



Fig. 3.6: ■ Indicates detached lands which belong to Deir Ghassaneh but are located within neighbouring villages.

■ Indicates detached lands which belong to Beit Rima but are located within Deir Ghassaneh's lands.

within the lands of Deir Ghassaneh was the neighbouring village of Beit Rima.

In The Land System in Palestine Granot writes:

A number of causes have led to this scattering of landownership. The chief of them was changes in the family, such as marriages between the inhabitants of one village and those of another, or the bequeathing of property rights to heirs who do not live in the place where it is situated. Another cause was the ordinary transfer of immovable property by sale and purchase" (Granot, 1952: 166).

Except for this phenomenon of detached areas which were relatively small, the lands of Deir Ghassaneh were clearly defined and hence created a distinct area with clear boundaries.

The scarcity of fertile arable lands, played an important role in the compact pattern of habitations within settlements. Under the prevailing land tenure, no private or public buildings, except for holy shrines and field storage structures (kosour or 'amarah), were