

CASA DE LAS MONJAS

Several of the buildings in Middle Chichén Itzá were built in the Old Empire style, notably the Casa de las Monjas,^{*} or the Nunnery. The name ~~of this building~~ has come down to us from times immediately following the Spanish Conquest and probably has little meaning. It is a massive structure with ^awide, deep, and high foundation base and a wide, steep stairway. There are three stories to the Monjas containing ten rooms in all. Three central rooms in the second story were completely filled in to make a foundation for the small third story which was added at a later time. In fact throughout the entire structure there is evidence of successive alteration and addition.

^{cap} ~~One~~ Legend tells that young girls who volunteered to tend the religious temples, lived here during their term of service. One from their number was chosen each year as a ~~sacrifice to~~ ^{votive offering,} ~~the rain god and at the appointed time and with due ceremony,~~ ^{by} ~~and~~ ^{Some archaeologists} ~~she~~ ^{on the other hand,} was thrown into the Well of Sacrifice. ~~Others~~ believe that this building was simply the residence of the ruling Itzá. Little seems to be known about the Monjas - it stands for what it is - a building of massive proportions with interesting and elaborate decorations, particularly on rooms annexed to the eastern side of the main building. Here again we find the same lovely lattice decoration so beautifully used in the Temple of the Two Lintels.

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Mohnhahs.