



Coptic Monasteries

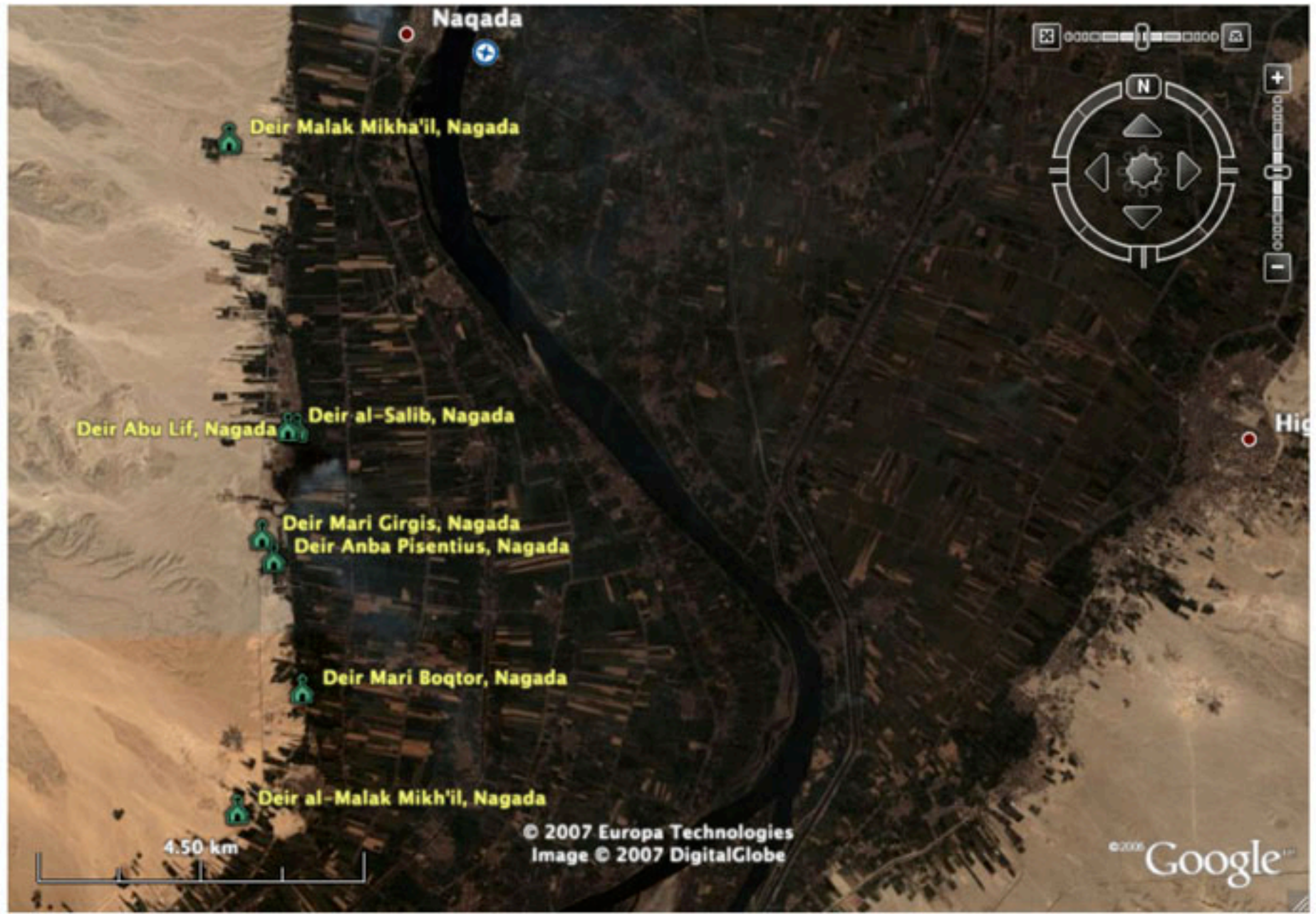
Egypt, 2007

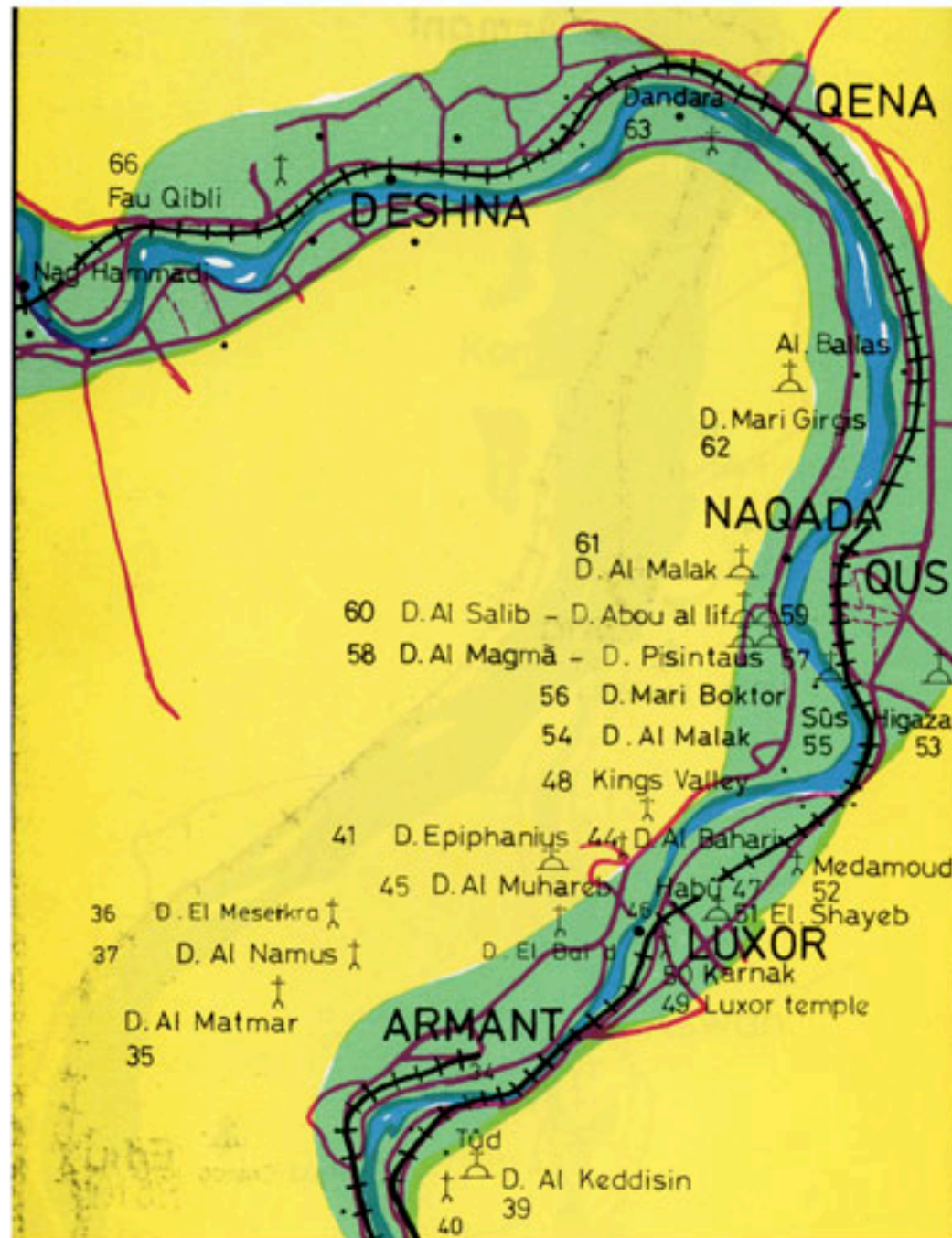
Coptic Monasteries of Egypt, 2007

Introduction

In early 2007 a project was initiated to document the current state of the Coptic Monasteries and Churches in Egypt with a pilot at Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross, in Naqada. The project was launched by The Saint Mark Foundation through Dr. Fawzy Estafanous. It will ultimately result in a compilation of photographs and documents in book and digital format deposited in The Coptic Culture Center in Cairo, Egypt.

