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Study on the Historical Evolution and Authentic Layout of Sahebqeraniyeh Garden in Niavaran

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ABSTRACT

Sahebqeraniyeh garden also known as Niavaran garden is artwork from the Qajar Period and it still continues to exist. This garden has undergone considerable changes. The construction of a vast part of the garden was commenced during the late 19th century AD and lasted till the 1960s. As a result of the constructions during the second Pahlavi era for making it also a residential place, the important parts of the garden were separated and some of the buildings were destroyed. The plan of garden has been extensively changed in the northern sections and, more importantly, its Qajar layout has undergone a radical change. Thus, the following questions can be raised: How has the authentic layout of the garden been during the Qajar Era? How has the garden's evolutions trend influenced its layout? The article aims at attaining the evolution and change trends of the garden as well as finding its overall layout and plan so that it can be used as a basis for conservation purposes and increasing its spatial identity. The present study has been conducted based on descriptive and historical research method. Meanwhile paying attention to the history of this artwork and through taking advantage of the documents, historical texts, historical and aerial photos and matching them with the garden's remnants, efforts will be made to reveal the garden's evolution trend so that its authentic plan in the Qajar Era can be obtained. The results indicate that the garden has passed through four historical periods. Accordingly, Sahebqeraniyeh garden has been formed before the Naseri Period; but, it has found its identifiable authentic plan during Naser al-Din Shah's kingship period and during the 1840s. In this period, the southern yard had been connected to the main palace in a stratified form. The whole complex consisted of three parts of the northern garden, the southern garden and the area in the periphery of the main palace. During the late 1870s, Sahebqeraniyeh mansion took the place of Niavaran palace and the mansion's transformation caused changes to the garden's structure. Since the late Qajar era, vaster changes occurred, northern garden's area and some of the buildings were destroyed and the southern garden was separated during the second Pahlavi era.

Keywords: Historic Garden, Sahebqeraniyeh Mansion, Niavaran Palace, Qajar Architecture.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Shemiran has been the context of a countless number of gardens and many of them have undergone extensive changes. Sahebqeraniyeh garden has also not been immune to such changes and, besides being subjected to changes, parts of it have been separated from it. Although the important parts of the garden still exist, the environmental and original garden-making values of it are not properly perceivable due to the changes and the recent constructions in the Pahlavi era. The destruction and change in the land use during various eras of history have brought about transformations in the garden's layouts.

However, there are still some old trees remaining and the general layout, albeit disorganized, shows a garden. The present article tries unraveling the authentic layout and general structure of the garden's plan and seeks to find answers to two questions: How has the authentic plan of the garden been during the Qajar period and also how have the garden's evolutions influenced its layout? Restoration of the landscape and environmental values of this garden can set the ground for a better perception of Tehran's Qajar architecture and garden-making.

2. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The study of Sahebqeraniyeh garden does not have an extensive background. The most important studies in this regard are as the following: the study performed by Sotudeh on the historical geography of Shemiran in which the geographical and historical status of the region and the history of this garden have been investigated (Sotudeh, 1992). Motamedi, as well, has dealt in the historical geography of Tehran with Niavaran garden and presents information regarding its background before Naser al-Din Shah's kingship period as well as during Pahlavi period (Motamedi, 2002). Mokhtari who has repaired Sahebqeraniyeh mansion during the late 1990s, has explicated the results of his interventions and some studies regarding the peripheral precinct (Mokhtari, 2005). Aran Consulting Engineers, as well, have carried out a set of studies in line with complex' organization in the first half of the 2000s. In none of the aforementioned studies, the authentic plan of the garden has been retrieved and the aforesaid researchers have not sought such a plan. The retrieval of the garden's plan helps us restore some of the transformed areas into their preliminary layout.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This article has been conducted based on descriptive and historical research method and the research is carried out with the investigation and interpretation of the historical texts and documents, historians' notes, itineraries, newspapers, and historical and aerial photos. A vast part of the resources is first hand. At first, reference is made to the historical texts to identify the primary periods of the formation of essential changes in the garden's layout. The research resources have been studied and interpreted in such a way that the arrangement of the architectural elements can be figured out in the intended area. As for the non-Persian sources, reference has been made to the original texts to reduce the mistakes rate. The images obtained based on the texts have been compared with the historical photos to represent a more precise composition of the garden's plan. The relationship between each photo and a given period has been determined by investigating the details inside the photos and the relevant descriptions. In the end, a historical evolution trend has been codified and an image of the garden's plan has been prepared for each period.

4. A GLANCE AT SAHEBQERANIYEH

Sahebqeraniyeh garden that has the cultural-historical Niavaran complex as one of its parts, was a district in the ancient Niavaran village. This garden was first constructed by the order of Fath-Ali Shah in a region with a good climate outside Tehran (Sotudeh, 1992, p. 792). Mentioning the trivial constructions by Fath-Ali Shah and the few additions by Muhammad Shah, Eetemad al-Saltaneh reminds that Naser al-Din Shah has destroyed the previous building and constructed an excellent palace by the assistance of his father, Haj Ali Khan, and he has also added parts later on (E'etemad al-Saltaneh, 1989, p. 2307). The palace constructed during the early kingship of Naser al-Din Shah was called "Jahannamay-e Niavaran" for providing a vast overlook of the entire plain and also because the city could be entirely seen from there.

