

6.2. Bilecik “Belekoma” City

The current and historical maps of the Bilecik city were shown on the below.



Fig 6.20: Bilecik city (Google maps, 2014)

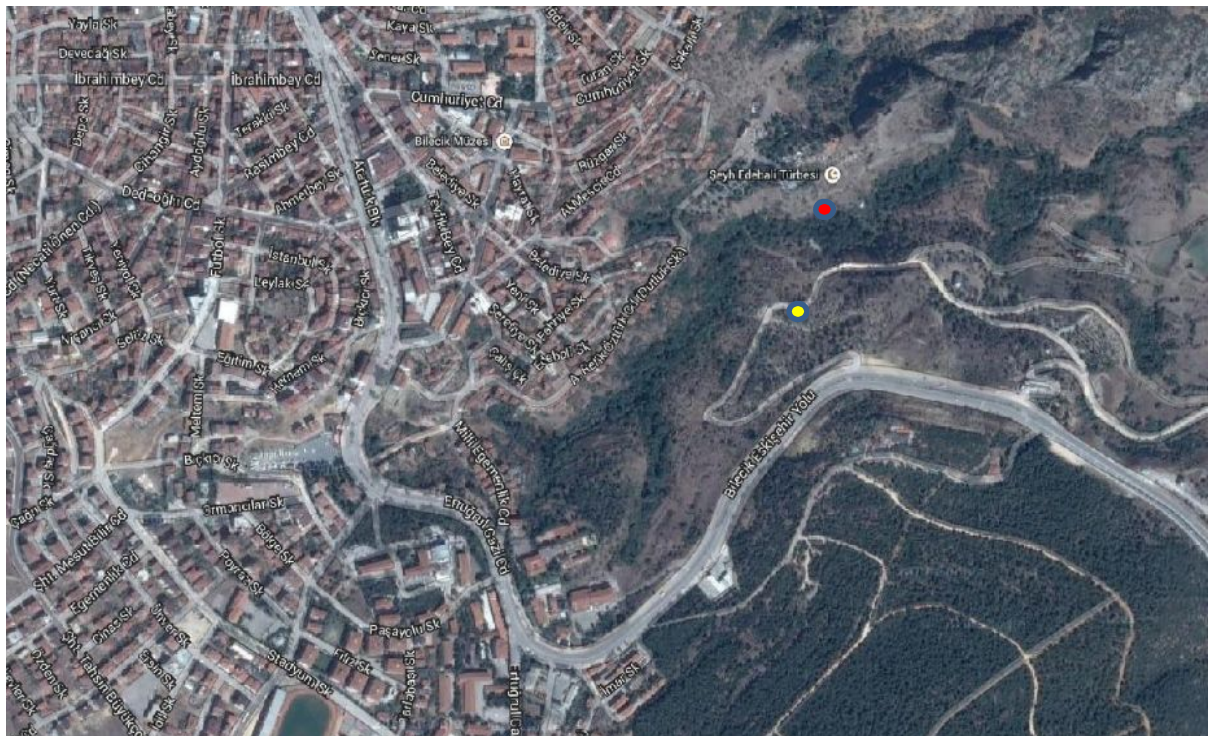


Fig 6.21: Bilecik city focus on Seyh Edebali tomb, Süleymanpaşa bath (red point) and Emirlers bath (yellow point). (Google maps, 2014).



Fig 6.22: The historical map of Bilecik (Özcan,, Sarnay, 2012).

