



THE EXTINCT WEKALA OF SULAYMAN PASHA 1525 AD, AS EXAMPLE OF THE ISLAMIC WEKALAS IN ROSETTA

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Abstract

The importance of this research is attributed to the restoration of the architectural heritage of Rosetta in the Ottoman era, through transform information into architectural designs of the buildings that existed at those times and were destroyed through various reasons, highlighting the importance of urban and architectural style.

In this work, we examined these documents and information about Wekala of Sulayman Pasha and Transformed information into architectural designs to provide the reader and researcher with a picture of these monuments as if they were before.

Since these documents are numbered in hundreds and are kept in volumes, we have dealt with them as little as we need in this work, and we resorted to other sources to complete the information that we did not find in the documents mentioned.

Keywords: Rosetta, Ottoman era, Sulayman Pasha, extinct Wekalas, Commercial establishments, architectural designs, architectural heritage.

1. Historical headline of Rosetta

Rosetta, one of the cities of Al-Buhayra Governorate, is located to the west of the Nile at the mouth of the branch of Rosetta in the Mediterranean, and is located sixty kilometers from the city of Alexandria, and twelve kilometers above the mouth of the Nile [1], [2], [3], [4], [5].

Rosetta is one of the corners of the triangle occupied by the Delta between Cairo and Damietta [6], [7], [8], located west of the branch named by its name, and is one of the important Egyptian ports.

The name Rosetta derives from the paranoiac name of Rekhyt [9], [10], [11] (ancient inhabitants of the Delta before the political unity between the South and the North in the First Dynasty), the name of the Delta population. It became the Coptic name "Rachit - Rht" [12], and later to Rosetta.

In the Abbasid period, the Caliph al-Mutawakil [13], Issued an order to the governor of Egypt, called 'Unbesa ibn Ishaq in 239 AH (853 AD) to build a group of arches (military installations on the seashore or inside the country) to confront the Byzantine threat to the Egyptian ports [14].

It was also the reason that Al-Mutawakil led to the establishment of the Ribat of Rosetta and many of the ligaments on the Mediterranean coast. The invasion of Damietta by the Byzantines on the day of Arafah in AH 238 AH (AD 852), and took it, they killed a large number of Muslims and insulted women and children and the people of Dhimma (Christians) [15], [16]. Al-Mutawakil ordered the construction of the trusses on the estuary of the Nile from Tannis to Alexandria and established the fleet in Egypt [17].

The Islamic city was established close to the Ribat of Rosetta during the reign of Ahmed Ibn Tulun in 256 AH (870 AD) [18], after the Kanobi branch dried up and Alexandria was disbanded and the navigation returned to Rosetta, where it began to flourish in this period [17]. The plan of Ahmad ibn Tulun was clear, and a truce with the Byzantine Emperor with his keen interest in the reform of the fortresses and renewal so as not to be a truce trick followed by a surprise attack [19].

As a result, Rosetta was established as a war zone. Rabat was the nucleus of this emerging city in conditions of conflict. The war began to appear clearly in its planning, which was used as a food supplier.

The Nile River was a communication factor between Rosetta and the cities of the country, and its location near the Mediterranean helped to provide access to the outside world [1]. The city reflected the importance of immunization to protect its existence and develop its urbanization, whatever the causes of its inception, trade played a key role in it.

In the Fatimid and Ayyubid era, Rosetta became a civilized city in the Fatimid period and its trade and farms flourished [20], especially when the Fatimids built the city of Cairo (358 AH / 969 AD),

Alexandria completely deteriorated, and Rosetta with Damietta became important ports and trade centers.

In the Ayyubid era, Rosetta became the seventh century AH (13 AD) [21], [22], and in second place after Alexandria, the sand blocked the inlet, reaching the roads and houses, and this led to the deterioration of commercial and economic activity in the Ayyubid era.

It is worth mentioning that the difficulties encountered by ships in entering Rosetta cross the inlet, which was filled with sand, had a significant impact on the lack of campaigns that were intended Rosetta than the likes of Damietta and Alexandria [23], [24].

