

ANFEH

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

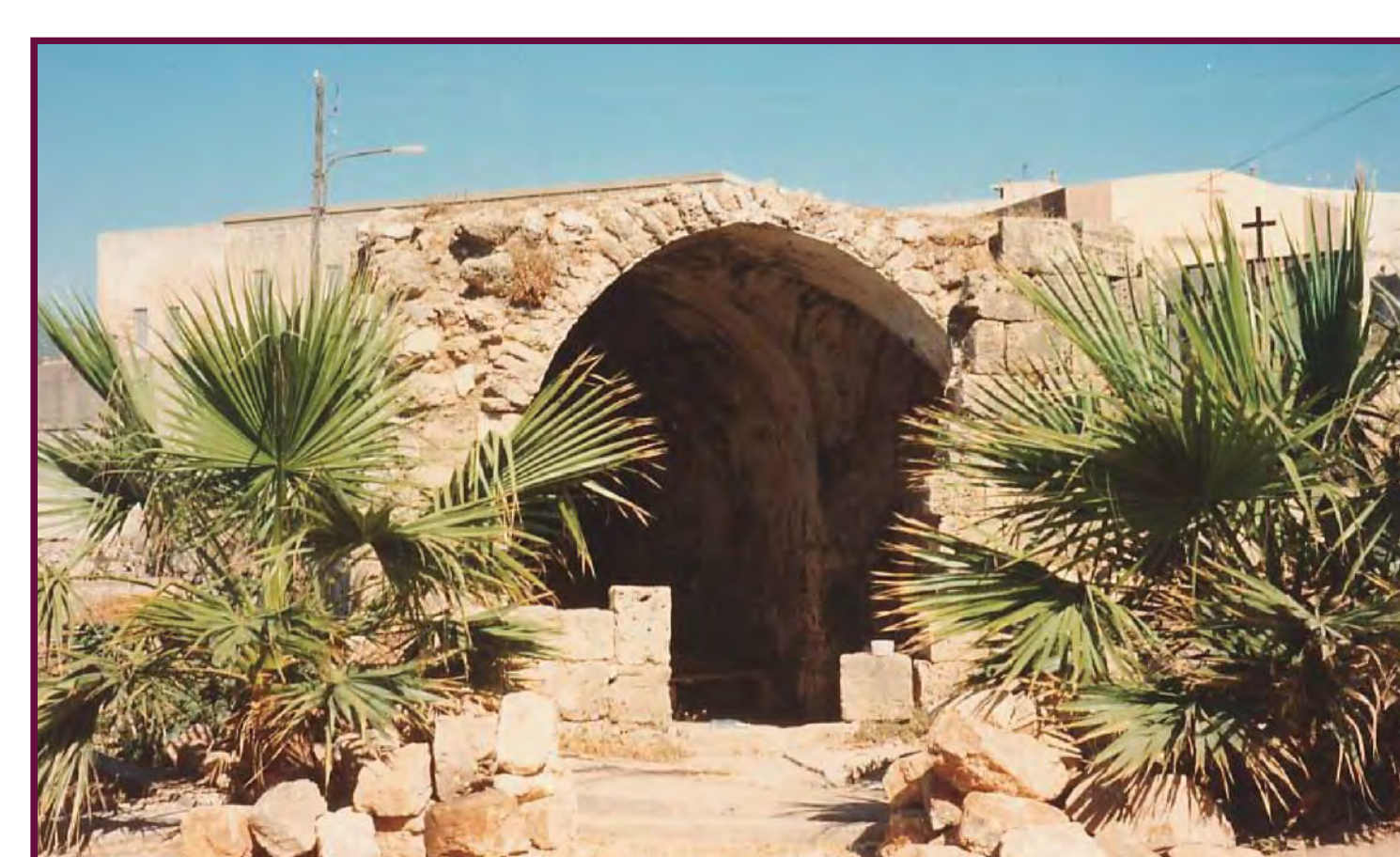
أنف
مسار الفينيقيين

INTRODUCTION

Anfeh is a town in the Koura district of the North Governorate of Lebanon. It is located 13.5 Km north of Batroun and 15 Km south of Tripoli. It is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon. Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 B.C., but the pottery which dates to 3200 B.C. provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity. The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps. A wide area of Anfeh and its surroundings are covered with salines, and the production of sea salt, "White Gold", is a staple of the local economy.



