

Basic Types and Specific Characteristics of Village Landscape along the Sichuan Road in Guanzhong Area in Late Qing Dynasty

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Abstract:

There are three major cultural districts with obvious characteristics of Guanzhong, Qinba, and Shu Di along the Sichuan Road. Its existence and differences are not born, but the result of the construction, development, and inheritance of the people of all ages. This study uses the concept of cultural lines to study the living environmental landscape culture in a certain geographical area. The purpose is to use the cultural lines of relatively objective and real cultural lines to divide it (zone) to make it clear. It is easy to better analyze and compare the ontology, and then rises from the level of science and cognition from the level of phenomenon and imagery, and then go back to the original, value and significance of the environmental landscape of the Sichuan Road in the late Qing Dynasty, so as to thus Understand and improve cognition more deeply. In the late Qing Dynasty, there was a dynamic evolution process of "generation-development-decline" in the habitat landscape along the Sichuan Road. The landscape of villages in Guanzhong area had its own geographical environment characteristics, typical forms and styles, and regional habitat culture. This paper analyzes the historical background, geographical environment, main types and specific characteristics of the village landscape in Guanzhong area by using the multidimensional methods covering extraction, screening, classification and comparison, and then explains its cultural significance and contemporary value.

Keywords: Sichuan Road; villages in Guanzhong area; basic type; specific characteristics.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the basic definition and characteristics of "ICOMOS" (In 2005, the representative of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Routes (CIIC) put forward the latest definition of "cultural route" in the symposium of ICOMOS 15th International Scientific Symposium. The definition of cultural route by the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Routes: land route, water route or other types of exchange routes, with clear geographical boundaries. It has dynamic specific historical functions to achieve the set goals. It originates from the migration of human beings and the accompanied multi-dimensional and continuous exchanges of goods, ideas, knowledge and values among nations, countries, areas or continents. It promotes the mutual nourishment of related cultures in a specific time and

space, and is reflected through material and intangible cultural heritage.) on cultural routes, famous anthropologist Shi Jianya's "urban-rural continuum", cultural geography and typology related theories, Lichthofen's route along Sichuan Road is divided into "Guanzhong Area (plain) Section (Xi'an-Fengxiang Prefecture)", "Qinling-Daba Mountain Area (Hilly) Section (Ancient Fengxiang Prefecture-Mianzhou)" and "Sichuan Basin Floor (Chengdu Plain) Section (Mianzhou-Ancient Chengdu Prefecture)" corresponding to Guanzhong culture, Qinling-Daba culture and Ba-Shu culture; the habitat landscape content can be divided into three categories: village landscape, country fairs and towns landscape and urban landscape. The rural landscape, especially the rural landscape transformed by humans, is a typical cultural landscape. It belongs to cultural heritage in the world heritage and is the representative of "the common work of human and nature".^[1] Rural landscapes have been produced and utilized for natural resources such as land for thousands of years. These resources are supported by local agriculture, fisheries or hunting. The landscape has a materially materialistic form, which has a relationship with the ownership of traditional land and its management system. Tree, therefore, they are the works of history, recording the changes and evolution of human society.^[2]

Xiao Gongquan pointed out: "Although the Chinese countryside is not a closely organized society, it is not disorganized. Around the city (that is, the seat of the provincial governor, the magistrate of a prefecture and the magistrate of a county), there are vast rural areas. Among it, townships contain many organizations and centers of rural life. Except for a few rural families living in scattered independent farmhouses (such as some areas in Sichuan) or mountainous areas where it is particularly difficult to make a living in some provinces, most rural residents in China live in concentrated villages, country fairs (fairs and markets) and cities and towns (towns), which are of different sizes and forms. The size and prosperity of these places mainly depend on local economic conditions, in spite of possible impact of social status and political factors." Ferdinand von Lichthofen, a famous German geographer, has successively made seven scientific investigations in China, and he is also the author of *China: Personal Travel and Research Results Based on It*.

