

entrances at ground level facing the oasis. Both have been restored quite recently. They are clearly visible from the east-west dual carriageway, which bisects the Hili district.

## **OTHER STRUCTURES**

The most common structures in the past were the garden walls in the date palm oases. The majority of these were mudbrick with some freestone retaining walls and latterly cement block walls. There were kilometres of these walls dividing the individual plots in the five main oases of Al Ain, Mutaredh, Jimi, Qattara and Hili. There were also smaller oases at Jahili, Muwajji and Masoudi

Old photographs of Al Ain record an exposed falaj aqueduct somewhere in the city, which has now disappeared. It could have been where the new falaj aqueduct carries the Al Ain falaj across Wadi Sarooj. The watercourse was open and was used for collecting drinking water and to provide water for animals. Elsewhere the aflaj are hidden from view until they emerge in the oases and are diverted into cemented or mud walled channels for distribution to the individual gardens.

In the Qattara oasis a suq or market has been reconstructed. It comprises two rows of shops facing each other across a shaded lane, a simple arrangement which has been in use since Abbasid times. A similar suq from that period was excavated at Jumeirah in Dubai emirate.