

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT DOOLEH DARYAH KHAN OTAAQ

May, 2021



ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST
FOR PRESERVATION OF THE HERITAGE OF SINDH

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Introduction

Barely visible from the N-55 National Highway, a little off the beaten track; an earshot from a colonial-era railway station; laid a structure in isolated ruins. It was in a dilapidated condition. Most of the walls, arches and domes of the structure had collapsed save for the central dome, which was to share the same fate eventually. The structure was unlike any seen in the province. It boasted strength and resolve as it withstood the test of time and it could be inferred that the structure was not colonial, neither did it belong to the Kalhora or Talpur regimes, it had to be from an earlier age.



View from the Colonial 'Gopang' Station

Many historians are of the opinion that this structure dates back to the Samma Dynasty. That being said the structure could be constructed anywhere between the 14th and 16th Century AD. Hence architecturally, it's pre-colonial and post-Islamic. Many theories circumnavigate the ruins: was it a temple?; A mosque?; some sort of military installation?; A place of rest for the medieval traveler perhaps?; It was hard to say. To get close to the answers it was imperative to restore the structure. Until now it is universally agreed upon by historians and researchers that this ruin was the Otaaq of one of Sindh's most brilliant tactician, hero and regent, Dooleh Daryah Khan.



It was mentioned in Pir Ali Mohammad Rashdi's book "Ohe Deehan Ohe Sheenh" and Dr. Nabi Bux Baloch's book "Rehan Heeran Khaan" and researched on by Syed Hakim Ali Shah, the structure was always referred to as an Otaaq. The structure turned out to be almost cubical, roofed with an array of domes. Discovery of a walled fort in the immediate vicinity of the structure reinforces the idea that the structure perhaps served as an outpost or a blockhouse although, yet again, more investigation is needed. The structure is built at a vantage point on a small plateau overlooking the land. Similar isolated structures can be found in all over the world. The structure could be used to send fire signals many kilometers away along with scouting for hostile movements.



The Structure and the Northern terrain



Furthermore, the structure is intelligently founded on a strategic location. Not only did it use to overlook the river to the East, it also scouts the western route towards the Khirthar Range that was used by locals and foreigners to travel North and South along the Western bank of the Indus as well as by those looking to ford the Great River to the Eastern bank.



The structure overlooking the terrain to the West

To conclude, the structure that once was a ruin, has been fully restored. It was a long and tedious task but a task well accomplished. This completion report is composed to document the journey of the conservation operation of Dooleh Daryah Khan's Otaaq and is aimed to satiate the technically sound as well as the curious reader.

Whatever the purpose was, the structure was built with the intent to last.



Of Cultural Heroes and Obscure History

Every culture in the world has its own collection of stories. These stories are vivid recollection of great deeds of moral decisions, love, bravery, betrayal as well as lucid narration of extraordinary events. These small stories generally fuse to narrate the actual history of the culture. One common trait of many folk stories is the declaration of a 'hero'. Heroes are usually ordinary humans who step out of their way and do extraordinary deeds. They generally are role models to the intent listener.



Interior of tomb of Jam Nizamuddin- II

Sindh has its own array of heroes. The Heroes of Sindh included poets, adventurers, mystics, saints and singers as well as defenders of the land against foreign invaders. One such hero was Dooleh Daryah Khan.

Dooleh Daryah Khan was a servant-cum-regent of the Samma Dynasty's ruler Jam Nizamuddin the Second. He was a brilliant tactician, strategist and warrior. Along with his fealty to Jam Nizamuddin-II, Dooleh Daryah Khan had in fact sworn fealty to his homeland, Sindh. He was the spearhead to fend off Mughal invasions during the reign of the Jam Nizamuddin the Second.



After Jam Nizamuddin the Second's death, Dooleh Daryah was commanded to retire by the Jam Feroz as Daryah Khan continued to be influential in the court which was always a concern for a new timid ruler. On compliance, Dooleh Daryah retired to his privately owned land west of the River Indus known as 'Ghaha'.



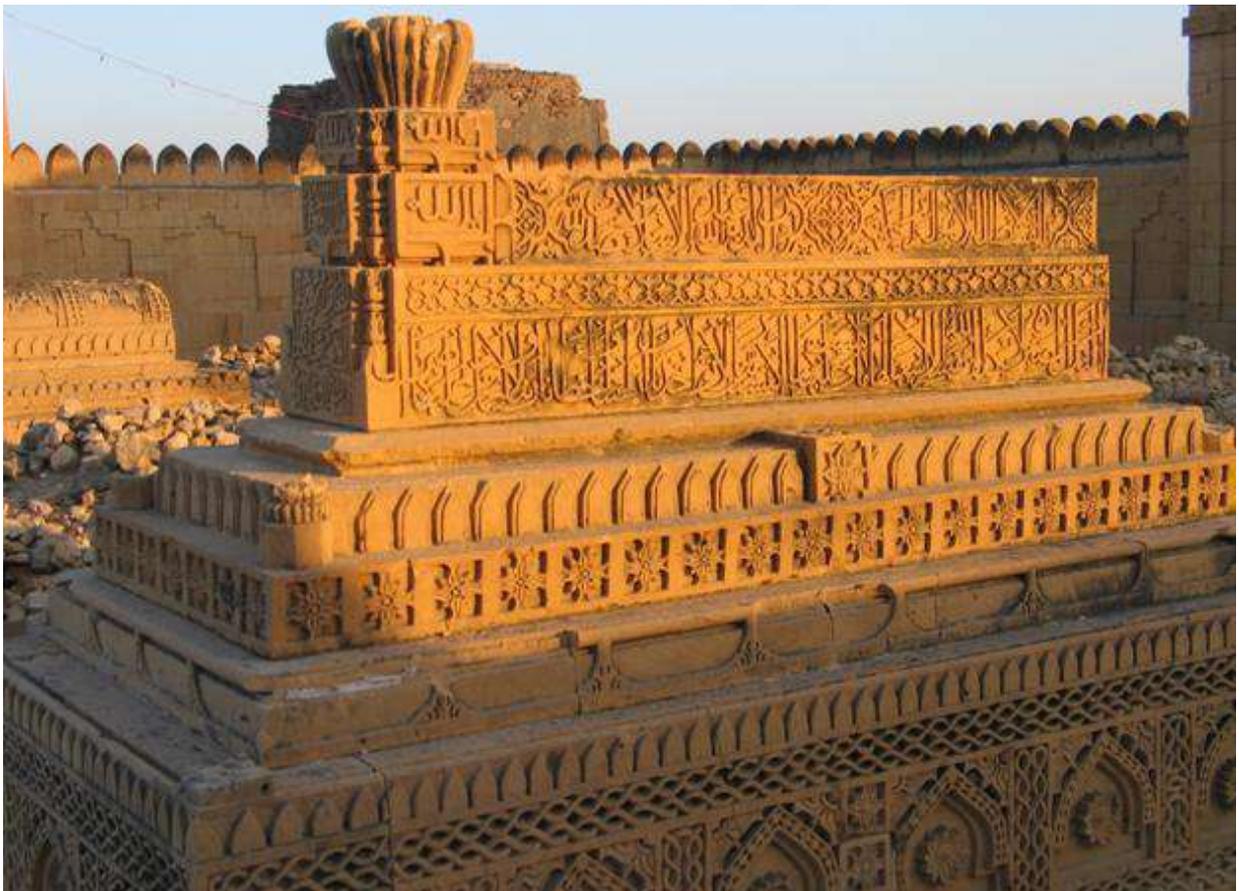
Tomb of Jam Nizamuddin- II

However, he was summoned by Jam Feroz to aid him in reclaiming Thatta which had been taken from him by his rival Jam Salah-ud-din due to his own incompetence. Dooleh Daryah obliged due to the sheer love of Jam Nizamuddin the Second even though he had no sympathy for the successor. Upon being reinstated, Jam Feroz showed ineptitude yet again by allowing Mughal settlements in the vicinity of the capital despite vehement opposition by Dooleh Daryah. Dooleh Daryah had already fought a war against these foreigners and he still did not trust them. In disgust, he retired once again to his land.



Dooleh Daryah Khan's anxieties came to life when the Afghan Arghuns under Shah Beg Arghun launched their assault on the throne at Thatta. Jam Feroz conceded without a fight and fled. Dooleh Daryah, out of fealty to his land, mustered an army and met the invaders in fiery combat. The battle was won by the invaders and the Dooleh was martyred. Sindh's golden age thus came to an end with the Dooleh's death. His selfless love for his land is still scattered across the province as tales, stories and myths.

It is said the OtaaQ at Manjhand was where Dooleh Daryah Khan went to retire.



The Grave of Dooleh Daryah Khan



Architectural description

The Dooleh Daryah khan Otaaq can be divided into two main structures: the Otaaq itself and the adjacent fortress.

Coordinates: 25° 47' 58.54" N, 68° 16' 57.38" E

The Otaaq

Plan:

- 1 central pointed-fringed dome.
- 7 three-centre domes
- 1 cubical dome locally called a Tajjar.
- 12 interior arches
- 4 walls
- 1 outer arch
- Pavement

Elevation:

- 13 niches
- 17 drains

The Fortress

- 4 bastions
- 4 walls

See Architectural Drawings at the end of this composition.



