Mapping Industrial Heritage Sites in Egypt: Identification & Management

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Abstract

The emphasis in this paper is on analyzing the context of industrial heritage in Egypt. The context of industrial heritage reveals identity, cultural traditions and memories of work, a fundamental part of industrial culture. It is a part of urban transformation in the city, and its planning practices. In the last 30 years, awareness of the importance of industrial heritage in understanding history increased, and the new definition of Industrial Heritage started representing meaning in our history. The industrial heritage in Egypt is an important point of analysis as it could offer economic, cultural, and social benefits to the community. The objective of this research is to examine the context of industrial heritage in Egypt and find effective strategies for raising awareness of its importance. The paper sheds light on the Laws and legal procedures for managing the industrial heritage in Egypt, and the ways to document the industrial heritage tools, devices, mechanisms. Then, the paper presents a management plan for the Egyptian industrial heritage that could contribute to safeguard, interpret, and promote such aspects of cultural heritage.

Key Words:

Mapping - industrial Heritage – Context – Document

Introduction

The TICCIH 2 charter, Nizhny Tagil Charter, for the identification and protection of industrial heritage that was signed in Moscow 2003 by TICCIH organization and ICOMOS3 states the importance of recording the physical features and condition of the objects of industrial heritage especially in the industrial sites; such recording should be placed in a public archive because they provide evidence of activities, tell stories, and increase our sense of identity and understanding of cultures. The TICCIH charter sheds light on the process of recording such types of heritage that should include "written descriptions, drawings, photographs and video film of moving objects, and references to supporting documentation". TICCIH charter highlights the intangible aspects of industrial heritage where the working memories of people involved in any industrial activity are unique and irreplaceable resources and should be recorded because these memories elaborate their social activities, as well as the intangible records of any industrial activity contained in memories. TICCIH charter states the importance to identify the extent of the industrial heritage where any particular industrial typologies should be analyzed and documented; then such documentation should be freely accessible to the public. Policies for the protection of the industrial heritage should be added to the programs of historical research. Such policies are the way to safeguard many industrial activities in various sites. TICCIH charter identifies the criteria for assessing industrial heritage; the criteria identify the most important existing landscapes, sites, settlements, buildings, structures, machines, and processes. The charter also sheds light on the importance of listing strong legal measures that ensure the conservation of industrial heritage. TICCIH charter states the tremendous impact that industrialization has had on human culture, where all these aspects should be considered by The World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Measures for maintaining and conserving the Industrial heritage depend on the preservation of the functional integrity of such kind of heritage. The Measures for conserving the Industrial heritage requires a thorough knowledge of the various

1. Heike Oevermann, Industrial heritage management in the context of urban planning (Georg-Simmel-Center for Metropolitan Studies Berlin, Germany, Big Stuff, accessed October 31, 2019, 2-4, https://bigstuff.omeka.net/items/show/17.
2. TICCIH stands for the Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage signed in Moscow 2003 by TICCIH organization and ICOMOS
3. ICOMOS stands for International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS was founded in 1965 in Warsaw as a result of the Venice Charter of 1964, and offers advice to UNESCO on World Heritage Sites, accessed December 10, 2020 https://www.icomos.org/en.
4. TICCIH the Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage, 3–4.
industrial processes which may have taken place in the industrial sites. The various industrial processes include all the former uses that should be examined and assessed. TICCIH charter states the possibility of the rehabilitation and possible adaptation of an industrial site to ensure its conservation, and this possibility couldn’t be accepted if the site has an especially historical significance where the original patterns of circulation and activity of such kind of heritage should be respected. It highlights the importance of conserving the human skills involved in many industrial processes that should be carefully recorded and transmitted to younger generations.

The Industrial Heritage Analysis. That was conducted by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia-Pacific Region states that the category “Industrial Heritage” is an under-represented category of cultural (including industrial), natural and mixed sites and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In 1999, the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with ICOMOS listed. The classification of World Heritage Sites that included Industrial Heritage sites. This list was decided upon and decreed by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre annually. Industrial Heritage is considered by the World Heritage Committee and the ICOMOS analysis as an under-represented category on the World Heritage List. The Industrial Heritage Analysis of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia-Pacific defines Industrial heritage as “The Industrial Resolution that profoundly modified lifestyles and landscapes, and the means employed to extract raw materials and exploit the agricultural products and minerals resulting in grandiose constructions and great achievements, testifying to the creative genius of humankind where Industrial sites are important milestones in the history of humanity. Therefore, they embody the hope of a better life and the ever-greater power over matter.” The classification of World Heritage sites was initially prepared in 1999 by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with ICOMOS. It included 28 sites that are considered Industrial Heritage where such kind of heritage embraces 5.3% of all cultural sites and 4% of all World Heritage Sites. The Industrial Heritage Analysis of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia-Pacific also sheds light on the difference of the cultural components (including industrial) of each region. UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia-Pacific analysis listed twenty-eight inscribed industrial heritage sites classified by region; twenty-two of which are found in Europe / North America regions, four in both Latin America / Caribbean regions and two in Asia/Pacific region. According to the list, there are no Industrial Sites on the World Heritage List in Africa and the Arab States. (Diagrams 1, 2)

