

The above were common features to most Barghouthi houses. Below a more detailed description of the social aspects of space will be given of both the Saleh and the Abdul Aziz compounds.

THE SALEH COMPOUND

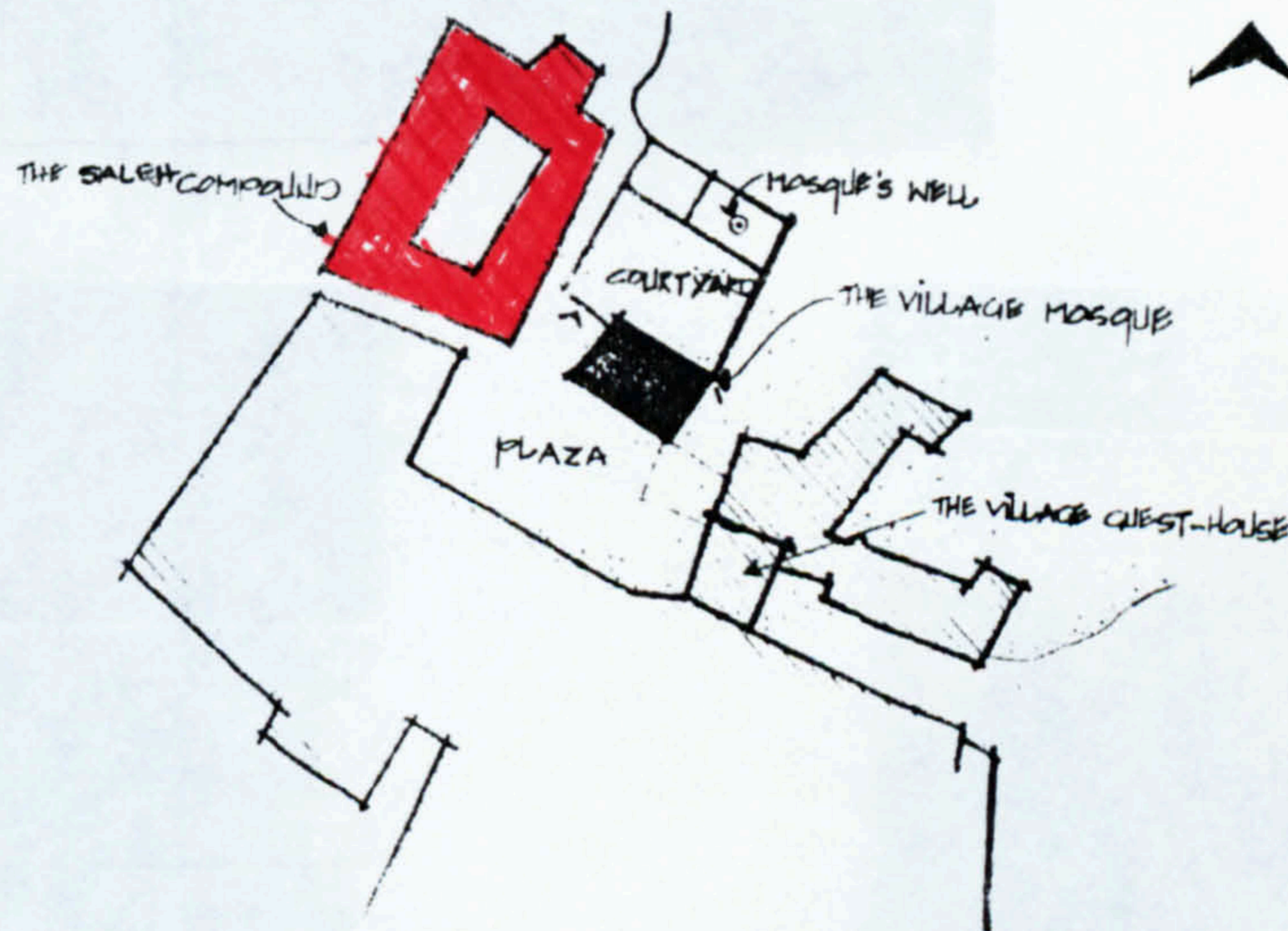


Fig. 4.18: The location of the Saleh compound

The Saleh compound shown in figure 4.18 constituted the northwestern corner of the communal plaza. This compound belonged to the village sheik Saleh Abdul Jaber (1860- 1905), and later to his son, sheik Mahmoud, and his brothers. The stone inscriptions located on the entrance gate and the inner gate show that the compound was built in two stages. The ground floor and part of the second floor were built in 1011 hijri, (1591 AD), while the other part of the second floor was built by sheikh Jaber in 1279 hijri, (1871 AD). This compound (Fig. 4.2) like other Barghouthi compounds was strongly influenced by urban architecture. The majestic scale, the ornate fine stone work and the introverted spatial organisation recalled urban structures. This architecture strongly contrasted with the simpler fallaheen architecture, which was less formal and rather extroverted, especially in its relationship with the outside space and the surrounding environment.

In short, as figure 4.20 shows, the Saleh compound is an introverted two-story building, rectangular in plan (measuring about 23x34m) and