Materials Used

In compliance with the UNESCO Charter and as per EFT tradition, the materials used for the conservation of the site were the same that were used in the original construction 500 or so years ago. That being said the materials included:

- Lime
- Chiroli/ gypsum
- Hill sand
- Burnt bricks
- Mud
- Rubble

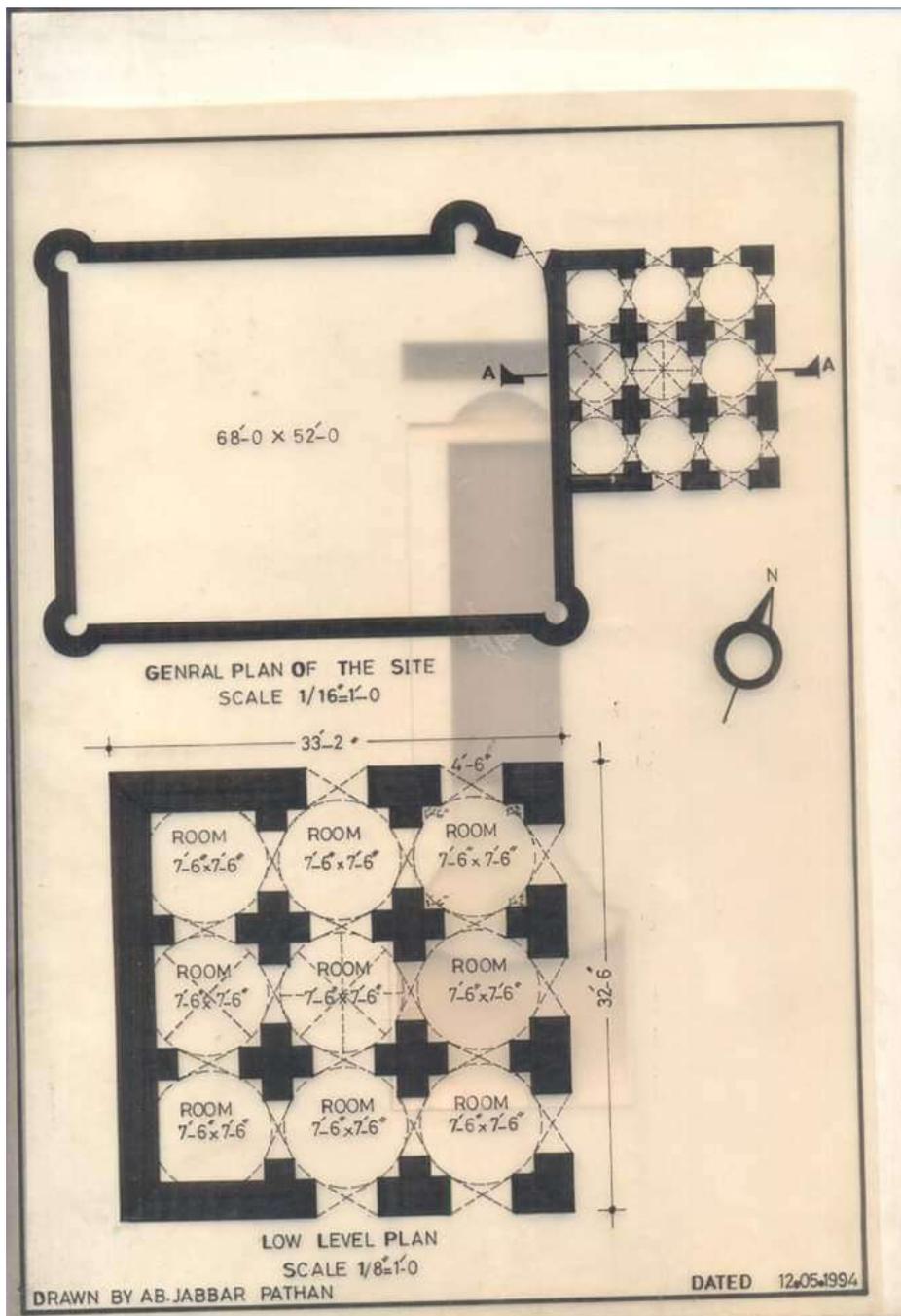
The columns were erected with an outer brick layer and infilled with rubble from the site, lime mortar and hill sand.

Furthermore, temporary removable iron templates were also used in the conservation operation.



Archaeological Report

The historic site was surveyed during the last half of the 20th Century. The archeologist who showed keen interest in the ruins of the structure was Syed Hakim Ali Shah Bukhari, Mr. Badar Abro was able to procure old photographs of the structure and the architectural plans made before the advent of the second millennia from Syed Hakim Ali Shah Bukhari. These contributions proved significant in the conservation process.



Old map of the Otaaq and Fort (Courtesy of Syed Hakim Ali Shah)



Old Photograph of the Western Side showing the Vaulted Roof (Courtesy of Syed Hakim Ali Shah and Mr. Badar Abro)



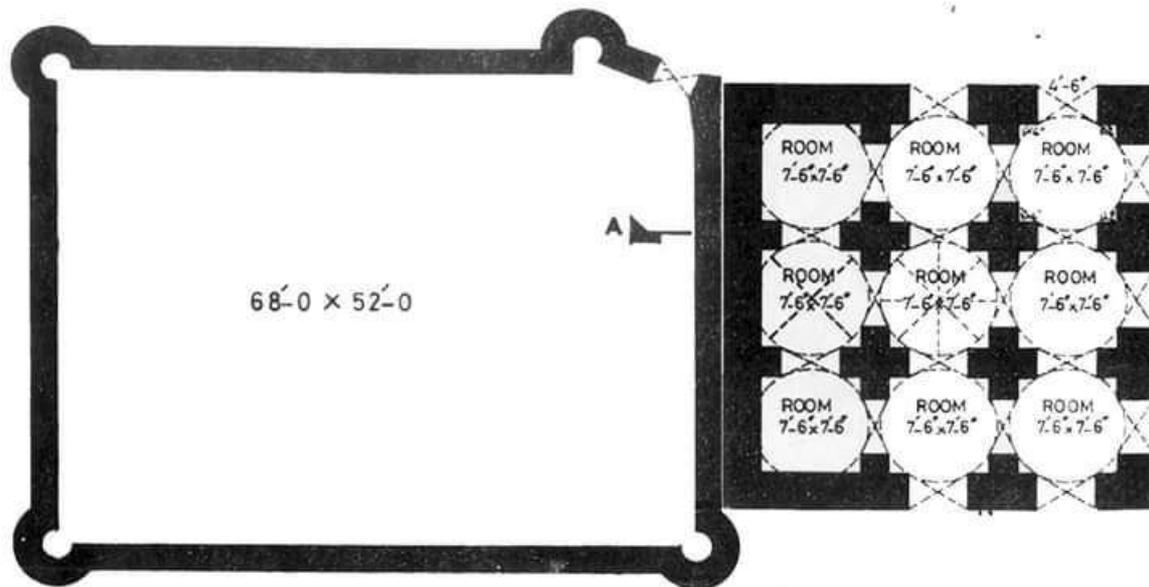
Old photograph of the Southern Side (Courtesy of Syed Hakim Ali Shah and Mr. Badar Abro)



Old Photograph of the Otaaq showing the structure intact (Courtesy of Syed Hakim Ali Shah and Mr. Badar Abro)



Relatively newer Photograph showing the collapsed structure in 2014



These photographs proved helpful in designing the actual plan of the structure. Moreover, the photographs also helped in the elevation design so the conservationist would know how the structure used to look.

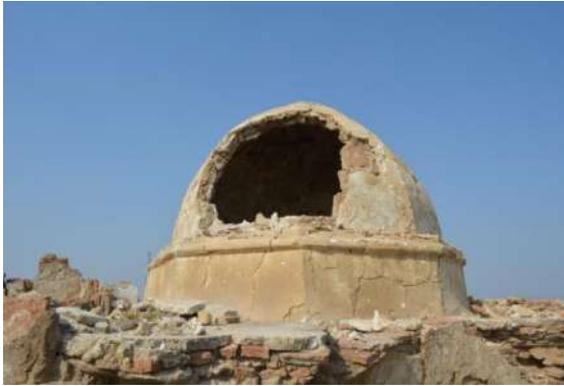
The pictures also suggest the fact that the collapse of the structure came not too long ago. The catalyst was probably heavy rains and flooding.

After all being said, this project could not be completed without giving due credit to the archaeologists as they managed to preserve this structure in script and photographs.

See Appendix for article



The Otaaq before restoration.





Condition Report

The condition of the structure was found in precarious to say the least. Almost all of it had collapsed and it was difficult to judge the actual plan of the structure, save for the centerpiece. The central dome had managed to weather years of monsoon, high winds and neglect appearing to be barely hanging by a thread. The site was littered by huge amounts of rubble. The arches gave way a long time ago. All walls, except the Western wall had collapsed. No subsidiary domes had survived. The rubble had to be cleared to see the clearer picture of the site and only then measurements could be made.

It appeared as if the sun had set for the magnificent structure.





Chronological progress Reports

Report Late October ²⁰¹⁹

- Dooleh Daryah Khan Site visited to start the operation.
- It was in a dilapidated condition.
- Debris clearing work initiated.