The testimonies of industrialization have played an important role in both urban and rural territorial evolution, forming the historical and cultural character of its sites, places, and landscapes. Each Architectural design, landscape, industrial facility, or many other factors should be kept alive in any process of intervention, rehabilitation or conservation.” The Industrial Heritage Analysis of UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia-Pacific Section on the Tentative Industrial Heritage Sites in the Arab States, figure 1 expresses the map of this Tentative list where no Industrial Heritage sites are on the List, and only three Industrial Heritage Sites with very special topics are listed as mixed sites on the Tentative List; the three mixed sites are bulk machinery has a character that should be kept alive in any process of intervention, recovery, rehabilitation, or restoration. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia-Pacific records that the three mixed sites are bulk machinery that have a character that should be kept alive in any process of intervention, recovery, rehabilitation, or restoration.

The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities. The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities. 14 The Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, accessed May 31, 2020, http://www.antiquities.gov.eg.

15 UNESCO World Heritage Centre, accessed May 31, 2020, website. https://whc.unesco.org.

16 Shura Council, Fifth Ordinary Session, Report of the Production and Manpower Committee on Industrial Policy in Egypt, (government Media office Egypt: 2018).

17 Shura Council, Fifth Ordinary Session, Report of the Production and Manpower Committee on Industrial Policy in Egypt, (government Media office Egypt: 2018).

The mission of the Ministry is to focus on the current and new industry in Egypt as the engine of sustainable and inclusive economic development. The mission of the ministry does not list any efforts, projects, or even initiatives concerning the protection of the industrial heritage in Egypt. The mission focuses on multiplying exports and supporting small and medium industries, developing the industrial zones system, building environmentally friendly industrial cities, reconciling the current industrial cities, as well as transforming them to serve the green economy, green economy, and sustainable development. The Department of the International Cultural Heritage Organizations and International Cooperation at the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities and the Heritage Management department at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture are the two governmental bodies in charge of documenting the identity of the heritage areas in Egypt, in addition to a committee that was established by the Egyptian Prime Minister to manage the documentation of the heritage areas in Egypt, including members of the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities, Environment, and Interior. Based on the researcher’s analysis, the Egyptian industrial heritage is not listed in the aspects of heritage in the Egyptian heritage file; the UNESCO list for the Egyptian heritage sites does not mention the industrial type.

Main Features of the Egyptian Industry are points of analysis. Egypt has witnessed an industrial renaissance in the 19th century by “Muhammad Ali” whose era is known for the establishment of a major industrial base, which included textiles and sugar industry, production of oil, rice, mills, and military industries, where the sugar industry started in 1835, the textile industry in 1911, and phosphate fertilizers in 1957. The iron industry started in 1949, nitrogenous fertilizers in 1951 and all these activities were based on the efforts of the private sector such as Banque Misr which was established in 1920. Since 1948, there were several attempts to manufacture iron and steel, where three companies were established: the Egyptian copper factories, the Delta Steel factories, and the National Company for Metal Industries. The Egyptian Iron and Steel Company was the first integrated project that elaborated Egypt’s iron industry that depends on iron ore, the construction of the company started in 1956.

Several industrial heritage contexts are identified in Egypt, analyzing such cases reveals the different core values of the industrial heritage in Egypt. The first case of the industrial heritage contexts in Egypt is traced in the Red Sea Governorate (Al Qusayr), a city in eastern Egypt, located on the Red Sea coast. The old factories of the phosphate industry dating back to 1910 reflect the industrial heritage context in that governorate. First examples of a case are the factories of Al Qusayr which reveal the importance of the Egyptian industrial heritage in safeguarding the identity of the Red Sea Governorate, ensuring that one of the major contexts is the Phosphate industry. Figures 6-7-8 show the current situation of some of the old phosphate factories of Al Qusayr, where industrial devices dating back to the 19th century in Egypt were used in Phosphate production, in a very bad condition where the owning company sold old machinery as scrap. Other industrial devices could be found in Al Qusayr citadel, a historical castle built during the Ottoman era by Sultan Selim II to protect pilgrims and commercial caravans. Near the eastern tower of the citadel, old mining tools are on display focusing on the phosphate company of Al Qusayr that was established by Indians Engineers in 1816. Figures 9-10 show the carriages that were used to transport phosphates in the early 20th century; the carriages were gifted by the Al Qusayr phosphate Company. The citadel is now under the authority of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities.

