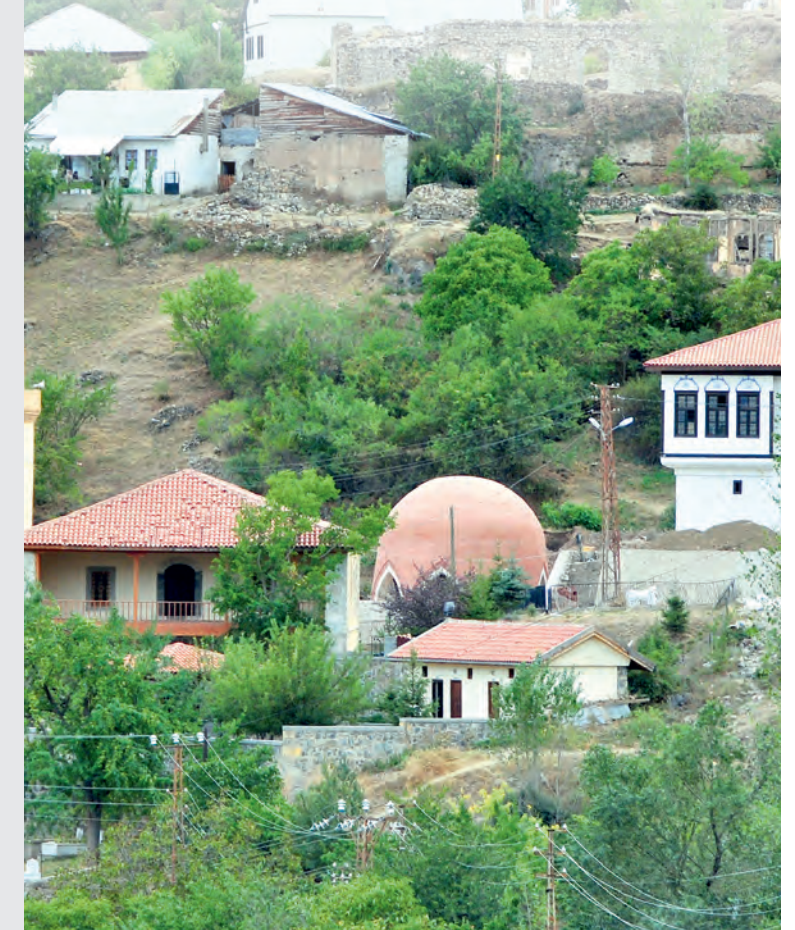
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SÜLEYMANİYE

"On the Track of the Lost Period"



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Süleymaniye, leaning on silver-colored slopes on the historical Silk Road, is the oldest settlement of Gümüşhane. This ancient city, which is a natural and urban archaeological site inherited from Suleiman the Magnificent, is a settlement of love, tolerance and peace where Turks, Armenians and Greek lived together for a long time. This settlement, located 4 km away from the city center to the southwest of the city and called "Canca" during the reign of the Ottoman Empire between 1520-1566, "Gümüşhane" until the War of Independence and then Süleymaniye District; is now called Old Gümüşhane.

Having hosted many civilizations that shaped history such as Assyrians, Urartians, Medes, Macedonians, Pontus Kingdom, Roman Empire, Umayyad, Seljuk and finally the Ottoman Empire, Süleymaniye was joined to the reign of Turks in 1461, following the defeat of Trabzon-Pontus Empire by Mehmet the Conqueror. With a rich history, Süleymaniye preserved many historical monuments in its core and carried them towards today.

Süleymaniye Mosque: Witness of a Lost Time

This structure, built by Suleiman the Magnificent in 16th century and restored several times afterwards, possesses as flat, ceiling made of soil and founded on a rectangular plan with the support of six wooden posts and closed with a roof. There is a prayer room built in the 19th century and a thick, cylinder-shaped minaret at the front of the mosque that is still open for prayers today.

Another structure named Küçük Cami (Small Mosque) is a mosque that remains from the Danismends in 15th century. The single dome of the structure, which was built on a square plan, built completely with stonemasonry, is very high and its doors and windows have round arches.

There are three important minarets in Süleymaniye that stands after restoration. Built in the 15th century and mosques of which could not survive until today, these minarets have a single balcony.

Golden and Silver Coins: Historic Seals of Economy

Evliya Çelebi, who visited Gümüşhane in 1646, wrote in work "Seyahatnâme" that there were 70 silver mines in the city and the mines were with seven branches and full veins and in non-lead, pure ores. Golden and silver coins from the periods of Suleiman the Magnificent, Selim II, Murat III, Ahmet I and Mahmut I had the names of "Canca" and "Canice" names on them, while the coins from the period of Mahmut I bears the name of Gümüşhane.

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries: Secret Stones of the Realm of Perpetuity

Some of the stones of the tombs, which are located in the burial grounds and cemeteries from 15th century Ottoman period in Süleymaniye, is quilted and triangular with flat and extending foot stones. The inscriptions were made with thuluth graving technique.



Churches

Surp Karabet Church in Süleymaniye was built with a basilica plan with three naphthas on a rectangular plan in 16th century. Another church from the ancient periods in the settlement is Hagia Tiriada with its first name, today called "Hegios Gergios Metropolitich Church". The walls of this structure, which was repaired twice" still stand today. Hegios Stepanos Church, upper section of which was completely collapsed, was built with a basilica plan with three naphthas in 18th century and restored in 19th century. Another structure from 19th century, which was built in two floors on a rectangular plan, the Metropolitich Church was built with cut and rubble stone; although the frontal walls survived until today, the upper section was completely destroyed.



1907 Eski Gümüşhane



1917 Eski Gümüşhane