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**Pharwala Fort Islamabad:
History and Architecture**



By

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To My Beloved Mother and Father

Candidate's Dedication

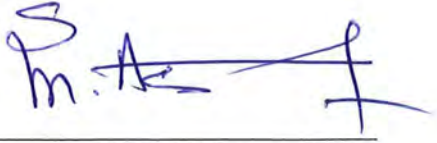
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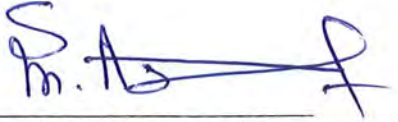
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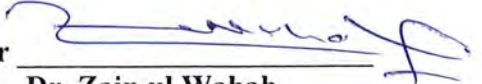
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Abstract

This research presents the history and architecture of the Pharwala fort. Detail study the art and architecture of the said fort carried out immediately because of its present-day dilapidated state. However art and architecture of the fort in most of the cases has been damaged but these remains still need to be documented. In the present research work, the researcher try to archaeologically document as well as set the relative chronology also to highlight the worth of this medieval period architecture. In this regard the present researcher visited the sites and forts in the region of Gakhars period. Pharwala of great significance because the Architectural glory and ornamentation executed, is telling the glorious days of the region. The scientific documentation and present state of the fort gives concerned specialists a know-how concerning idea of accomplishment for its preservation. This work is a Study of the architectural features and comparison with others forts of Potohar region. The most important concern of is that this fort is never documented and studies in detail before this work. This work draw the attention towards its deteriorating position as this fort is in dire need of conservation and preservation.

This study is divided into six chapters. Chapter one of this study focused on the introduction, methodology and review of the related published and unpublished literature. Chapter two discusses the geographical and historical background; chapter three discusses history of the forts of Pakistan, chapter four focused on the Ghakars' forts in around of Potohars, chapter five discussed the history of Pharwala fort and Ghakars and chapter six presents the details of the architecture of the pharwala fort. In last the analysis, conclusion, bibliography and plates are presented.

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All of the plans and most of photographs are my own.

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Chapter 1

1 Introduction

Pakistan is also including in those countries which have very rich culture and heritage. That is recognized all over the world. We are discovering continuously information from Stone Age to contemporary history in Pakistan and further research is going to develop the ideology and discourse in this particular field. This Study focuses on Pharwala fort belongs to medieval age, which has significance historically and architecturally vice. The magnificent architecture of Pakistan is influenced by West rather than East. There is large number of historical monuments in Pakistan which were being used as secular and religious buildings in ancient times. Military architecture has deep roots in the territory of Pakistan (comparative secular architecture). Large number of forts and fortresses were built in ancient times and it is said that, the buildings built (for military purpose) during old times among them only one fort, that is known as Lahore fort was used for residential purpose all the other buildings were being used for defensive purpose (but it require the more research to conduct for challenging this theory and my case study Pharwala fort is one of significant example for it).

Muslim history of Medieval Pakistan started with the arrival of Muhammad bin Qasim in 712, after the death of Prophet PBUH Arabs became master of the state and Qasim was the first Arab who invaded Sindh. This medieval age ended when Mughals were defeated and Sikh came into power. During this age after Qasim Ghaznavids invaded sub-continent, then Gahuri came into power after them Delhi Sultanates then Khiljis, Lodhis and at the end Mughals. Ghakharrs were the Barbarian clan and it is said that they were came into Punjab with Mehmood of Ghazna, and

that they were descendants of Kaigohar who was reigning in Ispahan thence. They were the patronage of Art and Architecture and they followed the tradition of the other ruling classes of this region they had built many architectural monuments, like Pharwala fort, Rewat fort (caravan), mosque and Caravan near Pharwala fort. Kai goharnama claims that Gakhars were the Sassanion Persian nobles, with their knights went beyond the northeast frontiers of Sassanian empire, seeking lands in the territory of China, Kashmir and Tibet, Gakhars therefore use the ancient royal title “ Kay” or “Kayani” as did the Sassanian aristocracy as they claim descent from the semi-mythological Kayani kings of ancient Iran.