Report November 2019

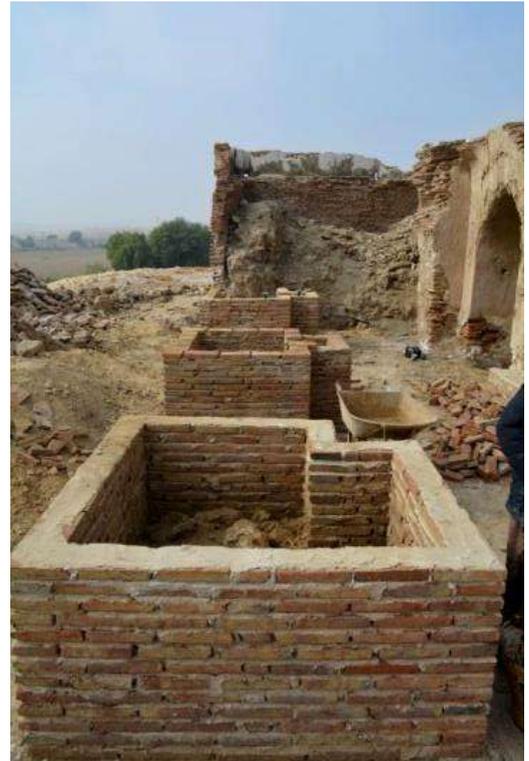
- Some of the debris had been cleared showing the parts of structure that were still extant.
- Architectural plans and maps made.

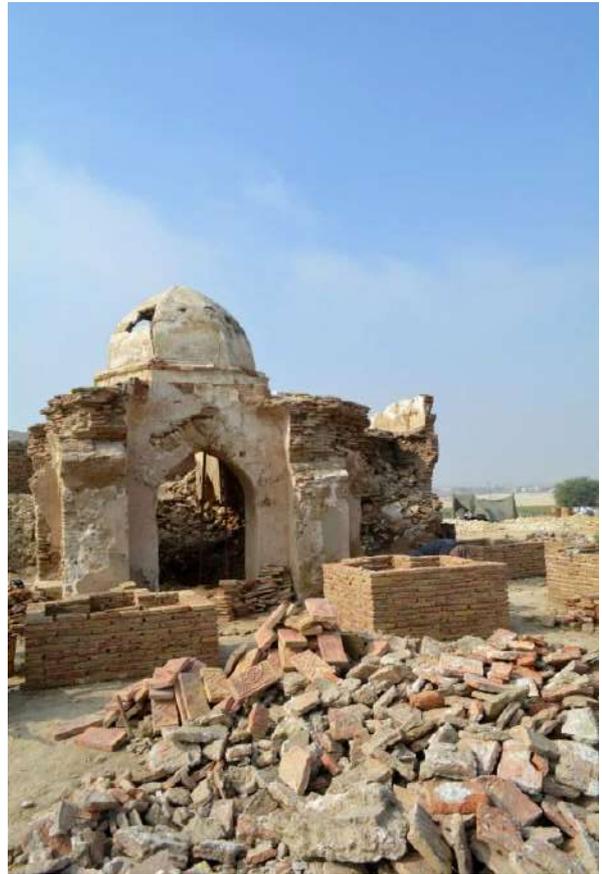




Report December 2019

- Columns unearthed and erected.
- Lime tank excavated.
- Restoration of extant arches started.

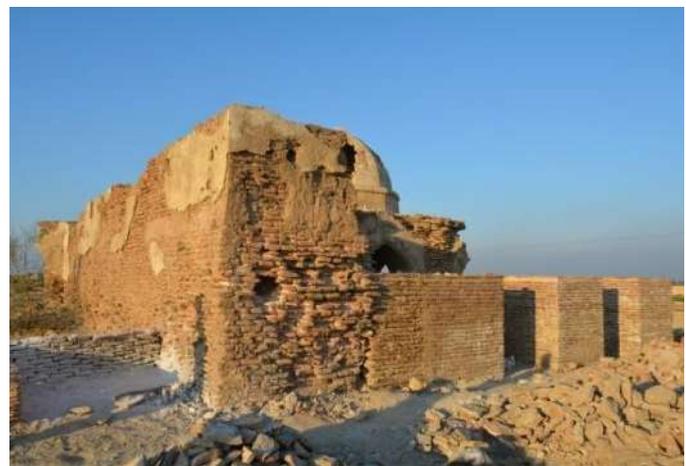






Report January 2020

- Columns raised to the original proposed height.
- Extant arches supported using template and reinforced.
- Dooleh Daryah Khan Otaaq sign board installed.
- Interior Arch-1 work initiated.
- Damages to the central dome fixed.
- Extant Western Otaaq wall restored.

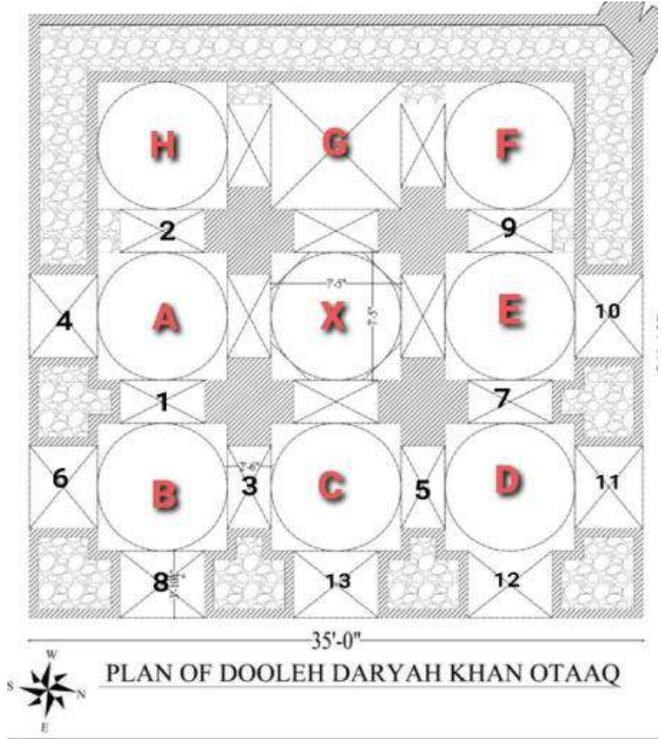






Report February 2020

- Interior Arch-1 completed.
- Interior Arch-2 completed.
- Interior Arch-3 completed.
- Exterior Arch-4 completed.
- Interior Arch-5 completed.
- Exterior Arch-6 completed.
- Interior Arch-7 completed.
- Fort marked.

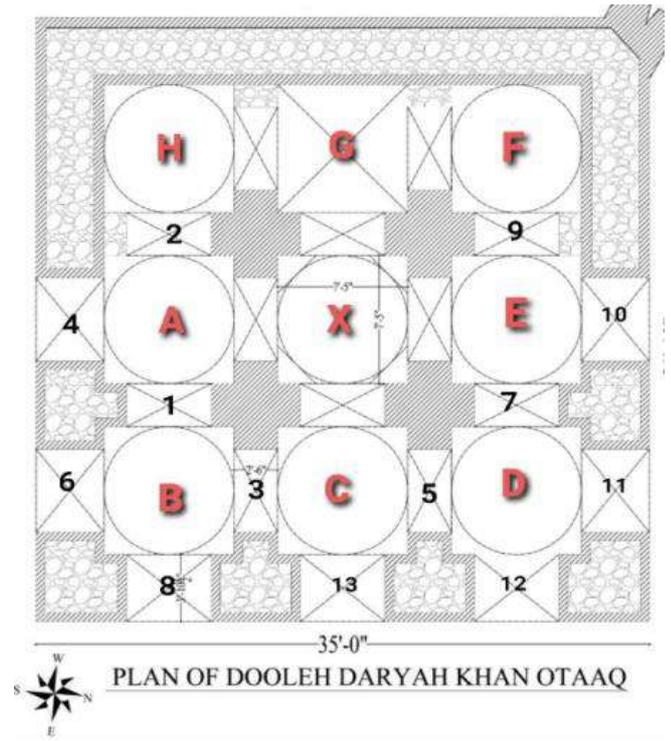






Report March 2020

- Southern Otaaq wall completed.
- Exterior Arch-8 completed.
- Interior Arch-9 completed.
- Exterior Arch-10 completed.
- Exterior Arch-11 completed.
- Exterior Arch-12 completed.
- Exterior Arch-13 completed.
- Eastern Otaaq wall completed.
- Northern Otaaq wall completed.







It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.

-Henry James

In wake of the global pandemic, the work slowed to a standstill. The conservation operation was therefore halted as the much awaited monsoon slowly rolled over the subcontinent.

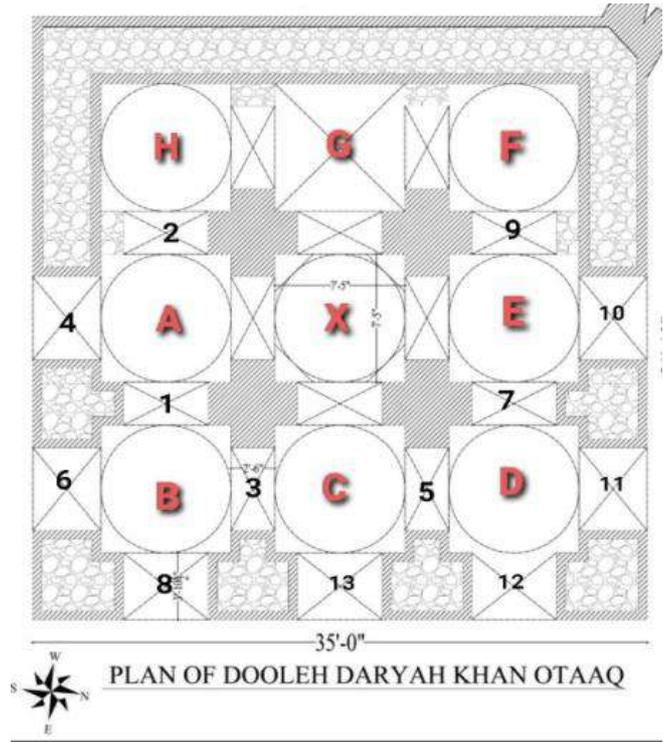






Report Late December 2020

- Dome-A completed.
- Roof restoration started.
- Parapet wall raised.
- All fields around the site are blooming with lush green crops and yellow flowers of mustard (سرهن).