A photographic team recorded the exteriors and interiors of Deir al-Salib, prioritizing the key artifacts and the state of the buildings. Other monasteries in Naqada under the auspices of His Grace Bishop Biemen were also photographed. These monasteries were catalogued to a lesser extent than Deir al-Salib, given the initial focus of the pilot, and will need more extensive work in the future.





Map of monasteries in Naqada.

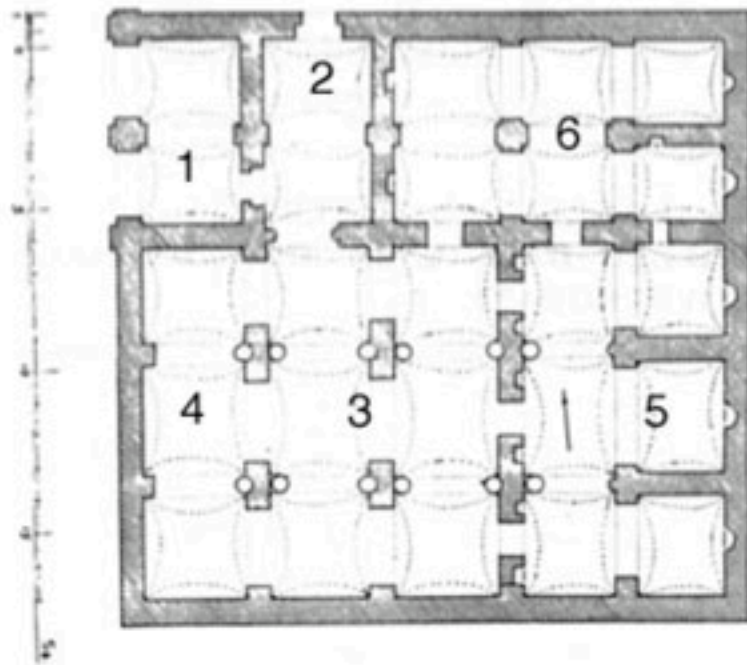
The Monasteries of Naqada

The focus of the pilot project was Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. The monastery has two churches, one of which, the west church, has been extensively renovated. The east church, which is older, is particularly noteworthy for the two altars it has on its center altar, one of which is extremely old.

The other monasteries photographed were: Deir Abu-Lif, The Monastery of St. Andrews; Deir al-Malak, The Monastery of Archangel Michael; Abu Seifien, The Monastery of Saint Philopater; Deir Anba Bisintius, The Monastery of Abbot Pisentius; Deir al-Magma, The Monastery of Saint George; and Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Boktor.

The photographs of the other monasteries were done as part of an initial survey process and consequently may not be the same level of quality as the photographs at Deir al-Salib. They are intended to capture the scope of the project as each monastery and church offers its own unique challenges. While maintaining the quality of these scouting photographs was a concern, most were taken either handheld, or with flash, and consequently are not as sharp and clear as would be expected from the final product.

(Note: Numbers on the floor plans for Deir al-Salib are referenced in the legends of the photographs on the following pages.)



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Floor plan of east church (above left). Satellite image (above right). East church (A). West church (B). Monks' quarters (C). Main entrance (D). Courtyard (E).





Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross.
Looking across front gate to domes of the east church.



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross.
Looking across domes of the east church at sunrise.

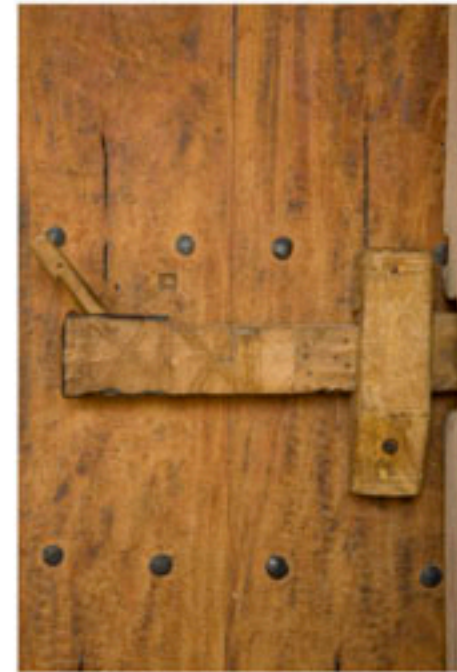


Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Domes of the west church (above left). Front gate located in the north wall (upper right). Tower (lower right).





Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross.
Detail of north courtyard wall (above left). View of courtyard (above right).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. East church door, exterior (left) (1). East church door, exterior, detail (upper right). East church door, interior (lower right).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Interior of east church from entrance, looking south (3).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Main altar of east church, center aisle.