The second case of industrial heritage contexts in Egypt is the Minet El Bassel region near the Mahmoudiya Canal, Alexandria Port. It was a famous Alexandrian Industrial district till the issuance of the decree N.36 in 1967 by the former president Gamal Abdel Nasser. The decree aims to end the enforcement of the Stock Exchange of Minet El-Bassel as the main center for...
The sixth case of the industrial heritage contexts in Egypt is located at El Fayyum Governorate. The early printer used in the print house of Al-Sabeeh Library reveals the value of the industrial devices used during the 18th century in Egypt. A printing machine dating back to the 19th century was used in the activities of Al-Sabeeh Library; it is kept nowadays under the authority of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities (Historic Cairo Project Sector). Figures 12-13 show the display of the 19th-century printing machine in one of the old structures of Al-Azhar Street. The early printer used in the print house of Al-Sabeeh Library reveals the value of the industrial devices used during the 18th century in Egypt. A printing machine dating back to the 19th century was used in the activities of Al-Sabeeh Library; it is kept nowadays under the authority of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities (Historic Cairo Project Sector). 21

The fifth case of the industrial heritage contexts in Egypt is traced to El Faiyum, a city in Middle Egypt; in 1936, where a hydrau- electric power, where the water flows out rotating the turbines thus producing electricity. Also, the station generates electricity with a capacity of 33 thousand watts on seven waterfalls. This station is located in Qalyubia governorate, involving Industrial heritage factories for cotton with cotton gin machines left in a bad condition. Figures 22&23 show the old cotton factory and a laboratory for ginning cotton in governorate of Qalyubia.

The eighth case of the industrial heritage contexts in Egypt is located at Alqamia city in the Soheil Governorate of Upper Egypt. The city is famous for textiles manufacturing where traditional manufacturers use mechanical looms for producing textiles; and the city is a major textile center. The Handmade weaving industry is inscribed in 2020 (15. COM) on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Urgent Safeguarding. 23 The mechanical looms are part of the industrial process and reveal the industrial heritage context. Figures 24&25 show the type of traditional machines used; another similar case of the Handmade weaving industry is located at Al-Qattan Carpet Factory in Cairo that continues to manufacture handmade carpets using weaving machines since its establishment in the 1930s in a factory 24 registered by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture in the “List of Egyptian and Coptic Antiquities,” and it is now under the authority of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the owner of the factory. Figures 26&27 show the traditional looms in the factory.

The archival photos of the industrial machinery in Egypt employ both history and significance of such types of heritage. The archival photos establish a historical record of the act of the machinery in Egypt during the 18th and 19th centuries. Notewor- thy, the Voice of Cairo known as Sont El Qahira Company for Audio and Video, an Egyptian joint stock Company, one of the Radio and Television Union companies affiliated to the Ministry of Information. It was the first vinyl company established in 1960, where the company was opened on the 3rd of April, 1959 as the first Egyptian record-keeping company under the name “Masrafon”. Industrial heritage devices linked with the composer Mohamed Fawzi reveal intangible aspects of money-oriented heritage; (figures 28-31) including archival photos of the industrial devices in the first Egyptian record-keeping company and factory during the fifties from Makram Salama archive.

Setting a management plan for the Egyptian industrial heritage can contribute to safeguard, interpret, and promote this important aspect of Egypt’s cultural heritage. The key starting point of preparing the strategy for managing the industrial heritage in Egypt is the implementation of the Burra Charter Process; 25 which listed the stages for managing the cultural heritage and could be applied in the case of managing Egyptian industrial heritage. Defining the value of the industrial heritage in Egypt requires assembling data of the industrial heritage condition in both museums and industrial sites, as well as applying a special natural scientific—analytical research work that might face the increasing loss during heritage documentation. All factors and concerns

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29 www.encyclopedia.com/history/culture-and-arts-maps-and-geographical-reference-centers/100262854.html
30 President Gamal Abdel Nasser website, was set up in cooperation between the Library of Alexandria and the Gamal Abdel Nasser Foundation, accessed May 31, 2020. http://nasser-bibliothek.de/home/main/de/Nasser
31 Minister of Defence, issued a decree establishing the first integrated steel production complex as an Iron and Steel Company on June 14, 1954 at Al-Tebbeeb district in, Helwan. Moreover, it was in the Wadi Al-hareem area, next to a primary source of raw material, represented in the Tebeeb iron and steel factory (figures 16-19). The Military industry was one of the major industrial efforts during the times of the former president Gamal Abdel Nasser. Egypt initiated with India and former Yugoslavia in the early sixties an ambitious project to manufacture planes, missiles, jet engines, and weapons. The Helwan HA-300 plane was manufactured in Helwan, and Egypt manufactured the first two missiles. Several military factories, which belong to the Ministry of Military Production, were built to meet the requirements of the Egyptian Armed Forces. 27 Figures 20&21 Show the first Cairo jet plane and one of the military factories in Helwan. The seventh case of the industrial heritage contexts in Egypt is located at Qalyubia governorate, involving Industrial heritage factories for cotton with cotton gin machines left in a bad condition. Figures 22&23 show the old cotton factory and a laboratory for ginning cotton in governorate of Qalyubia.