In an issue of Vaghaye al-Ettefaghyye Newspaper in 1851, the quality of the palace plan and landscape have been considered as its privilege (Vaghaye al-Ettefaghyye, 1856). Meanwhile describing Jahannama palace, Reza-Qoli Khan Hedayat, while describing the Jahannama building, reminds that it has been reconstructed in a new status and contains harems and platforms and ponds full of water and that three pools have been constructed in the middle of the upper part with water flowing in a fountain from the lower part to the upper part for a height of about five meters (Hedayat, 1857). During the late 1880s, Niavaran palace was destroyed and a new mansion was constructed instead of it that was called Sahebqeraniyeh. As narrated by Eetemad al-Saltaneh on 23rd of March, 1881, the King has gone to Sahebqeraniyeh, i.e. the former Niavaran, which has been uselessly destroyed and is being meaninglessly reconstructed (Eetemad al-Saltaneh, 2006, p. 64). It is stated that though a new building has been constructed, the garden's precinct and dimensions have not undergone much of a change and they have been left in the same previous forms (Mokhtari, 2005, p. 34). Ali Akbar Chaparbashi realizes the path connecting the gardens in the suburbs of Tehran to the city as the longest well-shaded route with flowers

and trees on the sides; the avenue is stretched from Sahebqeraniyeh to the city for a length of about 10 kilometers and passes in front of Saltanatabad garden and Zarrabkhaneh and Ghourkhaneh and reaches the city in Darvazeh Shemiran (Chaparbashi, 1966, p. 552). This avenue was previously called Saltanatabad; but, it is now termed Pasdaran.

5. GARDEN AND ITS INTERNAL AREAS

Based on the aerial photos from the 1950s and 1960s (Figs. 1 & 2), the Niavaran garden can be divided into three parts, namely southern and northern sections as well as the area in the periphery of the palace, with the latter connecting the former two. Meanwhile having changes, the southern section has been converted into a park with a reflection of the southern garden plan (Fig. 3). The northern section has had the largest changes and there is not much information available about it that may be due to its connection to the harem. The middle section of the garden which is the area in the periphery of the Sahebqeraniyeh mansion has undergone a lot of changes and it is of great importance for discerning the garden's layout. Historical photos and the recent studies show that the land's natural slope has been very steep in the eastern and western sides of the mansion; it is as if Sahebqeraniyeh is situated on the top of a mountain (Mokhtari, 2005, p. 45). Having witnessed the more original status of this establishment, Chaparbashi states that the garden is located on a slope with the mansion being located in the middle of a rocky hill in such a way that the plateau of the entire city and its outskirts at the foot of the palace amount to no more than a handful of soil (Chaparbashi, 1966, p. 551).

Fig. 1. Aerial Photo in 1956
(Iran's National Cartographic Center, 1956)

Fig. 2. Aerial Photo of the Garden in 1962: A) Sahebqeraniyeh Mansion; B) Western Precinct; C) Eastern Precinct; D) Northern Yard; E) Southern Yard; F) Forecourt Precinct
(Iran's National Cartographic Center, 1956)

5.1. The Surrounding Precinct of the Main Mansion

Apart from the two northern and southern gardens, Sahebqeraniyeh features a vast part in the center, including four sections that have been organized around the main mansion. To better understand the surrounding areas of the main mansion's plan and details, it is necessary to study the foresaid four sections.

5.2. Western Precinct of the Main Mansion

Important spaces have been destroyed or substituted in the western precinct of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion with the result being the disintegration of the layout in this part. Thus, retrieval of the authentic layout of this part is deemed necessary. Joannes Feuvrier, the physician of Naser al-Din Shah, who has been in Iran during the years from 1889 to 1892 writes that "the entry gate of Sahebqeraniyeh is on the western side where a vast avenue comes to an end" (Feuvrier, 2006, p. 162). His explanation demonstrates that the aforesaid avenue had been constructed for access to the garden and it has been amongst the avenues enabling access to a historic garden. Chaparbashi's description that the avenue had been planted with trees on both sides, decorated with flowers and water streams and that it had been well shaded is reflective of its whereabouts at that time (Chaparbashi, 1966, p. 552). This is the same avenue that went round the garden upon reaching it and connected to the entry gate on its west side.

According to the explanations by Feuvrier, after passing through a yard surrounding a low-rise building wherein the vanguards and servants lived and by moving underneath a roof, a garden is seen with the mansion's northern façade facing it (Feuvrier, 2006, p. 162). Feuvrier speaks of a yard that if left behind, one can enter the northern yard that is connected to Sahebqeraniyeh mansion (Fig. 2, Part B). This yard might be the same space traces of which can be observed in the aerial photos taken in 1956 and 1962 and, especially, 1966 (Fig. 3); it opened to the northern yard that had been connected to the main mansion on the one hand, and to the today's Niavaran Square, on the other. If it had been so at least as evidenced in the aerial photos from 1956 and 1966, a plot in the middle of the yard and the shapes of a forecourt space are also detectable (Figs 1-3). Although the building between the forecourt space and the yard of which Feuvrier speaks might have undergone changes before the aerial photos were taken, it displays the general traces of Sahebqeraniyeh's forecourt space.