The external threat to Rosetta continued throughout the Mamluk era. The pirates used to loot and loot their ships on the city. The pirates were often killed by their own people. Although piracy was stopped by the Cypriots, the Venetians and the Air Force in 771 AH (1370 AD) [25], they returned again to attack the ports. These dangers prompted Sultan Juqmaq (845-857) to provide the city with soldiers to protect them from the attacks of the Franks [26], [27]. Rosetta was the focus of the pirates from the Mediterranean islands, who took Rhodes as their base [26], [28], [29], [30], [31], [32].

However, the importance of Rosetta increased in the Mamluk era [33], where it became an independent tower in its own right. It was built by al-Zaher Baybars and the tower of Salahuddin ibn Arram on the Nile [26], [34] by Fayrouz al-Rumi al-Arami [27]. The castle was renovated by Sultan Qaitbay in 884 AH / 1479 AD), and it is clear that this fortress is the observer of the visible Baybars and built a wall around it to protect it from raids [29], [32].

Sultan al-Ghourī also ordered the construction of a wall along the coast and towers to save the port [32], [17], [34], [35], al-Ghourī encouraged foreigners to stay in the ports, including the port of Rosetta, especially the Venetian, after it was banned for military reasons since the Ayyubid era [36].

In the Mamluk era, however, Rosetta was merely a war hole and had no administrative function as before.

When Egypt became an Ottoman state in 923 AH (1517 AD), Rosetta became an important trade center for international maritime trade with Istanbul and the Ottoman Empire on the Aegean Sea, and the starting point for the future from Alexandria to Cairo via the Rosetta branch or directly from the sea to Cairo. The staggered to Istanbul [37] was known for its golden age until it reached (1777) the greatest degree and breadth.

The Urbanization of Rosetta is flourished in the Ottoman era and became a first-class commercial hub throughout the Ottoman era, as evidenced by numerous commercial agencies, Khans, hotels, baths and

mills, and has become a major export and import port between them and the main Ottoman ports.

Since the sixteenth century, there was a Khan [38] (hotel) of Venetian, because of the breadth of their business. It was located at the end of the public market street, next to a church, where the Venetian consul and merchants lived. Carlier [39] visited it in 1579, Hans Jacob Ammann [40] in 1613 and Neitzchitz [41] in 1624, and the French nation of Edwerd Warty Montagu [42], [43], [44] in 1769-1776.

The development of foreign and domestic trade in Rosetta in the Ottoman era has had an effect on the prosperity of the city, its development and its urbanization [22], [45]. Various commercial buildings have been established which include the agencies. The Agency [21] releases the buildings that have been prepared for housing for oriental merchants and for the preservation of their goods. The agencies were made up of a courtyard surrounded by a window and rooms to store goods, which were topped by merchants' rooms and a mosque was attached to the agency.

A large number of agencies in the Ottoman era were established in the city of Rosetta. All the agencies of this city have been eliminated, but we have been able to identify a number of them through studying the documents of Rosetta city and the various sources.

One of the most important findings of our study of the city's documents is the large number of agencies located throughout the city, especially in its northern and north-eastern parts, many of which overlook the Nile directly, so that cargo can be easily unloaded or loaded. Of these agencies to their owners, while others are attributed to the types of trade allocated to them.

The names of these agencies indicate that many of the Ottoman ministers in the Ottoman era had agencies in Rosetta, perhaps for their commercial role, their monopolization of a particular trade, or the considerable material return of such agencies at an important commercial port such as Rosetta.

These agencies include the agency of Sulayman Basha, who ruled Egypt twice (930-941 / 1524-1535) and the second period (943-945 / 1536-1538). The document of his arrest dated the first Rajab in 963 AH (1530 AD) Figs were established on the sea side of the city. The document described them as follows:

These agencies include the agency (Wekala) of Sulayman Pasha, who took the rule of Egypt twice (930-941 / 1524-1535) and the second period (943-945 / 1536-1538). The waqf document [1], [2], [47] dated the first Rajab in AH 963 (1530) which established on two agencies in the maritime area of the city.

