

Royal rest houses in Upper Egypt (Qena - Quseir) Study and Publication

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Abstract:

This research is of a great significance for the detection of a few buildings that still are not included in the list of Islamic monuments in Egypt, especially they are in the terms of time period and their architectural and ornamental distinctiveness make them completely enough to be added to this listing, and should be delivered to the map of tourism, restoration, and preservation, in order to keep and guard them from different factors which includes time and weather conditions. The research is based on studying three institutions and accurately describing them, studying and courting them, making horizontal projections (plans) and vertical sectors, and submitting an advice that they need to be blanketed with the Ministry of State for Antiquities Affairs. The observation will discuss the motive for the presence of such installations in those places far from the residential communities — inside the desert — and their importance, and the writings of historians around them, similarly to offering the observer with an appendix of pictures.

Keywords:

Rest houses — Royal — Upper Egypt .

Introduction:

This region in Upper Egypt is considered one of the most important geographical regions in the Arab Republic of Egypt, because of its great economic importance represented in mineral wealth, agricultural lands, and groundwater. The presence of royal rest houses in the governorates of Upper Egypt has increased in general, and the study will address two rest houses by the Qena-Quseir road in the Fawakhir which is an area within the mountains, which dates back to the late nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. Perhaps it is necessary because they are located next to the gold mine, which was discovered since the time of “Mohamed Ali”, and despite that, these rest houses have not been revealed yet, and they are not included in the list of Islamic monuments, and they were not recorded on the map of tourism in our dear Egypt.

There is also a third rest house inside the city of Quseir located in front of the sea, and it carries an architectural and artistic character as well, in which the architectural blocks witnessing the era in which they were built are evident, and during the era of Muhammad Ali and his family, architectural and artistic themes that were not common before in the city of Cairo or Provinces appeared. In Egypt, we were influenced by Western trends and Turkish influences, which led to the introduction of new styles, whether in architecture or the arts (Figure 1).

Objectives of the topic:

- 1- There is no specialized study that dealt with these buildings of archaeological and cultural value, either by description or analysis.
- 2- The publication of these three rest houses under study is a new publication for the first time.

Research Methodology:

The study relied on the descriptive and analytical method.

First: the descriptive study:

In it I described the three buildings of the rest houses and the names of their different units and their dimensions.

Second: The analytical study:

In it, I dated the three rest houses by comparing the architectural elements with their counterparts, and through the statements of historians, and examining the western currents that Egypt was affected by, during that period, especially in the architectural aspects.

Search limits:

The research is limited to studying the three buildings of the royal rest houses, two rest houses on the Qena- Quseir road, and the phosphate company rest in the Quseir City description, and analysis.

Results:

- publishing three of the rest houses that were not previously published.
- The history of the three rest houses in Qena – Quseir region.
- The study published nine forms, including projections (plans) and sections for the buildings understudy from the researcher's work.
- The study published sixty-two plates that had not been previously published.
- The study concluded that the two-rest house by Qaft-Qusir Road was established by the British at the beginning of the twentieth century.
- The study concluded that the phosphate company rest house in Qusair was rested by the Italians at the beginning of the twentieth century.
- The study revealed through the writings of historians on the extent of interest in the Qena-Al-Qasir road through different eras.
- The study showed the foreigners' interest in the mines for a long time and the desire to extract them.
- The study found the architecture of these rest houses, which is the European style.
- The study revealed that the style of the rest houses understudy was widespread in Egypt at the end of the nineteenth century AD and the beginning of the twentieth century, and it appeared in more than one governorate, including Cairo, Helwan, and the Canal District.

- The study concluded that the ownership of the word “royal” is related to these buildings due to the descent of some of the kings from Muhammad’s family, whether King Farouk or others who ruled Egypt.
- The study revealed the distinctive architectural elements of the European style of the buildings under study, so the garden or space appeared around the buildings, the reception hall, balconies, balconies, gable roofs and other units.
- The study carried out the emptying of the phosphate company logo and clarifying it.
- The study revealed the use of semi-circular and pitched contracts in the buildings under study.
- It is noted through the study that the buildings under study are poor in terms of decorative aspects, and perhaps the environment in which they were found has the greatest impact on the lack of implementation of decorative elements, and that the structural purpose is dominated by the practical part far from the aesthetic aspects.

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