Lichthofen's China Travel Diary (*Lichthofen's China Travel Diary*, compiled by Lichthofen's student Thyssen, was published in 1907, based on the diaries, manuscripts and numerous personal letters left by Lichthofen during his investigation in China. Different from his academic book *China*, this book records more details about what Lichthofen saw and heard and his personal experiences during his seven visits to China. It is a vivid travel diary.), compiled by Lichthofen's student Thyssen, was published in 1907, based on the diaries, manuscripts and numerous personal letters left by Lichthofen. According to the route of investigation along the Sichuan Road in *Diary*, there are Xi'an Prefecture and Chengdu Prefecture at the north and south ends, and the Guanzhong area includes Xianyang Prefecture, Qianzhou, Fengxiang Prefecture, Xingping, Wugong, Fufeng, Jixian and Fengxian.

II. BASIC TYPES OF VILLAGE LANDSCAPE IN GUANZHONG AREA

Guanzhong area refers to the Weihe River Basin in Shaanxi Province, and it is also known as "Weihe Plain". It is in central Shaanxi and north of Qinling Mountains, starting from Baoji in the west to Tongguan

in the east. Originally a graben, it was an alluvial plain formed by Weihe River and its tributaries. With an elevation of about 400 meters above sea level, it has fertile land and well-developed irrigation. It is an important agricultural area in China, known as "800-mile Guanzhong Basin". (Figure 1) The Guanzhong area includes the Daguanzhong area, including the Weihe Venturing Plain, Weibei Loess Terrace, and the in front of the northern foothills of the Qinling Mountains. Most of them were built in the Ming and Qing dynasties or later.^[3]Shaanxi was the main area of peasant uprising in the late Ming Dynasty, with a broad mass base against feudal oppression; as for the geographical location, it is not only the throat to the northwest provinces, but also connects Shanxi and Henan to the east and Sichuan and Hubei to the south. At the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, it was the rear area of suppressing Dashun and Daxi peasant uprising army and destroying Nanming regime. After the Qing Dynasty unified the whole country, it still played an important role in stabilizing the national rule. Therefore, the rulers of the Qing Dynasty thought that Shaanxi was a "vital" place, always attached great importance to Shaanxi, and adopted a series of measures to strengthen and consolidate its rule in Shaanxi. tax and corvee exemption was a national measure in Qing Dynasty, which began in the early years of the reign of Emperor Shunzhi. Especially in the reign of Emperor Kangxi, land tax and corvee in areas with flood and drought disasters was exempted completely or partially. Land tax and corvee in several provinces were exempted for one year. In certain provinces, they were exempted for several years continuously. Because Shaanxi province was seriously affected by wars in the late Ming Dynasty and early Qing Dynasty, and floods and droughts occurred constantly there, it was one of the key areas of tax and corvee exemption in the country at that time. Although this policy is beneficial to landlords who own a large amount of land at that time, it also reduces the land tax and corvee burden of farmers, playing a role in stabilizing the social situation politically and promoting the recovery and development of agricultural production economically.^[4]There was once a social landscape in Guanzhong area, which was characterized by heavy traffic and prosperity in urban and rural areas. However, in the middle and late period of the reign of Emperor Qianlong, crisis, rebellion, tyranny, corruption and many other factors led to the gradual decline of Guanzhong area.

