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[Mishkenot Sha'ananim. (Accessed Jan. 22, 2022). Overview. Wikipedia.]

Mishkenot Sha'ananim

Mishkenot Sha'ananim (Hebrew: משכנות שאננים, *lit*. Peaceful Dwellings) was the first Jewish neighborhood built outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, on a hill directly across from Mount Zion. Built in 1859– 1860, it was the first area of Jewish settlement in Jerusalem outside the Old City walls,^[1] and was one of the first structures to be built outside the Old City of Jerusalem, the others being Kerem Avraham, the Schneller Orphanage, Bishop Gobat school and the Russian Compound.^[2]

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History

Ottoman period

Mishkenot Sha'anim was built by British Jewish banker and philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore in 1860, having acquired the land from the Governor of Jerusalem, Ahmad Agha Duzdar.^[3] It was built as an almshouse, paid for by the estate of an American Jewish businessman from <u>New Orleans</u>, Judah Touro.^[4] Since it was outside the walls and open to <u>Bedouin</u> raids, pillage and general banditry rampant in the region at the time, the Jews were reluctant to move in, even though the housing was luxurious

Mishkenot Sha'ananim

Hebrew: משכנות שאננים

Neighborhood of Jerusalem



View of Mishkenot Sha'ananim from the Old City of Jerusalem

Country	🗢 Israel
District	Jerusalem District
City	👅 Jerusalem
Founded	1860
Founded by	Sir Moses Montefiore



Mishkenot Sha'ananim neighborhood plaque

compared to the derelict and overcrowded houses in the Old City.^[1] As an incentive, people were even paid to live there, and a stone wall was built around the compound with a heavy door that was locked at night.^[5] The name of the neighborhood was taken from the Book of Isaiah: "My people will abide in peaceful habitation, in secure *dwellings* and in *peaceful* resting places" (Isaiah 32:18).^[4] It later became part of Yemin Moshe which was established in 1892–1894.

Jordanian period

After the <u>1948</u> Arab–Israeli War, when the Old City was captured by the Arab Legion, Mishkenot Sha'ananim bordered on <u>no man's land</u> in proximity to the <u>armistice line</u> with the <u>Kingdom of Jordan</u>, and many residents of the Yemin Moshe quarter left in the wake of sniper attacks by Jordanian <u>Arab Legionnaires.^[6]</u> Only the poorest inhabitants remained, turning the complex into a slum.

Restoration after 1967

The no-man's-land bordering Mishkenot Sha'ananim was captured by Israel during the 1967 War, together with the rest of Eastern and Old Jerusalem.[7]

In 1973, Mishkenot Sha'ananim was turned into an upscale guesthouse for internationally acclaimed authors, artists and musicians visiting Israel.^[4] Apart from guesthouse facilities, it is now a convention center and home of the Jerusalem Music Center.^[1] The music center was inaugurated by Pablo Casals shortly before his death.^[4]

The Jerusalem Center for Ethics was established in Mishkenot Sha'ananim in 1997. <u>Yitzhak Zamir</u> has been heading the board of directors since his retirement as justice of the <u>Israeli Supreme</u> Court in 2001.^{[8][9]}



Mishkenot Sha'ananim guesthouse, restored historical building



Montefiore Quarter – Mishkenot Sha'ananim 1948



Etzioni Flame



Montefiore Windmill



Ha-Takhana



Jerusalem as the Center of the World by David Breuer-Weil (after the Bünting Clover Leaf Map), in Teddy Kollek Park (2016)

See also

Yemin Moshe

- Mea Shearim
- Montefiore Windmill
- Statue of Winston Churchill, Mishkenot Sha'ananim
- Mishkenot Shaananim International Writers Festival
- Expansion of Jerusalem in the 19th century

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