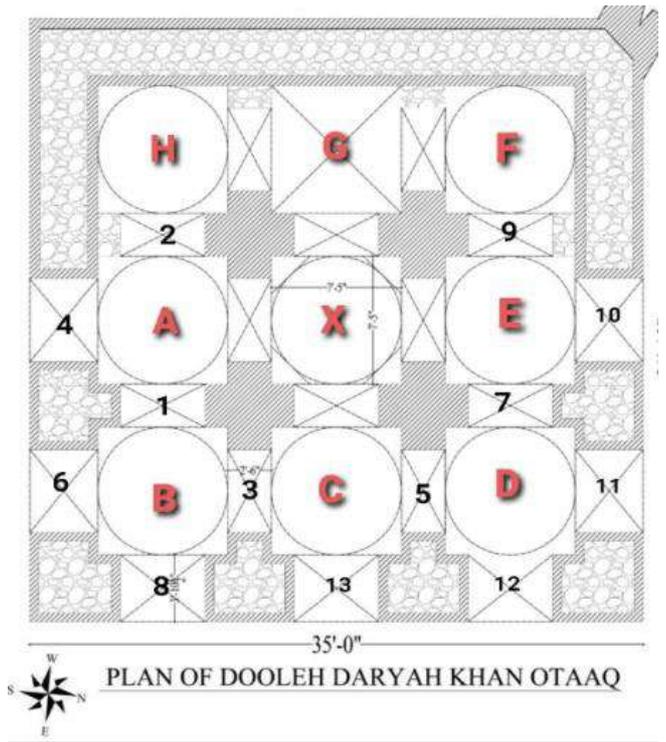






Report January 2021

- All parapets raised.
- Dome-B completed.
- Dome-C completed.
- Dome-D completed.
- Dome-E underway.
- Water supply connected with line from Khasai Village.

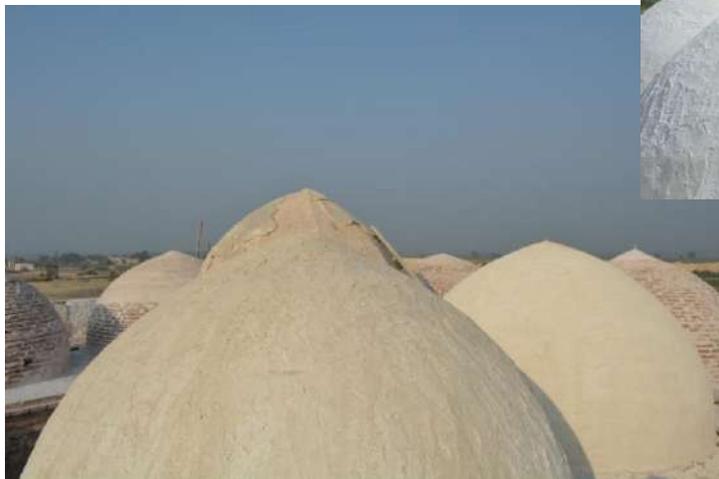
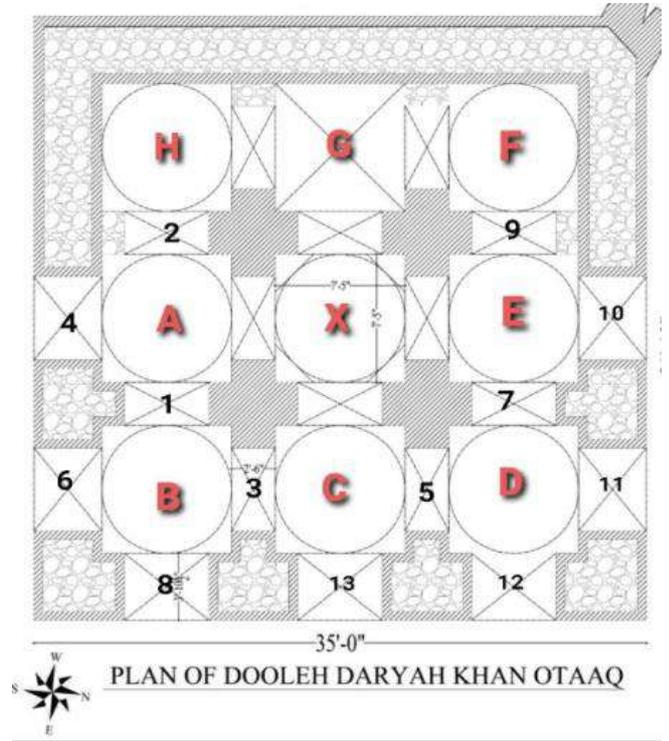






Report February 2021

- Dome-E completed.
- Dome-F completed.
- Dome-H completed.
- Sculpturing of Inverted lotus on domes started.
- Sculptures on Domes A and B completed.

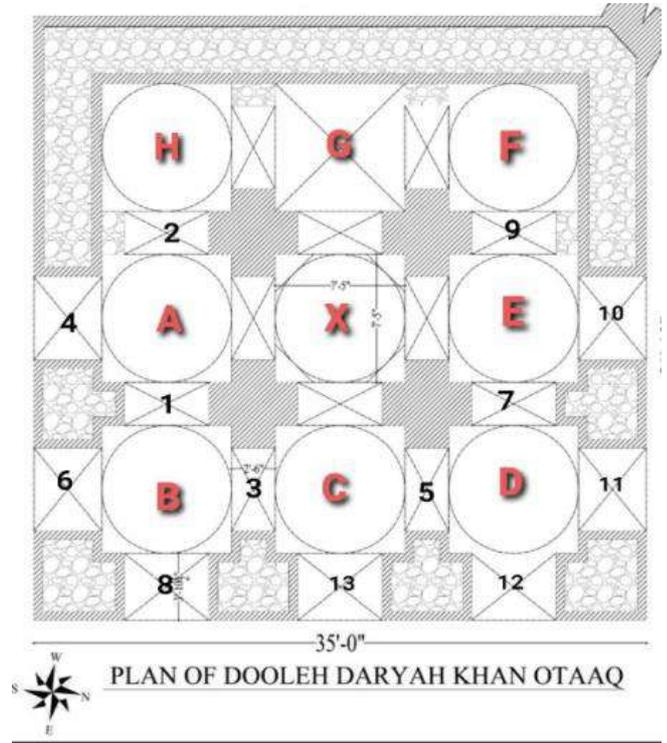






Report March 2021

- Lime work initiated on Otaaq walls.
- Sculptures on domes C and D completed.
- Fort walls on the Eastern, Northern and Southern sides raised.
- Dome-G (Vaulted roof/Tajjar) template installed.
- Lime work puffed with soapstone powder.

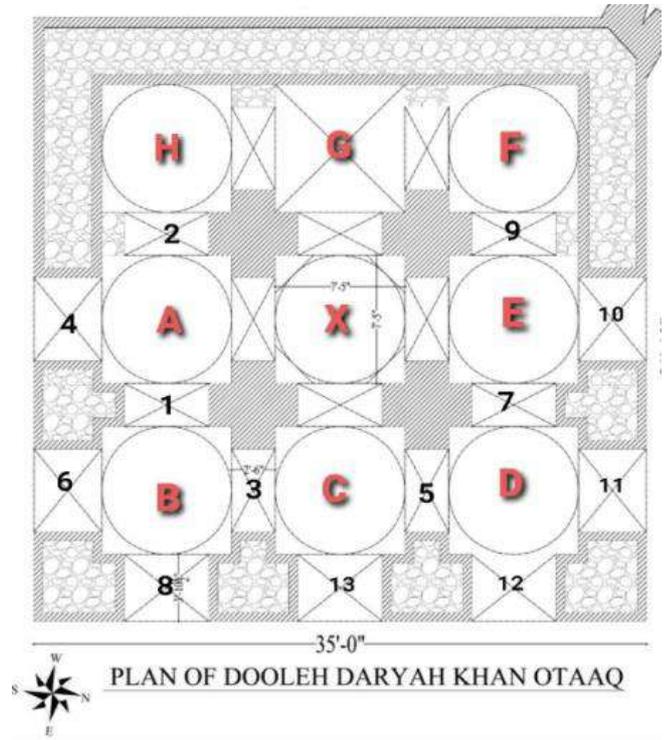






Report April 2021

- All domes completed.
- Tajjar at its completion.
- Pavement belt work at its completion.
- Artifacts found during conservation put on display.







Before and After

After all said and done, the site has been finally restored. The Otaaq can be seen reminiscent of its former glory once the dust had settled.