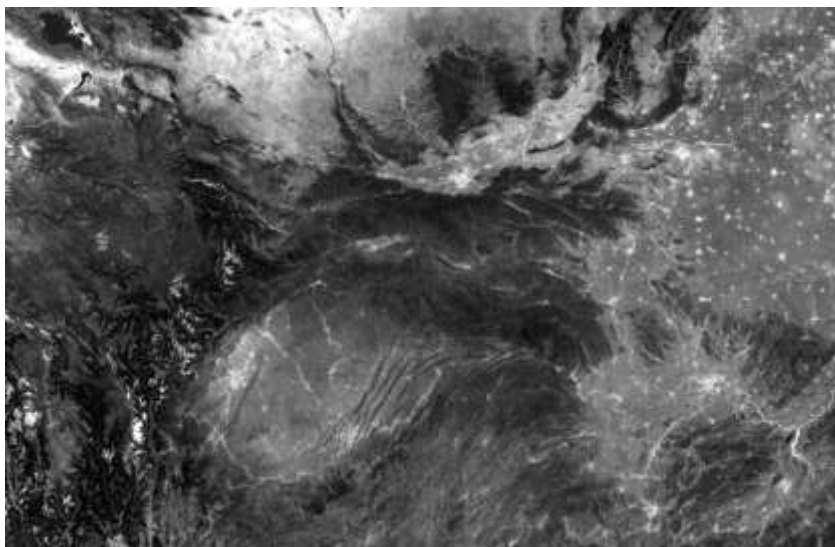


Figure 1. Satellite schematic diagram of geographical environment along the Sichuan Road. Image source: redrawn by the author (Mapbox screenshot)

III. DESCRIPTION OF VILLAGE LANDSCAPE IN GUANZHONG AREA IN *DIARY*

"All villages along the road to Xi'an Prefecture are completely destroyed, so is the vast outer space outside the east gate." "Every similar village has a retaining wall on the front, a terrace land above the village, and a temple with stairs on the terrace land. But all these have been destroyed now, and even the cave dwelling have not been spared-they look like abandoned hornets' nests." "All the villages here have been destroyed, but all the farmland is cultivated. The loess surface in this area presents a very gentle wave shape. The city is surrounded by the opposite steep loess mountain wall, with one side of the wall on the mountain and the other side in the valley. The loess wall here is also covered with cave dwelling. ""People have planted poppies in all the loess depressions, and are currently busy exploiting these loess depressions, which are generally located 3-4 meters below the surface and between vertical mountain walls. At present, these hanging walls are being expanded, and the removed soil is scattered into the fields as fertilizer. There are many residents living in the loess land, and there are many abandoned old cave dwellings on the soil wall. They dig a hole with a vertical soil wall in a flat place, and open a house in the hole. The area is swarmed with rabbits, and I catch many every day. There are many wild geese and *Oxyura jamaicensis* along the Weihe River. All the inns are very simple. Because the weather has become very cold from Xi'an Prefecture, the suffering caused by the simple inns is obvious. It's dark in the house, but it's drafty everywhere, and the kangs (a heatable brick bed) are cold. The inn I stay today is an earthen cave dwelling, and this place is actually a string of inns. "[5]

IV. BASIC TYPES AND SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF VILLAGE LANDSCAPE IN GUANZHONG AREA

When Lichthofen passed through Guanzhong area, a large number of villages were destroyed by rebels. The village landscape described in *Diary* is objective and true, and it is also full of anthropological characteristics. Although many villages have been damaged and destroyed, it is still possible to clearly distinguish the site characteristics, scale, residential building style and the surrounding production and living conditions of the villages. To deeply analyze the basic types and characteristics of village landscape in Guanzhong area in the late Qing Dynasty. On the basis of *Diary*, this study fully combined the old photos of the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China as well as existing traditional village landscape, architectural history and other related materials to divide the village landscape into three categories from the scale level, namely large, medium and small, and into three categories from the comprehensive factors such as site, shape, technique and style, namely plain civil courtyard type, loess cave dwelling type and roadside scattered type. (Figure 2), so as to facilitate the scientific, in-depth and comprehensive interpretation of the habitat landscape and culture in the Guanzhong cultural district of the Sichuan Road in the late Qing Dynasty. The details are as follows:



Figure 2. Landscape of villages on the loess tableland near Xi'an Prefecture in Guanzhong Plain (Source: Internet)