Fig. 3. A) Aerial Photo of the Garden in 1966 (Left-Hand Side);
B) Aerial Photo of the Garden in 1969 (Right-Hand Side)
(Iran's National Cartographic Center, 1966; 1969)

The absence of trees in this section makes it clear based on the a foresaid photos that the westernmost part of the garden in the adjacency of Niavaran square had been dedicated to Sahebqeraniyeh's forecourt and/or connected thereto. The forecourt is the very location in which Ta'ziyeh was held as explicated by Heinrich Brugsch. He explains that the mentioned ceremonies were held in Niavaran square and in front of the palace. Then, he says he has gone to a small tent in the periphery of a gate or a door that has been in the vicinity of the room where the King went to see the ceremony. Brugsch states that the place provided a view of the square in front of the palace (Brugsch, 1862, p. 244)[1].
It seems that Brugsch means the entire complex by the palace; thus, the aforesaid square might have been the complex's forecourt. The cases pointed out by Brugsch pertain to the period of his stay during the late 1850s. According to the explanations in Vaghaye al-Ettefaghiyyeh Newspaper, it appears that Tekyeh of Sahebqeraniyeh had been constructed several years before Brugsch's report (Vaghaye al-Ettefaghyyeh, 1856). The explanations of the images from commemoration ceremonies during Muharram, 1312 A.H. (1894), point to the forecourt of Sahebqeraniyeh and the subject of one of them is the lighting instruments in the royal Tekyeh in Sahebqeraniyeh. Based on the explanations by Eetemad al-Saltaneh, it was decided on the second of Muharram, 1312 A.H. (1894), "to hold a dirge ceremony in front of the formal door of Sahebqeraniyeh palace [;] on the western side of the palace [,] when I went there in the morning from the city, I saw they have set up tents" (E'etemad al-Saltaneh, 2006, p. 969). Comparison of the subjects in the photos and explanations and their dates with Eetemad al-Saltaneh explications indicate that his descriptions of the dirge locus match with the same ceremony of which several photos are existent (Fig. 4). Thus, it can be ensured that the aforesaid photos exhibit the ceremony in the forecourt of Sahebqeraniyeh garden. So, by "Meidan", Brugsch means the very forecourt on the western section of the complex. Eetemad al-Saltaneh has also pointed to the establishment of tents and making Tekyeh in the forecourt of Sahebqeraniyeh on the first day of Muharram, 1313 A.H. (1895) (Eetemad al-Saltaneh, 2006, p.1014).

Fig. 4. Tekyeh in the Forecourt of Sahebqeraniyeh
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center, 1894)

In Mer'at al-Boldan, as well, he points to an honorable governmental Tekyeh at the side of Niavaran palace (E'etemad al-Saltaneh, 1989, p. 1261). Issue no. 859 of Iran Newspaper has mentioned the forecourt of the blessed Sahebqeraniyeh mansion as the locus of Tekyeh (Iran Newspaper, 1894, no. 859); and, meanwhile pointing to the establishment of a tent in the forecourt of the mansion and the blessed Sahebqeraniyeh palace, issue no.891 realizes the summer-stay yard of the royal court as the location of Tekyeh (Iran Newspaper, 1894, no. 891). This is indicative of the idea that the forecourt of the palace has been an important and well-accepted place.

In the meanwhile, in order to locate the exact place of Tekyeh, attentions should be paid to the map of the garden and the aerial photos taken in 1956, 1962 and 1966. Two open spaces or yards at the side of the palace can be possibly taken as the grounds of Tekyeh (Fig. 3). The first is the yard that can be accessed after passing the forecourt or, as explained by Feuvrier, one can find his or her way in the northern side of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion upon passing through it and the other is the yard which still exists in the western side of and connected to Sahebqeraniyeh mansion. Both of these probabilities are wrong. As it will be seen, the first yard has had a large garden in its center until the late Qajar Era (Fig. 5) and the floor of the second yard, as well, unlike what is seen in the existent images (Fig. 4), had been elevated at least for three meters as evidenced in Mokhtari's studies hence it would have still been in a lower level to the mansion's floor (Mokhtari, 2005, p. 45). Thus, none of these two is the space where Tekyeh was held.

According to Feuvrier's descriptions in the second half of the 1880s, he has entered a yard surrounding a low-rise building and found his way into a yard situated in the north of the mansion via passing underneath a vaulted ceiling. Such a way of the entrance has also been explicated by Brugsch. He has been in Iran during the years from 1859 to 1861 (1276 to 1278 A.H.) so he has most surely seen not Sahebqeraniyeh mansion but Niavaran palace; he says that "passing through a small yard with a door at the end of it, he has found himself all of a sudden in front of the palace" (Brugsch, 1989, p. 259). Thus, even with the transformation of Niavaran palace to Sahebqeraniyeh mansion, the garden's structure had not undergone much of a change at least regarding entry into the complex. The yard that can be seen in the aerial photos from 1956 and 1966 and still being existent was connected to the northern yard through a corridor. But, the investigation of the building wherein the corridor is positioned (Fig. 7) reveals that the current building does not date back to the Qajar era. It has been possibly constructed on an older building and/or it is the renovated form of it.

There are two historical images of the intended yard space. The first is the photo that has been taken on Fitr Holiday in 1912 and displays the royal court's attendants in the presence of Ahmad Shah (Saafi Golpayegani, 2005, p. 19) (Fig. 5) and the other depicts an older situation, a celebration during constitutional period according to Saafi Golpayegani's explanations of the historical photos of Mo'ayyer al-Mamalek's family (Fig.6); thus, it is probably pertinent to the late Mozaffari Period and/or afterwards. There is a sloped surface visible on left sides of both of the photos that seem to portray the northernmost section of the yard which is also consistent with today's situation (Fig. 7).