HISTORICAL MAPPING



This church is of a Crusader structure although historical tradition and many features suggest that it was rebuilt over a Byzantine Period sanctuary. The church became a listed monument on 21/10/1959 (Decision n.475).

Our Lady of the Wind Church

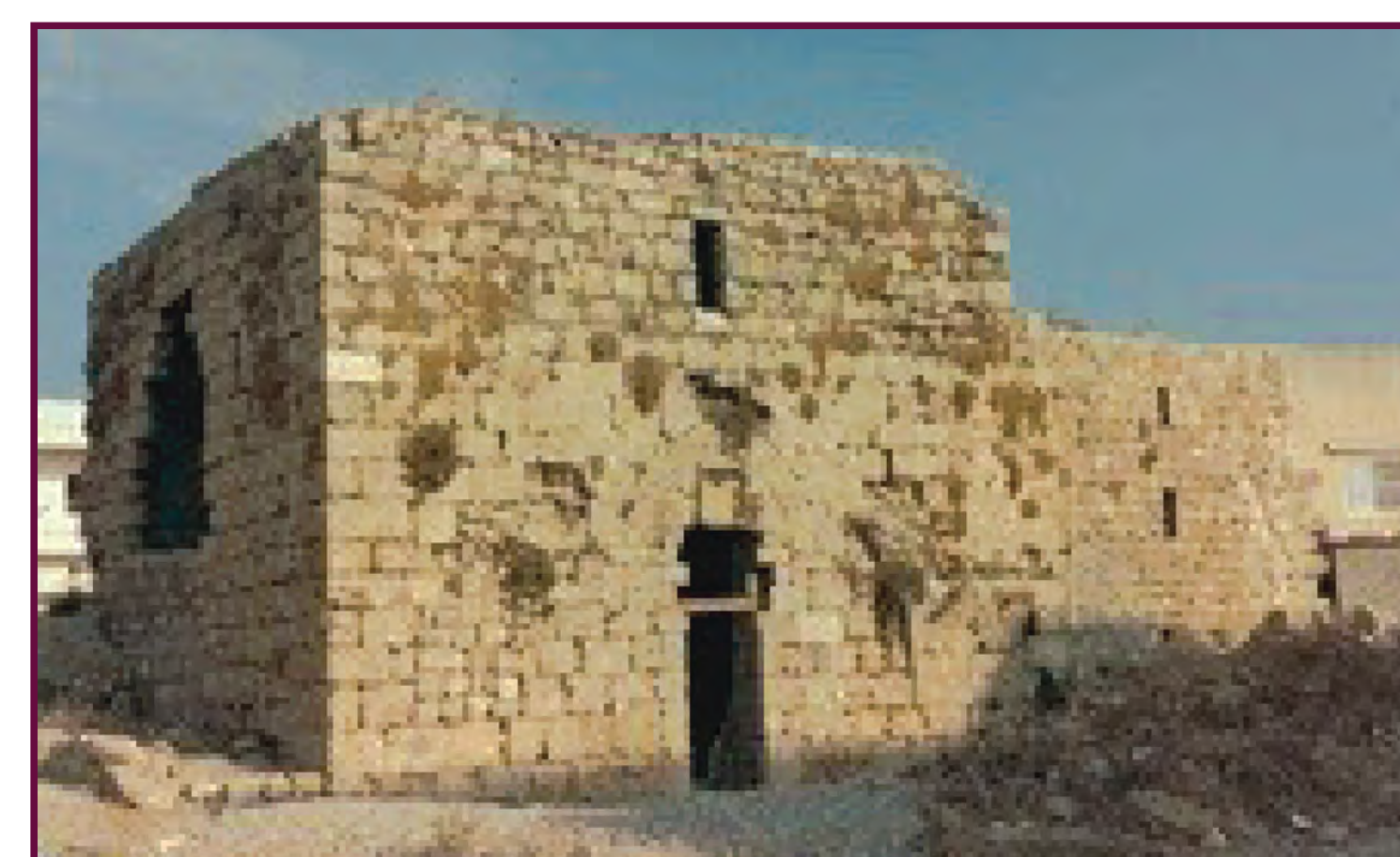


It is built by the Crusades in the 12th century. The round window situated on its western side is considered the largest among all the Crusader churches built in the Middle East. The church was proclaimed a listed building in 3/5/1937 (Decision n.505).

