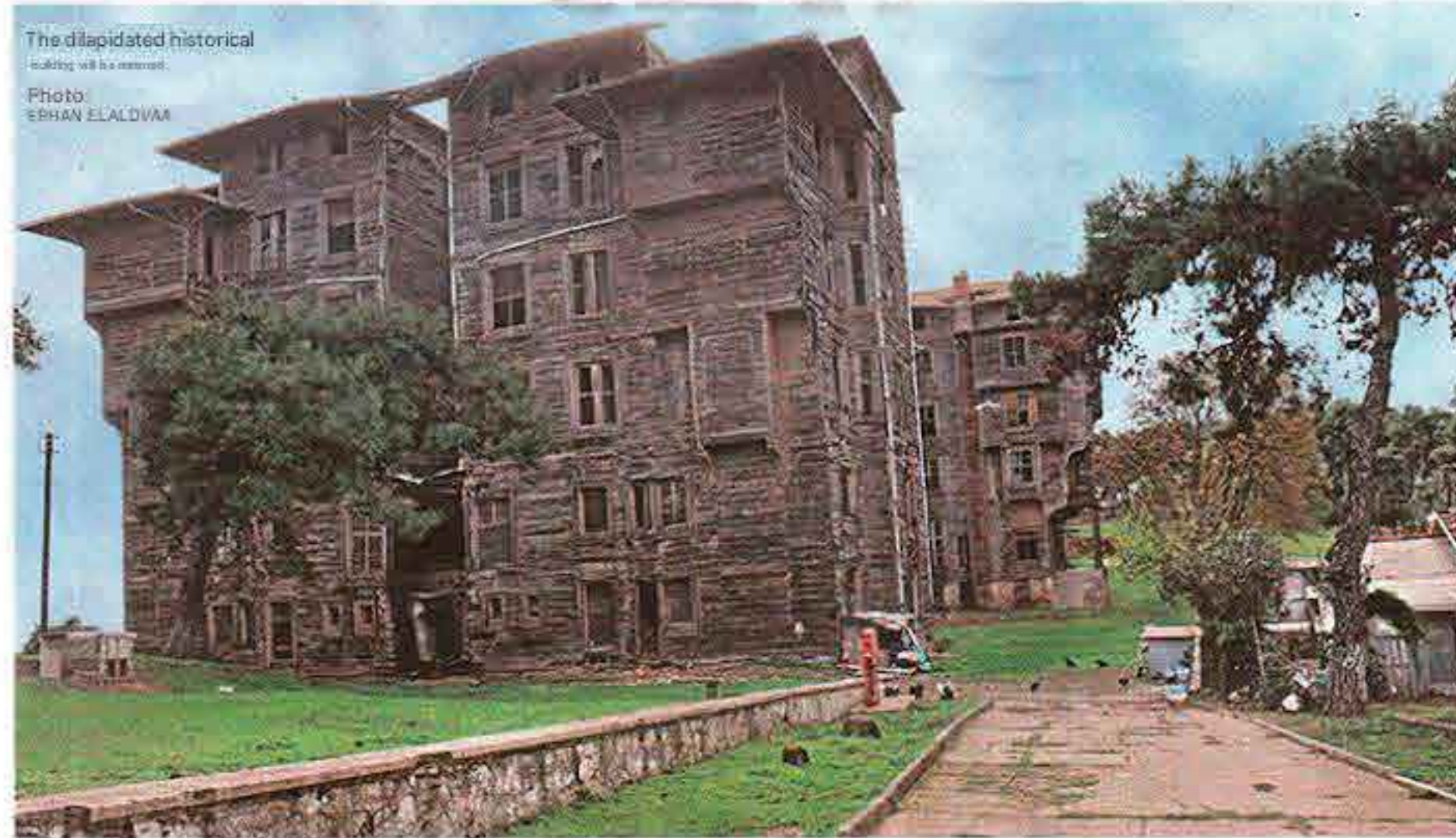




The dilapidated historical building will be restored.
Photo: EBHAN ELALDIYAN

The owner of the orphanage finally received the deed

The Greek Patriarchate of Fener acquired the title deed for the historical orphanage in Büyükaada, and the Patriarchate has also taken action for three properties in Bozcaada.

ISTANBUL/RADICAL

The Fener Greek Patriarchate received the title deed for the historical Greek Boys Orphanage on Büyükaada. The Patriarchate's lawyer, Cem Murat Sofuoğlu, said, "This is a significant success in terms of the rule of law and human rights. The decision will set an example for properties in similar situations."

After the court's decision, Lawyer Sofuoğlu went to the Land Registry Directorate yesterday and stated that the title deed he received said the Greek Patriarchate.

"The Patriarchate, five years ago,

He had lost this property. Now he has regained it. This is a significant achievement in terms of the rule of law and human rights. I consider it this way. A lost right has been returned to its rightful owner at the end of the legal process. The legal process was fully followed in this matter. This is a significant development for our country. I am honored to announce this to Türkiye and the international public. But it is not something to exaggerate. A right has been returned to its owner.

Sofuoğlu reminded that the title deed was registered in the name of the Patriarchate in 1903, and that this situation was repeated when the cadastre was passed in 1929.

Questions about identity recognition Sofuoğlu then said the following:

"Legal personality was already de facto recognized. The Patriarchate's name was already on the title deed. It was mentioned in the court decision. The case resulted in 2005 when it was opened. In the case, the defendant is the Fener Greek Patriarchate. What was it? The legal process continued and The court ruled. It was also passed by the Supreme Court. Now we have received the title deed again. My personal opinion is that there is de facto recognition.

There are some properties in similar situations. This decision will set an example for properties in similar situations. We have initiated the same process for three properties in Bozcaada, owned by the Greek Foundation, which are in the same situation. Those in similar situations will benefit from this decision.

Experts state that an allocation of around 50 million lira is required for the restoration of the historical building.