It appears that the two old photos (Figs 5&6) display the yard's layout after undergoing changes in Muzaffar al-Din Shah's time; that is because we know that he has made changes in the way the main mansion and the harem were connected (Feuvrier, 2006, p. 162). Possibly, it has been following these changes and in the first Pahlavi period that the building with a veranda on it has undergone changes and transformed to what it presently looks like (Fig. 7). Accordingly, the western precinct of the main mansion encompasses a yard, with a garden planted with flowers in the middle and a veranda in the eastern side where the King sometimes sat and allowed others to meet him, as well as a forecourt that should have been on the western side of and connected to this yard so that a Tekyeh could have been.

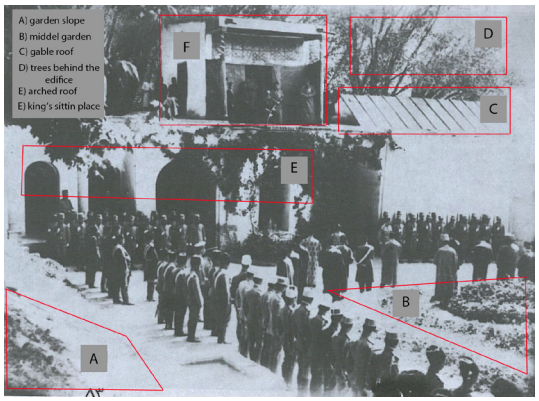

Fig. 5. A Historical Photo of the Yard Connected to the Forecourt: A) Garden Slope; B) Middle Plot; C) Gable Roof; D) Trees Behind the Palace; E) Arched Roof; F) King's Sitting Place
(Saafi Golpayegani, 2005, p.289)

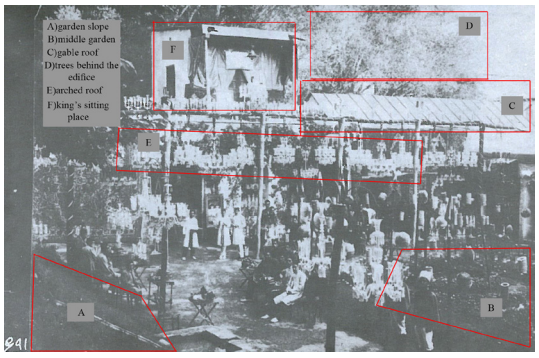

Fig. 6. A Historical Photo of the Yard Connected to the Forecourt: A) Garden Slope; B) Middle Plot; C) Gable Roof; D) Trees Behind the Palace; E) Arched Roof ; E) King's Sitting Place
(Saafi Golpayegani, 2005, p. 202)

Fig. 7. The Current Photo of the Yard Connected to the Forecourt: A) Garden Slope; B) Middle Plot; C) Gable Roof; D) Trees Behind the Palace; E) Arched Roof

5.3. Northern Yard

This section of the complex embraces the main entrance of the mansion and many of the important ceremonies were held in the past in front of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion and this same yard. Having passed through the western side of the yard and entered into this yard in the northern section of the mansion, Feuvrier writes "in this section of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion, there are two simple and parallel buildings with somewhat low-rise building connecting them. This middle edifice has a huge hall on the first floor and the other two edifices are comprised of a large number of rooms (Feuvrier, 2006, pp. 162-163). The authentic layout of this yard can be observed in some of the Qajar Era's photos (Fig. 10) as well as in Abu Torab's painting (Fig. 8).

Some of the photos like the one shown in Figure (9) are indicative of the general change in the landscaping of the aforesaid yard and revealing the fact that the changes have been continued during the second Pahlavi era. A photo taken by Abdullah Qajar (Fig. 10, the lower part on the left side) shows the northern view of the mansion which also incorporates a part of the wing on separating the northern yard from its western part.

Some of the other photos like Abu Torab's painting as well as a photo taken from outside Sahebqeraniyeh that belongs to Khadem collection (Fig. 11) show that there has been exactly a northern yard as well for the western wing on the eastern side of the mansion for a reason or another. Therefore, this yard has been exactly as explained by Feuvrier in the second half of the 1880s. However, the eastern wing was later on eliminated and the northern yard and the eastern sections of the garden were subjected to transformation with the continuation of the changes.

Figure (9) that is more recent in contrast to Abu Torab's painting (Fig. 8), the photo of Khadem collection (Fig. 11) and Abdullah Qajar's photo from the northern front of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion (Fig. 10) display the eastern wing of the northern yard but it cannot be seen in a most recent photo (Fig. 12) that has been taken from outside the garden. Figure (12) shows that the

eastern wing of the northern yard marking the existence of a north-southward mansion has been destroyed and given its position to a simple wall separating the interior and exterior parts of the garden. The destruction of the aforementioned wing has allowed the changes to be expanded to the eastern side of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion.