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affecting the definition of the current situation of the Egyptian industrial heritage or related machinery needs to be analyzed in terms of physical factors, the material condition of industrial machinery, conservation needs, level of authenticity, legal requirements for protecting industrial heritage and a list of interests of all stakeholders to reach the preservation process.

The phases of the strategy that could be set for managing Egyptian Industrial Heritage can be divided into the following within which the stakeholders and the Egyptian community can participate in all phases of the process. The phases are:

1. Understand the significance and value of the industrial heritage in Egypt
2. Develop a policy to define, manage, and promote the Egyptian industrial heritage
3. Manage the Egyptian industrial heritage based on regulations.

The foundations of the regulations can be introduced with regard to the following aspects:

- Forming a national committee to represent the managing policy of the Egyptian industrial heritage in terms of the guidelines of the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, TICCIH, and a world organization for industrial heritage.
- All current Egyptian conservation laws should use specific terms to define and protect the industrial objects and industrial buildings in Egypt. Such laws should be considered when planning and during the process of decision-making which ought to include the public.
- Defining the industrial heritage sites in Egypt by promoting their outstanding industrial value, in order to play a key role in worldwide technical developments. Industrial heritage sites in Egypt with outstanding universal value need to be listed on the world heritage list. The latter would lead to introducing a new approach of viewing Egyptian industrial heritage of both technical and industrial landscapes. Finally, such foundations support the prioritization of protecting the Egyptian industrial heritage in terms of social and political discourse.

Conclusion

In the current context of the Egyptian industrial heritage, it has become apparent that it is important to define, set, and apply conservation, education, and interpretation procedures. Strengthening the three mentioned scopes can contribute to safeguarding the value of the industrial history of Egypt. All current Egyptian conservation laws ought to use specific terms to define and protect the mechanical objects and industrial buildings in Egypt. A strategy for managing the industrial heritage in Egypt should be set by the Egyptian government that could enable efficient documentation, interpretation, and preservation of the Egyptian industrial heritage. The value of heritage defines the importance of preserving heritage for the sake of the preservation of the past, to define it in the present and to take care of its stability into the future.15

Figures

15 De Jong, De Directeuren Van De Herinnering. Musealisering en nationaaliser van de volkskunst in Nederland 1815-1940, (Nijmegen: Sun, 2006), 85

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15 De Jong, De Directeuren Van De Herinnering. Musealisering en nationaaliser van de volkskunst in Nederland 1815-1940, (Nijmegen: Sun, 2006), 85
Figures 4-5 shows the announcement of the Saudi Ministry of culture competition for documenting the industrial heritage in Saudi Arabia in the country national campaign. Saudi Arabia did not apply for nominating their industrial heritage site to be listed on UNESCO list because, up till this moment they are working to document such sites. However; it is the only country that has started this national campaign.

Source: The official website of Ministry of Culture Saudi Arabia (accessed: May 7, 2019), https://www.moc.gov.sa/en/About

Figures 6-7-8 The current situation of one of the old Phosphate factories of Al Qusayr ©ShreenMohamed, 8 August 2019

Figures 9-10 The carriages that were used to transport phosphates in the early 20th century Al Qusayr ©ShreenMohamed, 8 August 2019
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Figures 11-13: One of the industrial heritage machines used in Egypt in Cotton spinning; made by the British Sir Richard Arkwright. 
Source: Eric Evans, Early Industrial Britain: The Forging of the Modern State, Longman Group, (England, 1983)

Figures 14-17: The old and new turbine motors at El Faiyum Power Station ©ShreenMohmed, January 9, 2020 & explore Fayoum, accessed May 31, 2020
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Figures 18-19: Al Nasr Auto Factory & the Iron and Steel Company
Source: President Gamal Abdel Nasser website, (accessed January 11, 2020)
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Figures 20–21 One of the military factories in Helwan and the first Cairo jet plane
Source: President Gamal Abdel Nasser website, accessed January 11, 2020, http://nasser.bibalex.org/home/main.aspx?lang=ar

Figures 22–23 The old cotton factory & laboratory for ginning cotton in Qalyubia governorate ©ShreenMohmed, March 9, 2019

Figures 24–25 Mechanical looms in Alshnin ©ShreenMohmed, December 7, 2019

Figures 26–27 The traditional looms & Al-Qattan Carpet Factory ©ShreenMohmed December 7, 2018

Figures 28–31 The archival photos of objects with old industrial equipment, Source: Egypt archive, accessed 26/3/2020, http://archivegypt.com/
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