St. Catherine Church

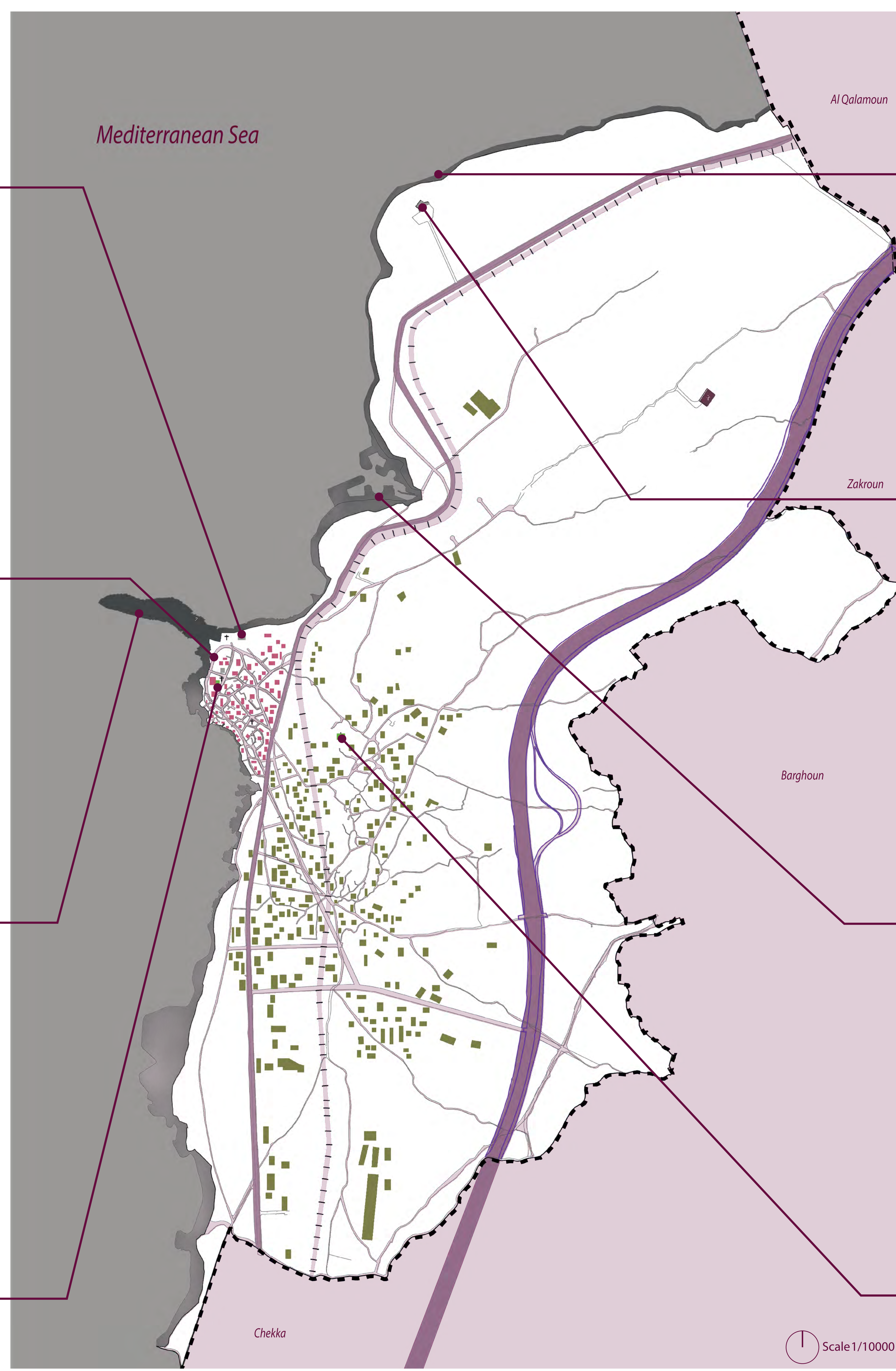


Al-Qalaa (The Citadel)



Built during the Byzantine Period, its most distinguishing feature is that it hosts two altars, one for each Saint. Due to its exceptional cultural significance, the church was listed by the Department of Antiquities on 21/10/1959 (Decision n.475).