Fig. 8. Abu Torab's Painting of the Northern Front of Sahebqeraniyeh Mansion
(Zoka & Semsar, 1997, p. 259)

Fig. 9. A Photo Showing the Northern View of Sahebqeraniyeh Mansion
(Golestan Palace, Visual DocumentsCenter)

Fig. 10. The Photos of Sahebqeraniyeh Mansion's Northern View
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

5.4. Eastern Area of the Mansion

Based on some of the historical photos from 1889 (Fig. 11), Sahebqeraniyeh mansion formed the final limit of the eastern side in a part of the garden's length. At a time close to the aforementioned year, Feuvrier writes about this apparently exterior part of the garden: "this year, I set up my tents down the chancellor's tents, i.e. near the mansion's walls in the eastern section of the garden in a dry and rugged land from where I can see an endless horizon. So that I can see Rostam Abad and Saltanat Abad and gunpowder making facility and mint and Qajar palace and Eshrat Abad and Tehran and from there, the Sepahsalar Mosque and the arch of the Tekyeh and desert to the mountain foot (Feuvrier, 2006, p. 189). In the meanwhile, the aerial photo taken in 1956 (Fig. 1) and some of the historical photos (Fig. 16) show the construction of a building in the northeastern part of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion that, unlike the initial northern-southern orientation, is stretched east-westward. This asconstruction, as well as building of some of the installations like a greenhouse that can be seen in the aerial photo taken in 1956, indicate vast changes in the garden's limit. The parts described by Feuvrier can be also observed in the older descriptions by Brugsch. Although Brugsch does not clearly specify the positions of tents in respect to the garden, he states that there had been established a massive number of tents in the periphery of the mansion and, of course, outside the garden (Brugsch, 1989, p. 258).

View, Khadem Collection
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

Eastern View
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

5.5. Southern Yard

In the current status, there is a small but important yard in the southern section of the mansion. This sloped yard is the southern slope of a hill on the peak of which Sahebqeraniyeh mansion has been constructed. In its original form, this yard has at least had four beds or platforms that connected the peripheral area of the main mansion to the southern garden. The layout of the beds can be observed in a historical photo pertinent to the time before Sahebqeraniyeh mansion's construction and coinciding with the life time of Niavaran palace (Fig. 13).

The configuration of the beds and ornamental arcades of their back walls reveals the tradition of such older garden beds like Bagh-i Takht-i Qajar in Shiraz and Ghasr-i Qajar in Tehran. These beds had been constructed in the southern area of Niavaran palace and provided a dominant view of the southern garden (Fig. 14). Sahebqeraniyeh mansion's façade that is composed of semi-circular arches (Figs 15&16) is not congruent with the arches on the ending wall of the beds shown in Figure (13); hence, it seems that these beds have undergone transformations at the same time with the destruction of Niavaran palace and construction of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion. Reza -Qoli Khan Hedayat explains about the authentic layout of the beds and speaks of serene platforms that had ponds filled with delectable water according to older traditions (Hedayat, 1857).

At least a photo taken from the locus close to the middle axis of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion shows that the traditional beds of the historical gardens like those seen in the downstream side of Niavaran palace as well as in Ghasr-i Qajar garden are missing in the middle section of the southern yard and they have been replaced by wide step-like surfaces to display a more recent expression for garden-making in the lands with steep slopes (Fig. 15).

6. SOUTHERN GARDEN

In the southern area of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion, more substantial changes have been brought about at the time that the southern garden situated in the downstream side of the southern yard was separated from the complex and transformed into Niavaran Park. The last status of this area before and after transformation to a park can be observed in two aerial photos taken in 1966 and 1969 (Fig. 3). During the prosperity period of Sahebqeraniyeh garden, Feuvrier explains that the southern part (southern garden) of Sahebqeraniyeh is not so much favorable for spending summers because its gardens cannot well block the sunlight and the sun rays constantly irradiate there (Feuvrier, 2006, p. 162). This issue can be understood in an investigation of the southern garden in the years before 1883. In Figure (14) that refers to a time before the construction of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion in 1881, a vast moor is observed in the downstream side of the palace and restricted in a remote distance to an east-westward stretched wall. A row of trees is seen behind the wall possibly as a part of the avenue that connected Niavaran to Tehran through Saltanatabad and Zarrabkhaneh. Trees are missing from a notable part before the wall. Thus, at the time of preparing the photo, a part of the garden had been probably abandoned and left barren. The western area of the southern garden, as well, that pertains to the years before 1881 can be observed in Figure (17). In this image, the eastern wall of the southern garden is observed with a tent that had been established behind it.

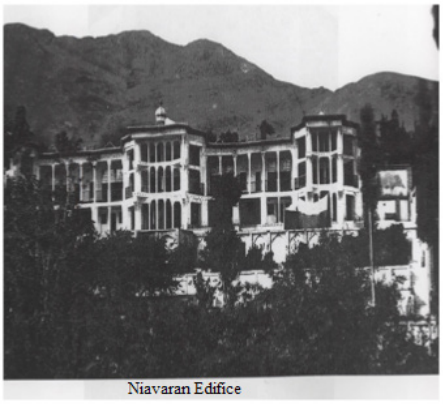

Fig. 13. The Southern View of Niavaran Palace Along with the Beds Connected to It before 1881
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

