**1** RECORD NUMBER

002

**2** GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**3** ATTRIBUTION

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**4** RECOMMENDED FOR DETAILED RECORDING?

YES

**5** DATE IN INSCRIPTION

1360 AH, AD 1941 (see point 9)

INSCRIPTION CONTEMPORARY WITH THE BUILDING? YES MULTIPLE DATES IN INSCRIPTIONS? NO

**6** ORIGINAL USE

Funerary enclosure

**7** PRESENT USE

Funerary enclosure, with a residential unit for the doorman

**8** OVERALL CONDITION (see details in point 16)

**Good**

**9** ASSUMED DATE (BASED ON…)

before 1941 (earliest date on the main marble cenotaph)

**10** PARTICULAR FEATURES

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | YES/NO | number | material: | Comments (details in point 15) |
| Free-standing structure? | NO |  |  |  |
| Walled enclosure? | YES |  |  |  |
| Rooms by the perimeter wall? | YES |  |  |  |
| Free-standing structure(s) inside the enclosure? | YES | 3 | Reinforced concrete | 2 residential units and 1 main burial chamber. |
| Garden layout? | YES | 1 |  |  |
| Sabil? | NO |  |  |  |
| Wall-fountain(s)? | NO |  |  |  |
| Canopy on columns / pillars? | NO |  |  |  |
| Carved marble cenotaph(s)? | YES | 1 |  | In the middle of the burial chamber under the dome |
| Decorated limestone tomb-markers? | NO |  |  | There are undecorated marble cenotaphs located in the garden |
| Decorated gateway? | YES |  |  | Simply decorated with knotted mouldings |
| Decorative door-leaves? | YES | 2 | wood | The door to the burial chamber |
| Decorative window grilles? | NO |  |  |  |
| Decorative shutters? | NO |  |  |  |
| Painted ceiling(s)? | YES | 1 | Reinforced concrete | In the main burial chamber: multicolour and elaborately decorated with Islamic patterns. |
| Decorative paving(s)? | YES | 1 | ceramics | Black-and-white checkers pattern in the burial chamber, possibly newly added |

**14** UNUSUAL / UNIQUE FEATURES

* The colourful decorated ceiling in the main burial chamber
* The well-preserved wooden furniture and *mashrabiya* screens inspired by Islamic art
* The large dome with painted interior decoration

**15** DESCRIPTION

The roughly square walled enclosure is separated by a wall into two sections. The broader northern part is a well-maintained garden including only one new brick cenotaph. The narrower southern section contains: a domed burial chamber in the south-western corner, rectangular and protruding into the garden beyond the wall dividing the enclosure; a residential unit in the south-eastern corne of the enclosure; and another residential unit in the middle, with narow courtyards to the sides and a passage between it and the southern perimeter wall.

The enclosure has two entrances: the in the nothern perimeter wall is a simply decorated wrought-iron gate leading to the garden section of the enclosure. The entrance on the eastern side leads from the Sultan Ahmad Street to the building with the street façade that features an asymmetrically placed wide gate covered with a segmental arch, simply decorated with Mamluk-inspired knotted moldings, over which a marble panel with a single line of inscription is placed. There is a single window to the left of the gate and two on the right, all rectangular and with Mamluk-inspired knotted moulding framing around the lintels with segmental relieving arches above them. The building includes a reception space and two guest rooms with a small toilet and kitchen. This space is currently used as residential house for the doorman.

Another free-standing simple structure in the middle of the southern section of the enclosure was also used as a residential space for the visitors but was inaccessible at the time of recording. The third concrete-and-brick structure is the burial chamber located in the north-western corner of the enclosure. It is a one-story building with a large concrete dome in the middle, wider than the walled-off southern part of the enclosure, i.e., protruding into the garden. The facades of the burial chamber and the wall dividing the enclosure are decorated with simple Mamluk-inspired knotted moulding and are topped with rather complex fleur-de-lys crenellations prefabricated as reinforced concrete slabs. The huge rectangular windows of the burial chamber are in the easten and northern façades grouped in pairs within shallow rectangular recesses topped with simple muqarnases, while these in the western and southern façades are much smaller, placed in pairs and covered with pointed arches. The rectangular entrance door of the mausoleum in the middle of the eastern façade is placed in a shallow pointed-arched recess in the entrance section of the elevation which is taller than the rest of the wall, forming a *pishtaq* (Petersen, p.234). All facades have recently been covered with thick textured cement plaster that obscures the details of decoration. It is applied over the original, much finer plaster, which was painted in red and beige-yellow stripes imitationg *ablaq* masonry (Petersen, p.1-2.) The burial chamber is a large space divided into three internal sections by wide, flat elliptical arches resting on squat Islamic-style columns standing by the walls on high pedestals. The central space in the center is covered a dome on an octogonal drum that incorporates a muqarnas zone-of-transition and is supported by pointed-arched squinches in the corners. The single marble cenotaph placed under the dome is unusual in featuring open books sculpted in marble on its both ends. The central space is separated by wooden *mashrabiya* screens from the side chambers that are used as reception spaces and contain finely decorated Islamic-style wooden furniture. There is a dado of multicolour terrazzo around the walls of the burial chamber, and above it, a band of intricate Islamic arabesque floral pattern. The interior of the dome, its drum and base, decorative panels over the windows, and the ceilings of the side chambers and muqarnas friezes under on top of the walls are very richly decorated with colourful painted Islamic geometric and floral patterns and calligraphic inscriptions panels.