Before



After





Before



After





Before



After





Before



After



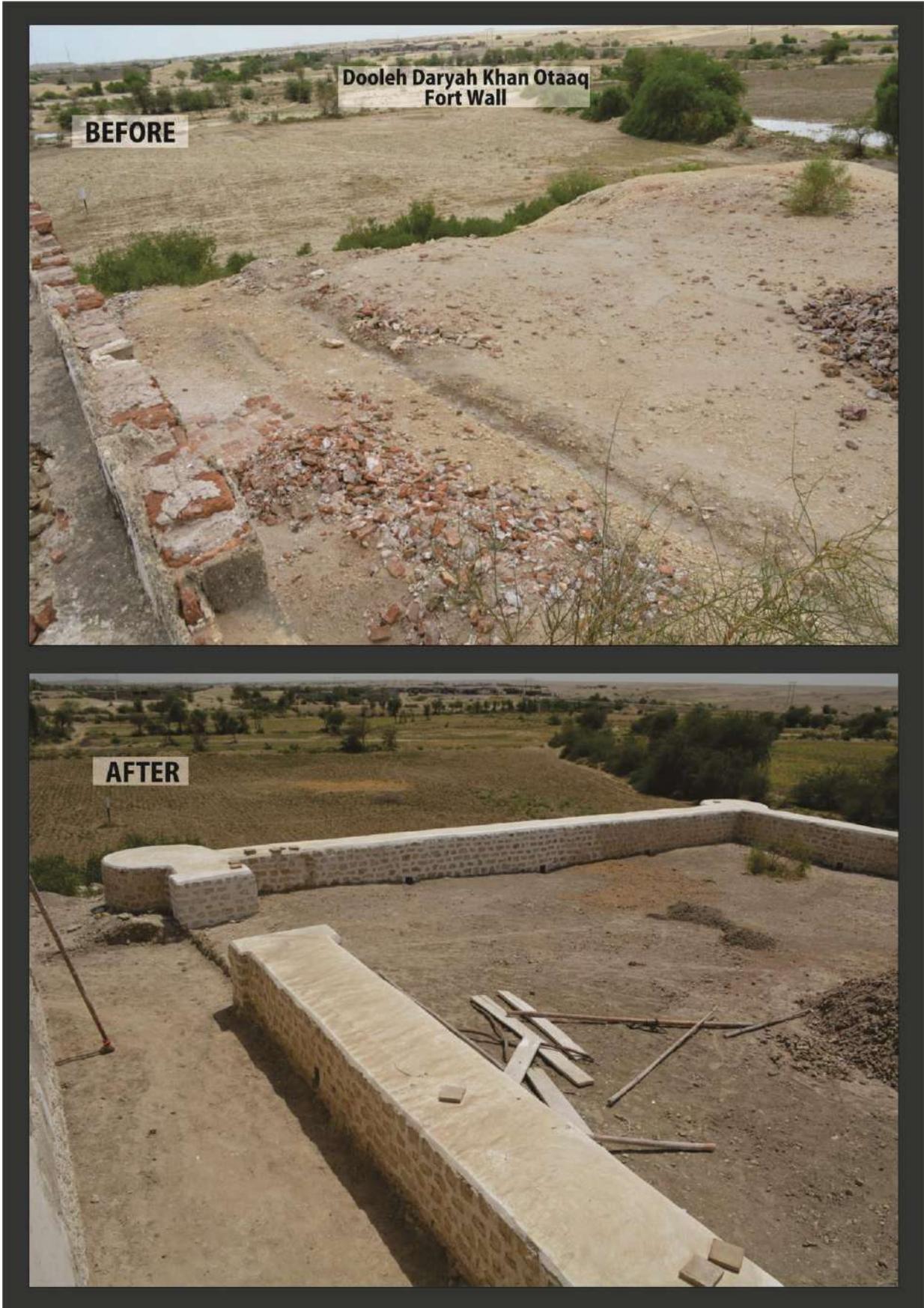


The Fortress

The fortress peculiarly lies adjacent to the Otaaq on its western side. It is a quadrilateral fortress with four bastions. Before restoration, only traces remained of the fort as foundation marks. To make the fortress more prominent and visible from the highway it was raised to a height of four feet. If the height was raised a little more it would have overshadowed the Otaaq. Its awkward placement suggests that the fortress and the Otaaq were constructed in different eras, although no evidence is found as of yet to back this hypothesis. Its small dimensions also suggest that proportionally, the actual walls of the fortress were not that high and it was probably used as a watchtower rather than a defensive fortress.







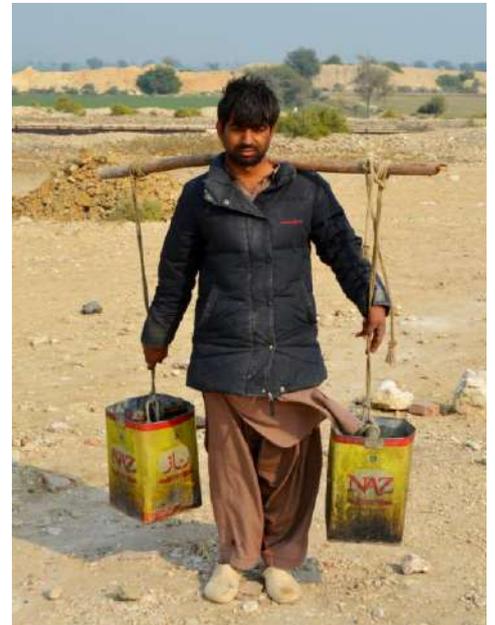






Water Procurement Strategies

As it is known that for any restoration/construction process easy accessibility to water is essential. The site of Dooleh Daryah Khan proved a challenge as it was built on a rocky hill. Furthermore, lime work requires a large supply of water. This predicament was tackled first by the most surefire way i.e. to get a water supply line to the site. This however failed in the longer run due to the higher cost and the unreliability of the supply which eventually led to a fault from the source and supply was cut off indefinitely. A storage tank was constructed in situ.



That being said, it was decided to use water tankers instead. This also proved costly and unreliable as the supply was limited and periodical. During the periods where the supply was delayed another way had to be thought of to maintain the steady supply.



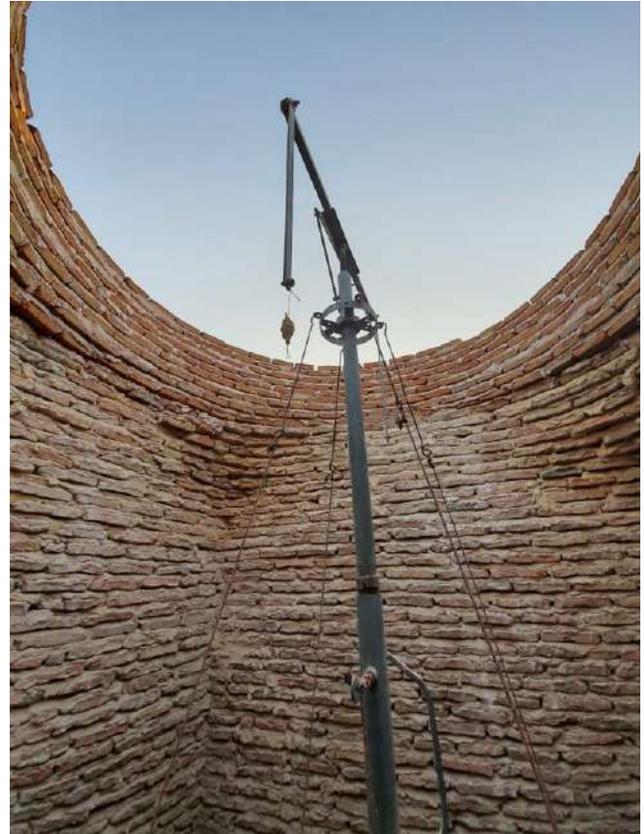
When it seemed that there was no other way to procure water, one's gaze turns towards the quiet railway station adjacent to the site. As luck would have it, there was a colonial-era well dug a little far away to the East of the site. The well was hidden from view as it was dug at the foot of the hill and was shielded from view by overgrowth. This discovery helped solve the water crisis on site.





Templates

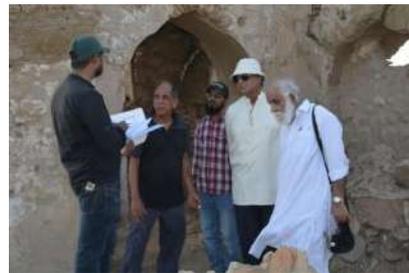
As mentioned earlier in this completion report, the usage of templates proved indispensable in the conservation process to maintain dimensional uniformity wherever it was needed. The site proved a challenge as each structural component varied a little in dimension. The templates however, helped in shaping the arches and domes to a near uniform form and the dimensional deviations were later dealt with manually so the structure stayed true to the original proposed plan.





Official Site Visits

This feat could not have been achieved without the due diligence and vigilance of the EFT staff. Who stood up to the challenge of conserving this structure that was disintegrated beyond apparent recognition. The conservation process had to be meticulous and calculated. The structure itself was intricate. Restoration of such a site could have been called a lost cause. This, however, did not impede the competent EFT's resolve.



