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Final Narrative Report

March 25, 1995, to September 30, 1999

USAID Cooperative Agreement

278-A-00-95-00543-03

**Submitted by
The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR)
Amman, Jordan**

December 28, 1999



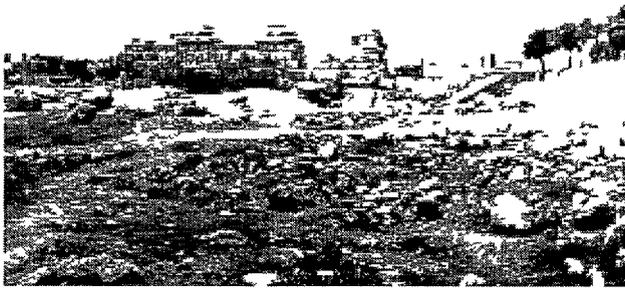
Pierre M Bikar, Director

The original CERM cooperative agreement funded, at Petra, the construction of the shelter over the Petra church and other works related to its presentation, excavation and restoration on the Roman Street, and a feasibility study for the restoration of Qasr al-Bint. At Madaba, it funded the final presentation of the western end of the Madaba Archaeological Park. At the Citadel in Amman, funds were used for the presentation of the Great Temple and restoration of the Ayyubid tower. Signs were provided for all three sites. The original agreement was for \$2,075,000. In June of 1997, the agreement was modified and \$900,00 was reprogrammed for the ACOR Petra Endowment. Of the remaining \$1,175,000, \$774,727.69 was expended at Petra, \$257,156.59 at Madaba, \$119,668.59 on the Amman Citadel, and \$23,447.13 for signs for the three sites.

Overall, the ACOR component of the CERM project was a success. There is no need here to review the problems with the other components. Early on, there was an institutional decision to be as helpful as possible to the other components while focusing on the segments assigned to ACOR and distancing ACOR from the issues elsewhere. This was a successful strategy.

Citadel

Under the original plan submitted in May of 1995, ACOR was to work at the Ayyubid Tower, organize the building stones of the Great Temple, create a presentation for Gate C, excavate at the proposed site of the statue associated with the Roman temple, work on the little Byzantine church, the Roman street and excavate for the north gate of the courtyard of the temple. Two of these components were either taken over by the Department of Antiquities (Roman Street) or they decided that they would conduct the work themselves in the future (small Byzantine church). Exactly what ACOR would be doing became an issue in a series of meetings in 1996 and ACOR suspended work at the site until members of the other components of the project could decide how they were going to proceed. Ultimately, the other work on circulation, landscaping and the visitors' center was never implemented, and it was decided that ACOR should concentrate on the area of the Great Temple (in which it had an



The Great Temple in 1990

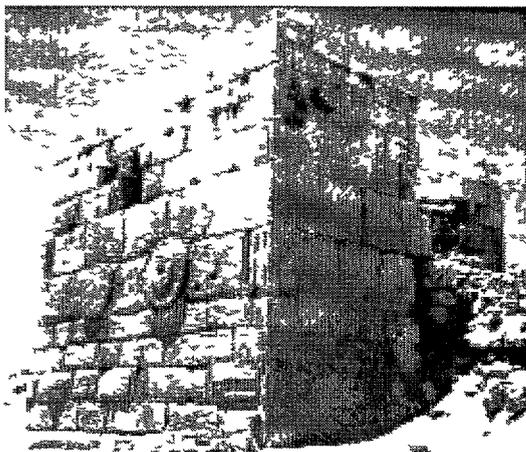


The same view of the Great Temple in September 1999

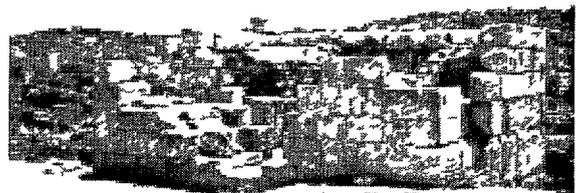
institutional interest), this area included the Ayyubid Tower

The Ayyubid Tower, a monument that was in serious danger of collapse, was in fact consolidated and work was completed on the presentation of the Great Temple, including the minor work of looking for the proposed site of the statue and of the north gate, neither of which were located. The final presentation of the Great Temple and the surrounding temenos was completed.

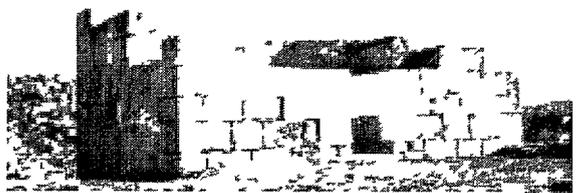
Meanwhile, the Spanish mission continued work on the palace. At present, the palace and the Great Temple, with its courtyard and the Ayyubid Tower, constitute an archaeological park for Amman. One has to recall that when ACOR began work on the Citadel in 1990, the site was not an attractive place for visitors at all. The original rationale for work there was that Amman had a tourism infrastructure (many hotels and restaurants) but very few attractions for visitors. If there were attractions, both in Amman and at nearby Madaba, visitors would be more likely to spend more time (and more money) in Jordan.