St. Simon and St. Michael Church



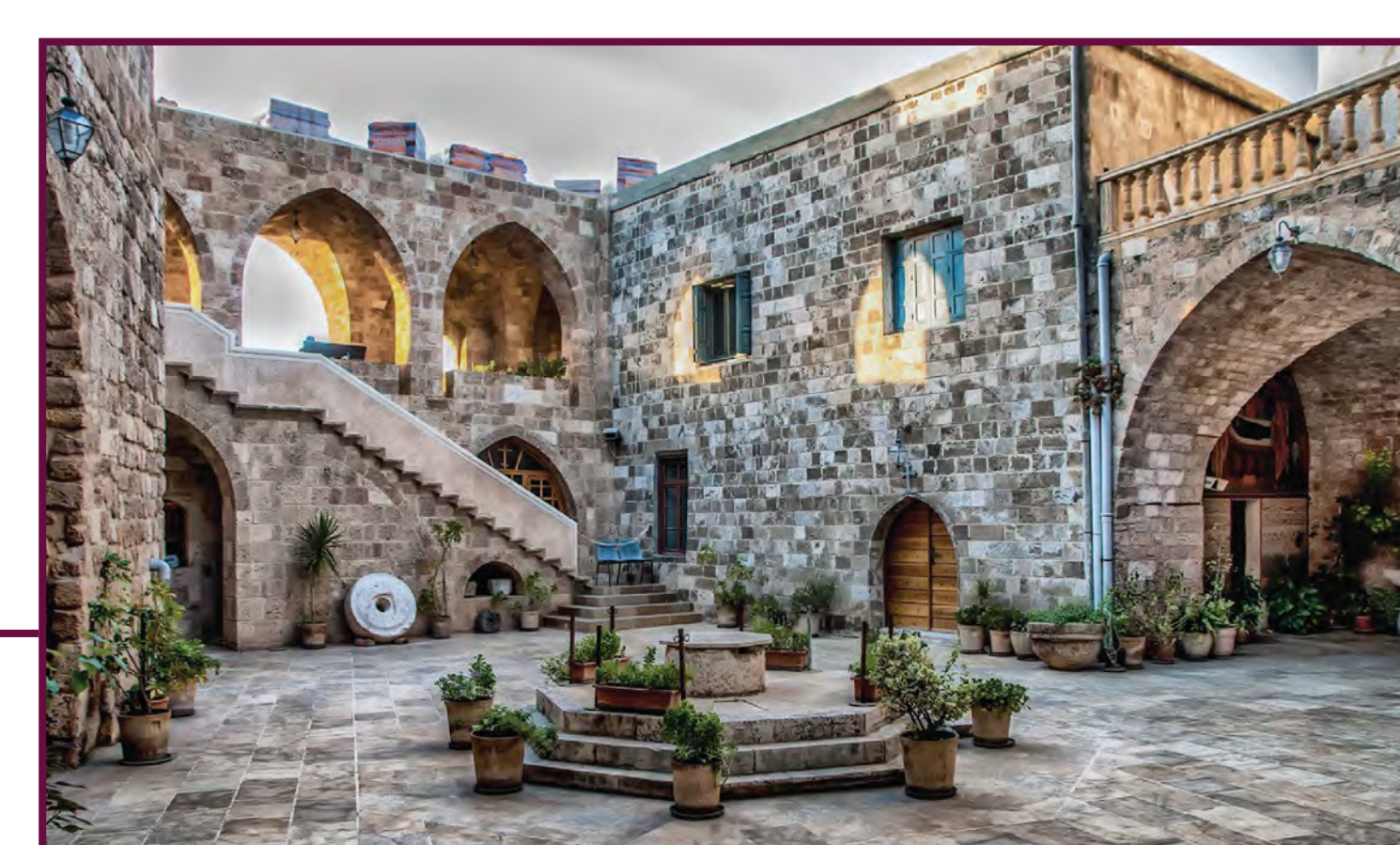
Legend

- Byzantine Period 300 – 635 A.D.
- Crusader Period 1090 – 1290 A.D.
- Ottoman Period 1516 – 1919 A.D.
- Lebanese State 1943 – Present
- Active Route
- Passive Route