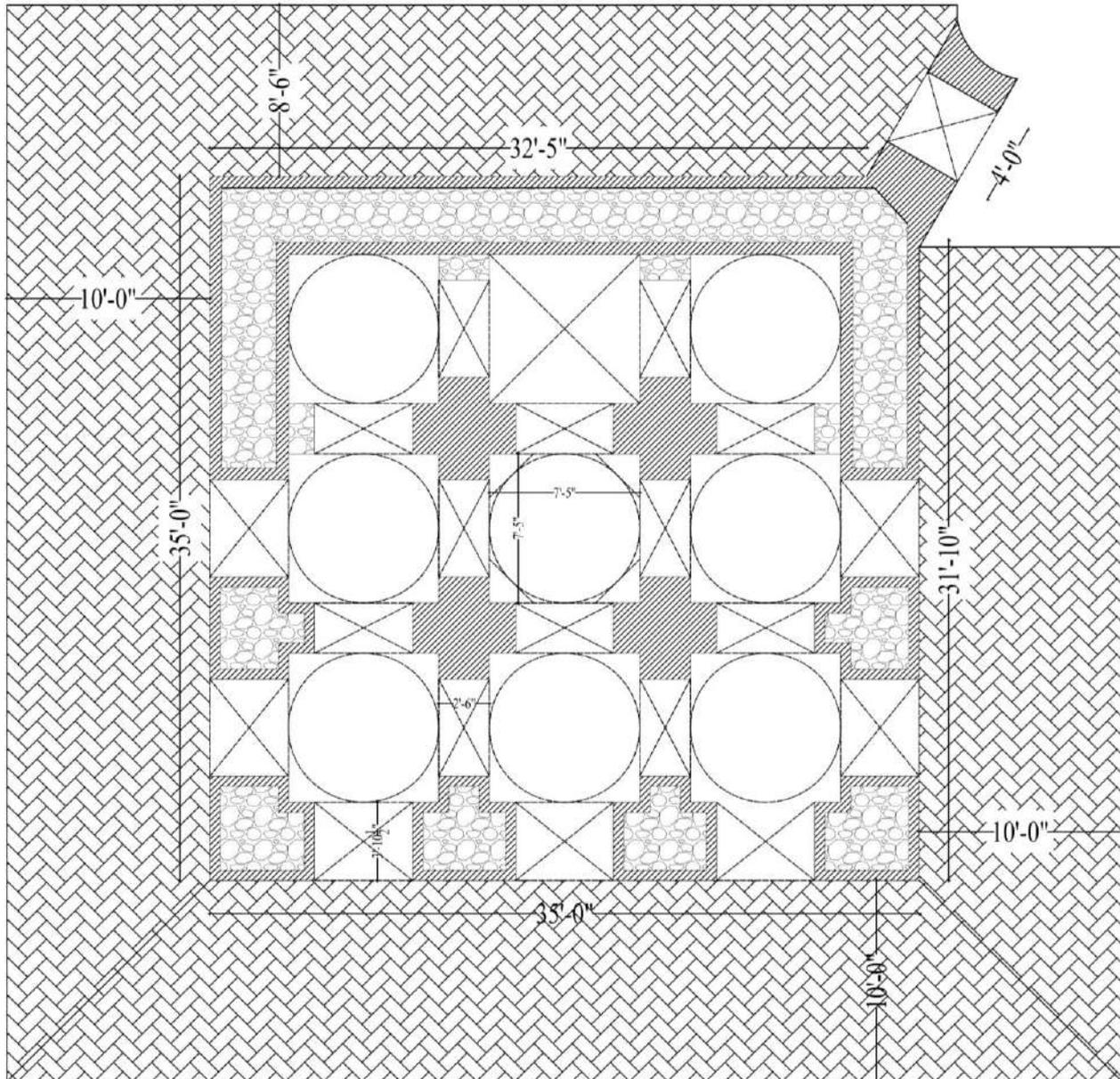


Aerial Photographs

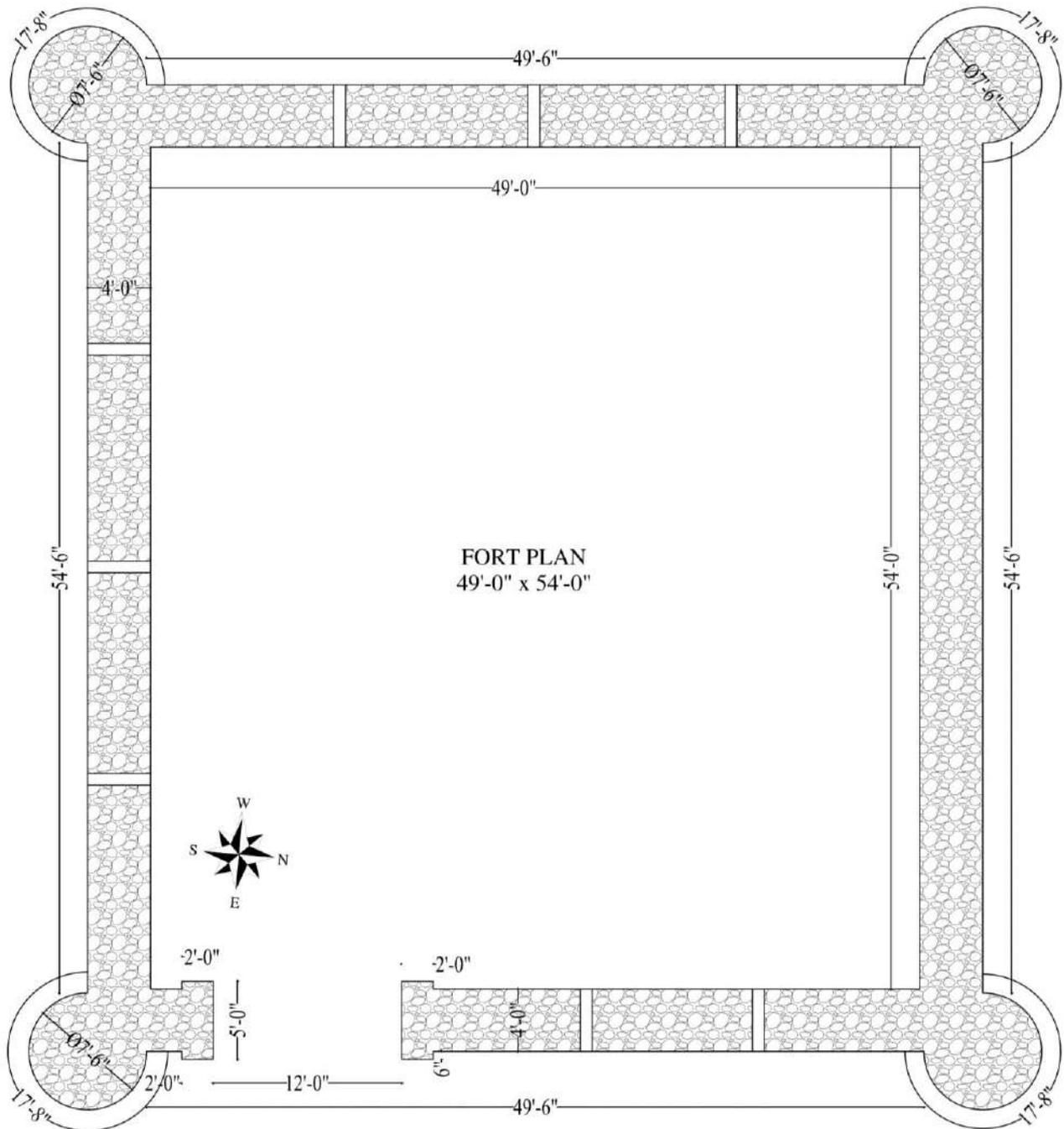




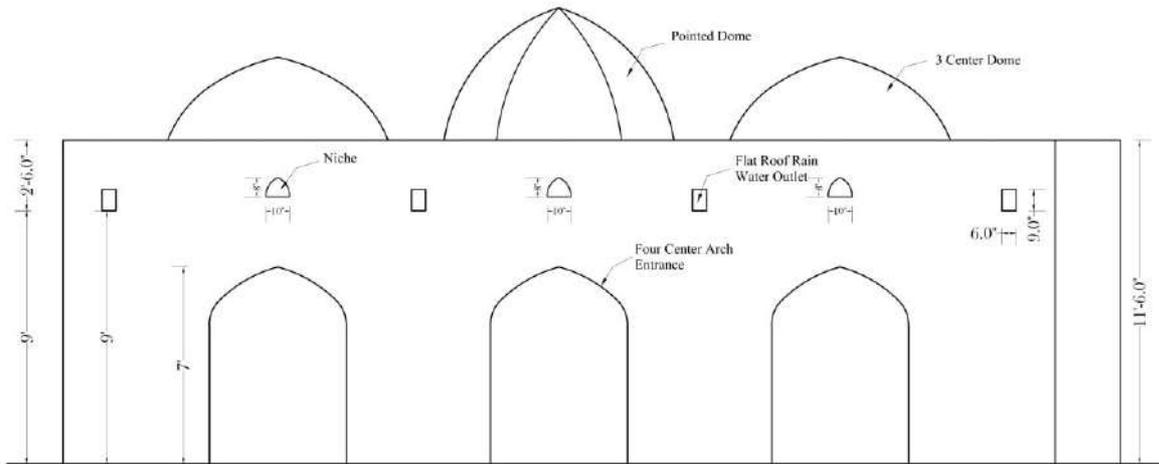
Architectural Drawings



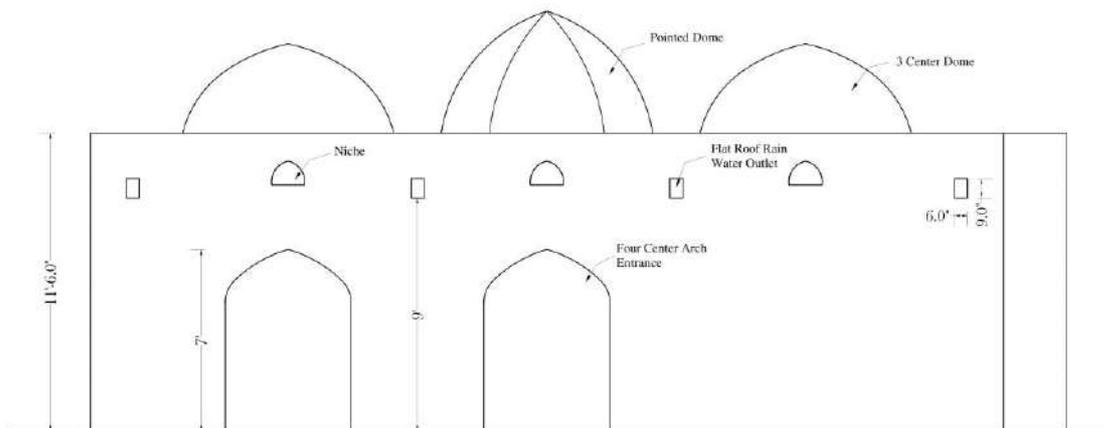
PLAN OF DOOLEH DARYAH KHAN OTAAQ



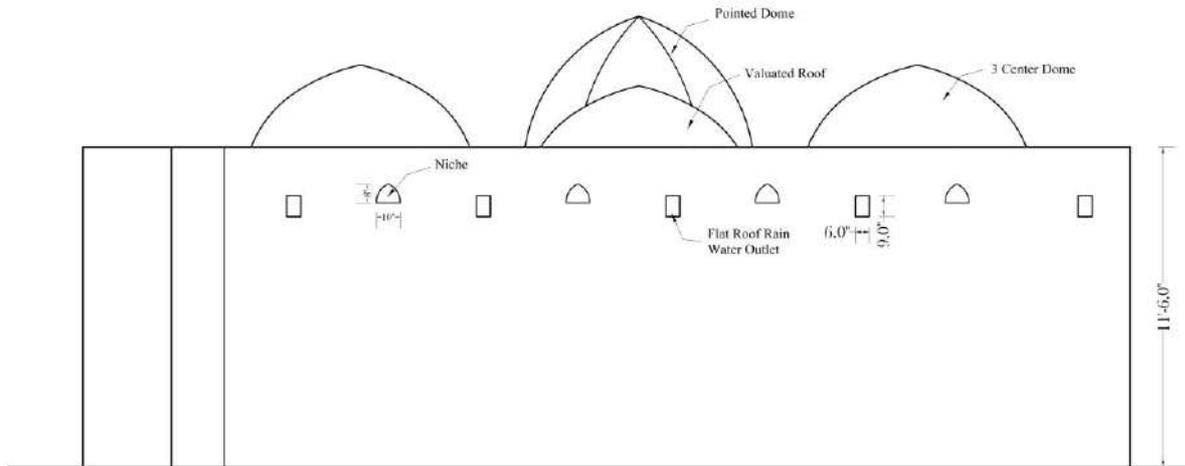
FORT PLAN OF DOOLEH DARYAH KHAN OTAAQ



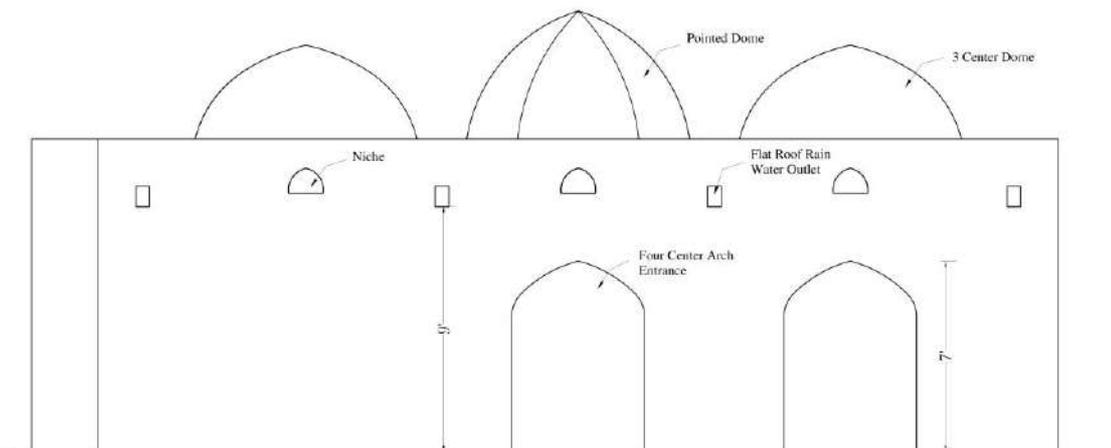
Eastern/Front Side Elevation of Dooleh Daryah Khan Otaaq