Ayyubid Tower before restoration

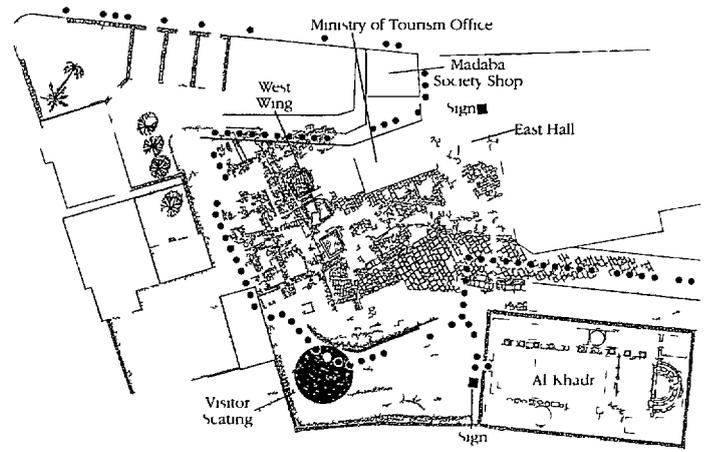
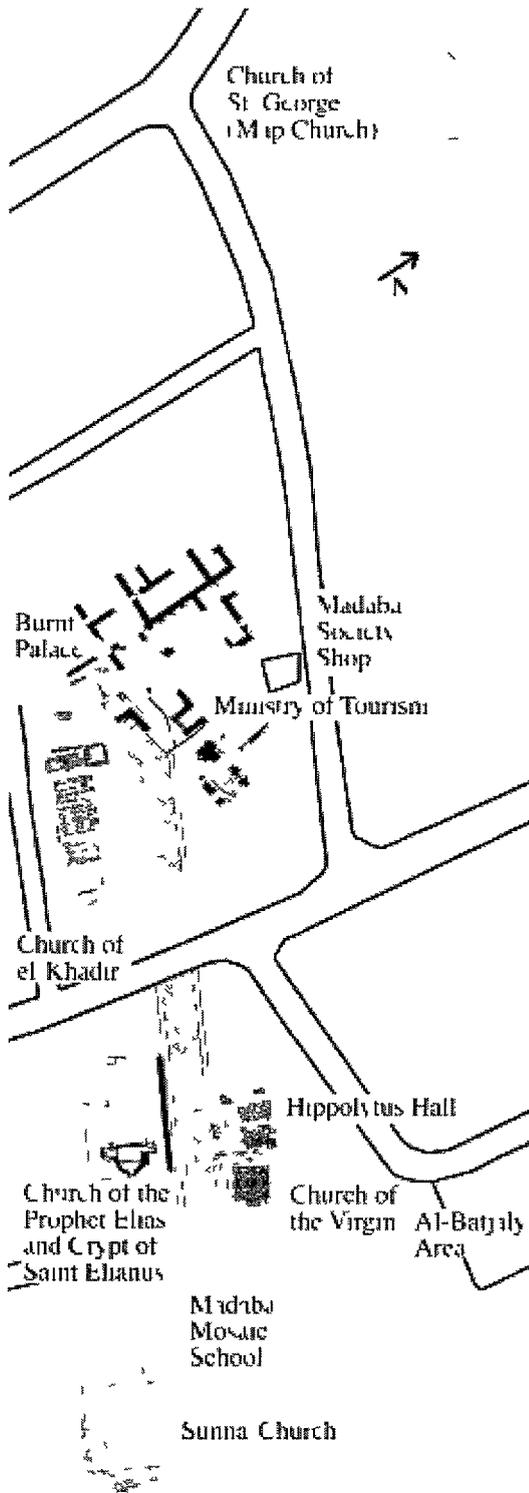


The front of the Ayyubid Tower before restoration



The front after restoration

The Citadel has now become a major tourist site, as well as a park for Jordanian families. It is a major improvement to the city. The columns of the Great Temple have, in fact, become the symbol of the city.



Madaba

At Madaba, the major activities were to be in the western half (the Burnt Palace) area of the Archaeological Park. Shelters were built for the two parts of the Burnt Palace and the whole area was reconfigured to allow appropriate visitor circulation.

ACOR is very proud of its role in the creation of the whole park over the last ten years. Madaba, like the Citadel, was not exactly a place with many attractions for tourists. Most visited the Map Church for 15 minutes or so on their way to Petra. Now Madaba is a tourist destination. There are four hotels, many restaurants and souvenir shops in the city. The community there has come to appreciate their cultural heritage as a major resource, as long as they view it that way it will be protected.