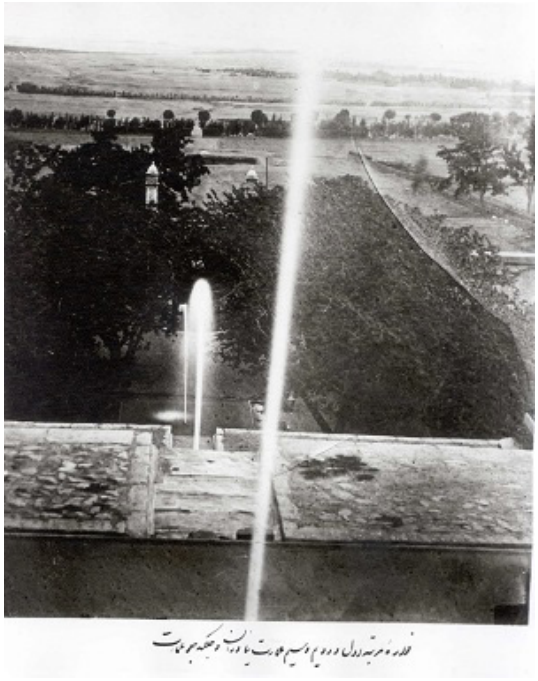

Fig. 14. The Southern Garden from the Top of the Beds Connected to the Southern Side of the Palace Before 1881
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

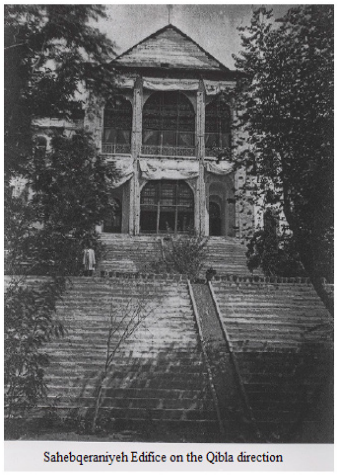

Fig. 15. The Southern View of Sahebqeraniyeh Mansion
(Golestan Palace, Visual Docuemnts Center)

There is another tent seen in Figure (17). Combining the aforesaid tent with part of Niavaran palace as well as the area outside the garden in Figure (17) and comparing it with Figure (13) that portrays the tent established on the highest bed demonstrates would be reflective of the idea that the photo angle in Figure (17) has been from the easternmost part of the palace and facing southeastward. Thus, in order to better understand the limits of the garden's southern part, the two aforementioned images (Figs. 13&17) can be juxtaposed. While Figure (17) depicts the eastern wall of the southern garden, Figure (13) shows the eastern wall of the palace' southern yard that is stretched along the beds in the form of a staircase; more importantly, the back-wall of the lowest bed that can be somehow observed in the right-hand bottom corner of the photo has been stretched beyond the southern yard along the northern front of the southern garden but cut by the photo's cadre; thus, the southern garden had been a lot wider than the southern yard of the palace. In order to understand the changes in this area, Figures (11) and (16) should be compared. In Figure (11) that must be older, there is a north-southward mansion that restricts the eastern limit of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion's northern yard. This image conforms to Feuvrier's description that realizes the northern yard as having been limited to two side buildings. Figure (12) shows the status of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion at a later time and possibly after repair. The investigation of this image and its comparison with other photos reveals that both the north-southward building inserted in Figure (11) and the later east-westward building inside Figure (16) have been destroyed and substituted by a wall inscribed with arcade as observed in Figure (12). The other important point that is captured from this later image is the destruction of the eastern wall of the southern garden's area (Fig. 12). This wall has given its place to a wall along the eastern limit of Niavaran palace and/or eastern wall of the southern yard. Thus, at a time before Pahlavi Era that the aerial photos have been taken in 1956 and during the late Qajar era, the southern garden was transformed into a smaller area stretched like a thin strap exactly along with the southern yard. Therefore, based on Figure (12), it can be assured that the wall of the southern garden's eastern side had been parallel to the southern yard's eastern wall for a while. In the aerial photo taken in 1956 (Fig. 1), the trees planted in regular rows can be observed but, as inferred from Figure (12), they have been no more a part of the garden and have been located outside its precinct. Therefore, before 1956, a part of the southern garden's limit that had been separated from it was again appended there. However, according to the aerial photo taken in 1956, there is no wall surrounding the southern garden and/or; instead, there is a short hedge that has not given rise to a tall shade in the aerial photo. This finding might reveal the idea that the southern garden has been transformed into a public park and it can be accordingly considered that Pahlavi royal court did not know the southern garden as a surrounded space. The aerial photos taken during the 1950s and 1960s show the plans of the avenues and the internal components of the southern garden in the same status they have been during those years and it seems that this plan, even if separated, reveals a part of the garden's plan in its precedent form.

Fig. 16. A Photo Showing the Southern Area of Sahebqeraniyeh
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

Fig. 17. The Southeastern View From the Adjacent Bed
(Zoka & Semsar, 1997, p.179)

7. A GLANCE AT THE AREA OF THE NORTHERN GARDEN

Based on the explanations by Dust Ali Moayyer al-Mamalek, Niavaran had consisted of exterior parts as well as harem. He writes: "many changes were brought about in the garden of harem and buildings of supervisory house, patrol house and kitchen were inter alia destroyed". According to him, besides forty or fifty buildings that belonged to the shah's wives, there has been a large mansion in the harem (Mo'ayyer Al-Mamalek, 1982, p. 52).