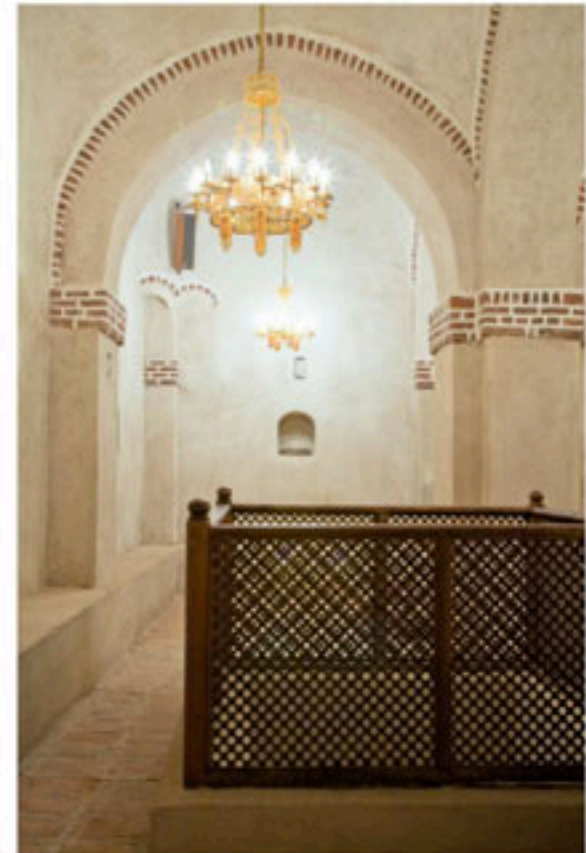
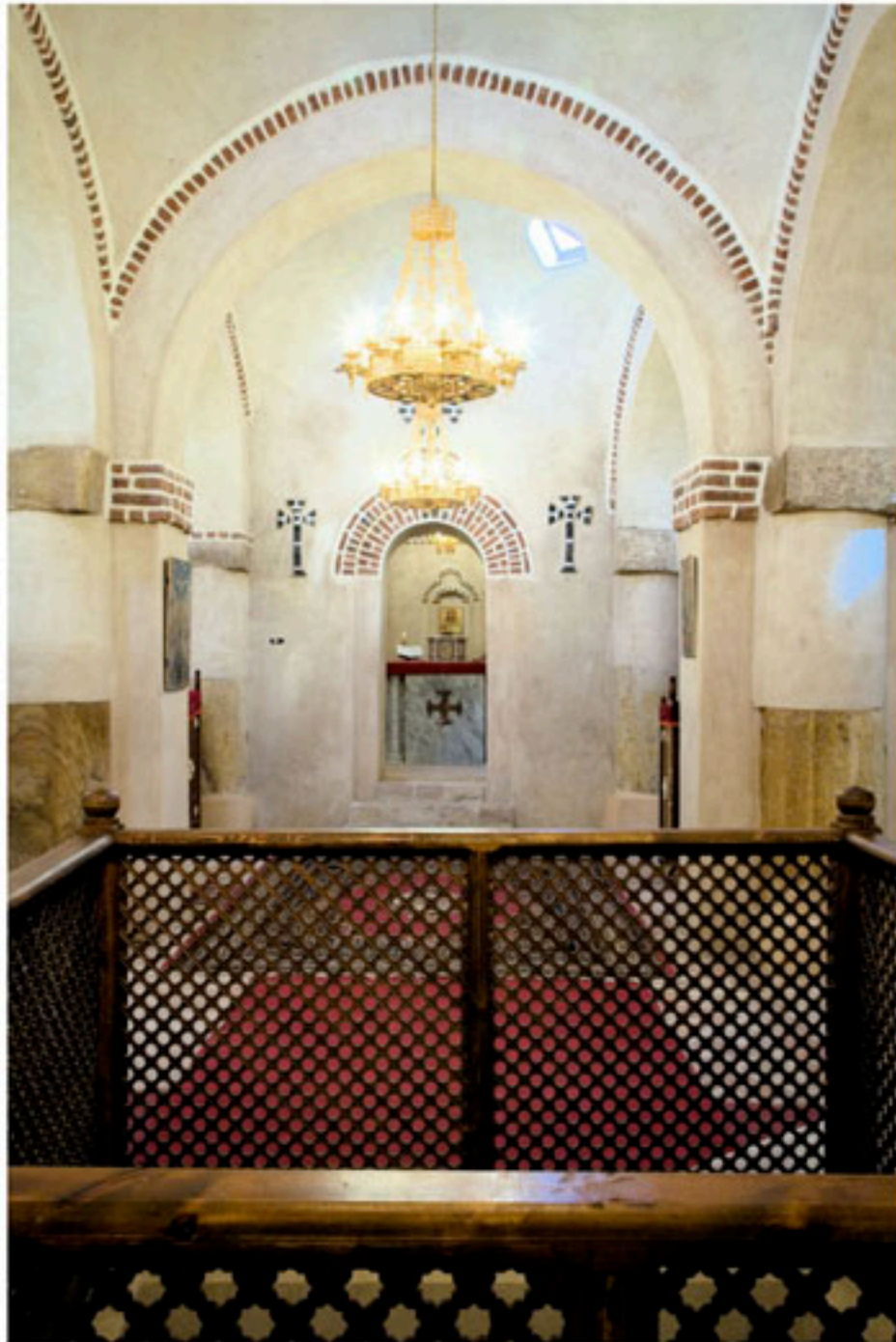


Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Main altar of east church, view from south altar (above left and lower right). Note original column in photo above left. View from north altar (upper right) (5).





Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Altar of east church, north aisle.





Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Altar of east church, south aisle.





Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Interior of east church, looking north, door to exterior (left side of photo) and door to monks' quarters (right side of photo).



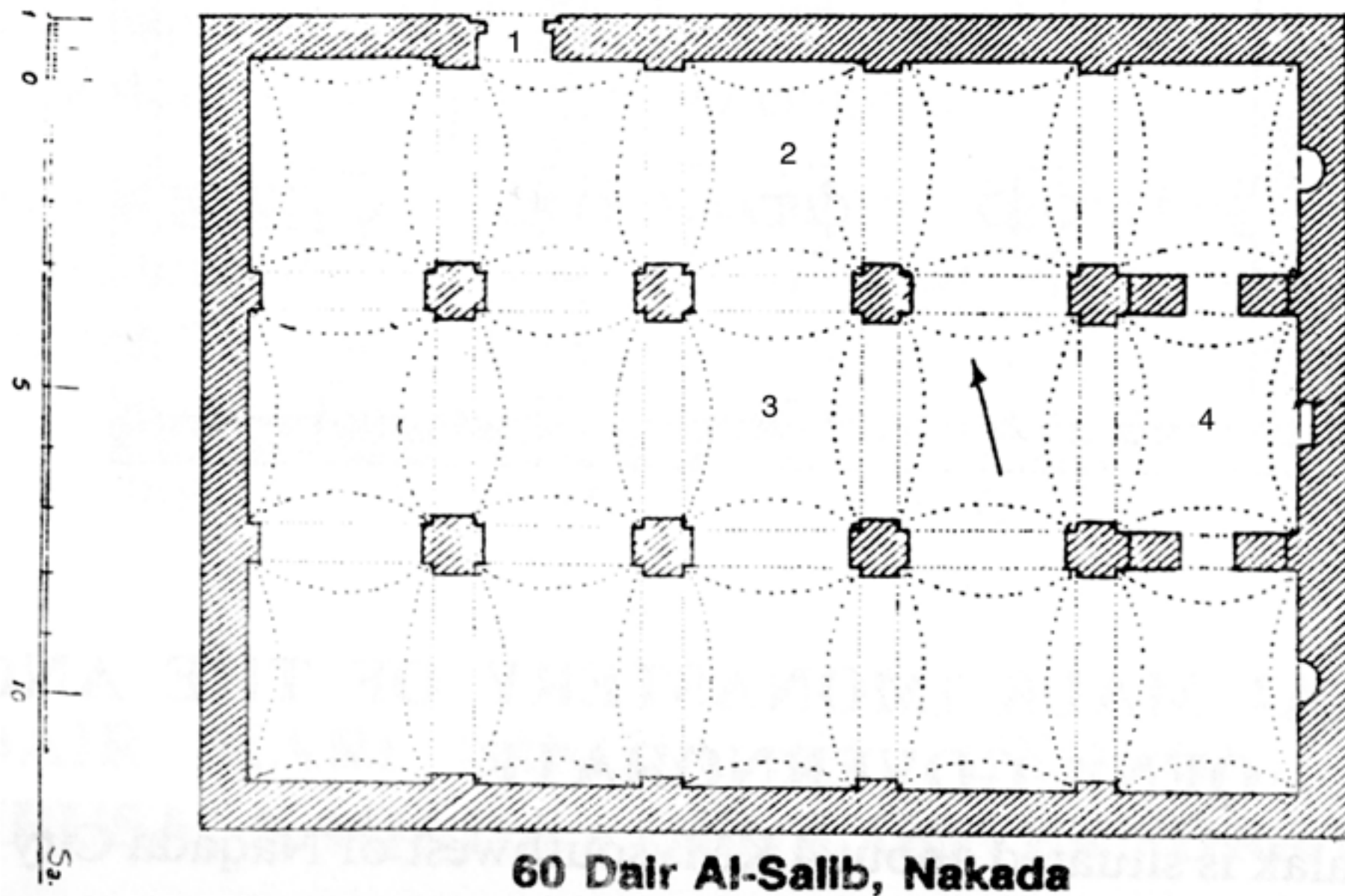
Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross.
Baptistry, looking into side chapel of east church (2).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Interior of side chapel, east church, south altar (6). 23



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross.
Interior of side chapel, east church, north altar (6).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Floor plan, west church (B on satellite map).