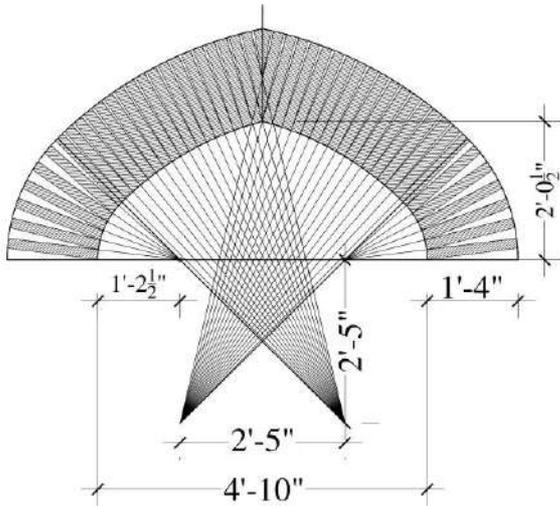
Northern/Right Side Elevation of Doluh Darya Khan Outaq



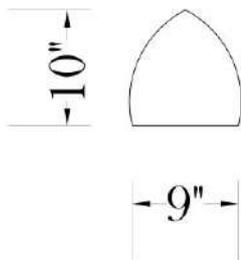
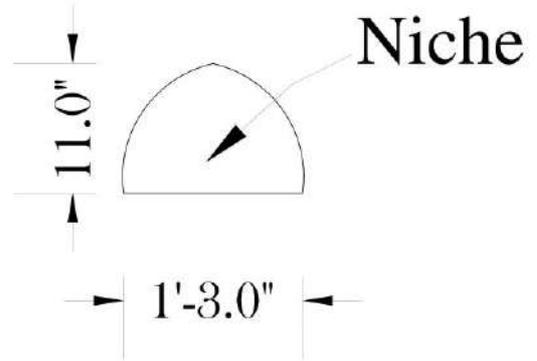
Western/Back Side Elevation of Dooleh Daryah Khan Otaaq



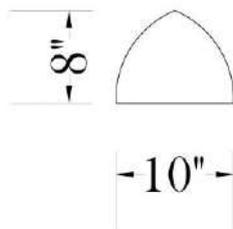
Southern/Left Side Elevation of Doluh Darya Khan Otaaq



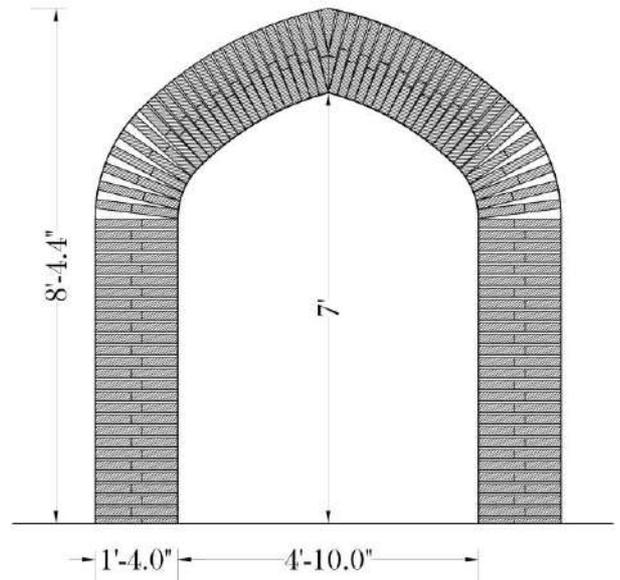
Dooleh Daryah khan Otaaq
Four Center Arch
Masonry Detail Drawing