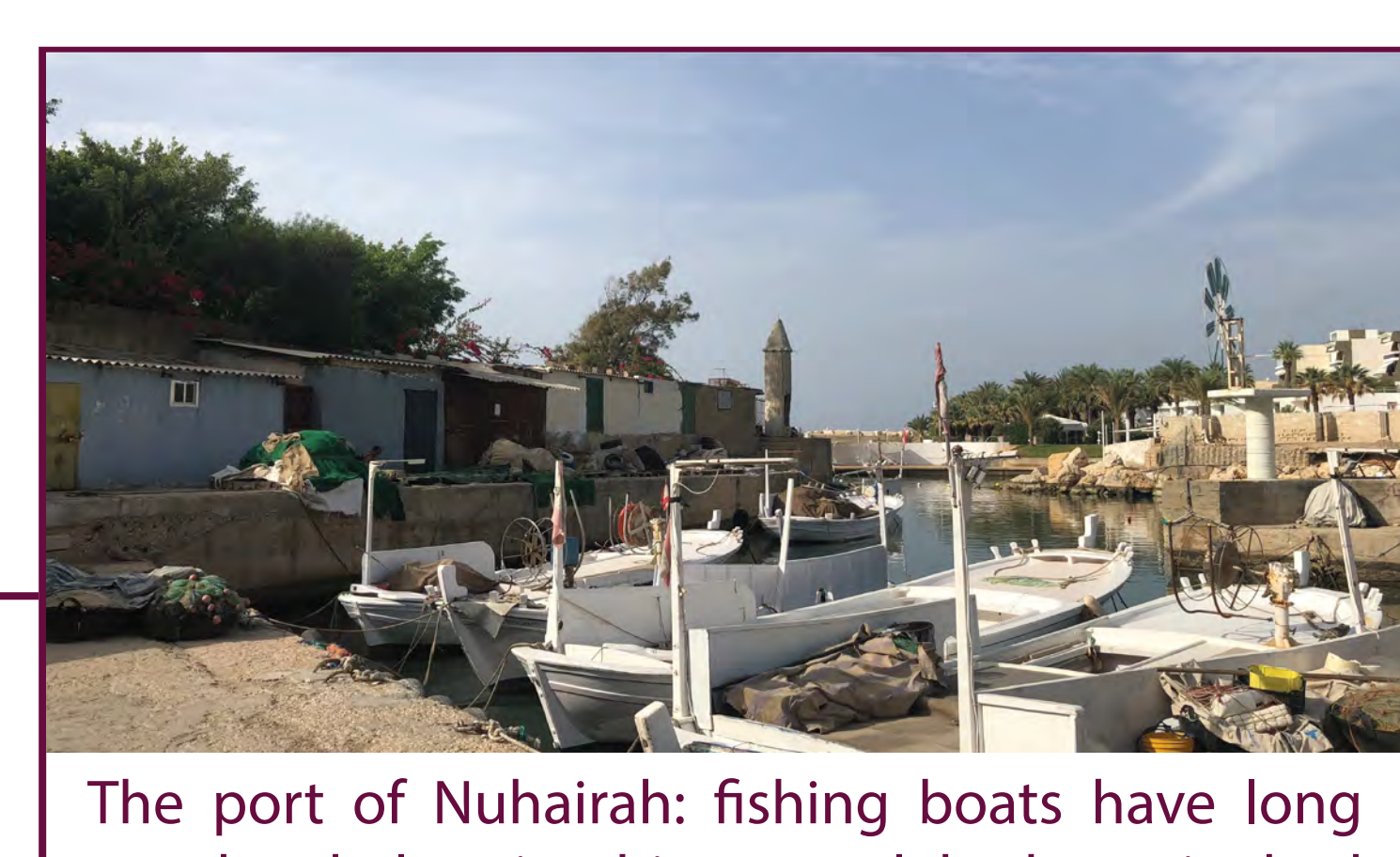
The production of salt, known as "White Gold", is a major socio-economic and artisanal activity that goes back to the Phoenician period.

Salt Marshes



Our Lady of Al-Natur monastery was built by the Crusades on Byzantine ruins. Due to its strategic location, the monastery was invaded by all kinds of soldiers who passed through this area. Its northern wing was destroyed during WW1 and abandoned until Sister Catherine Al-Jamal rebuilt it recently.

