

The Syrian provincial *salname* of 1871 (1288 H) lists 52 villages in the Hebron district.¹⁴⁵ The *Esas-ı Emlak* registration of rural areas in Hebron five years later, in 1876, enumerates 50 villages and eight *mezra*'s in the district. Examining the two documents side-by-side, one sees that two settlements classified as villages in the *salname* of 1871, Rihyya and Khirbat al-Asad, were classified as *mezra*'s five years later in the *emlak* register. The other fifty villages are found in both documents.

It is not clear why Rihyya's status "reverted" to farmlands between 1871 and 1876, because the *emlak* register indicates it was settled. That said, the assessed value of its residences (eight *odas* and two *hane*) in the *emlak* register indicates that the housing was modest. While one of the two *hanes* was valued at 750 kuruş, the other residences were valued at either 250 or 500 kuruş, the lowest housing values across the district. It is impossible to determine from this data whether the residential structures were unusually small or built with cheap materials. It is worth noting, however, that in addition to the residences, one other structure in Rihyya was recorded in the register. Entry number 7 was an untaxed *oda* (lit., room) registered to *şāhibülkhayrāt*.¹⁴⁶ This most likely served as the settlement's mosque, a guesthouse, and/or a place to gather. In subsequent years, Rihyya would be designated a village. In 1922, the Mandate census counted 231 individuals living

¹⁴⁵ ISAM, *Salname-ı Suriye* 1288 (1871), 164-168.

¹⁴⁶ ISA, *Esas-ı Emlak*, entry #13892.