APPENDIX TWO

BAHÁ’I HISTORICAL PLACES IN SHÍRÁZ

1. The House of the Báb

In the Writings of the Báb, His Blessed House has been given unique and everlasting favors. Such blessings are found in: the *Qayyumu’l-Asma’,* chapter *Rūkn* (pillar), 35–38; the Persian *Bayán* 4:16–18; the Arabic *Bayán* 4:16–19; Tablet to Khál Akbar at the time of the Báb’s departure from Shiráz for Isfahán (generally understood to be His Will and Testament); and the *Kitáb Panj Shá’n,* chapter 1.

In time, it is expected that the House of the Báb will have certain dependencies. These are called for in the following Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Shiráz:

To the members of the Spiritual Assembly, upon them rest the Glory of God, the Most Glorious.

He is God.

O servants of the Abhá Beauty! Your missive arrived, and its contents were made manifest. Similarly, your letter to the illustrious Afnán of the Lote-Tree, upon him rest the Glory of God, the Most Glorious, was received, as well as his response to your Assembly, which were most carefully perused, and I regret the delay in responding.

Through the confirmations of the Ancient Beauty, may My spirit be a sacrifice unto His friends, the Sacred House has been rescued from ruins and, through all available means, was rebuilt in the manner of former times. Through the assistance of the Greatest Name, various dependencies of that Mighty House, such as a hospital, an orphanage, a home for the elderly, and others will be constructed and completed in time...

During the early part of this century [the twentieth century], the residence next to the House of the Báb was also purchased and made part of the Blessed House. Three of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Tablets providing detailed
instructions in this regard are most noteworthy and should be mentioned at this juncture:

He is the Most Glorious.

O ye illustrious Afnán! A few months ago, a prayer was revealed beseeching protection and divine favors for all the Afnán of the sanctified Tree and praising the qualities of the offshoots of the sacred Tree, but news of its arrival hath not been received. Nor hath there been any news of receipt of one thousand tumáns sent for the purchase of the adjacent home. Inform on what ye have done regarding that house and how much hath been received through [Hájí] Amin. But do so urgently. If you do not have time to write, then ask someone else to report on your behalf. It hath been a while since any news or communication from the Afnán of Shíráz hath been received.

I am encompassed by assaulting multitudes of mischief, difficulties, and calumnies, and because I must write to the whole world, not a moment is left to me. Notwithstanding, I write in my own hand that ye may realize how profoundly I care about this important undertaking. The object is, God willing, that the house adjacent to that Sanctified Court will be purchased, that none might be permitted to verbally or physically become presumptuous towards it. This house will be like a fortified foundation and a secure and permanent perimeter.

Through the protection and favors of the Blessed Beauty, we remain steadfast and determined, and beseech mighty confirmations and great blessings for the illustrious Afnán of the sacred Lote-Tree. Upon them all rest the Glory of God, the Most Glorious.

ʿAbduʾl-Bahá ʿAbbás.384

The second Tablet of ʿAbduʾl-Bahá about the purchase of the adjacent house follows:

He is the Most Glorious.

O firm offshoots of the sacred Lote-Tree! Your latest letter indicated that the promised house was purchased on 22 Ramadán [9 June 1920] for twenty-six hundred tumáns cash and a one hundred and seventy-five tumáns mortgage. That is, for a total of twenty-seven hundred and seventy-five tumáns. Through whatever means possible, God willing, the final seven hundred and seventy-five tumáns will be raised and forwarded to you. Prepare an exact financial ledger of this transaction so that records may be kept.

Regarding the property title: twice we purchased the House of Baghdad, and yet have lost it in both instances. Once it was purchased in the name of Aqá Siyyid Ahmad and another time by Hájí Husayn, and every time, after their passing, the House was lost to us. Therefore, you must act in such wise that no difficulty would be encountered in the future.

384 The original text is in INBMC 52:368–69, no. 412.