Eventually after centuries of wandering, the Gakhars joined forces with the Mehmood of Ghazni in his invasion of 1008 and were rewarded with the kingdom of Potohar, which has since been the territory of the clan. Denzil Ibbeston wrote that Gakhars were come into Punab in 11th A.D along with Mehmood of Ghazna. But Ferishta in his book *Tarikh-i-Ferisht* mentioned that Gakhars attacked Mehmood, and he mentioned about their cruelties on Muhammdans. Sir Lepel Griffin in his book *Punjab chiefs* said that they were emigrants from Khurasaan who settled in Punjab in 300 A.D. the Gakhars left the Sassanian Empire n 565 A.D when Khusru I in coalition with Western Turks invaded North West India, maintaining weak sassanian control over it until the 10th century, long after the fall off the last Sasanian ruler Yazdegard III in 651 A.D to Arab invaders. *Kaigoharnama* narrates this that many years of wandering from the fall of the Sassanian Empire possibly as late as 682 A.D which is when Ferishta Records that Raja of Lahore submitted terms from the Gakhars, “this treaty included the cession of certain territories in perpetuity to the Gakhars that they should protect the Indian frontier from the Muslim invasions”.

In this land they would have formed a small feudal aristocracy controlling over many Hindu villages. Despite forced conversion in 1204, according to Ferishta the Gakhars maintained a largely successful resistance to the Muslim kingdom that followed before the coming of Baber.

The History of the salt range from the thirteenth century onward had been sickening record of wars between different tribes and Gakhars for political ascendancy. Gakhars captured a land between mountains as mentioned in Babur-Nama as Nilab and Bhera (Jhelum district) Babur wrote: "there were the Jats, Gujjars and many other people living in the mountains between Nilab and Bhera, which are connected to the mountains of Kashmir. Their rulers and chieftains belong to the Ghakhar clan whose chieftainship is like that Jud and Janjuas". This indicates that Ghakhars and Janjua rajputs had engaged in never ending battle for sovereignty over the salt range.

For this purpose Ghakars built many monuments for defensive purpose, like Pharwala fort which was built to resist the attacks of Sher Sha Suri who had also built a fort in Jhelum named as Rohtas Fort, Rewat fort which is in fact Caravan Serai was also built by Gakhars, ruler of Gakhar clan Sarang Khan built this fort and he is buried inside the fort along with his 11 sons who were murdered while fighting. Some monuments of Gakhars are located in Chakwal district one of them is Kosuk fort.

Pharwala fort is located in the territory of Islamabad, on the left bank of Soan River about 35 kilometers from Islamabad. Fort was built by Kaigohar founder of the Gakharr dynasty. Pharwala fort is a glimpse of military architecture from medieval period. This fort is built on strategic point as the rulers were to defend the attacks from their enemy Sher Shah Suri who was Afghan warrior and built Rohtas fort at

Jhelam. It is said that Kaigohar used to wear a plume or feathers in his headgear, in Persian 'Par' is used for plume and wearer of plume is 'wala' so both together are Parwala. (Hassan 2005). Baber used Parhala for this fort in Tuzk-i-Baberi

This fort was renovated during the period of Hathi khan Gakharr who was the chieftain of Gakhars. He fought against Janjuas, and Gujurs of that time. During the time of Hathi khan Gakhar, this fort was attacked by Baber and Hathi khan was defeated but later on Baber returned this fort to him after reconciliation. The fort is about 4 square kilometer and it has six gateways named as: Hathi gate, Lashkari gate, Ziarat, Bagh and begam gates. The fort was built for military purpose that is why it is located on a strategic point. The perimeter wall is 1^{1/2} mile and the average length and width are 980 and 1150 feet respectively. The fortification wall is 9 feet, 3 inches wide and is surmounted by heavy merlons.

