

- I. The transformation from a clustered to a linear pattern of dispersion.
- II. The vanishing village centre and the declining power of the Barghouthis.
- III. The persistence of clan-based quarters.
- IV. The transformation in the spatial organisation of the house.
- V. The transformation and persistence of the building process.

I. From Concentric to Linear Patterns

The transformed socio-economic organisation of the village and the changes associated with the normative system, have drastically changed the main features that characterized the spatial organisation of Deir Ghassaneh at the turn of this century. The traditional clustered and concentric patterns have been slowly replaced by a linear pattern of dispersion. Now the village main streets form the basic spines along which houses and other structures spread. Figure II.3 illustrates the pattern of growth in the village built-up area since the 1920s. Houses and other structures built in the twenties and thirties were mostly accommodated within the old nucleus. They basically formed part of the traditional clustered fabric. Houses such as those shown in figure II.1 exhibited a number of qualities similar to those built earlier. They had the same relationship to the surroundings: the house opened directly to the communal courtyard; it had no direct connection to the outside; it was adjacent to other houses at least from two sides and the back of structures formed part of the perimeter protecting its inner courtyard (chapter 4). Such buildings were built out of stone and roofed by the traditional cross-vault similar to older houses. The one significant deviation from older houses was in their inner spatial organisations which will be discussed later. Unbuilt grounds (hawakir) between the old structures were mainly used for the expansion that took place in this period. These structures were