Deir Al Natur



The port of Nuhairah: fishing boats have long sought shelter in this natural harbour in bad weather conditions. It is one of the few harbors where you can still observe traditional fishing practices.

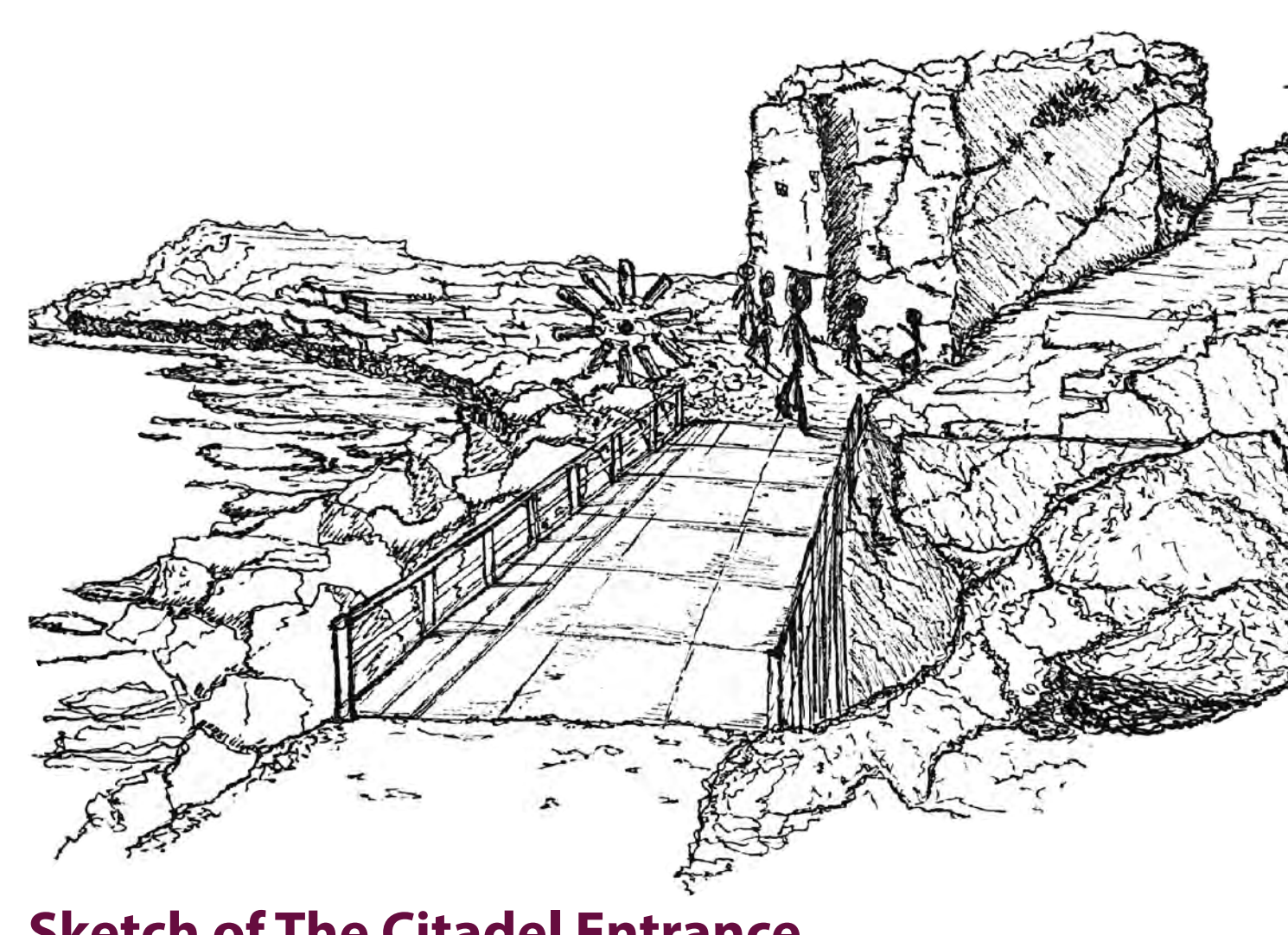
Nuhairah Port



This monastery dates to the Byzantine Period. It is surrounded by green landscape that harbors Greco-Roman tombs and olive presses. It remained in use throughout the Medieval Period and until this day.