Sotudeh explains that a part of the wall between the courthouse or the main mansion and harem was destroyed during Reza Shah's time; hence, Jahannama palace (or Sahebqeraniyeh mansion) was connected to the harem. He also reminds us that the garden in the south of Jahannama palace was the recreation and hiking locus of Naser al-Din Shah along with his wives (Sotudeh, 1992, p. 802). On the other hand, according to Feuvrier, the harem has been on the eastern side and connected to the palace and the kitchen and pantry have been a little more distant on a slope in the front, i.e. near the entry gate (Feuvrier, 2006, p.163). Harem's downsizing during Muzaffar al-Din Shah's time might be a reason indicating the non-necessariness of the existence of the mansion on the northern yard's eastern wing that, as explained by Feuvrier, has possibly been the connector of the interior part or harem and the main mansion. The numerous units that belonged to the harem's residents should have been, as quoted by Sotudeh from Hojjat Bolaqi, small three-room buildings but the two units that belonged to Anis al-Dowleh and Amin Aqdas have seemingly been larger (Sotudeh, 1992, pp. 802-803). Figures (18) and (19) demonstrated a building that belonged to the harem of Niavaran and a mansion is possibly seen behind the women. In both of these two images, the private mansion is situated at the end of an avenue with trees on both sides and a water stream flowing in between.

Fig. 18. Harem of Niavaran
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

Fig. 19. Niavaran's Harem
(Golestan Palace, Visual Documents Center)

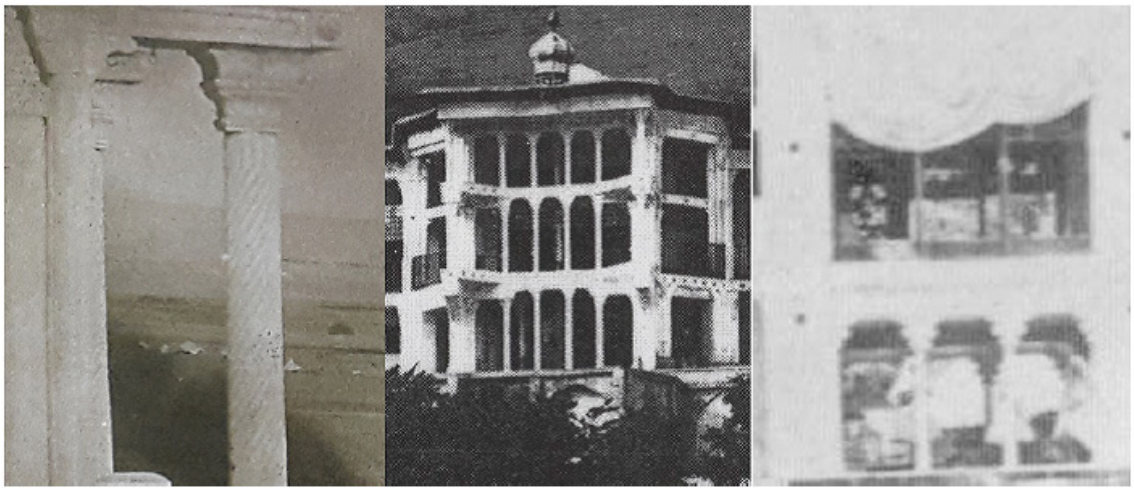

Fig. 20. Chapiters of Niavaran Palace (Middle and Left Side) and the Main Mansion in Harem (Right Side)

Investigation of the architectural elements shown in the photos reveals that the aforementioned private mansion conforms to the architecture of Niavaran palace, not the Sahebqeranyeh mansion. The first point is that there are sharp arches seen in the private mansion. These arches can be also observed in the arcades of Niavaran Palace's beds, as well; the other point is that the chapiters in the middle span of the private mansion's first floor in harem (Fig. 19) are completely similar to those in Niavaran palace (Figs. 13&17) that was destroyed before 1881 (Fig. 20). This is suggestive of the idea that the photo taken of the private mansion in harem dates back to a time before the construction of Sahebqeraniyeh mansion in 1881; this is highlighted below the photos, as well. However, this interior section has possibly not been destroyed at the same time with Niavaran palace and it has been one of the mansions in the harem of Sahebqeraniyeh garden, as well, for a while. The interior area underwent changes during Muzaffar al-Din Shah's time and it was eventually destroyed during the Pahlavi period. However, the row of the trees and the water steam between the mid-section and width of the avenue as well as the consistency of architectural elements in interior mansion (Figs 18 & 19) with those of the primary palace (Niavaran palace) strengthening the likelihood that the harem's mansion had been in front of Niavaran palace and within a small distance from it.

8. RETRIEVING THE GARDEN'S PLAN

Based on the study's findings, Sahebqeraniyeh garden has had three main sections: a northern garden that was dedicated to harem and interior mansion with some service buildings of the whole complex being situated on the west side; southern garden that had been constructed at the bottom of an elevated hill in the middle of the whole garden's complex and the middle area of the garden that included the main palace and its peripheral areas and yards. Sahebqeraniyeh mansion had been positioned in the center of the middle area between two northern and southern yards (Fig. 10) included, in its original form, two linear north-southward buildings on the eastern and western sides with the steeply sloped southern yard being the separator of the main mansion and the southern garden. The northern yard was restricted to a back space as well as to the lands outside the garden on its eastern side through the building that connected the mansion to the harem. The northern yard was connected through a corridor to another yard on the west side of the northern yard. In this yard that was situated on the west side of the mansion, people occasionally came to meet the king (Figs. 5 & 6). Buildings like a supervisory house, patrol house, and kitchen had possibly been located on the northern side of this area. This yard or area has also been connected to the forecourt of Sahebqeraniyeh garden; the forecourt was situated at the end of the avenue in the adjacency of a precint that is currently transformed to a square and was considered as the more public area of the garden wherein Sahebqeraniyeh's Tekyeh and tent were established. Based on the investigations, the general layout of Niavaran garden (before 1881) and Sahebqeraniyeh garden (after 1881) has been represented in Figures (21) to (24).