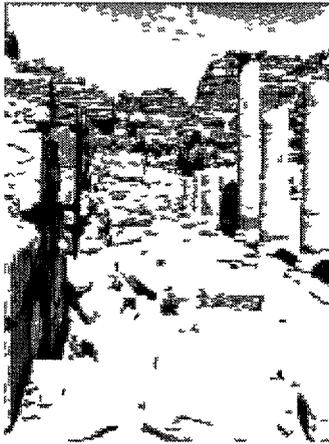
Petra

The single largest component of the work at Petra was the final presentation of the Petra Church. The second largest component was work on the Roman Street to make the shops and the monumental stairway understandable to visitors.

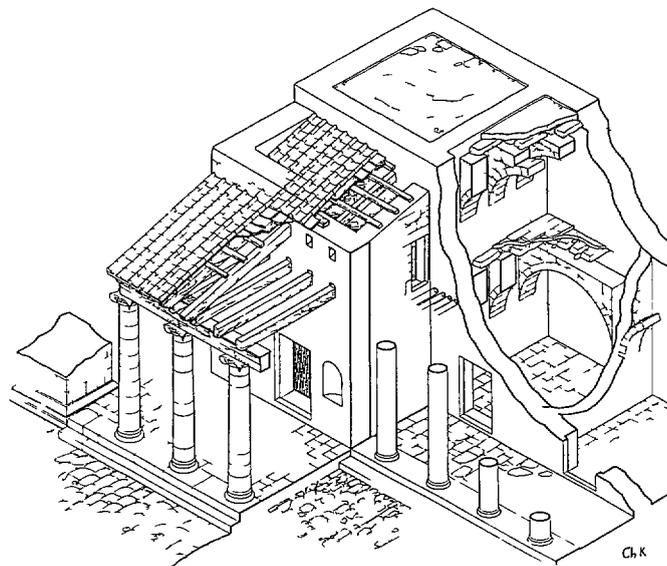
Initially, the project also envisioned possible work at the Temple of the Winged Lions (an endangered monument excavated by a U.S. university). Early on in the CERM project, that component, in which ACOR was very interested, was, at the direction of the various committees, abandoned in favor of work



The shelters over the Burnt Palace



The shops area before restoration



Restoration drawing of one of the shops

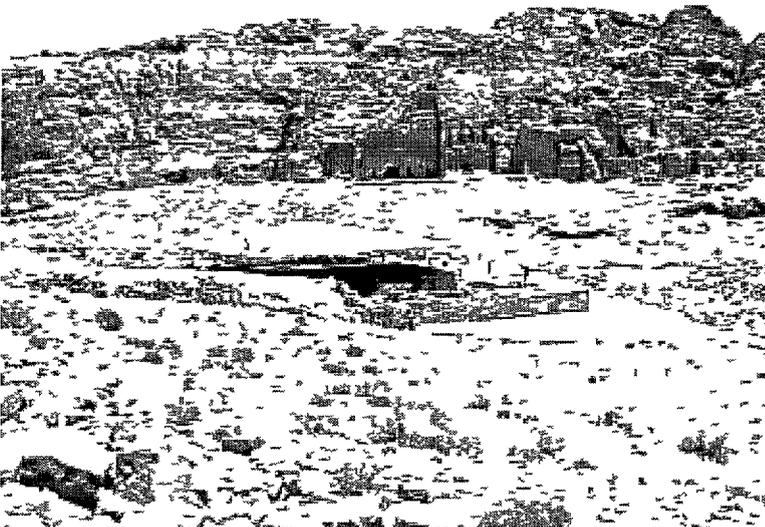
at Qasr al-Bint. From the time of the initial proposal in May of 1995, ACOR was not in favor of getting involved with Qasr al-Bint, that monument needs intervention on the scale of what has been done at the Parthenon in Athens, and there were simply not the resources available (under this agreement or elsewhere) that would be needed for that (in the multi-millions). Nevertheless the committees decided that ACOR should sponsor a pre-feasibility engineering study and this was completed. Since that time a number of agencies have used the pre-feasibility study of Qasr al-Bint in an attempt to actually begin work.

Work on the shops area was an attempt to have visitors understand what was a very uninteresting part of the tourist itinerary, the stretch along the Roman Street. Work there was only recently completed, but even before it was finished, a stop at the shops was on many of the tour guides' itineraries. Now that they are finished, it is expected that more will visit.

The finalization of the Petra Church was the major work at Petra, the largest component being the construction of the shelter. The shelter was actually put up in a period of six weeks in 1997. Subsequently the mosaics were uncovered and conserved.

and work proceeded on making that fragile monument as tourist-proof as possible while making it a major attraction for Petra. It was officially opened

by H.M. Queen Noor in the summer of 1998 and now receives many, many tourists every day. The original rationale for work at this site was to try and move Petra towards becoming a two-or-three day destination for tourists, instead of a one-day attraction. As a result of the existence of this site and of the others excavated since 1991, i.e. the Great Temple, the North Ridge, and Jebel Haroun, tourists are in fact staying longer at Petra and more tourists are returning for a second visit.



The shelter over the Petra Church