St. John Convent

AL-QALAA (THE CITADEL)



Sketch of The Citadel Entrance
The Citadel is located on a peninsula known as "Ras Anfeh".

The fortification seems to be originally constructed in the Crusader-Arab period and later occupied by many other civilizations. It harbors historical graves, mosaic remains, olive presses, and saltpans, which suggest a much earlier occupation of the space possibly dating back to the first Millennium B.C., if not earlier.

Due to its important cultural value, the citadel was listed by the Department of Antiquities on 26/2/1973.



3D Visualization of The Citadel - around 500 meters long



1: A hole in a still existing Phoenician reservoir where ancients used to keep wine and olive oil. Crusaders then used it as a place to keep war munitions, as part of Nephin Great Castle during their occupation of Anfeh seashore.

2: "The Phoenician Reservoir", the most intact part of the Phoenician citadel of Anfeh. It was used to store wine and olive oil during the Phoenician Period. Crusaders later used it for the same purpose, as well as a repository for war munitions.

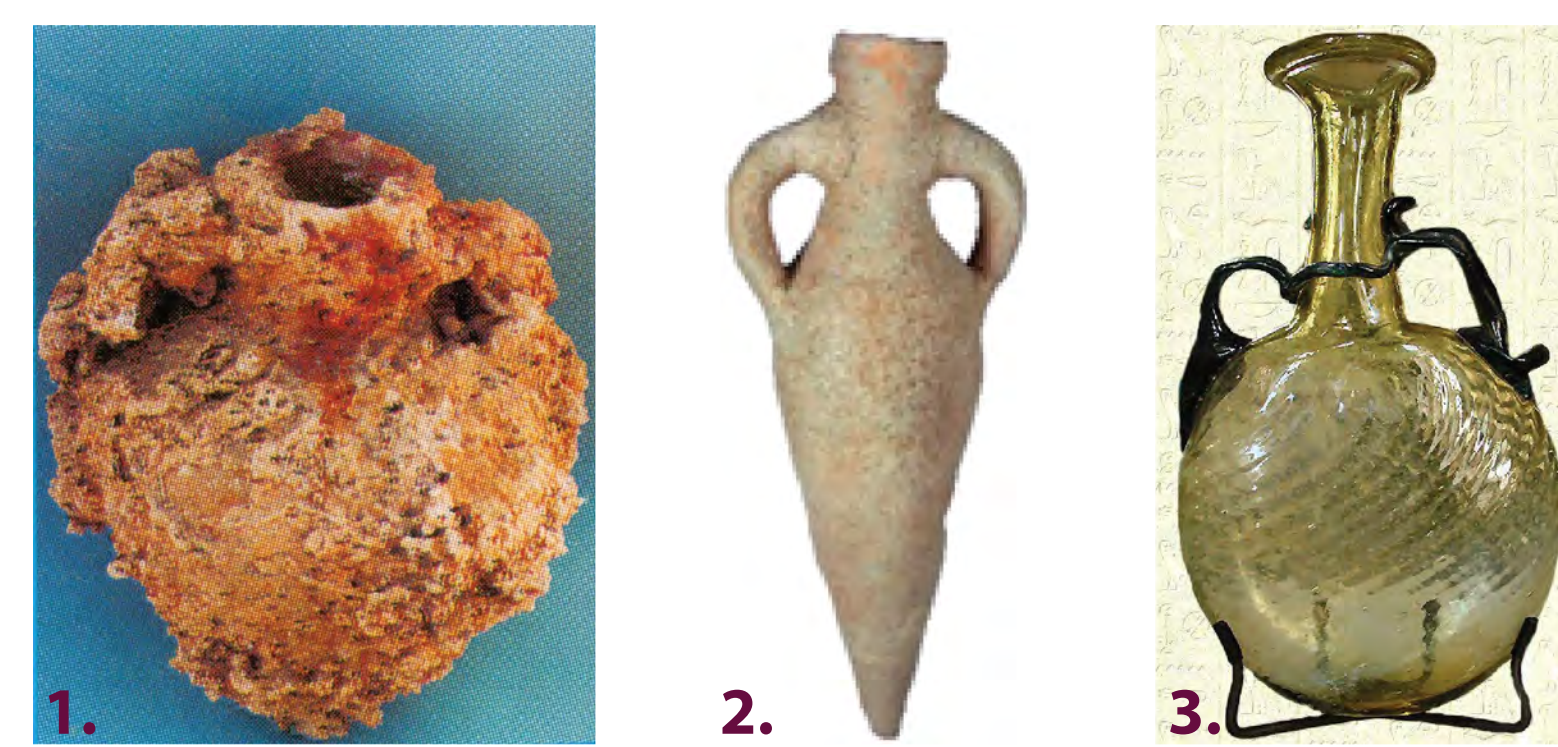
3: An ancient slope on the peninsula of Anfeh, specially cut by Phoenicians to allow easy access of ships to and from the sea. Peculiarly, some of these slopes are still used nowadays by fishermen to draw boats to water.