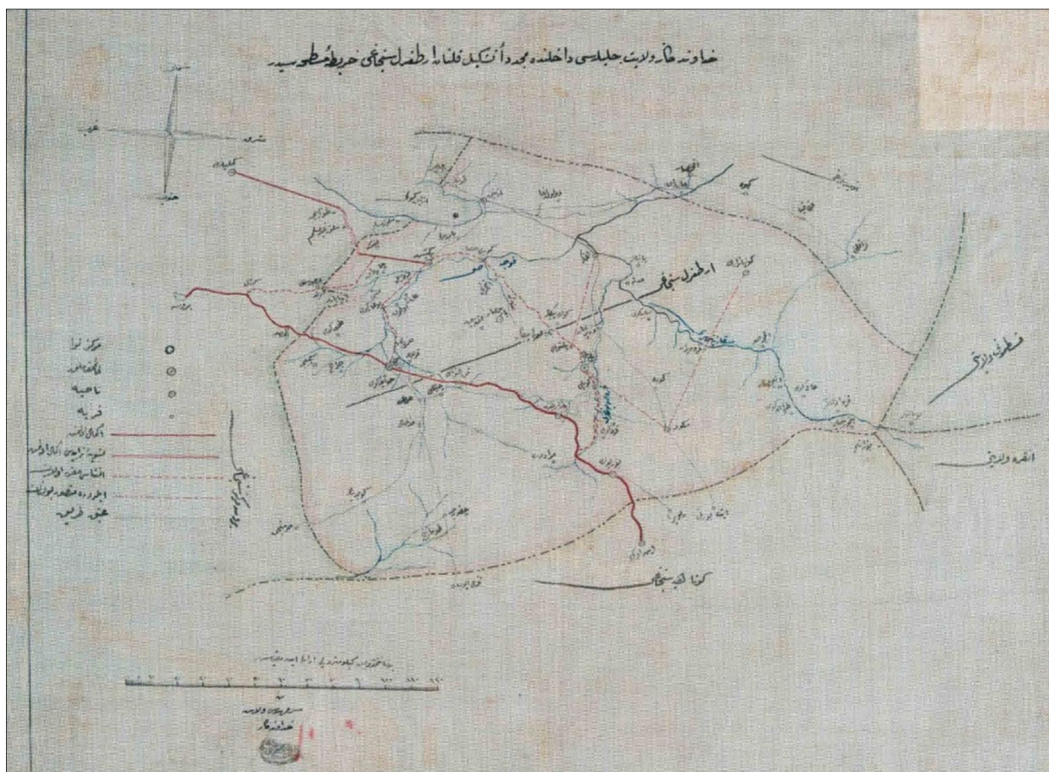


Fig 6.23: Hüdevendigar vilayeti, Erturul Sanca ı hand drawn map in 1885, scale: 1/500.000 (Historical names of Bilecik City in Ottoman Empire) (Özcan,, Sarnay, 2012).



Fig 6.24: The historical photo I of Bilecik in 1882-1905 (*Bilecik Museum, 2013*).