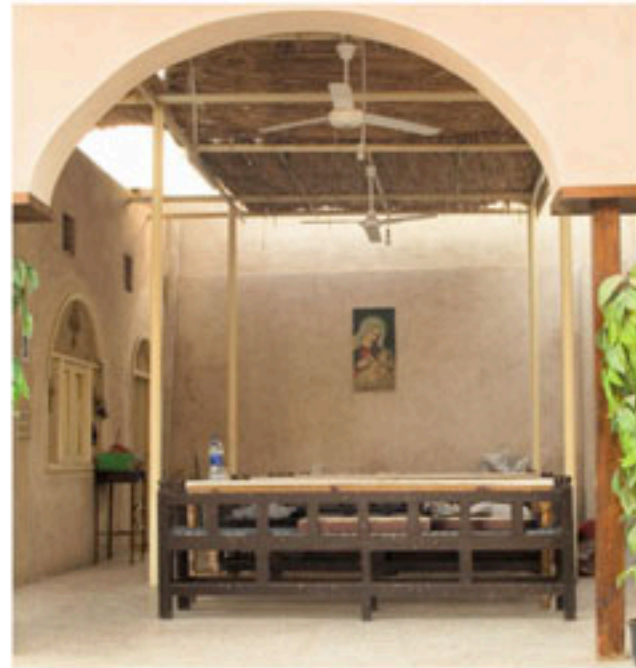
Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross.
Interior of west church, north aisle (above left) (2). Interior of west church, center altar (above right) (4).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Icons from east church (3).



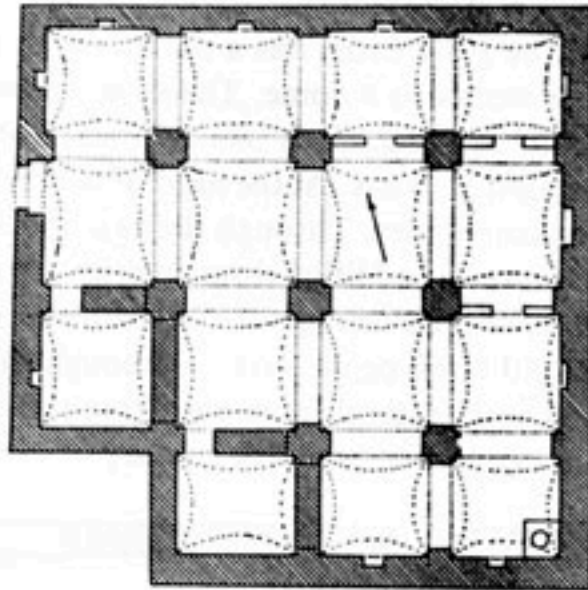
Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Detail of columns from east church (3).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. Monks' quarters (upper left, upper right, lower left). Dining area (lower right).



Deir al-Salib, The Monastery of The Cross. West wall at sunset.



59 Dair Abu-Lif, Nakada



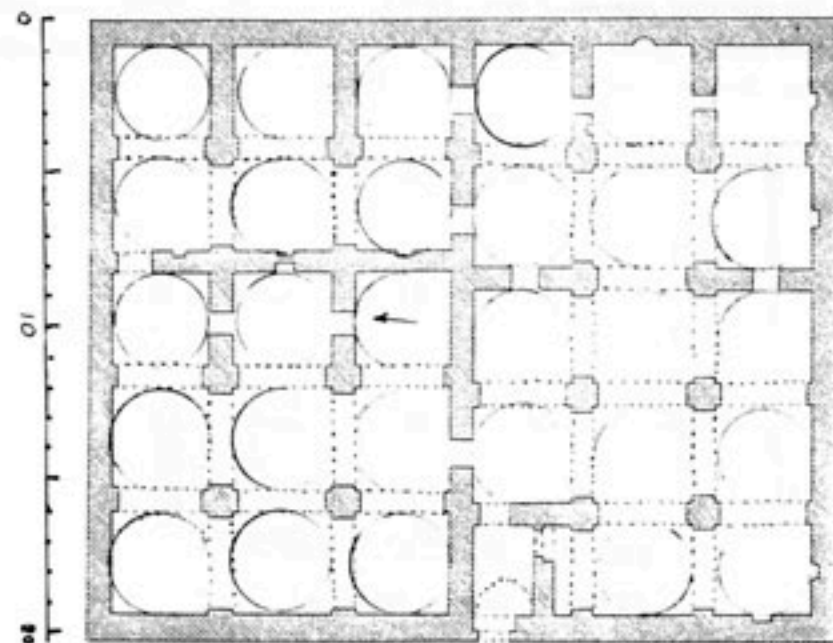


Deir Abu-Lif, The Monastery of St. Andrews.





Deir Abu-Lif, The Monastery of St. Andrews.