4.1 Relationship between scale type and site

The village landscape in Guanzhong Plain of the Sichuan Road in the late Qing Dynasty recorded in *Diary* accords with the social reality at that time. The scale of villages in Guanzhong area in the late Qing Dynasty mainly depends on the local natural resources and environment, and has an important relationship with the supply of main land resources closely related to people's production and life. The relationship between villages and sites is the same. In the northwest, Guanzhong Plain is the most exclusive. It belongs to alluvial Weihe Loess Plain, with a pleasant climate and suitable for farming. Among the Yangshao cultural sites, archaeological findings show that there are many architectural remains, mainly residential buildings, including Beishouling in Baoji, Banpo in Xi'an, Jiangzhai in Lintong, etc. These settlement sites are characterized by large scale, numerous houses and various types. They generally include moats for defense, "big houses" for public use, livestock pens and pits for storage, pottery kilns and tombs. The construction tools used are stone axe, stone hammer, stone chisel and stone saw. People at that time already have the ability to use raw soil and wood to build houses. The structure of the house is wooden bone combining grass mud wall or beam-column frame. The roof is thatched or grass mud, and the plane is round and square or irregular. There are few houses above the ground, mostly semi-crypt type. The overall layout is orderly, which can well reflect the characteristics of matriarchal clan social settlement. In the late Ming and early Qing dynasties, after a long period of war, the social economy was severely damaged. A large number of farmers died or fled, and the cultivated land was deserted. The whole country showed a desolate and depressed scene. Under such circumstances, the rulers of the Qing Dynasty attached great importance to agricultural production, and adopted a series of measures throughout the country, such as exempting land tax, rewarding wasteland reclamation, change of farmland ownership, building water conservancy projects, and reforming the tax and corvee system. These measures had also been implemented in various parts of Shaanxi, and remarkable results had been achieved. As a result, the

cultivated land area expanded. The population increased rapidly, and the commercialization of small-scale peasant economy was advanced. All those promoted the prosperity of commerce and towns. By the end of the reign of Emperor Qianlong, there was no abandoned soil in Guanzhong Plain, and all of it was cultivated. Moreover, the northern and southern Shaanxi areas were also cultivated. In Hanzhong and Xing'an areas, "the number of registered households has increased by hundreds of thousands, and the abandoned land has become barren". Therefore, for a long period of time, the Han people living on the Loess Plateau planted winter wheat and millet as their main crops, and they lived in cave dwellings dug out of thick loess, which was obviously the practice of the people at the bottom to adapt to the lack of trees in semi-arid climate and create a living environment. Most of the people at the bottom lived in crude cave dwellings. However, the cave dwellings of the landlord are often large in scale, with many rooms, and their structure and decoration are also relatively exquisite. Most of the cave dwellings consist of courtyards, and some areas are dominated by pit yards. In areas characterized by valleys and plains, families developed from reclamation gradually formed a large clan society. According to the village landscape described in *Diary*, houses are "square boxes" of different scales (courtyard houses), which is a true record of the landscape features of villages in Guanzhong area in the late Qing Dynasty. Such villages are mainly distributed in the centers near the farming areas, with high and flat terrain, and convenient water supply and transportation. Existing traditional villages, such as Shichuangou Village in Gepai Town of Lantian, Laoxiancheng Village in Houzhenzi Township of Zhouzhi, Dangjia Village in Xizhuang Town of Hancheng, Lianhu Village in Chengguan Town of Fuping, Lingquan Village in Fangzhen Town of Heyang, Yaotou Village in Yaotou Town of Chengcheng, Nanchangyi Village in Tongjiazhuang Town of Heyang, Wanjiacheng Villiage of Jiufang Town of Linyou, Baishe Village in Xinxing Town of Sanyuan and Yuanjia Villiage in Yanxia Town of Liquan, all continue the site relationship and basic pattern of traditional villages in Guanzhong area, and there are certain scale and number of ancient residential remains of the Qing Dynasty. (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Urban and rural habitat landscape of Guanzhong area
(Image source: redrawn by the author)

4.2 Building Type and Shape Structure

Since its early reign, the Qing Dynasty had made great achievements in the implementation of rewarding land reclamation, and the population also grew rapidly. According to statistics, the population of Shaanxi: 2401 (thousand) in the eighteenth year of the reign of Emperor Shunzhi, 2442 (thousand) in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of Emperor Kangxi, 2165 (thousand) in the second year of the reign of Emperor Yongzheng, 3851 (thousand) in the eighteenth year of the reign of Emperor Qianlong, 7348

(thousand) in the thirty-second year of the reign of Emperor Qianlong and 8390 (thousand) in the fifty-first year of the reign of Emperor Qianlong. During the 125 years from the eighteenth year of the reign of Emperor Shunzhi to the fifty-first year of the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1661-1776), the population of Shaanxi increased by three and a half times. For a period of time, there was a social scene of rolling wheat waves, widely distributed villages and flourishing population in Guanzhong Plain.