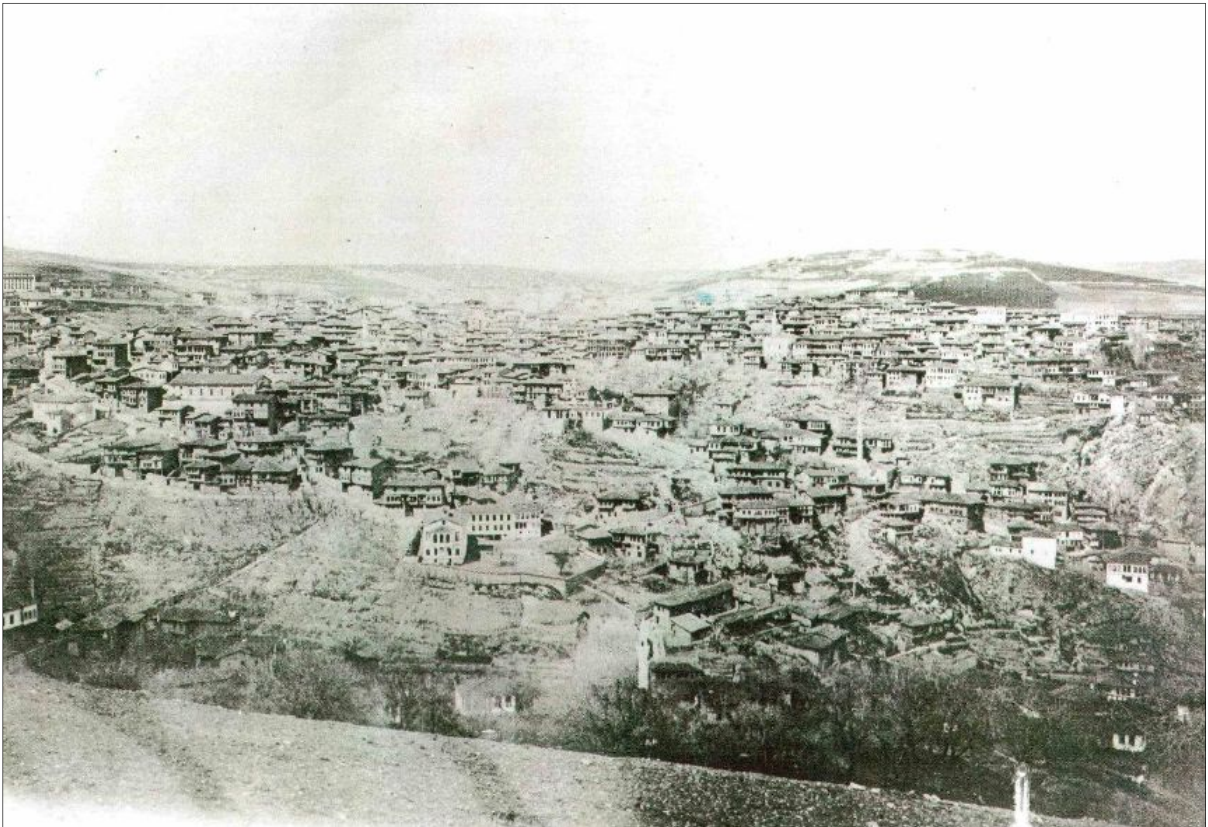


Fig 6.25: The historical photo II of Bilecik in 1882-1905 (*Bilecik Museum, 2013*).

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6.2.1. History

Bilecik city is located under the Karasu stream valley which is one of the branches of Sakarya River. The city was strategically important in history because of its location on the slopy valley. Therefore in history, Bilecik city was always gets the intention of the nations in Anatolia (*Öztürk, 1996*).

There was no evidence for the first formation of the city. However the archeological data's related to the city were shown that the city was established in Bronze Age. The tomb discovered in the city center was belonging to the 3th century. Therefore the city could be established in that period of time. In the first centuries the city was under the domination of Egyptian's, Hittite's, Phrygia's, Lydia's and Persian's. After the Bithynia Kingdom was getting under the control Roman Empire, Bilecik city and whole region were got under the domination of Roman Empire (*Öztürk, 1996*).

Bilecik city located in the border line of Bithynia where were under the domination of Byzantine Empire until the conquest of Anatolia by the Turks. Bilecik city was developed after 4th century however it lost its growth acceleration in 11th and 12th century (*Güney, 1938*). Historical "Belekoma" castle was being built in Bilecik. In that period of time znik was became an important location and Bilecik lost its significance and step backward to the second place (*Öztürk, 1996*).

In that period time Islamic warriors were getting into the Anatolia. Bithynia region and also Bilecik and Sö üt locations were being under the control of Abbasid in A.C. 797 (*Öztürk, 1996*).

In 1097 the second Seljuk's sultan Kılıç Arslan army were tried to stop the progression of the Byzantine army near znik. However he and his army could not stop the Byzantine army and they moved east to Eski ehir city. Consequently znik and Bilecik were captured by Byzantine army. At the end of XIII century, Bilecik and it's around were border line for Seljuk's and Byzantines domination. In that period of time Byzantine lost the domination of the settlement and the control of the area was get into the persons who called "Tekfur". Tekfur's were depended to the governor who was being driven seignory like a feudatory. As well they control the city with their power. However they were always struggled between each other (*Güney, 1938*).

In that period, the bazaar's was established in the city center, Greek and the Turkmen people are the customers of these bazaar's (*Öztürk, 1996*).

According to the historical evidences, "Tekfur" of the Bilecik was prepared an assassination to the "Osman Gazi" who is the first founder and emperor of Ottoman. Therefore Osman Gazi with his army was captured the Bilecik and construct a mosque. In that century, Bilecik was a location of Anatolian hinterland and it was become a stop between Bursa to Eski ehir cities (*Öztürk, 1996*).

In history Bilecik city was being kept the small city formation. However its name was being known because of its location which located on the caravan road of stanbul-Bagdad. It was being played a role of entrance from stanbul to Anatolia (*Öztürk, 1996*).