1.1 Statement of Problem

Detail study the art and architecture of the said fort carried out immediately because of its present-day dilapidated state. However art and architecture of the fort in most of the cases has been damaged but these remains still need to be documented. The scientific documentation and present state of the fort gives concerned specialists a know-how concerning idea of accomplishment for its preservation. This work is a Study of the architectural features and comparison with others forts of Potohar region. The most important concern of is that this fort is never documented and studies in detail before this work. This work draw the attention towards its deteriorating position as this fort is in dire need of conservation and preservation.

1.2 Research Questions

- What is their origin and where they expand?

- what is their contribution in medieval history and architecture?
- Importance of Phawala fort in this region and era?
- What is the significance that this monument should be preserved because this is the symbolic monument in that region?
- Its regional architecture affiliation?
- Where does it stand in medieval history?
- Nomenclature?

1.3 Literature Review

Book of Khurshid Hassan "*Forts of Pakistan*" is based on the overview of the military architecture of Pakistan and this book helps to make a sense of this fort as the example of military architecture in history. He describes Phawala fort in historical perspective and elaborates its architectural scheme.

Denzil Ibeston in his book "*Castes of Punjab*" talked about the origin of Gakhar clan and associate castes, their linkages with other contemporary aristocratic clans and dynasties. This book gives a glimpse of Ghakhar dynasty in connection with British people that what they think about Ghakhars.

Muhammd bin Qasim Ferishta "*Tarikh-i- Ferishta*" wrote about the origin of this Gakhar cast and clan their religious and social culture. Their history and conquests and fights with other enemies. He wrote about time period when they became ruler of this area and started governing.

Gazetteer of Rawalpindi 1896, records the arrival of Gakhars in the region of Potohar, their political stability and boundaries of their territory. Their hostilities with local tribes and socio-economic policies during their rule in Potohar region are explained in the Gazetteer.

Ihsan H. Nadeem wrote a book "*Islamabad Potohar, Taxila Valley & Beyond*" he wrote little history of Gakhars and architecture of Pharwala fort, with reference to old archival evidences. He discussed the monuments of Potohar plateau and historical and cultural worth of Islamabad and complete Potohar pleatue.

Babernama which is associated to Mughal emperor Baber he writes about geographical and strategic importance of Pharwala fort and Gakharrs he describes the names and attributes of the main rulers of Gakhar clan. He also mentioned some fights of Ghakhars with Mughals and other tribes.

1.4 Hypothesis

History and architecture of Pharwala fort is aimed for reestablishment of chronological sequence and due status of Ghakhars in history and importance of military architecture in history of Pakistan.

1.5 Scope of the study

The work has strong architectural and historical importance and help to brighten up the hidden portion of historical grandeur into light. The study helps to provide new information regarding the role of this monument and its importance in the history of Pakistan. This study provides new dimensions to study military and defensive architecture of the Potohar region. The features of the fort and structural remains were unknown for the people. This study provides a foundation to conduct future researches. This research collected oral history of famous rulers to trace the ancestry and time period when it became seat of power and try to establish a relative chronology of Gakharrs. This study focused on more monuments in and around, not only around Pharwala to build a knowhow about the role of female in Gakhar

architecture in connection with the buildings related to females like mosque of Mai Qamro, the wife of Hatthi khan tomb of Rani Mango in Dhan Gali.

1.6 Methodology

Present study attempted to discuss the history and architecture of Pharwala fort for which researcher went through primary and secondary data. The present researcher visited various libraries in order to find out relevant previous researches/sources related to Gakhars. Primary sources; include interviews, repeated visits to the said site and contemporary monuments as well as archaeologically documented by scientific methods (photography, sketching, measurements scaled drawings, mapping and surface finds i.e. pottery and other cultural material). Secondary sources; include published and unpublished previous researches.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into six chapters. Chapter one of this study focused on the introduction, methodology and review of the related published and unpolished literature. Chapter two discusses the geographical and historical background; chapter three discusses history of the forts of Pakistan, chapter four focused on the Ghakars' forts in around of Potohars, chapter five discussed the history of Pharwala fort and Ghakars and chapter six presents the details of the architecture of the pharwala fort. In last the analysis, conclusion, bibliography and plates are presented.

