

Shuyukh²⁶⁵

The small village of Shuyukh is a geographical island of sorts; the village and its lands are surrounded on all sides by the lands of Sa'ir. Forty-three apparently modest *hanes* comprised the village in 1876. Unusually, particularly since all the residences were classified as *hanes*, only two were valued above one thousand kuruş. The reason for their low evaluation is not readily apparent. Village history indicates that Shuyukhi houses were all built of stone. Homes were built in groups around *aḥwasha* (s. *ḥawsh*) a central, open-air courtyard. The homes formed a physical barrier between the inner courtyard and the outside world. A nuclear family occupied in the *hawsh* one thick-walled, high-ceilinged room, often a split-level structure (*rāwīya*), or a room on an upper floor (*aliyye*) over a cave-like storage hall, with the upper living space reserved for the family and its storage of grains, and the lower area serving as storage and shelter for livestock, tools, and other possessions.²⁶⁶ This pattern of building was common throughout the Hebron district, and *aḥwasha* and *rāwiyāt* can be seen throughout the old center of the town of Hebron as well.²⁶⁷

Comparing available population indicators – the number of residences in the *Emlak* register (43); the number of households in the village according to the 1905 *nufūs* register

²⁶⁵ *Esas-ı Emlak*, entries #13,681-13,874.

²⁶⁶ Ḥamid Muhammad al-Shuyukhi, *Qaryat al-Shuyukh – Muḥāfazat al-Khalīl* (The Village of Shuyukh – Hebron District), (Amman, 1999): 11, 13-21.

²⁶⁷ Author's personal observation in Hebron.