In Ottoman era, the city was more developed according to its historical situation however its geographical location was always being stopped the development of the city (*Öztürk, 1996*).

The Bilecik city was first established around a castle which located on the top of the hill. " eyh Edebalı" tomb and the Orhan Gazi mosque were located on the cross hill therefore the city was being grown up to the north-west. In some way the growth of the city was determined by the location of " eyh Edebalı" tomb and the Orhan Gazi mosque (*Öztürk, 1996*).

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Now days the location of the Bilecik city was moved to north to Kırklar, Rasattepe and Deveda 1 according to previous place. The previous location was changed because of high damage of the city which was occurred by capturing of the city by Greek army (Öztürk, 1996).

6.2.2. Architectural values

“Kulaklı ta ” tomb, “Osman Camii” mosque, “Orhan Gazi Camii” mosque, “Süleymanpa a Camii” mosque, “ eyh Edebalı” masjid, “Malhatun” tomb, “ eyh Edebalı” tomb, “Orhan Gazi” maret, “Süleyman Pa a” bath, “Emirler” bath, “Tabakhane” bath are some of the important architectural values of Bilecik city. Information’s about these structures were given in that part.

○ “Kulaklı ta ” tomb

The heads of “Gorgon Medüz” were existed on this Roman tomb. The starting age of the tomb was around A.C. 3rd century. The dimensions were 2,5m to 1,5m. (Güney, 1938).

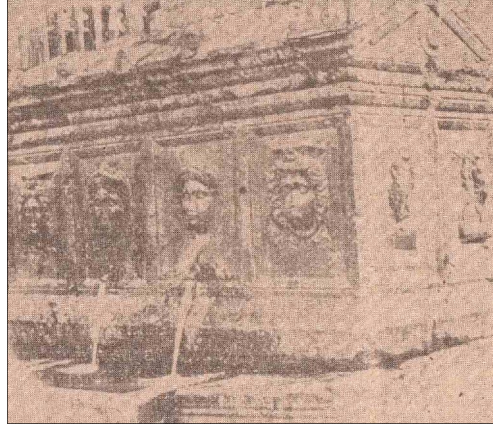


Fig 6.26: “Kulaklı ta ” tomb (Güney, 1938).

○ One of the gate of the castle in Bilecik

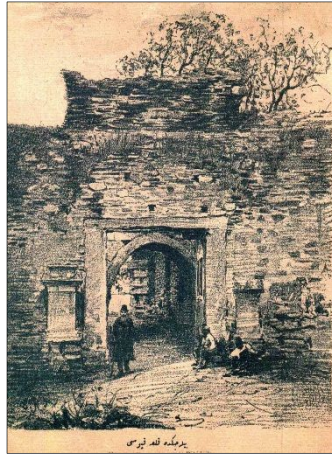


Fig 6.27: One of the gate of the castle in Bilecik, 8 Sep. 1892 (Özcan, Sarnay, 2012).

○ “Osman Camii” mosque

This mosque is located in the middle of valley which is located in the center of the Bilecik city. The name of the mosque is handling the name of Osman Gazi however document number 187 in Orhan endowment archive in Bursa city showed that this building was build behalf of Orhan Gazi (Ünal, 2008).

It was built in 13th century. It was demolished after capturing the city by Greek army (Güney, 1938). Today, only the north wall and minaret were existed from the Osman Gazi mosque. From the historical photographs; Osman Gazi mosque was built in a plan shape of rectangle, timber ceiling and hipped roof. From the remnants from Osman Gazi mosque, it was understood that the masonry walls of the mosque were built with cut stone and timber tie beams. North-west side corner of the courtyard wall, the minaret of the building was existed. Minaret constructed with square cut stones with timber tie beam construction. The closure of the minaret is conic and constructed with lead material. The mosque repaired in 19th century however the originality of the mosque was lost (Ünal, 2008).