2 Geographical Background

2.1 Islamabad

Islamabad is located in *Potohar* plateau and on geographical map it is situated between northern latitudes 33° 40' and longitudes 72° 50' and 73° 24', the master plan of the city is based on area of 450 square miles including the city proper its neighboring old city of Rawalpindi, industrial area park and rural area. This city is accompanied by the river *Soan* (translated as golden by Ahmad Hassan Dani) on its northern side and by *Margallah* hills on western side and Taxila too (the old capital of the region that is marked by the sublime of Gandharan civilization). According to Ahmad Hassan Dani (1997) "When Taxila on the western side of the hill was capital, Islamabad on the eastern side was the suburb; now Islamabad is the capital and Taxila is suburb."

The old stone tools dating back to 2.2 million years ago reported from the old terrace of the *Soan* River near *Rawat*, their complete study and analysis declared the oldest stone tools thus this site has become the earliest settlement and oldest living place of the world. So it was Pakistan not Africa where earliest human being dwelled for the first time in the history of the universe (Dani 1997).

Islamabad has traces of a series of historical and cultural settlements those are named as early, middle, and late Paleolithic ages; Neolithic ages, Gandhara grave culture and painted grey ware culture, Achaemenians, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, *Gakhar*, Sikh and British Periods.

The present researcher is only focused on *Gakhar* period and the grandeur of their military architecture. During that period this area was serving as a corridor between central Asia, Persia and India. Most of the invaders ran through *Potohar* plateau to attack the Indian sub-continent most important among them are Alexander the Great and Ghangiz khan. Sher shah Suri also walked through *Potohar* region and salt ranges when he moved towards India. *Potohar* plateau has long been a residential place for invaders because of its complex formation and strategic position.

2.2 Potohar

Once Rai Pathora (Prithvi Raj) defeated Sultan Mehmud Ghauri and chased him up to the river Sindh. On return from there, he became a guest of Ghakhars at Dangali. In this season due to consistent battles there were very little sowing of fields but all sorts of flowers were blooming in the valley. The Raja liked the scene and cried out in delight. This country is “Pope Har”. In Hindi language “PoPE” means flower. That is to say Garland of flowers. Therefore, the name of the country as Potohar and was thus called by everyone. The words of sensible and brilliant are carried. This name went to eternity and became extremely popular (Kaigoharnama).



Figure 1. The District map of the Potohar region. (Google)

The Potohar Plateau in north-eastern Pakistan forming the northern part of Punjab. It borders the western parts of Azad Kashmir and the southern parts of Khyber Pakhtunwa.

The whole land of Potohar is emergent between the Indus river and the Jhelum river and is stretched from the northward to the foothills of the Himalayas. It is a sub-oval tableland situated between the river Indus to its north and northeast and the Jhelum to its east and southeast. Its north is squeezed between the sub-Himalayan mountain ranges of Murree-Abbottabad with the lesser Margala hills with a height of 1200m. At Murree it is 2207m with mountains running north to the river Jhelum. Its south is bordered by the Salt Range elevated between 300-600 m with major heights of 1054m near Pai-Khel (District Mianwali) and 1520 m at Sakesar (District Khushab) with a gradual slope towards the east. A basin is formed between this Salt Range and to the

mountains ranges of the north. The entire plateau covers an area of about 4-500 sq. miles at 1200 – 1900 (Salim 1997).

2.3 History of Potohar

Potohar was serving as centre during Buddhist period, Hinduism was also co-existing but Buddhism entertained dominance until the annexure of the Punjab with Persian Empire. (New Encyclopedia of Britanica 1973). Then the region embraced the arrival of Greeks who left their everlasting foot prints in the region in the form of Gandhara Culture of ancient northern region. After them region again enjoyed the attention in 324 BC with the establishment of the empire of Chandar Gupta Maurya. (DistrictGazetteer of Rawalpindi 1893-94).