2. Wekalat Sulayman Pasha 1525 AD

The word wekala is an Arabic word which mean commercial facilities in English language, this kind of buildings was found in several eras in Egypt especially cities beside the river Nile, like Rosetta. All of these wekalas in Rosetta are damaged, in this article we will talk about one of these wekalas [1], [2].

Sulayman Pasha Was the governor of the Egypt for two terms, the first one from 1525 to 1535 A.D., and the second one started one year after, from 1536 to 1538, he established his first wekala in Cairo, and two other wekalas in Rosetta, one of them bigger than the other.

The wekala is located on an area of 798.2 meters², bordered to the north by a neighbor street, to the south by the small agency, to the east by the Nile River, and to the west by the head market.

It consists of two floors, a ground floor and a first floor, a mosque and a water pool, and a water tank to supply the Agency with water.

1. 2. Ground floor

It contains seventeen stores and shops, distributed as follows (fig. 1):

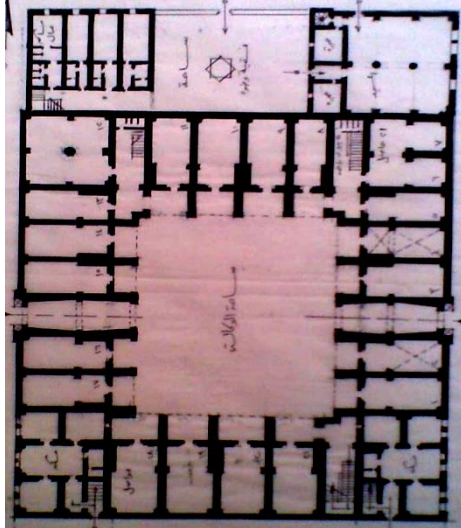
The eastern side has seven storages, two of which are left of the, gate and five are on the right.

The northern and southern regions has four storages, the region has four storages.

The western side has two storages are located at the left of the gate.

Thus, the total number of internal units is seventeen, and it includes four shops in the western part of the market street, right of the western gate.

The ground floor also includes two houses in the south-east corner and the south-west corner. It is an independent house with a door on the basement street between the two wekalas, where the boarding is done without passing through the wekala. The architect gave specificity to these houses in terms of entry and exit. (Lounge), three rooms and a service area



(fig.1) the ground floor consists of: Stores, the inner courtyard, houses for families, the shops, the main gates, water trough, the mosque, Stairs internal.

2. 2. Top floor

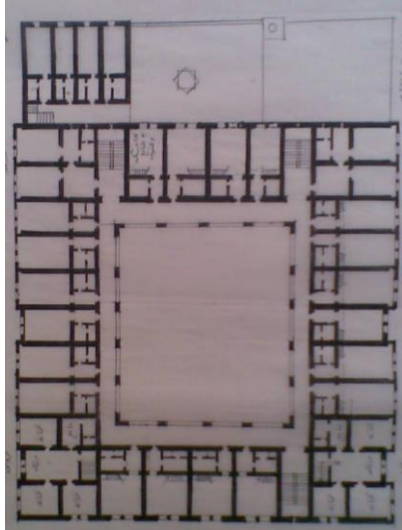
The same ground floor (figs. 2-3-4) system was used, the individual rooms were distributed according to the system of the storages, and four houses were added in the northern and southern corners.

The two northern houses consist of a hall, two rooms and a service area close to the stairs leading up to the first floor.

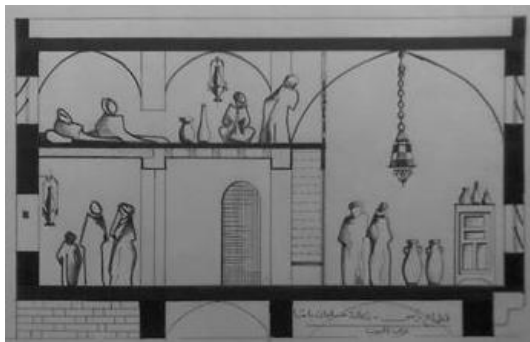
The two southern houses each have five rooms, a hall and a service area different from the floor below, with two rooms built by the architect.

Thus, the total number of accommodation in this wekala and in this role Twenty-four houses, including twenty single rooms and four houses.