○ “Orhan Gazi Camii” mosque

Bilecik Orhan Gazi mosque was located on the steep slope (Ayverdi I, 1989). It was built in 14th century with domed closure structure (Güney, 1938). This structure was built up by Murat Hüdavendigâr after the capture of Biga settlement. From the past till now the originality of the mosque was changed dramatically due to the wrong repairment techniques. The building was constructed with “alma ık” masonry bounding technique. The outer look of the building is one domed squared plan. The weight of the dome is transferred to the pointed arches. The entrance of the building was given from the north elevation. The pointed arches and oval arches were used on the elevations of the mosque. The brick material was used on the arches. The eaves of the roof were surrounded the building. The lead material was used on the roof of the mosque. The cylindrical minaret of the mosque was attached later to the adjacent of the structure (Ünal, 2008).

Rectangular shape of the mosque was covered with single dome which supported with octagonal tabouret. The weight of the dome transferred to the pointed arches. The width of the arch in south is 1.42m. On the other walls the width of the arch is 2.40m. The minarets of the mosque were constructed in later period of time and they were located on the west and on the east side. General repairment of the mosque and two minarets were constructed in 1889 behalf of brahim Bin Abdüsselim. The original minaret of the mosque was located 30m away in north direction from the structure. This minaret was constructed after 50-60 years from the construction of the mosque (Ünal, 2008).

The plan type of this Orhan mosque was looked like mosque’s that planned in a square shape and single dome. However the interior space organization was differentiated. In Orhan Gazi mosque, the weight of the dome did not transfer directly to the wall, the arches supported the dome therefore the arches formed additional spaces inside of the mosque. As well the arches were made the ambiance of interior space into a large feeling (Ünal, 2008).

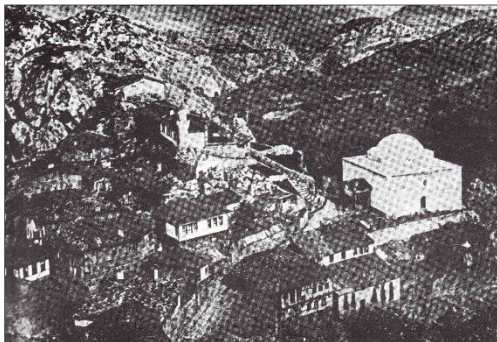


Fig 6.28: The castle of Bilecik and Orhan Mosque, (1882) (Ayverdi, 1989).

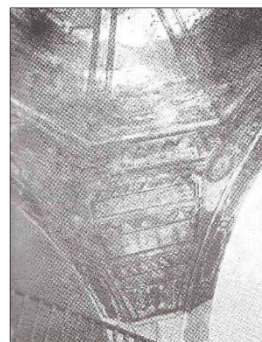


Fig 6.29: Transitional elements of Orhan Mosque (Ayverdi, 1989).

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○ “Süleymanpa a Camii” mosque

The exact space of the mosque was not known. However in the previous official documentation in 1905 “Bursa Hüdavendigâr Vilayeti Salnamesi” the specification of the building was identified (Ünal, 2008).

○ “ eyh Edebali” masjid

“ eyh Edebali Mescid” was located on the valley same with Bilecik city near Cumhuriyet district, on the north and 50m away from the Orhan Gazi Mosque. The east side of the mosque “Malhatun” tomb was existed. There is no inscription of the exact building time “ eyh Edebali” masjit. However it could be said that the building time was in Orhan Period (Ayverdi, 1989).

The masjid was constructed adjacent to the east wall of the tomb of “ ehy Edebali”. The rectangular plan typology of the masjid closure was constructed with hipped roof covered with tiles. The south part of the masjid ground was filled due to its stepped and sloppy location (Ünal, 2008).

○ “Malhatun” tomb

The tomb was located in the same courtyard with “ eyh Edebali” masjid and it was located north-east side according to the masjid. The tomb was built independent with the building complex. The exact building date was unknown however it was built the period of the first era of the Ottoman Empire (1230-1402) with the same date of “ eyh Edebali” tomb (Ayverdi, 1989).

The entrance of the tomb was located ten steps down forward according to the topographic structure of the land. The tomb was constructed in square plan with folded roof. Inside of the tomb there was a dome closure. The wall structure was built up of stone. The construction was very simple and rough. The eaves of the roof surrounded the tomb (Ünal, 2008).