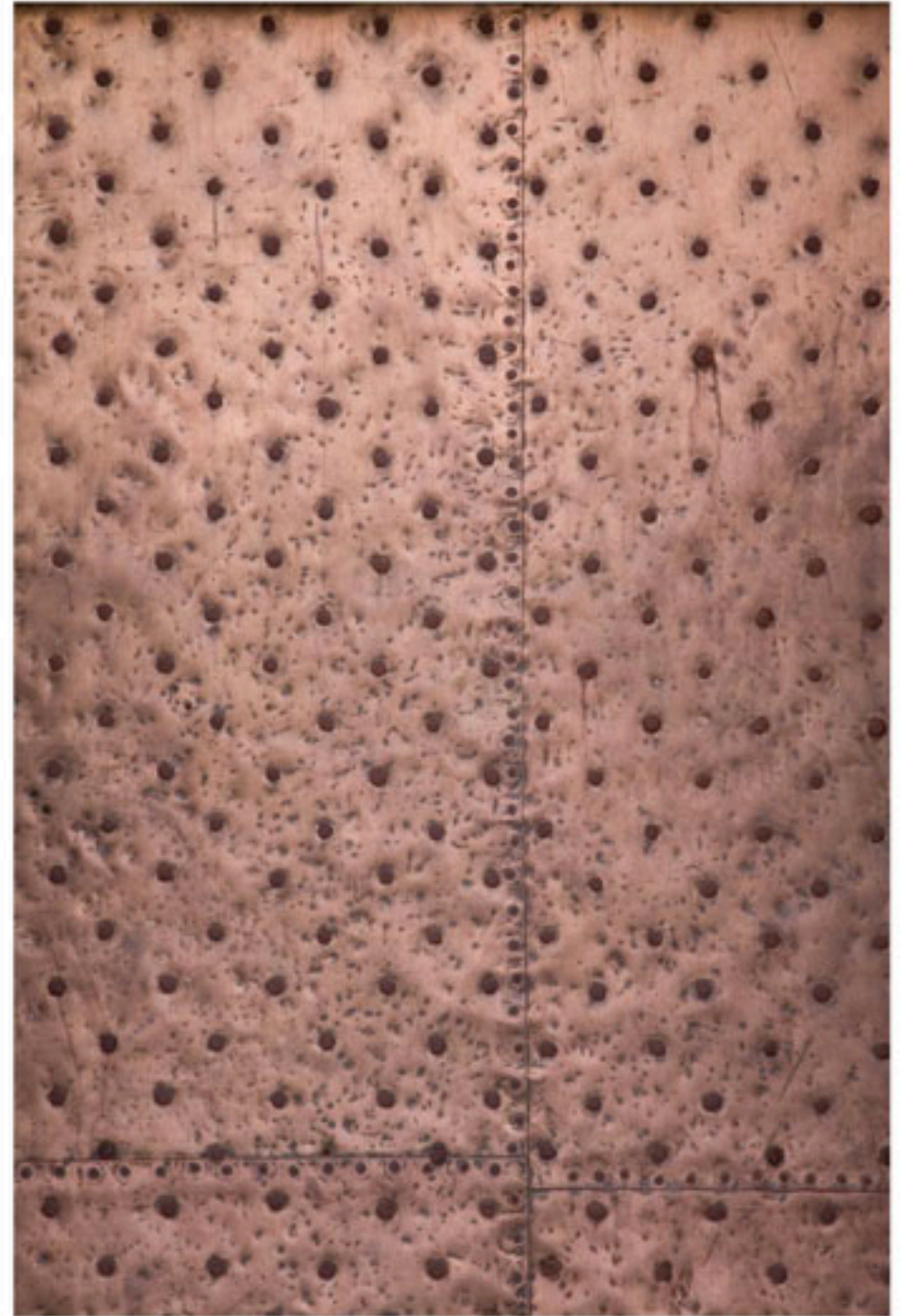


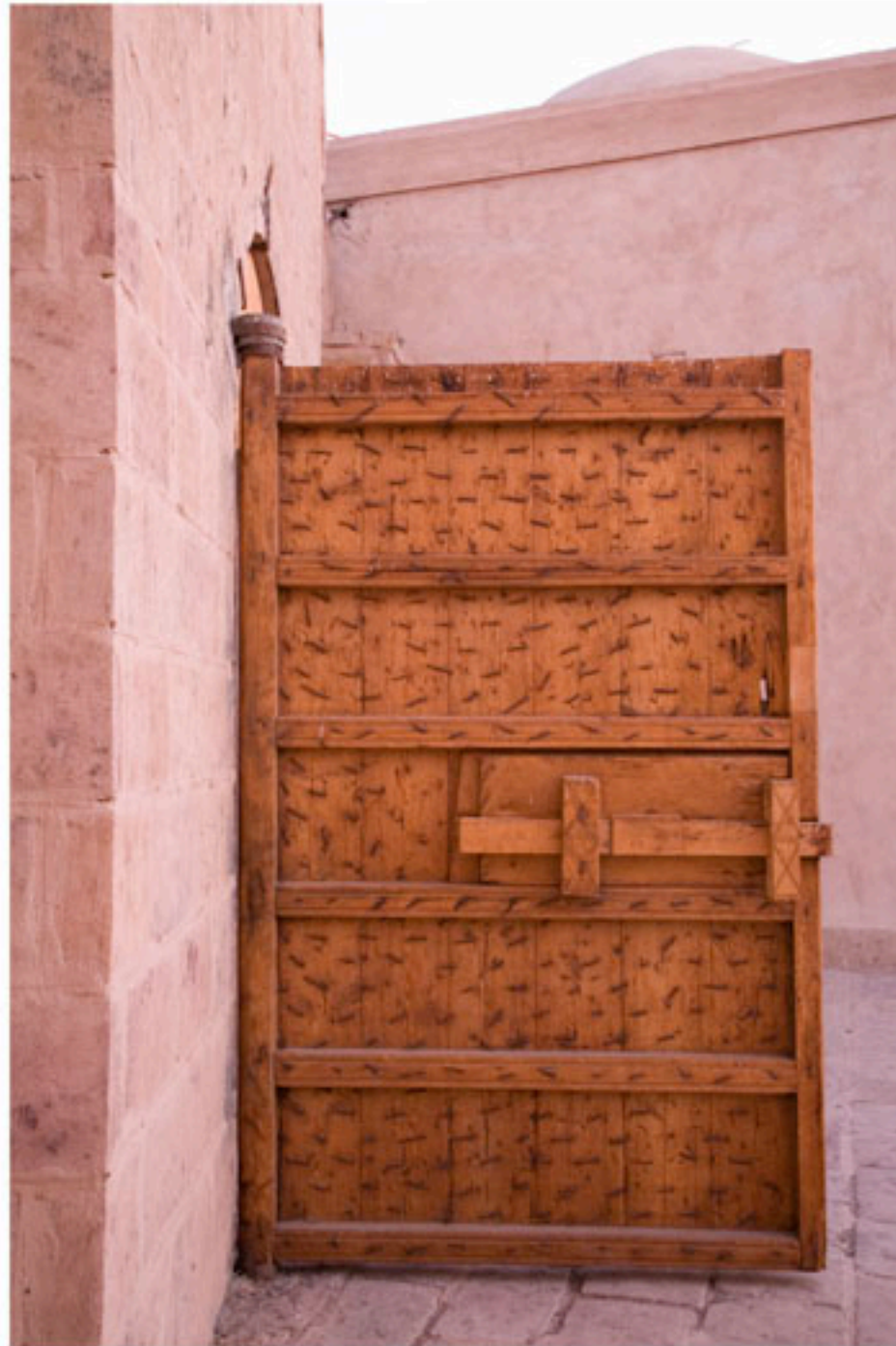
61 Dair Al-Malak, Nakada



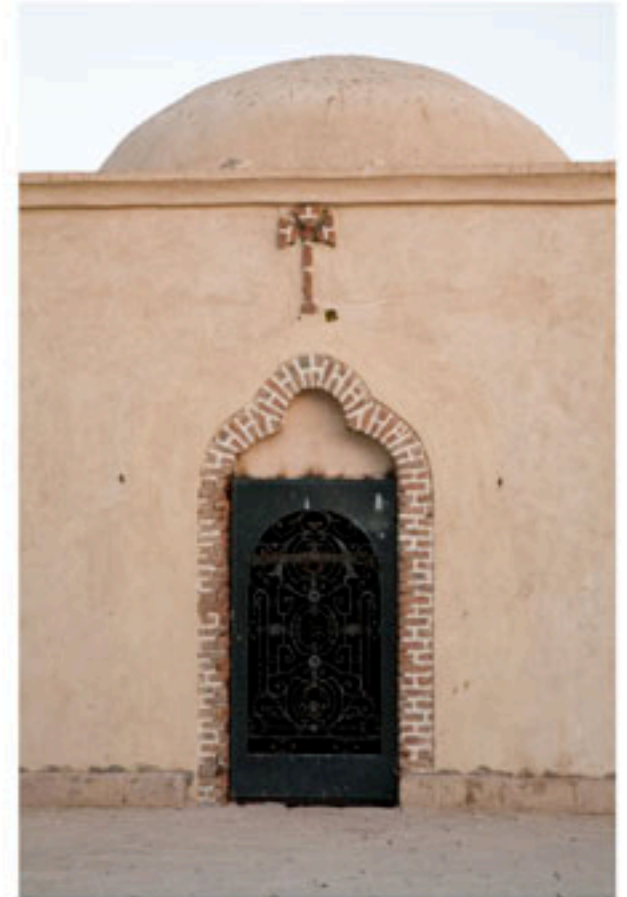


Deir al-Malak, The Monastery of Archangel Michael.