2.4 Land

The land of the Potohar is mostly hilly and rough which covers more than half of the area of plateaue. The other portion is comprised of different type of soils, silts and minerals.

Two rivers, Indus in the west and Jhelum in the east are main source of water. Others are small rivers like Haro, Sil, Kanshi and Soan among them Soan and Haro are most important tributaries of the river Indus. The Indus and the Jhelum are the main Hydrographic sources of the region. All these rivers are the lifeline for the Potohar on whose banks cities such as Attock, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, and village and settlements flourish using the syncline area and flood plain for agriculture.

The mighty river Indus runs along the western border of the Potohar. Haro and Soan rivers are its tributaries. Soan River is very important in Potohar plateau. Dr. Ahmed Hassan Danim gives its meaning “Golden”. (Dani 1999). It originates from Murre hills. Haro River originates in the hills below Murree fed by several streams

north of Lora on the west side of Margalla range. Above Khanpur the 4000-3000 steep hills of kohala and kharala give way to Haro, which is fed by fresh water streams coming from Garam Thun and Rajdhani to its South.

2.5 Mountains

The Pothar Plateau is bounded on the north by the Kala-Chitta Range crossing the Attock and Rawalpindi districts from east to west from Indus to near Golra. South Western portion of the range is formed of dark stone appears as black to human eye that is why known as “Kala Pahar” (Black Mountain). Northern portion of the range is formed of white lime stone that’s why known as “Chitta Pahar” White Mountain. Ranging between 1,500 to 3,000 feet in the main, the greatest height attained by these hills is 3,521 feet within four miles of the Indus (Maqbool Ahmed 1949).

Salt Range is forming the southern boundary of the Potohar Plateau. The Salt Range, spreading in an irregular curve from a few miles south-west of Jhelum to the Indus River at Mari Indus forms a comparatively immediate scarp to the Potwar area in the South.

The Narrara or Makhad Hills south of the Kala-Chitta Range hardly deserve to be called hills being only an agglomeration of pebble ridges on the bank of the Indus and nowhere higher than 1,822 feet.

Margallah hills rise from the north of the eastern boundary of Kala Chitta Range and is heighted about 2490ft. Several peaks are above 4,000feet.

Muree is a rocky area, situated in the north-east and Kahuta which is semi mountainous and semi- plain situated south of Murree. Gujar Khan links with Kahuta and situated on the south-east of it. Rawalpindi is present in north central as it is situated in north of Gujar Khan and west of Murree and Kahuta. Fateh Jhang is in

south-central as it lies with Rawalpindi and Gujar Khan. Pindigheb and Attock situated in south-west and north-west respectively (Gazetteer of District Rawalpindi 1893-94: 1-2)

2.6 Drainage

Drainage of the Pothar is simple in pattern, all streams finding their way either to the Indus on the West and or to the Jhelum on the East. The watershed lies towards the east, starting from the Narar plateau and passing through Kahuta, Mandra and Chakwal, Occurring over the Nili Hills.

2.7 Flora and Fauna

Flora of the Potohar on the Himalayan range is Chir, pine and oak trees. Margallah hills are budding Kau, Sanatha shrub and acacia trees. Faunal diversity includes birds, like Bulbul, Chukor, quail, partridge and peasant and mammals are Himalayan bear, leopard, grey goral and Urial, 28 species of fish including Cat Fish, Salmon and Eel etc (Salim:1997).

2.8 Environment

Potohar is situated on an elevation of 472.2 609.6 metres above the sea level, area is marked by the hot summers and cold winters. Potohar is dominated by highest number of storms in Indo-Pak such as hailstorms, thunder storms and dust storms (Ahmed 1949). Climatic situation of Potohar is comparatively better months of May, June and July bears heat with arrival of monsoon depressions area gets uniformity in temperature and climate.