**16** CONDITION OF PRESERVATION

The buildings and the garden are well maintained. However, some of the crenellations in the internal separating wall between the buildings and the garden are broken or missing.

**17** INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOUNDER, FAMILY HISTORY, ETC.

Tal‘at Harb (25 November 1867 – 13 August 1941) was a leading Egyptian entrepreneur and founder of Banque Misr, and its group of companies, in May 1920. (Wucher King, p.193-4). The establishment of Banque Misr, the first real Egyptian bank owned by Egyptian shareholders and staffed by Egyptian nationals, where Arabic (the national language) was used in all communications, was a major step in establishing a national economic identity. The idea of establishing Banque Misr first emerged in 1907, when Tal‘at Harb contributed 100 EGP to the establishment of al-Ahly Sporting Club. He was a renowned nationalist industrialist; he published books calling for the founding of a national bank with Egyptian financing. (Wikipedia).

REFERENCES IN PUBLISHED / PRIMARY SOURCES:

* Wucher King, Joan *Historical Dictionary of Egypt,* American University in Cairo Press 1984, p. 193-4)
* Petersen, Andrew *Dictionary of Islamic Architecture*, Routledge 1996, p. 1-2, 234

FIELD RECORDING BY:

‘Amr Abotawila, 5 September 2022

ENTRY INTO THE DATABASE:

PHOTOGRAPHS:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Unit #* | | *Filename* | *Date* | *Photographer* | *Subject* |
| 2 | DSC\_2539s.jpg | 19 May 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Entrance façade (eastern) |
| 2 | DSC\_2542s.jpg | 19 May 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Modern *sabil*: water cooler distributing water, E side |
| 2 | DSC\_2543s.jpg | 19 May 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Street view of the main façade, E side |
| 2 | IMG\_2875s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Entrance façade (eastern) |
| 2 | IMG\_2876s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Southern window in the main E. façade |
| 2 | IMG\_2877s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Main gateway, E side |
| 2 | IMG\_2879s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Northern window in the main E. façade |
| 2 | IMG\_2880s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Northern window in the main E. façade |
| 2 | IMG\_2881s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Street corner view on N and E elevations |
| 2 | IMG\_2882s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Street corner view on N and E elevations |
| 2 | IMG\_2885s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Side gateway in N wall leading to the garden |
| 2 | IMG\_2886s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Side gateway in N wall leading to the garden |
| 2 | IMG\_2887s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Free-standing arch from the garden to the burial zone |
| 2 | IMG\_2888s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Domed burial chamber, view from garden looking S |
| 2 | IMG\_2889s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the outdoor burial zone, looking SE |
| 2 | IMG\_2891s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Brick-built cenotaph in the outdoor burial zone |
| 2 | IMG\_2892s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Inscription plate on the brick cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_2893s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N façade of the domed burial chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_2894s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N façade of the domed burial chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_2895s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Doorway from garden to the W inner courtyard |
| 2 | IMG\_2897s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Damaged fleur-de-lys crenellations, N wall |
| 2 | IMG\_2898s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Window, N wall of the middle residential unit |
| 2 | IMG\_2901s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Gateway in the N side of the enclosure, from the garden |
| 2 | IMG\_2903s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the garden layout, looking S |
| 2 | IMG\_2904s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the domed burial chamber from the garden |
| 2 | IMG\_2906s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Doorway from garden to the E inner courtyard |
| 2 | IMG\_2907s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | E inner courtyard between two residential units |
| 2 | IMG\_2909s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Detail of window in E wall of the burial chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_2910s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, N section of the E façade |
| 2 | IMG\_2911s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, E façade on the W inner courtyard |
| 2 | IMG\_2919s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | The garden, view looking east |
| 2 | IMG\_2921s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N façade of the dividing wall overlooking the garden |
| 2 | IMG\_2922s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber: windows within recess, E wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3102s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Gate to the burial chamber, E wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3103s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden screens surrounding the cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_3105s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, interior looking NW |
| 2 | IMG\_3106s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, interior, W wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3107s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, interior looking SW |
| 2 | IMG\_3108s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, decoration of bottom W wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3109s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, marble cenotaph under the dome |
| 2 | IMG\_3110s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, marble cenotaph, E side |
| 2 | IMG\_3113s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Cenotaph detail: open book sculpted in marble |
| 2 | IMG\_3114s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, marble cenotaph, N side |
| 2 | IMG\_3118s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Cenotaph detail: open book sculpted in marble |
| 2 | IMG\_3120s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3125s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber's ceiling |
| 2 | IMG\_3126s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | W. wall of the N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3128s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber's ceiling details |
| 2 | IMG\_3129s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View from N. space towards domed chamber, looking SE |
| 2 | IMG\_3131s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. wall of the N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3132s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View from N. space towards domed chamber, looking SW |
| 2 | IMG\_3134s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber, looking NE |
| 2 | IMG\_3136s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber, decorated ceiling |
| 2 | IMG\_3137s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber, decorated ceiling |
| 2 | IMG\_3138s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber, decorated ceiling |
| 2 | IMG\_3139s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | N. side chamber, decorated ceiling |
| 2 | IMG\_3140s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3141s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3142s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3143s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3144s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3145s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3147s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Decorated ceiling details |
| 2 | IMG\_3152s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | *Mashrabiya* screen, with a *ḥadīṯ* inscription |
| 2 | IMG\_3158s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View from the N. space, domed chamber looking SE |
| 2 | IMG\_3159s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden *mashrabiya* screen |
| 2 | IMG\_3160s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3161s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3163s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3164s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Marble pot by W. wall of burial chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3168s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Decorative band around the interior walls |
| 2 | IMG\_3170s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Domed chamber, E side looking S |
| 2 | IMG\_3171s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | S. side chamber, looking SW |
| 2 | IMG\_3177s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Burial chamber, view looking N |
| 2 | IMG\_3186s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the S. side chamber, looking W |
| 2 | IMG\_3192s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Painted dome, view looking up |
| 2 | IMG\_3196s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Painted dome, view looking up |
| 2 | IMG\_3200s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Set of windows, domed chamber, W. wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3201s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Pointed-arched squinch in the SW corner |
| 2 | IMG\_3203s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Dome and transition zone resting on arches |
| 2 | IMG\_3204s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the S. side chamber, looking S |
| 2 | IMG\_3208s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Interior of the dome |
| 2 | IMG\_3209s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Octagonal drum of the dome |
| 2 | IMG\_3213s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Bottom of the arch under the dome |
| 2 | IMG\_3214s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Inscriptions carved on the marble cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_3215s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Inscriptions carved on the marble cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_3216s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Inscriptions carved on the marble cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_3217s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Inscriptions carved on the marble cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_3218s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Inscriptions carved on the marble cenotaph |
| 2 | IMG\_3220s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the marble cenotaph, looking SW |
| 2 | IMG\_3224s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Gateway to the burial chamber, E side |
| 2 | IMG\_3225s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Window recess, E. wall of the burial chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3227s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Entrance to the burial chamber, E wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3228s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Grouped windows within recesses, E wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3230s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | View of the burial chamber, looking NW |
| 2 | IMG\_3231s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Western inner courtyard, view looking N |
| 2 | IMG\_3232s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | W inner courtyard, middle residential unit |
| 2 | IMG\_3233s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Space behind middle residential unit |
| 2 | IMG\_3235s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Entrance to the burial chamber, E wall |
| 2 | IMG\_3238s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Thick textured cement plaster covering original finish |
| 2 | IMG\_3239s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Thick textured cement plaster covering original finish |
| 2 | IMG\_3242s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber |
| 2 | IMG\_3243s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | A copy of Muhammad Talaat Harb's work |
| 2 | IMG\_3244s.jpg | 25 August 2022 | Amr Abutawila | Wooden furniture, N. side chamber: detail of inlay |