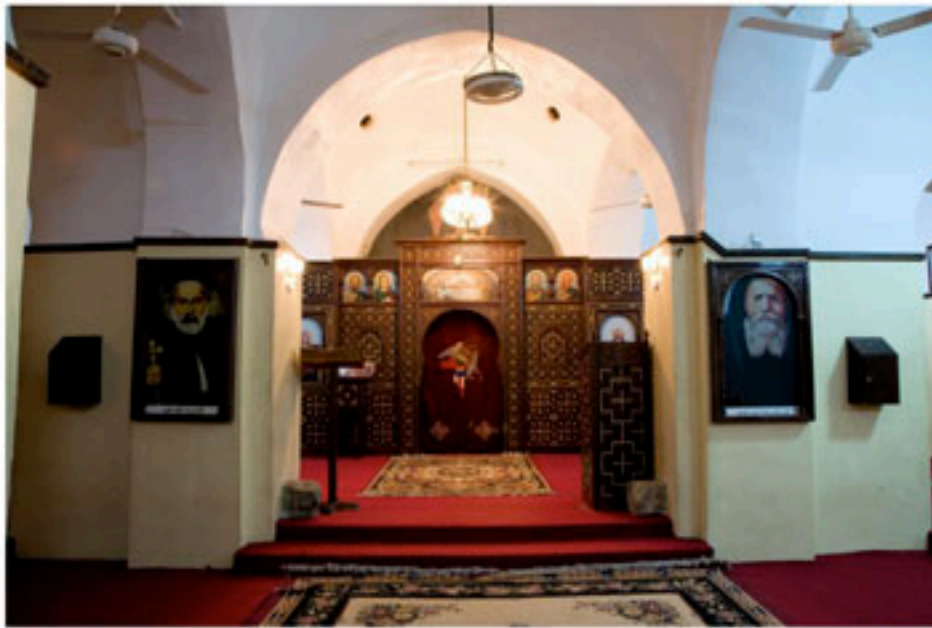


Deir al-Malak, The Monastery of Archangel Michael.





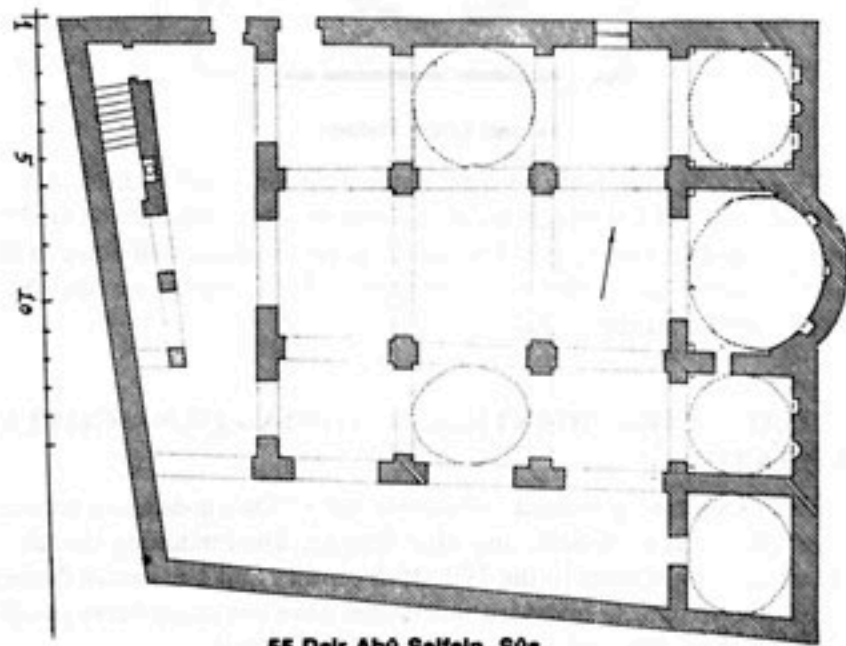
Deir al-Malak, The Monastery of Archangel Michael. North church.





Deir al-Malak, The Monastery of Archangel Michael. Conference Center.





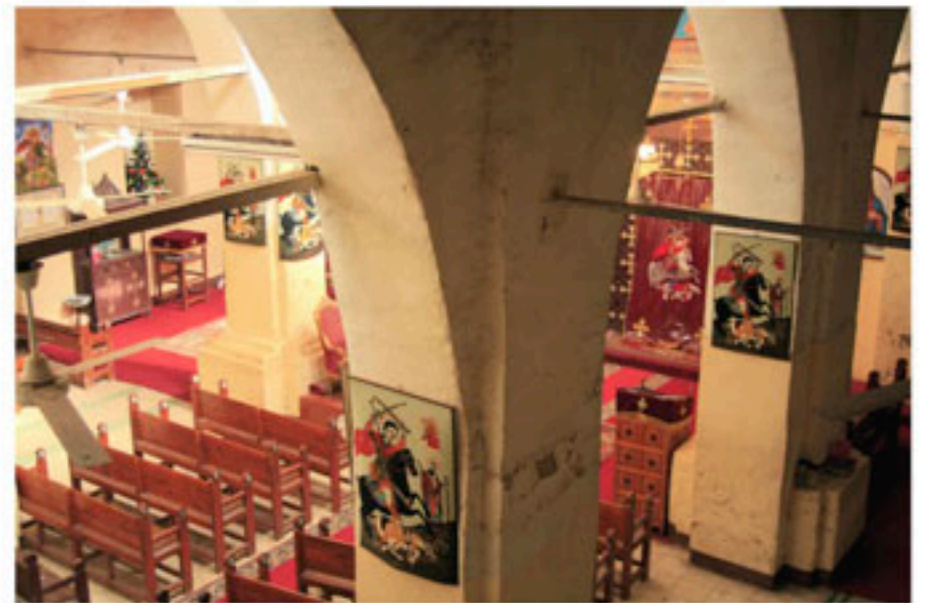
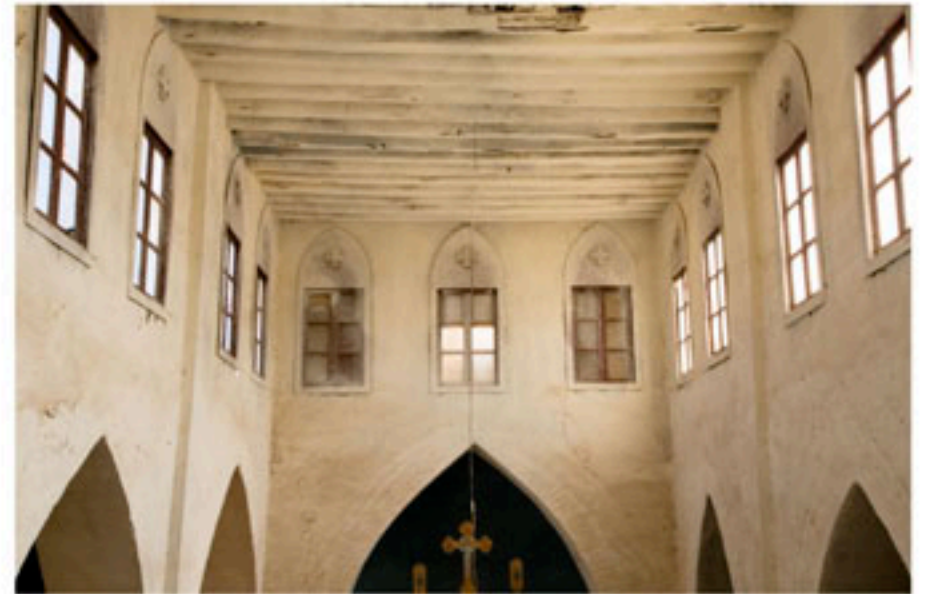
55 Dair Abû Seifein, S0s