2.9 Strategic worth of the Region

If we look into the chronicles we have seen that this area has always been a center of political power. At first there was Taxila that was the capital of the region

then *Gakhars* came they established their capital at *Pharwala* then we see in British Period they also chosen this area to establish army headquarters, and present day government of Pakistan is also ruling from this region. We can say, from strategic point of view this area is sound and it seems quite safe and ideal position to govern and supervise the whole region as internal and external transportation can be watched out easily through this area.

This whole region is regarded as tactical landscape since ancient times; “Taxila was at very strategic position, linked with three ancient trade routes, one each from the Western Asia, Central Asia and Mainland India. It was also connected with the Red Sea and Persian Gulf through a sea route linking sea ports of *Barygaza* (*Bharoch*) and *Barbaricon* near Karachi through a caravan route which corresponds to the present day national highway of Pakistan passing through Punjab and Sindh” (Dar 1998: 01).

2.10 Ancient Routes of Gakhars

This scheme of routes is the common factor that makes Taxila as a prime centre and this lay out shows that it was quite easy and dependable way to supervise the region and to maintain a check over the transportation coming from outside of the Taxila.

Same way was adopted by the *Ghakhars* when they took over and set their seat of power at Pharwala they followed the ancient routes. The strategic position of Pahrwala was so favorable that the traffic coming from Kashmir was also controlled by Pharwala. This *Pharwala* fort was located at ancient route called Shah-Rah- Azam, also known as Utarpatha, Dr. S. R Dar explains in reference with Panini’ (500B.C) Utarpatha, (Northern road) as well as Dakishinapatha (Southern road) he is of the

view that this Utarpatha probably was the same as Kautaliya's Haimavatapatha running from Valikh (Balakh to Bacteria) to Taxila" it came to known as Grand Trunk Road (GTR) during Suri period and also as *Gernaili Sarrak*.

During English period some changes were made, new road was started from Nikalson Monument near Giri fort, where Sultan Mehmud of Ghazna and Sultan Masud stayed 500 years before. From Attock, two roads were originated that time, one from Salt Ranges towards Kashmir and second from Jhelum to Kashmir, this road was also used by Sultan Mehmd Ghouri and this route ends at Dhamyak, a place famous of got concealed the body of Muhammad Ghouri, who was assassinated by Gakhars, his tomb is located at Dhamyak.

From Khojeki Baoli (Jhelum) it goes to Domeli and turns northward to Tarraki till reaches the mountain ranges. Then it moves the eastwards till the hills meet the plains. From here it moves northward along a nullah and then it reaches Jalal Sar (place that is associated with Gakhar ruler jalal), then Dhamyak, then Pakka Serai. From this point one can go to Rewat on the left or to Pharwala to the right. From Pharwala one can go to Shah Alladitta and to Giri in the Taxila Valley. Now a days' Shah Allah Ditta road, is old Margallah Pass and at one side of Margallah was Taxila and other was Pharwala. From there one could have gone direct to Serai Kala and thence to Hasan Abdal for onward journey to Kashmir to north or to Peshawar to the west. Hasan Abdal was the turning point for traveling towards Kashmir.

2.10.1 Connection with Silk-Route

Dr. S.R writes that "Utarpatha which then formed a part of Silk Road" shows that Ghakhars were sharing their domain with the most important international trade route "Silk Road" as it is quite obvious that Ghakhars were ruling in neighborhood of

Silk Route. So their link with Silk Route is most possible. If it was not direct, it might be through tributaries. They were not so keen towards economical proceedings, remained indulged in fighting with internal and external foes so their interest in socio-economic activities is not mentioned. As per available textual record they appeared as barbarian and road robbers. They were used to threaten every passing convoy, and collect booty from them. At one point of this route is located Taxila at middle is Islamabad and then Pharwala all are approaching the Sharah e Azam. These all centers of power are in orientation and adjoining other area through ancient routes.

