

Monuments of Jhajjar: A HISTORICAL survey

HARVANSH

Research scholar
Department of History
MDU,Rohtak

Abstract: Jhajjar is a historical town from earliest time to modern era. Due to its agricultural importance, Firoz Shah Tughlaq gave attention and created canals. The peoples of Jhajjar faced rule of many dynasties as Sultanate and Mughal and local Nawabs. Every ruler of these dynasties built many structures in Jhajjar for many purposes.

Key-words: Monument, Jhajjar, Sultanate, Mughal, Nawab, Beri, Mosque, Baoli

Jhajjar is a town of Jhajjar District (Haryana) is located 32 Km South of Rohtak and 56 Km West of Delhi. Jhajjar lies at the confluence of Indo-Gangetic Plains.¹ The town is said to have been founded² by one Chhaju Jat and named Chhaju Nagar which was changed to Jhajjar. It is a historical town. In the Sultanate Period, Rulers started digging canals in this area. One of the five canals created by Firoz Shah Tughlaq brought water from Sutluj to Jhajjar. During Akbar's reign this area was a part of Delhi Province. After the fall of Mughal Empire, this area was passed into many hands until the Jats defeated the Nawab of Farrukhanagar and established their rule. In later period, King George Thomas made Jhajjar as his head quarter. In 1803³, General Lake gave this area of Jhajjar to Nawab Nijabat Ali Khan and it was renamed under the Nawabs till 1857. Many dynasties and kings ruled this area and they built many structures in Jhajjar for security, residence and religious purpose.

The town of Jhajjar, though is a small town but has many antiquities. There are some centuries old mosques and tombs besides the palaces, built by later Nawabs during the British rule. The oldest one is a Kali Masjid, built by Daud Khan, son of Malik Asharaq Afghan in 1397 AD. The second oldest is Bazarwali mosque built by Nawab Rumi Khan, who was a Governor of Sarkar Khawaj Katoor, in 1563 AD. During the regime of Akbar the Great, the third mosque known as Shah Bura Masjid was built by Muhammad Ibrahim in 1569 AD. The fourth mosque, Shaikhanwali Masjid started by Rustam Khan, son of Muhammad Khand which was completed in 1625. All the above had inscriptions, where the name of its builder and year was inscribed⁴.

A group of tombs located in 'Bua ka Talab' area. Chronologically almost all of them were built in Mughal period. These are fine examples of Pathan architecture and also resemble the style of Sharqi monuments of Jounpur. The tombs were twelve in number, but now only seven are surviving, while the remains of other five tombs are only stone walls of their platforms. Each tomb is built of kankar stones and erected on raised platforms. The most elegant is the mausoleum of Hasan Shahid, begun in 1625 AD. Hassan was killed in a battle and the daughter of Kot Kalal built that tomb. The elegant mausoleum has flight of steps,

basins on all four corners with two graves in its yard. This tomb has attractive features, is a nice specimen and rare in Pathans architecture of that era. A big tank was also built adjacent to Sayyads tomb, known as Buawala tank. This was the same year when two other monuments of Jhajjar i.e. Shaikhanwali⁵ Masjid was completed and the tank near Shah Ghazi Kamal in the memory of saint Abdul Samad was started. The pucca masonry tank was built⁶ by Rai Darghal of present Sampla Road in 1625 AD.

The other tomb in the vicinity of Hasan Shahids is a Saint Abdus Samad. A mosque is attached to this tomb, which is said to be built by Ismail Irah Raib in 1611 A.D. That saint of high reputation belonged to a family of Arab Abbassid. Other tombs have individual gateways and smaller enclosures, all constructed in similar pattern. They have stone pillared Chhatteries and arched shelters with towered corners. One of the smaller tomb is of Rustam Khan having Persian verses on its gateway built in 1619 AD. Other resembling is the tomb of Mian Raib built in 1594 A.D. That Mian Raib is said to have built a mosque to the south of Bazarwali mosque⁷ in 1582 inside the town of Jhajjar. Close by, exists the tomb of Kalal Khan with attached mosque, built⁸ in 1629 A.D. In the close complex, besides all these tombs are built an exceptionally beautiful another tomb built by Nawab of Dujana in 1894 lies on the northern bank of Sampla Road tank. This tomb was built for a saint named Game Shah, who meditated continuously at the same spot from 1857 to 1894AD.

The Later Nawabs in British era built some palaces at Jhajjar and in Village Chhuchhakwas. Only three of those are now existing, two at Jhajjar and the third at Chhuchhakwas. The palace built for the darbars and other officials work. Now it is left quite in an abandoned state and is not maintained. Another palace, built by last Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan. The third one exists at Chhuchhakwas, built by the Abdur Rehman Khan for his hunting lodge. A large tank was also built along side it for the other purpose. Both the tank and palace are now dismantling due to lack of proper care. In 1750 AD Mirtza Khan Irani built a fortress in Jhajjar for security and residential purpose. And Begum Samru added some parts in the structure of fortress. Another fort at Georgegarh [Jahajgarh] built by George Thomas. But this fort is completely destroyed. Another historical architectural heritage of the city is a water tank, made for public utility purposes. The water tank built by some wealthy merchant of Jhajjar. It was built for providing safe shelter, drinking water, with an attached well and garden, to take rest and halting purpose of the travelers.

Beri is a famous and historical town of Jhajjar district of Haryana. According to Ain-I-Akbari, Beridubaldhan had been a paragona in Mughal period. There are some architecturally important existing memorials and tanks in Beri town. Oldest one is along Bithan Pana, built by Sadhus of Dadupanthi sect in the memory of their Guru. The other grand memorial was built in the memory of Lala Shriram Tigrania, is very attractive and double storied. Other fine rectangular shaped memorial built in British pattern, is of Lala Jankidas. Thus Jhajjar is a historical and heritage city of Haryana. There are many remains history and

glory. From medieval time to British period, local rulers built many structures for his use and some traders also built monuments for public utility.

REFERENCES

1. Shikha Jain & Bhawna – Haryana, *Aryan Book International*, New Delhi , 2012, P-177.
2. *Monuments & Sites in Haryana*, ASI, New Delhi , 2009, P -86
3. Shikha Jain & Bhawna – Haryana, *Aryan Book International*, New Delhi , 2012, P-180.
4. S.R. Phogat, *Inscriptions of Haryana*, Kurukshetra, 1978, P-61.
5. Ibid P-66.
6. *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, Lahore, 1911, P-44.
7. S.R. Phogat, *Inscriptions of Haryana*, Kurukshetra, 1978, P-62/
8. *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, Lahore, 1911, P-44.