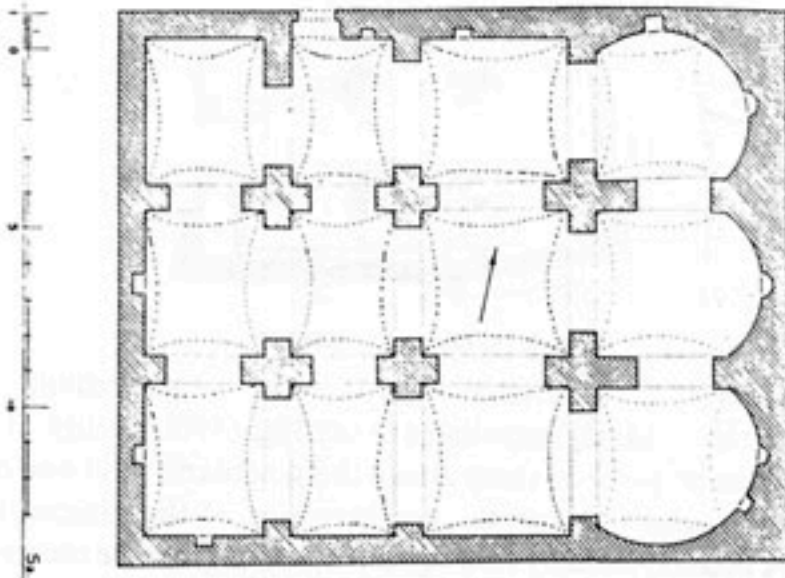
Abu Seifien, The Monastery of Saint Philopater.
Floor plan of monastery (above left) and roof detail (above right).



Abu Seifien, The Monastery of Saint Philopater.



Abu Seifien, The Monastery of Saint Philopater.



57 Dair PisInteos, Nakada



Deir Anba Bisintius, The Monastery of Abbot Pisentius.
Floor plan of monastery (above left). Satellite view of monastery (above right).



Deir Anba Bisintius, The Monastery of Abbot Pisentius.



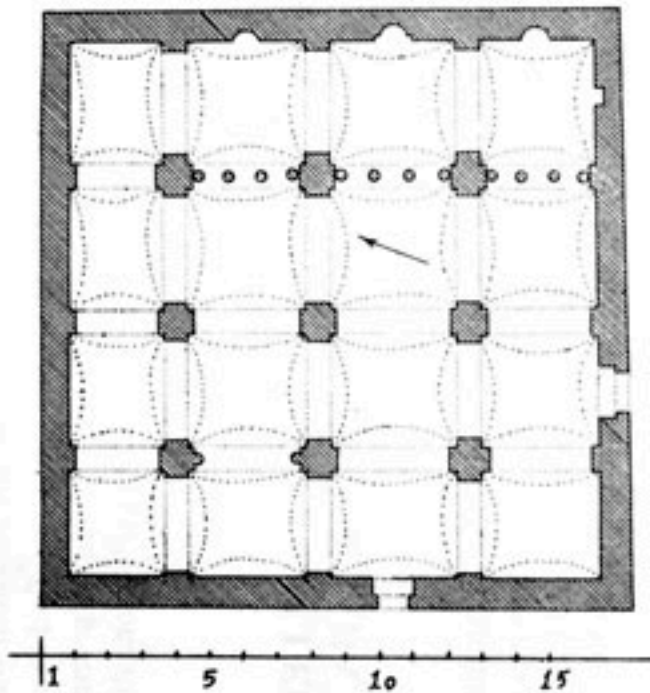
Deir Anba Bisintius, The Monastery of Abbot Pisentius.



Deir Anba Bisintius, The Monastery of Abbot Pisentius.



Deir Anba Bisintius, The Monastery of Abbott Pisentius.



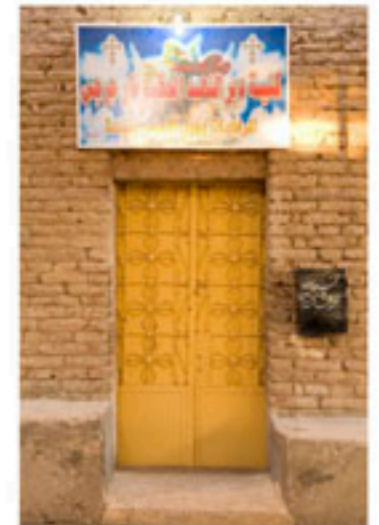
Deir al-Magma, The Monastery of Saint George.
 Floor plan of monastery (upper left). Satellite image of monastery (upper right).



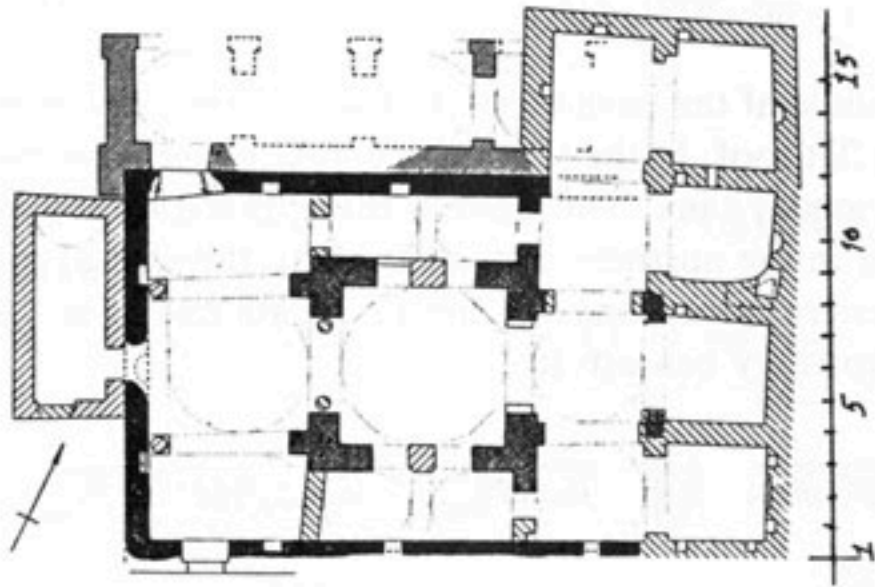


Deir al-Magma, The Monastery of Saint George.
Views are from inner courtyard.