In traditional society, the most basic unit of production and consumption is family. A family is composed of kinship, marriage and adoption, with common income and expenditure and common property. As the most important family property of ordinary people, housing is not only the basic need for people's survival, but also the projection of the self-value concept and aesthetic concept of "having a wife, children and a warm bed" as well as the basic label symbol of social status. The choice of building type and shape structure is the concrete practice of self-knowledge, analysis, positioning and recognition, and it is also the choice of life style. In many cases, people's choice of building type is often the true reflection of their attitude towards the surrounding environment and towards life, and it is the ultimate embodiment of "integration of mind and things and harmony between man and nature". Realistically speaking, housing is the final result of common people's choice of building type and shape structure according to local natural environment, economic conditions, labor resources and other factors.

The folk houses in Guanzhong area have a long history. There is still a certain amount of Qing Dynasty folk houses in Xi'an, Sanyuan and Hancheng, which have typical regional features of Guanzhong area. They are typical in site selection, land use, plane layout, spatial relationship, architectural style and decoration. On the whole, the villages in Guanzhong area in the late Qing Dynasty were widely distributed, with different sizes. The rural cottages were mainly simple farmhouses, and a few courtyard houses were preserved and passed down to this day. From the development of urban and rural economy in the late Qing Dynasty, it can be seen that the rural people are mainly tenants, and the landlord families mainly live in cities and towns, which is consistent with the distribution and types of residential buildings in villages, and also conforms to the important conclusion that "the economic base determines the superstructure".

The Guanzhong area has become the place of human residence during the prehistoric culture period. The form of the Banpo Site of Xi'an Banpo Site and the original settlement form of the Lintong Jiangzhai site are the representatives of Yangshao Culture in the mid-neolithic midterm. The ruins of the Fengukun Village of Fufeng County more than 3100 years ago were by far the earliest and most complete courtyard house in China. The Western Han Dynasty and the Luoyang residential area of the Eastern Han Dynasty established the Lili system, using local rectification, building walls, and crossing streets. The residential houses use rectangular land and correct orientation. The development of the square in the Tang Dynasty is mature, and the square is a square rectangle of different sizes. The land of residential houses takes a positive axis layout. Democratic housing shows that the number of houses in the courtyard began to increase, and it is called the "Supreme House".^[6]

In the late Qing Dynasty, the village dwellings in Guanzhong area were mainly ordinary wings (a one-storeyed house), simple courtyards and loess cave dwellings. Wings mainly exist in rural villages in

plain areas, which are the main building components of village dwellings. They are characterized by compact layout, economy and flexible layout, and are the simplification and localization of courtyard in Guanzhong area. Because of its small scale, convenient construction and low requirements for site conditions, this shape and structure also appears in large numbers in villages dominated by cave dwellings. Guanzhong area lies between the southeast edge of Longdong Loess Plateau and the northern foot of Qinling Mountains. It covers Weihe River floodplain areas and some shallow hills, Loess Plateau, with the features of semi-basin. Therefore, Guanzhong Plain is a relative concept. In some loess areas in eastern Gansu and Guanzhong area, because of the rising neotectonic movement, the continuous cutting of rivers flowing through them, and the soft nature of loess, the Loess Plateau has formed a special landform with vertical and horizontal gullies and steep cliffs. The thick loess has become an inexhaustible loess resource for local residents to build cave dwellings. People dig holes and cut walls on the loess plateau, or cut straight walls from gullies and cliffs, and then dig horizontal holes on the straight walls, and use a small amount of adobe or masonry and wooden doors and windows to build cave dwellings. In the turbulent society of the late Qing Dynasty, cave dwellings became the main architectural form of local residents, and the dilapidated cave dwellings in the plateau mountainous area even became the main refuge in the turbulent times. The earthen cave dwellings in Guanzhong area are widely distributed and of various types. However, their density is relatively low compared with that in Longdong area. The cave dwellings along the way in *Diary* are mainly located in loess tableland and hillside areas, and are mainly of half-slope cliff type. The scale of villages in different areas varies greatly, and there are non-settled, semi-settled and settled settlements. The villages on the loess tableland are large in scale, most of which have more than 50 households, while the villages in mountainous areas are small in scale, generally around 20 households in a village. Besides, there are also more than 10 scattered settlements (villages) composed of about 10 households respectively. The large-scale villages have large scale of residential buildings, relatively compact layout, and closer neighborhood; the scattered villages are small in scale, with small number of residential buildings, scattered layout, and relatively distant neighbors; shacks built on the ruins of villages are frequently seen along the way; houses built with components of destroyed village buildings are also found from time to time. They are used as inns.