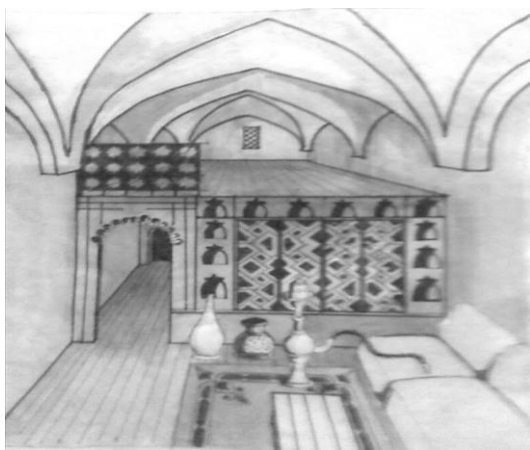
Horizontal plan of the upper floor: All the previous items are identical to the document and the contemporary houses that exist to date.



(fig. 2) the upper floor consists of: Single rooms for single trader's accommodation, the inner courtyard, family houses are composed of several rooms, a lounge, utilities and services.



(fig. 3) Cross section throw the interior single room



(fig. 4) Interior perceptive of the single room

3. 2. Major accessories of wakaka

The architect used the land adjacent to the wekala from the north and was divided into three parts, east, middle and west.

The mosque was placed in the eastern part overlooking the Nile, and a square for the ablution was placed in the central part. A two-storey building was set up, including rooms for sleeping, drinking water, public toilets and stairs.

The mosque

Overlooking the Nile to the east, and has three windows. It is about a small mosque could be entered through a door located at the northern side.

At the praying area are two columns carrying the arches to carry the roof of the mosque.

Central Arena

It is a courtyard with colored marble floor tiles with a fountain in its center, for ablution, and a door from the north on the street.

Western part

Is a two-stories building with a ground floor consisting of three single rooms full of services and facilities.

In its northwestern corner there is a drinking water line with a door to the north and two windows on the north and west streets.

The building also includes public toilets and a stairway to serve the role. The upper floor also includes four rooms full of facilities and services and has a special staircase leading to it through the ablution Square.

3. Architectural Analysis

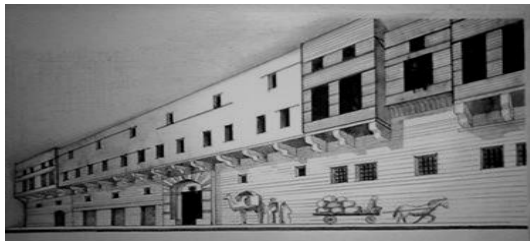
1. 3. The ground floor:

The main façade

Architectural and technical characteristics (fig. 5):

Using the moulded bricks alternately painted in red and black in decorating the facades and the white

grout as projecting mortar between the courses such bricks are called the molded grouted ones.



(fig. 5) the main facade

In this wekala they used the lime stone to build the facades, and at the inner courtyard it was used too to build the arches columns and walls.

The main entrances gates (figs. 6-7-8)

The wekala has two main gates on the same center from two facades, one of them facing the main street, and the other facing the river Nile.

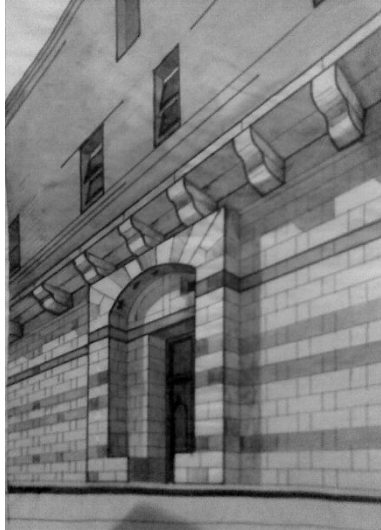
Finished with stone and marble.

The gates have two wooden strong doors, and it is high enough to pass camels and Caravans. It's higher more than 6m and the width 3.5 m.

Exterior perspective



(fig. 6) The main gate



(fig. 7) the main gate



(fig. 8) the main gate

The interface consists of: the openings, doors, windows, external cables, exterior and interior beams, the shoulders are down, the shape of the main gates shop doors.