56 Dair Bûtûr, Nakada



Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Bektor.
Floor plan of old church (above left). Satellite image of monastery (above right).





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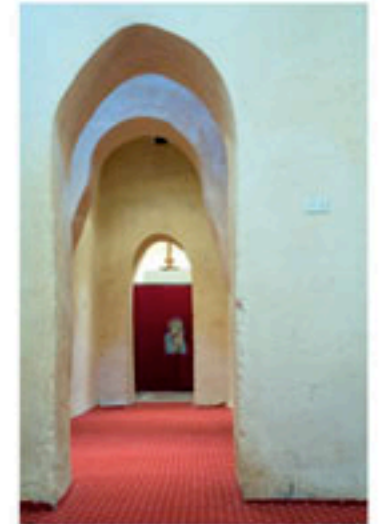
Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Boktor.
Note vaulted ceilings of restored church.



Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Boktor.

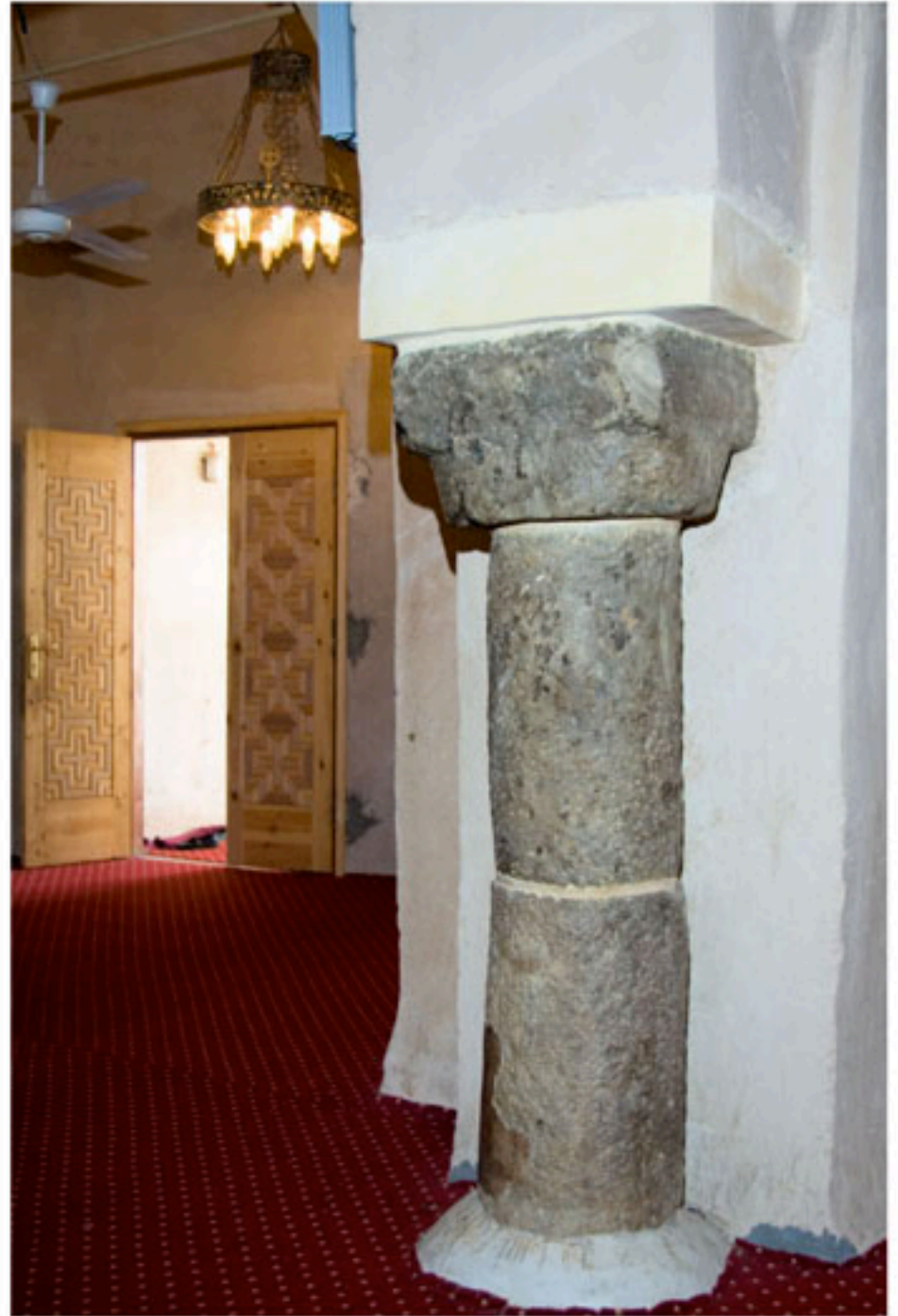


Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Bektor.

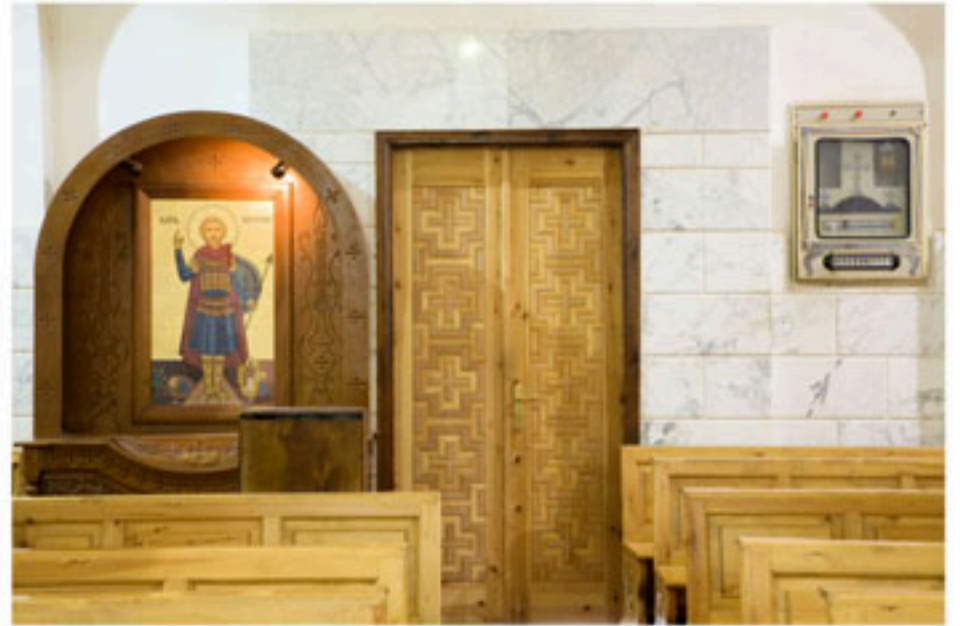


Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Bektor. North church has three altars in its older chapel (above left). North altar in north church (upper right) and south altar in north church (lower right), older chapel.





Deir Mari Buqtur, The Monastery of Saint Bektor.





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Acknowledgments & Credits

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Laura Watson
Joseph Foss
Elia Mehany Botrus

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Floor Plan Drawings courtesy of
al Syriany, S.; Habib, B.; Guide to Ancient Coptic Churches &
Monasteries in Upper Egypt, 1990, Institute of Coptic Studies