An account of H.C Verma in "Medieval routes to India" explains the geographical and calculated position of *Pharwala*. In connection with Mughal emperor Babur he writes: "His route now preceded to *Kacha-Kot* (Haro River) Babur, it appears, had abandoned the Sha-Rah road and taken the road by Parhala (Pharwala) to Lahore. He gives the following reason for taking this route "the rainfall had been somewhat scant in the plains but seemed to have been good in the cultivated lands along the hill skirts for these reasons we took the road for Sialkot along the skirt hills opposite Hati Kakar's country i.e Parhala (Hathi Ghakhar ruler of Ghakhars). This road perhaps met the Sha Rah near Rohtas on the Jhelum and ended there" (Verma: 1978).

The Ghakhars ruled the whole Potohar Region this was then called Northern India. They were fond of wars and fights so the prominent feature of their domain was the military features and now ruins of their monuments are lies, most of them are of military nature.

2.11 Why Military Monuments in Hilly Areas?

It is not always necessary to be the forts on main routes because it is quite easy to attack the enemy in narrow area. Military forts which built in hilly areas were quite favorable for fighting. Rivers get narrower in hilly areas this thing is very supportive in order to chase and attack the enemy. Hillocks are most advantageous for hideouts and gorilla war. In plain areas it is very hard to fight in open. That is the reason behind all the strategic planning. That is why Potohar region snatched attention of the warriors in all periods of time including Alexander the Great. Some important buildings of their time are still existing and revealing the story of the real grandeur of the monuments once it was.

Chapter 3

3 History of Forts in Pakistan

Man of Stone Age who was cave dweller first time made his dwelling fortified by making a hedge of thorns to defend wild animals. Later on when human beings started their community life made groups and learned to fight together they became civilized and organized forces for the protection of whole community. Thus a concept of systematic fortified settlements had begun. With the formation of civilizations fortification became part and parcel of a state and community (Naravane 1995). Origin of the forts in Sub-continent is marked by the time of *Puranas*: “The Kalika Purana warned that kings must construct adequate forts. The *Agni Purana* lists seven limbs of the body of any kingdom, and a fort is one of them” (Ibid; 1995).

History of the fortifications in Pakistan started from Kot Diji as the earliest fortified settlement in Pakistan. Its continuity we have seen in Indus valley civilization, the Citadel of Mohenjodaro with its barracks, towers and gateways it was encircled by walls of compacted mud and bricks. The fortification wall of Harappa which was discovered by Wheeler and it was meant for the protection of the city (Baksahi 2008).

The word *fort* is being used in sub-continent most commonly since the period of British rule. During the period of 17th to 19th century all the old castles of India were termed as forts by British. The word *fortress* and *castle* are also stand for defensive architecture but these are less in use.

3.1 Classification of Forts

Now a day there is clear classification of fort, fortress and castle. Fort is stands for comparatively small military structure close on each side and housing a number of inhabitants usually a military garrison. *Castle* is meant for residential purpose inside the fortification wall, dwellings of the feudal lords were divided into luxurious palaces and gardens. *Fortress* is referred for strong permanent fortification which may occupy a large area. Very first reference about fort and fortresses is found in *shastras*, *vedas* and *Puranas*. There are six types of forts mentioned in these ancient scriptures. This classification or categorization of forts is done on the basis of topography; all kinds are associated with the landscape forts were being built on (Nossove:2006).

Durga is the word that is used for forts in *shastras*. The 'Durg' derives from the Sanskrit word 'durgham' ___ difficult. *Jala Durga* is the Sanskrit term used for fort or fortress in *shastras*, which are surrounded by Water these are also known as *audaka Durga* and *ab Durga*. Their two sub types are mentioned as *Antardvipa Durga* for Island forts and *Sthala Durga* for plain forts. The Island forts are those which were built on mountain and submerged under the water, they might have been used for naval depots and to control marine attacks, transportations and sea route trade (Naravane 1995:33-34)

Mahi Durga for mud forts the forts built during Hindu Shahi period in Sub-Continent were built of mud and Lahore fort that is a Mughal fort: it is said that it was first time built by Hindu shahi and it had mud structure that time. *vana Durga* for forest forts. The word *giri durga* is used for hill forts, and the hill forts were mainly built for defensive purpose as hills and mountains suits well for strategic planning and these forts was only used for military purpose never served as a land of residence (Ibid.).