Inside of the tomb there were two coffins which were belonging to “Malhatun” and the mother of “Osman Gazi” (Ünal, 2008).

○ “ eyh Edebali” tomb

This tomb was located in the city center of Bilecik at Cumhuriyet district. It was built adjacent to the east wall of “ eyh Edabali” tomb. It was built at the same date with the masjid of “ eyh Edebali”. The plan type of the masjid was rectangular with the dimensions of 4.90mx9.60m. Inside of the space the arches could be perceived. The closure of the space was folded roof outside and domes inside with tile covering (Ünal, 2008).



Fig 6.30: eyh Edebali and Mal Hatun tombs in Bilecik (Ayverdi, 1989).

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○ “Orhan Gazi” imaret

“Orhan Gazi” imaret was located in the center of the Bilecik city, stiklal district. It was located on the hillside and south-west direction of the “Orhan Gazi” mosque. The building was constructed in the period of Orhan Gazi (1324-1362) (Güney, 1938). The building technique and the dimensions were similar to buildings which were built in the same period of Orhan Gazi (Ayverdi, 1989). Today, the existing building was highly devastated. The middle of the building was approximately square plan in 6.75mx14.50m dimensions with a closure of two domed structure. However these two domes could not survive until today, they were collapsed. As well the side parts of the “Orhan Gazi” imaret were collapsed (Ünal, 2008).

The construction materials of the building were stone, brick, timber and picking materials. The elevations of the building were constructed stone and brick materials. The dome and the arches were made up of brick materials. The surface of the dome and arches were plastered with gypsum. There was ornamentation on the surface of the building with hand-drawn figures with colorful paints (Ünal, 2008).



Fig 6.31: Orhan Imaret in Bilecik (Ayverdi, 1989).

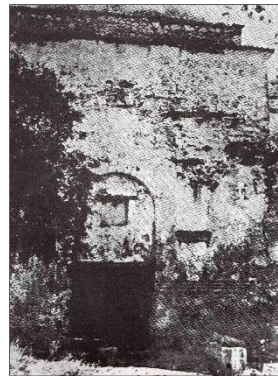


Fig 6.32: The entrance gate of Orhan Imaret (Ayverdi, 1989).

○ “Süleyman Pa a” bath

This building was located in Bilecik city in the middle of the valley near the stream. This building was constructed in early period of Ottoman with “ eyh Edebalı” building complex in (1230-1402). The building separated in to three different sections and two partially enclosed bathing cubicle “halvet”. The general shape of the bath was rectangular. Big part of the bath was collapsed.

In the south-east of the “Süleymanpa a” bath there was a square planed undressing area. On the north of that area there was a worm area. Both of those spaces dome structures were collapsed. The hot area was planned rectangular which was closed with vault and supported with two arches. In the middle of the vault there was dome with lightening openings. In this area there were two enclosed bathing cubicle “halvet”. The heating room of this bath was totally collapsed and the water tank was partially damaged (Ünal, 2008).



Fig 6.33: Süleymanpa a bath (Mülayim, Öztürk, 2011).

- “Emirler” bath

“Emirler” bath was located in the center of Bilecik city. It constructed in early Ottoman period. The building was ruined. The plan of this bath formed in five sections which were undressing, warm, and hot area, the furnace space and water tank. Entrance part of the bath which named undressing or cold area was formed in two spaces. The first space was nearly squared planed shape and the second space was squared planed. Both of the spaces were closed with dome structures. In the first space the dome was collapsed, in the second space the dome partially collapsed. Arch entrance was used to pass the warm and the hot area which were closed with dome structures. The closure of the water tank was vault structure. The masonry walls were made up of stone with brick structure. For preventing the sliding of the bath structure, retaining wall was constructed (Ünal, 2008).



Fig 6.34: Emirler bath

- “Tabakhane” bath

This bath was located in the center of Bilecik city. There was no description related to this building however this building was consider the same period of time with the “ eyh Edebali” building complex buildings which were around of it. The furnace area and the undressing area of the building were totally collapsed. The warm and hot areas of the building were remained until today. The closures of these spaces were domed structures. The function of the bath structure was changed and used as shop.

In Bilecik, there are many small bath structures which were constructed villages around the city (Ünal, 2008).