4.3 Building materials and decorative arts

Although Guanzhong dwellings have their own local style and characteristics, their plane relationship and spatial organization still belong to the dwelling mode of traditional Chinese courtyard. The narrow courtyard space is the result of local people's constant transformation of and adaptation to the natural environment. The scale evolution and composition of courtyard dwellings in Guanzhong area are similar to those of northern courtyard dwellings. These two types of courtyard dwellings are both vertical expansion and connection of basic units. Their building materials and construction techniques are similar, but their basic building forms and styles are quite different. In the late Qing Dynasty, most of the residential buildings in rural villages in Guanzhong area were mainly civil structures. Rammed earth walls or adobe are used to build the main walls of houses, and key parts such as doors, windows, beams and rafters on the roof are wooden components. People in rural areas are unable to buy large beams and columns produced in Qinling Mountains due to economic difficulties, so they can only replace them with small and

medium-sized wood or bamboo. Therefore, rural village houses are often short and simple, basically without decorative components and painted pictures. Guanzhong area is an important area in the northwest China, extending in all directions. It has been a battleground for military strategists in all dynasties. All kinds of rebellions and calamities in the late Qing society caused great harm to local life and property safety. Objectively speaking, for rural people in Guanzhong area, survival may be more important than life. That is, sheltering from the wind and rain, guarding against theft and bandits, and keeping home safe are their main building purposes, and their main building concepts are adapting to local conditions, adapting to changing circumstances and using local materials.

In the local society, people generally don't care about politics. They attach more importance to worshipping Bodhisattva, praying for family safety, good weather and prosperity. Houses, considered as important property, are endowed with divine value. During the slack season, family members will make concerted efforts to build, repair and decorate their houses, and will do their best despite the limited economic conditions. In the long run, the broad masses of people have grasped the skills of digging, treading mud, making molds, jiggering, ramming, erecting sheds, building tiles, plastering, painting, laying kang, laying stoves, and firing. Some industrious and intelligent people have gradually acquired professional skills of carpentry and bricklaying during the long-term construction and assistance, and then engaged in specialized construction work. Compared with the building of civil structure houses in plain areas, the building of earthen cave dwellings in loess tableland areas is more suitable for the people in loess areas in the late Qing Dynasty. Its historical background, geographical environment, material conditions and economic level have provided conditions for the building of cave dwellings. Compared with the construction of civil structure houses, there is no need to excavate the foundation, build the foundation, tamp the wall and build the roof. The residents only need to select a suitable hillside, cliff or soil tableland and manually excavate it. This kind of construction activity can be completed within a certain period of time by family members. It can be seen that the construction of loess tableland cave dwellings and plain civil structure houses in Guanzhong area is not only the people's choice of living environment and living style, but also the choice of environment and society for the people. In spite of the differences in construction methods, paths, materials and skills, the civil structure houses are constructed by "addition" and the cave dwellings are excavated by "subtraction", both of which are to meet the survival needs of family members, and thus achieve the ultimate goal of "having a wife, children and a warm bed" and "passing on farming and studying".