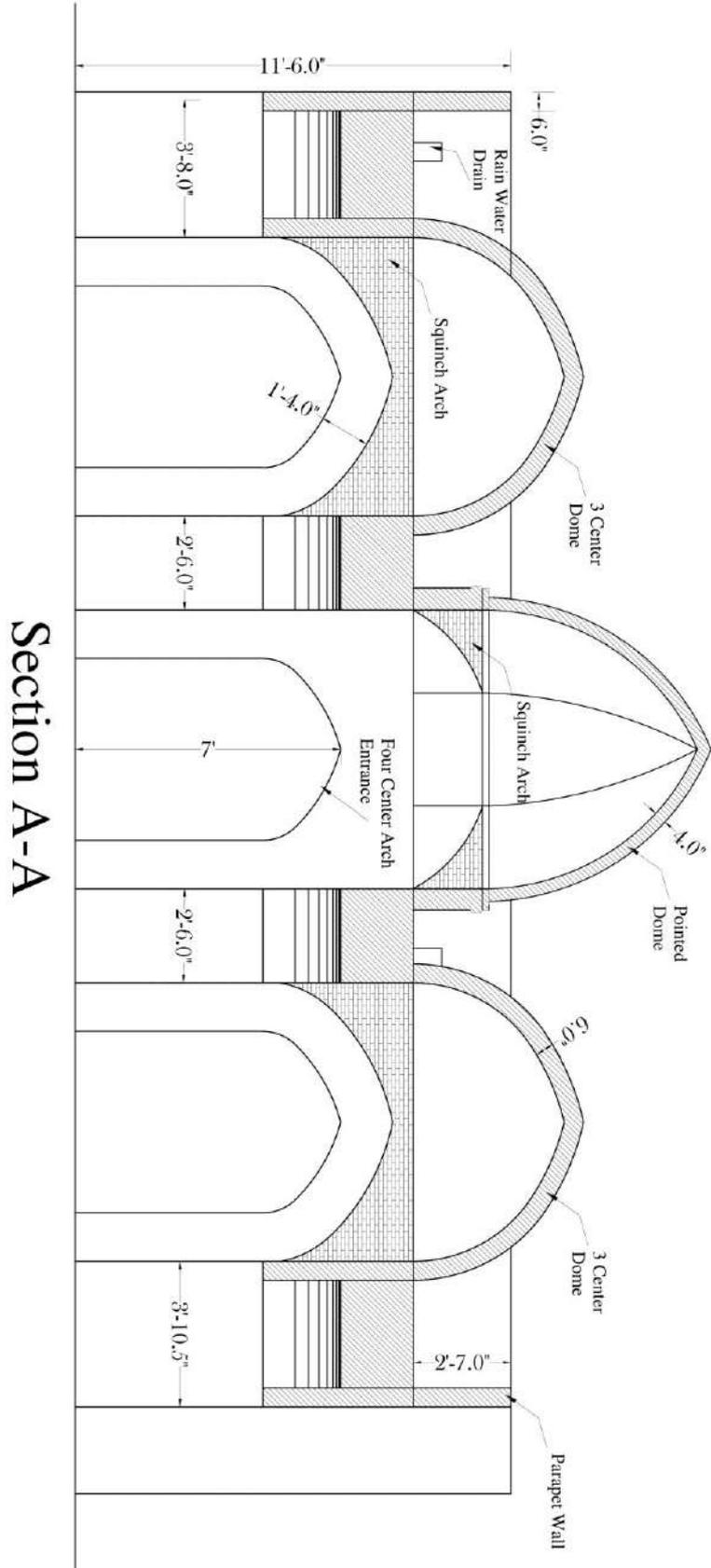
Dooleh Daryah khan Otaaq
Northern Side Parapet Wall
Niche Detail



Dooleh Daryah khan Otaaq
Western Side Parapet Wall
Niche Detail



Dooleh Daryah khan Otaaq
Four Center Arch
Entrance Elevation





Appendix

ماڳ جو نالو: دريا خان جي اوطاق

قصر: اڏاوت

دور: سمان دور

هند

احوال: دولهه دريا خان، سنڌ جي سمن جي ناليواري حڪمران ڄام نظام الدين عرف ڄام نندي جو پٽيلو هو، جيڪو اڳتي هلي سندس بهادر وزيراعظم بڻيو ۽ ڪيترن معرڪن ۾ وڙهي فتحون حاصل ڪيائين. سنڌ جي سڀني قديم تاريخن، تاريخ معصومي، تحفة الڪرام، تاريخ مظهر شاهه جهاني، مڪلي نامو، بيگلار نامو، سومرن جي سلطنت وغيره ۾ سندس احوال ملي ٿو.

ٿو ان وقت سنڌ جي گاديءَ جو هنڌ هو پر کيس ڳاها پرڳڻي ۾ جاگير هئي. هيءُ علائقو هن وقت سيوهڻ ۾ اچي ٿو. پنهنجي جاگير جي سار سنڀال لهن ۽ حڪومتي معاملن کي منهن ڏيڻ لاءِ دريا خان هڪ بينڪ ٺهرائي هئي، جيڪا موجوده دادو-ڪوٽڙي ريلوي لائين جي اسٽيشن ڳوٺانگ پراسان هئي. اها 2005ع تائين ڪافي بهتر حالت ۾ موجود هئي. اسٽيشن ڳوٺانگ، پٺاپور کان 15 ڪلو ميٽرن جي پنڌ تي تعلقي مانجهند ضلعي ڄامشوري ۾ آهي. 1995ع تائين هي اوطاق بهتر حالت ۾ هئي، ان جون ماپون مشهور آرڪيالاجسٽ سيد حاڪم علي شاهه بخاريءَ ڪيون هيون.

هن ماڳ جو پهريون ذڪر پير علي محمد راشدي پنهنجي ڪتاب ’اهي ڏينهن شينهن‘ ۾ ڪيو آهي.

سما دؤر جون عمارتون گهڻو ڪري مڪلي ضلعي ٺٽي ۾ مقبرن، مزارن، مدرسن ۽ چوڪندين جي صورت ۾ موجود آهن، سنڌ ۾ ڪنهن به حڪمران جي رهائش واريون عمارتون موجود ڪو نه آهن، ان لاءِ گمان اهو ڪريو ويندو آهي ته جيئن ته حڪمران عوامي هئا، ان ڪري عوام سان رلي ملي رهندا هئا. ان ڪري سندن رهائشي اڏاوت ڪا نه ٿي ملي، جڏهن ته ٻين حاڪمن خاص طور مغلن جون رهائشي اڏاوتون عام طور ملن ٿيون.

هيءُ نون ڪمرن ۽ وڏي صحن تي مشتمل بينڪ، ٺٽي ۽ ڳاها پرڳڻي واري علائقي جي وچ تي آهي. ڳاها پرڳڻي ۾ دريا خان جي جاگير هئي. چو ته پنهنجي ماحوليات سبب به هي اڏاوت پرشڪو هجاء تي نظر اچي ٿي. سامهون سنڌو درياھ ۽ پويان کير ٿر جو عظيم جابلو سلسلو هن هنڌ کي جاذب نظر بنائي ٿو. هن اڏاوت جي مهاڙيءَ ۾ ٽي ونگاوان لنگهه هئا، جن مان وچون لنگهه پاسي فوٽن جي آهي. مهاڙيءَ جي اوچائي "x33'2" وارن لنگهن کان ٿورو وڏو هو. سامهون واري صحن کي چڏي صرف هيءُ اڏاوت 6'32 12 فوٽ آهي. اوڀر ۾ ٽي لنگهه جڏهن ته اتر ۽ ڏکڻ ۾ ٻه ٻه لنگهه ڏنل آهن، جن جي اوچائي ٻه اوڀر وارن ونگاوان لنگهن جيتري آهي. ست ٽي ونگاوان لنگهه زمين کان ونگ جي چوٽيءَ تائين ساڍا ست فٽ اوچا ۽ ساڍا چار فٽ ويڪرا آهن. اولهه وارو حصو ڌوڙ ۽ مٽيءَ کان بچاءُ سبب بند ٿيل آهي. چو ته هن علائقي ۾ تيز هوائن سان ڌوڙ ۽ مٽيءَ جا طوفان ايندا رهن ٿا. اولهه واري پٽ جي ٻاهرئين پاسي چار جارا ٺهيل آهن، جن تي گلڪاري ٿيل هئي، اهي جارا ڏيڻ يا مشعالن رکڻ جي ڪم ايندا هوندا، جو اولهه پاسي يا ناليون به انهيءَ پاسي ٺهيل آهن، جن مان مينهن جي پاڻيءَ جو نيڪال ٿيندو (Recesses) صحن ڏنل آهي. ان کان سواءِ ڇهه جارا هوندا. ڇت تي ڪل ٽي گنبد ٺهيل آهن. جن جا ٽي نمونا آهن. هڪ انڪنڊو هڪ چورس ۽ ست اڌ گول گنبد آهن. هر هڪ گنبد جي فٽن جي ماپ جو آهي. انهن مان ڇهن ڪمرن کي ٽن پاسن کان لنگهه آهن، جن جو "x7-6" هيٺان ڪمرو آهي، جيڪو چورس 6'7 ذڪر ڪيو ويو آهي. جيئن اوڀر ۾ ٽي، ڏکڻ ۽ اتر ۾ ٻه ٻه، پر اولهه وارن ڪمرن کي ڪو به الڳ لنگهه ڏنل نه آهي. ٽي سگهي ٿو ته اولاهين پٽ سان ٺهيل ڪمرا رهائش طور ڪتب ايندا هجن. عمارت سان گڏ ٽي اولهه واري پاسي هڪ صحن آهي، جنهن جي پيڙهه فوٽ آهي. (ڏسو نقشو). پهرينءَ نظر سان هي اڏاوت 52 فوٽ جي آهي، ڪنڊن وٽ برجين جا نشان ڏسڻ ۾ اچن ٿا، جن جي ماپ 68 مذهبي عمارت لڳندي، پر سما دؤر ۾ ڪجهه اڏاوتون اهڙيون به مليون آهن جيڪي مذهبي نه آهن، پر انهن جو نمونو مذهبي عمارتسازيءَ جهڙو آهي. جهڙوڪ: مڪليءَ تي مدرسا، جن کي گنبد آهن. هونئن اسان وٽ اوطاق هڪ معتبر ادارو رهيو آهي، جتي علم، ساڃاهه، فيصلا ۽ ٻيون سماجي ۽ سياسي ڪارگزاريون ٿينديون رهنديون هيون. هيءُ اوطاق ڏسڻ سان واقعي مسجد لڳندي آهي، پر غور ڪبو ته سواءِ گنبدن جي ان ۾ ٻيو ڪو به گڻ مسجد سان ملندڙ نظر نه ايندو مثال: ان ۾ ڪو به محراب ڪو نه آهي. مؤذن جي جاءِ ڪانهي، ڪمرا ننڍا ۽ چورس آهن، ڊگها ۽ مستطيل نه آهن. وضو خاني جي جاءِ نه آهي وغيره. سما دؤر جي هيءُ بي مثال اڏاوت 2005ع تائين جهريل حالت ۾ موجود هئي، پر هاڻي (2012ع) سڄو ڏينگو پٽ بڻجي ويو آهي.



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