4: Channels cut in the rock by Phoenicians to drag sea water to ponds for salt extraction along the seashore of Anfeh.



Phoenician Trench
The citadel is characterized by its rock-cut trench "Al-Khandaq" built by the Phoenicians, to be separated from the land during wars. A movable bridge was used as a path from and to the citadel.

The Mamelukes demolished the citadel in the late 13th century. Its stones were then reused in building houses in Tripoli.



Found Objects Dating Back to The Phoenicians
1-2: Phoenician amphoras once storing wine and olive oil, found at the bottom of the sea in Anfeh alongside the seashore holding the Phoenician citadel.

3: Phoenician vase blown glass that resembles the vase water jug that some Lebanese villages use to date.

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

1,400,000 - 24,000 B.C. - Palaeolithic Age
A few flints dating to this period were discovered by the late archaeologist Lorraine Coppeland.

1200 - 333 B.C. - Phoenician and Canaanite Period
The Egyptian Hittite period was mentioned in the letters of Tel Amarna (1390-1350 B.C.) as the name AMPI.

1000 B.C. - Assyrian Period
Mentioned in the Assyrian inscriptions during the reign of King Assarhadoun (991-981 B.C.) as the name AMPA.

8th Century B.C. - Greco-Roman Period
It is most likely referred to as Trieres (the three-row ship of paddles).

St. John "Al-Sheer" Church
Located in Amioun, in Al-Koura District (13 Km from Anfeh), traces back to the Palaeolithic period. The ancient Semitic people are thought to have arrived in the region 4000 B.C.

330 A.D. - Late Antiquity - Byzantine Empire
Terrieres were mentioned with a wider range and were an episcopal center. His bishop participated in the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D. It was destroyed in the great earthquake that hit the coast in the middle 6th century A.D. (551 A.D.).

Our Lady of Nourieth, located in Hamat in the Batroun District (15 Km from Anfeh).

It is believed that 2 sailors built the shrine in the fourth century after the Virgin Mary appeared to them as a light and guided them gently to the shore of "Theoproon" (modern day Chekka). A Greek Orthodox monastery was then built in the 17th century and is a popular attraction in the North Governorate.

7th Century A.D. - Arab Conquest
Conquered by the Arabs and known in their sources in the name of Anfeh. It was built in a part of the fleet of Muawiya War.

1291- 1516 A.D. - Mameluke Period
The Mameluke Sultan Qal'aun defeated the Crusaders in Anfeh. He destroyed the Citadel at the sea and dumped a huge section of it into the sea. The Mamelukes made it a center for a state that included AL-Koura.

1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period
Anfeh was an administrative center for the province, which included 13 villages and 14 farmlands.

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

According to Dr. Haroun, "We do not know whether the city continued to exist during the Phoenician period, or if it was refounded as Batroun". Yet there are various examples mentioned above that prove their settlement existed (such as the Phoenician trench, and the holes that were carved by them).

The site has been occupied throughout many different periods and by various civilizations. This is what gives Anfeh such importance and has proved to be one of Lebanon's unique sites.

As for these sites today, specifically the citadel, excavation work has only started a few years ago.

We believe this historical site, with great cultural value, could have been maintained and secured in a better way as anyone can roam around this 500 meters long peninsula, around the excavation sites and historical findings with no supervision or monitoring. No information is found explaining the history behind such an amazing structure and very few private touristic tours take place on demand with Mr. George Sassine, who not only is the municipal architect, but also everyone's reference for any information concerning Anfeh's heritage and culture.