V. OVERALL STYLE AND AESTHETIC FEATURES

The village landscapes in Guanzhong area recorded in *Diary* are mostly ruined scenes caused by rebels. According to the relevant information, it can be boldly inferred that the villages before the destruction of Guanzhong area must be a landscape with free scattering, coordinated volume and simple colors. With the decision-making and support of successive emperors of the Qing Dynasty, and the vigorous promotion of successive governors and other officials in Shaanxi, measures such as digging wells, opening canals, building water conservancy and encouraging reclamation were implemented, and the grain yield per mu in Guanzhong area reached 3 to 5 shi (an ancient unit of measurement in China). With the increase of grain

yield, more grain can be sold in the market. Good harvest means satisfactory income for farmers. They can build solid and practical houses. The front of earthen cave dwelling can be built and decorated with bricks and wood. Simple civil structure houses can be upgraded to brick and wood structure courtyards, and the scale, quantity, depth and decoration of houses can be effectively improved. The square box that Lichthofen saw along the way and described in *Diary* is the best example.

During the reign of Emperor Yongzheng and Emperor Qianlong, the feudal exploitation in Shaanxi became increasingly serious. It was a heavy burden for farmers in Shaanxi to levy extra taxes on farmland. In the Qing Dynasty, Shaanxi was one of areas with the heaviest corvee in China. Shaanxi is adjacent to Sichuan, Hubei, Henan and Gansu provinces. Gansu is the gateway to Xinjiang and Tibet. At that time, there were frequent wars in the northwest and southwest border areas. Since the battles in Xinjiang, Tibet and Qinghai, the two Jinchuan campaigns and the two Hezhuo campaigns, the corvee became particularly heavy. The Qing court dispatched troops nearby and mobilized Shaanxi local troops for suppression many times, so the corvee on local people was extremely heavy. Tenant families didn't have more labor for farming. When they served as soldiers for meager military pay, rural houses would be destroyed due to being long years out of repair. Since the end of the reign of Emperor Qianlong, the feudal exploitation of land rent and usury in Shaanxi was also very heavy. The cruel feudal exploitation made the livelihood of Shaanxi people difficult. The land was concentrated, and the people went into exile. In flood and drought years, landlords bought farmers' land at a low price. Farmers losing their land left their homes and went into exile, resulting in a large number of unemployed refugees. During the reign of Emperor Qianlong, refugees had no way to live, and flocked to the deep mountains and forests in large numbers to make a living. Therefore, Qinling-Daba Mountain area in southern Shaanxi became a gathering place for those refugees. The superimposition of numerous factors aggravated the decline and extinction of villages in Guanzhong area in the late Qing Dynasty.

VI. CONCLUSION

To sum up, in China, it is naturally the source of all things. Culture and nature have never been split. Their value has a high degree of unity. Thousands of years from natural and its landscapes have been understood as cultural places.^[7] The village landscape in Guanzhong area, as an important part of Sichuan Road cultural heritage, evolved from the initial traffic route to a channel of cultural exchange and integration, and finally to a multi-functional, multi-level space-time complex heritage concept. Lichthofen's investigation of the areas along the Sichuan Road has its specific route, including not only different natural and geographical features such as plains, hills and mountains, but also the continuous population flow and social changes of areas along. Its rich cross-regional historical, cultural and geographical phenomena are the product of the accumulation and superposition of historical profiles in the continuously extending geographical space, and are the expression of a geographical area linked with a historical activity event or cultural characteristics. It not only embodies the carrier function of the cultural route, but also shows that the cultural route is a dynamic system that integrates the related historical links and cultural heritage. In essence, it is a route related to human migration and communication in a certain historical period. It can be regarded as a condensation of the rich cultural accumulation constantly formed

in the process of human historical activities, which fully represents and reflects the whole of the cultural elements of the cultural geographical region it represents. The inheritance of the habitat landscape of Sichuan Road in the late Qing Dynasty is not only a mirror of the natural relics and cultural relics in building the living environment along the route, but also contains the concrete practices of the immigrant population in the Qing Dynasty in shaping the habitat landscape of Sichuan Road in the late Qing Dynasty.

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