

# MANOLACHE MORȚUN HOUSE IN FĂLTICENI. THE ROAD TO RUIN

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**Abstract:** Until recently, the house of Manolache Morțun, a prominent representative of the unionist movement in northern Moldavia and uncle of Vasile G. Morțun, a politician with high positions in the state in the period preceding the First World War, was preserved in the city of Fălticeni. The building was the only witness to an ample domain, established at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, on which there were several buildings – residential houses and annexes. The building was seriously affected by the systematisation works carried out between 1975 and 1989, thus, only a fragment of the main building survived on the property with an area of over one hectare.

The former Morțun house, although much diminished and transformed in the meantime into a dispensary, remained for the community a place with a special significance in the history of the city. However, its special memorial value has not been – and is not – important in the view of the authorities who decided not a long time ago, without a trace of regret, to destroy the last vestige of a historical property for an investment with no real benefits for the people of Fălticeni. The efforts made to stop the disappearance of the building did not have the expected results. Currently, only a ruin remains of the old walls, an insignificant fragment that miraculously escaped the path of the bulldozer.

**Rezumat:** Până de curând, în orașul Fălticeni s-a păstrat casa lui Manolache Morțun, reprezentant de seamă al mișcării unioniste din nordul Moldovei și unchi al lui Vasile G. Morțun, politician cu funcții înalte în stat în perioada premergătoare Primului Război Mondial. Construcția era unicul martor al unui domeniu amplu, constituit la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea, pe care se aflau mai multe corpuri de clădire – case de locuit și anexe. Imobilul a fost grav afectat de lucrările de sistematizare desfășurate între 1975 și 1989, din proprietatea cu suprafață de peste un hectar supraviețuind numai un fragment din clădirea principală.

Fosta casă Morțun, deși mult diminuată și transformată între timp în dispensar, a rămas pentru comunitate un loc cu o semnificație aparte în istoria orașului. Valoarea sa memorială deosebită nu a avut însă – și nu are nici în prezent – importanță în viziunea autorităților care au decis cu puțin timp în urmă, fără urmă de regret, să distrugă ultimul vestigiu al unei proprietăți istorice pentru o investiție fără beneficii reale asupra Fălticeniilor. Eforturile depuse pentru a opri dispariția clădirii nu au avut rezultatele așteptate. În prezent, din vechile ziduri se păstrează doar o ruină, un fragment nesemnificativ, scăpat ca prin minune din calea buldozerului.

The Manolache Morțun House in Fălticeni was, until its disappearance in 2023, the only witness to a large historical property that once belonged to Emanoil (or Manolache as his contemporaries called him) Morțun, a legal counsellor and politician, a member of the unionist movement in Fălticeni with an important role in the Union of the Principalities in 1859. The building was located on Maior Ioan Street no. 11, in a residential area that, until the systematisation works carried out between 1975 and 1989 radically changed its appearance, was notable for its patriarchal atmosphere, with large houses, lost among gardens and orchards. The name by which the building is known, “Morțun House”, comes from that of the family that had owned it for several decades. The building, together with the land on which it stood and other buildings, became the property of the Morțun family in 1870, the year in which Manolache Morțun purchased it from Maria Plastira, the wife of Dumitru Plastira, mayor of Fălticeni for two terms. In 2022, when the Fălticeni City Hall decided to demolish it to make way for a parking lot, the Morțun House was already over 150 years old and of great historical and memorial value (Fig. 1).

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