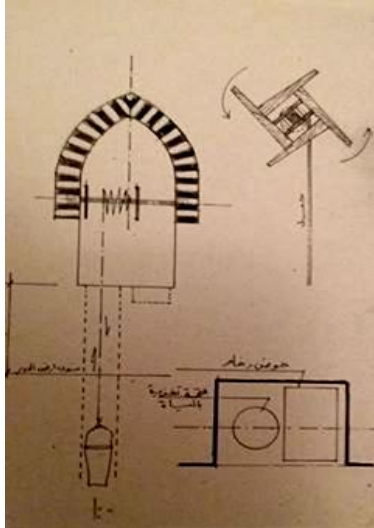
All of these elements were quoted from buildings dating back to the same period of the Agency.

The cistern

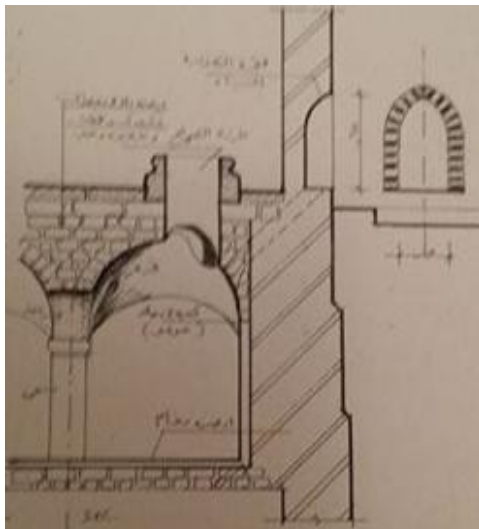
Located at the bottom under ground and used for keeping the water which comes from the river Nile across the brick pipes.

It was supported with column or brackets and covered with vaults and shallow domes.

The cistern had curb extending sometimes to the upper floor (fig. 9-10).



(fig. 9) keeping the water from the cistern



(fig. 10) Cross section in the cistern underground water

Dimensions and areas in the ground floor:

Agency total area 798.2 meters².

Inner courtyard: 84 meters².

Mosque area: 52 meters².

Area of ablution: 52 meters².

Area of service area: 52 meters².

2. 3. Family accommodation

Consists of two towers, the area of one house is 72 meters².

The northern side: there are 4 stores to store the goods with an area of 20 meters² per store.

In the southern side: there are 4 shops with an area of 20 meters² per store.

In the eastern side: there are 6 stores to store goods with a total area of 84 meters².

In the western side: there are: 4 shops overlooking the public street, a gate and two stores, the store area is 60 meters², The gate area is 32 meters², the warehouse area is 24 square meters.

The height of the ground floor is not less than 5 meters.

Gates shall not be less than 7 meters high

The entire building is built in the walls with the retaining walls, with columns in one of the stores as a pillar to carry the buildings above.

Conclusion

- The researcher examined the documents and information about the wekala of Sulayman Pasha and Transformed information into architectural designs to provide the reader and researcher with a picture of these monuments as if they were before.
- Since these documents are numbered in hundreds and are kept in volumes, we have dealt with them as little as we need in this work.
- We resorted to other sources to complete the information that we did not find in the documents mentioned.
- We have taken the description of Egypt, which was done by the scientists of the French campaign and they have privatized a special part of the city of Rosetta, a guide to the style of building wekalas in the Ottoman era.
- And we relied on the survey maps issued by the Egyptian Survey Authority and annexed in 1913 and provided us with information on the style of construction in the Ottoman era.
- We were guided by the existing agencies in Cairo such as the Sultan Al Ghouri Agency, the Sultan Qaitbay Agency and some agencies drawn up by the foreign travelers, who visited Egypt, where they spent some time knowing the architectural concept of all the elements of the Agency.
- Through transform information into architectural designs of the buildings that existed at those times and were destroyed through various reasons, highlighting the importance of urban and

architectural style.

- The researcher put the foundations and rules of the restoration of the architectural heritage of Rosetta in the Ottoman era,

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