

13. CONCLUSIONS

The reassessment of SAV1, the southern part of the New Kingdom town of Sai Island, has produced several new results, which are relevant for a better understanding of the town layout. From the documentary side of the project, the goal to record the entire town area as completely and accurately as possible was certainly achieved through the 3-D laser scan, which served as an important basis for the newly generated plan material. Thus, as was already repeatedly pointed out, a clarification of the old town map by Azim could be realized, both for the actual state of the ruins and also for the reconstruction of SAV1, providing a clear distinction between these two conditions (Plans 1 and 2). It must be stressed that accurate documentation, as well as the reexamination, was in many areas essential for making new reconstructions of the town possible, of which the most important observations shall be recapitulated here.

1. For the overall layout of the New Kingdom town, the hypothesis that the newly established eastern fortification wall was situated directly to the east of Temple A and SAF2 could be supported by the fact that the structures in the area SAF3 do not belong to the original Pharaonic architecture. Azim had originally interpreted them as part of a further building within the town and in his plan these walls are exactly aligned with the walls of SAF2.²⁹⁴ However, the 3-D laser scan showed that they actually deviate slightly from this general direction. Therefore, the eastern enclosure wall can safely be situated further to the west than originally assumed. Unfortunately though, no trace of this fortification wall could be detected on the laser scan. The 3-D reconstruction of the enclosure wall itself is mainly based on comparative studies, designating the outer rectangular protrusions as buttresses instead of small towers and omitting corner towers, as could also be observed at the comparable fortified town of Sesebi.
2. The storage area SAF5 in the western part of SAV1 was somewhat clarified through the reexaminations as well. In particular, the row of storage rooms M8–M11 shall be mentioned, where the reconstruction of a row of seven magazines to the north of Rue EO3 could be established. Furthermore, the situation in the area M12 was also clarified, by connecting the sparse Pharaonic remains and thus identifying four former east-west oriented storage rooms in this area. For this, the laser scan was a helpful support, since the exact locations of the former walls could be pinpointed. For the western part of SAF5, the documentation and reassessment yielded no new results. However, a thorough examination of different possibilities for the reconstruction of this area resulted in the hypothesis of either a further row of magazines along the western enclosure wall or a possible second temple in this area. What still remains unclear is the reason for the slightly different alignment of the storage rooms and the neighboring domestic area, and in this regard the unusual trapezoid form of the southernmost storerooms, M1–M7. Without further examinations, one can only speculate that this is in some way related to different construction phases for the magazines and the domestic quarter.
3. The ground plans of the houses H1–H3 and H5 seemed already very clear on Azim's plan, and their layout could be confirmed through the 3-D laser scan and the reassessment. Also, the southern part of House H4 could be ascertained, while the northern part is now assumed to have reached to the street Rue EO1 as opposed to Azim's proposal that its northern wall lay further the south. By adding the third dimension to the reconstruction of the houses, a typical Pharaonic domestic quarter could be exemplified with the houses H1–H5.
4. For the reconstruction of the so-called governor's building SAF2, the 3-D laser scan once again

²⁹⁴ AZIM 1975, 98, pl. IV.

proved to be a helpful tool. While the layout of the missing northern part must remain unknown, the position of the eastern outer wall and also the eastern wall of the central hall could exactly be pinpointed through the 3-D scan. This result corresponds with the other clues given for the reconstruction, such as a symmetrical layout of the building and the remains of the brick pavement on the eastern side of the central hall. With this, a clear reconstruction of SAF2, at least for the southern part, could be achieved.

To conclude, this study resulted in several new insights that shall help broaden the knowledge of the New Kingdom town of Sai Island and of fortified towns in Nubia in general. While many factors, especially with regard to the remaining parts of the settlement, still remain unknown, at least some major points concerning the southern part of the settlement could be clarified. Hopefully, the new assessment of SAV1 provides an important part in recreating the living conditions of this significant town of Upper Nubia.