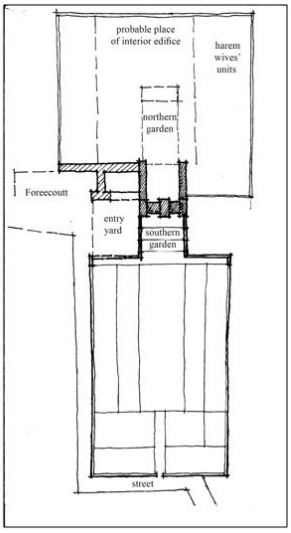

Fig. 21. The Retrieved Layout of Niavaran Garden before 1881

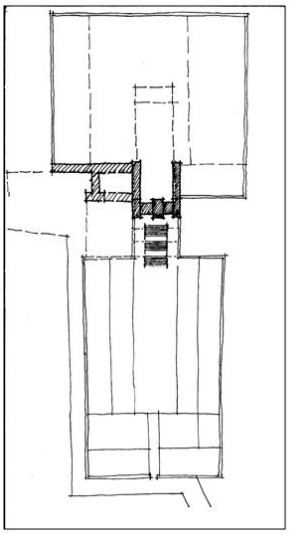

Fig. 22. The Retrieved Layout of Sahebqeraniyeh Garden after 1881

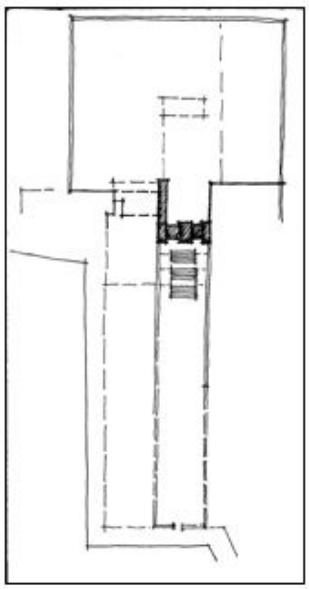

Fig. 23. The Retrieved Layout of Sahebqeraniyeh Garden Pertaining to the Same time Shown in Figure (12) and Possibly Late Qajar Era

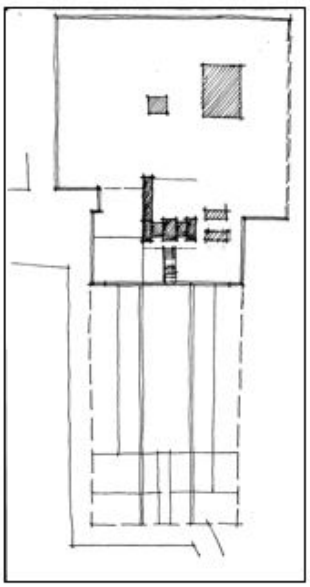

Fig. 24. The Retrieved Layout of Niavaran Palace during the Second Pahlavi Period and about 1961

9. CONCLUSION

Sahebqeraniyeh garden dates back to a time before the Naseri period. However, Naser al-Din Shah developed the garden's buildings in the early 1850s and substituted Niavaran palace for smaller buildings. In this period, the garden's plan was constructed based on an older pattern of bed-gardens like the one seen in Qasr-i Qajar garden. In such a situation, the beds overlooking the southern garden in conjunction with Niavaran palace and harem in the northern garden represented the overall and coordinated plan of the whole garden. In the second half of the 1870s, changes were made in the garden's main building, a new mansion took the place of the older palace and parts of the garden that were in perfect coordination with the older palace were also subsequently changed; more importantly, the beds that provided a wide view of the southern garden were eliminated. Thus, it seems that the garden destruction trend has been commenced with the destruction of Niavaran palace and its designed connection to the northern and southern gardens during the Naseri period and in the 1880s. Following these changes, the main elements of the northern garden like the dormitory and the harem units were omitted and other buildings were added from the late Qajar era till the late decades of the Pahlavi era. During these changes, the southern garden, as well, was separated from the complex

and transformed to a public park and the areas in the periphery of the main mansion, as well, witnessed a lot of changes. Moreover, the results of this article that relies on the historical texts and documents and pictorial evidence show that interpretation and highlighting of the main traces of the garden's mid-section are quite likely. As for the southern garden, it seems that the transformation of part of it to a public park should be considered as a part of the garden's evolution and metamorphosis in Iran. In this specific case, the new park has at least paid respect to the general structure of the old garden's segment. Although its separation has been followed by very critical damage, the situation is different for the northern garden. The spatial structure and general plan of this part of the garden cannot be perceived via guessing and conjecturing and our imperfect information that stems from the absence of pictorial resources and sufficient descriptions in this regard should be supplemented in the further future studies.

END NOTE

1. Brugsch uses two words of "Meidan" and "Market" to refer to square with both of them being associated with public space. The Persian translation gives an equivalent that is not so precise. See also Heinrich Brugsch, "a trip to the royal court of Sultan Sahebqeran", tr. Kurdbacheh, p. 224; and also Brugsch. (1862). "Reise Der K. Preussischen Gesandtschaft nach Persien", p. 224.

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