Among these *Shstras* most famous is the *Arth shastar* which is written by Katliya Chankia statesman of *Chandargupta Mourya* in 1st and 2nd centuries C.E. He wrote the civil and defense administrative linkages in the context of forts. He guided towards the locations for treasury and military command in a citadel while elaborating protective mechanisms, keeping in consideration ornamental aspects like lotus-pools ceremonial arches esplanades and sacrificial altars.

Each type of fort was serving for advantages *giri* (hill) forts were considered as best defensive structure in ancient times as it was mentioned in ancient Sanskrit literature that gods chose to make their abode in these high places. Mountains formed of horizontal bedding rock were considered most safe seismically.

3.2 Fortified settlements of Pakistan

The history of fortified settlements of Pakistan goes back to Kot Diji period. Kot Diji is a pre- historic site located in Khairpur Sindh at a distance of 24 km from Khairpur, this site is based on a citadel and its huge defensive wall is its remarkable feature. This wall measures a height of 5^{1/2} - 10 ft. the excavated part of the wall is on the north side of the citadel and it is 108 ft. in length technically this wall shows an extra ordinary architectural scheme.

It was raised on the bed rock, the lower part having been built with undressed limestone blocks and the imposing structure above it having been built with mud bricks. Externally it was strengthened with bastions at intervals. Internally, it slanted at an angle of 8^{1/2} and was reinforced at intervals with 2 feet wide stone revetment bonded with the foundation courses. The outer face was riveted with mud bricks (Khurshid 2005).

The site of *Rahman Dheri in Dera Ismael Khan* is a site of pre-historic Era of Pakistan. This site with habitation and earliest occupations also claimed a massive defensive wall for the protection of the habitants. The wall was built of dressed blocks of clay slabs (Ibid.).

Indus valley civilization is one of the ancient civilizations of the world and this civilization credited Pakistan among the nations with worthy origin and historical background. At the beginning when Indus civilization was newly discovered it was claimed that Indus valley people had nothing to do with defense or military interests. They were most peaceful nation and did not found engage in warlike activities with their neighboring nations or states. But later on it was found that the two main centers of the Civilization, cities of Mohenjodaro and Harappa were very well fortified cities. Mohenjodaro was a citadel and a mud brick wall was surrounding the mound and same scheme was applied at Harappa where a mud brick wall was discovered by wheeler in 1940s. Although it is now believed that Indus civilization was destroyed by some natural disaster but this fact is also describes that when Aryan captured this land they had to face a severe resistance as they faced difficulty to get a triumph over the people of Indus as they were resided in fortified cities. Vedas describe that during the period when Aryans started to capture the Indus area there were cities and settlements surrounded by massive walls and fortifications built of dressed bricks and stones.

Mr. Majumdar after his excavation of two sites in Sindh, both in the narrow corridor between Indus and the Baluchistan border. Here on rocky grounds were two large settlements, each protected by massive stone fortification. These two sites have not yet been thoroughly examined, but it would seem that one at least was guarded by a double wall built of rough boulders; at the other settlement wall was built of roughly dressed blocks of stone averging 2x1x1 feet in size. This later fort, known as Ali Murad, commands a still much-used pass in the adjacent kirthar range, and its presence there provides additional proof that the indus Valley cities were menaced by

the tribes of Baluchistan. Inside these forts were numerous buildings, whose lower portions were built of stone. Judging from the painted pottery found in these frontier towns and in their vicinity, they evidently date from the Indus Period (Mackay2000:62-63).

After the decline of Indus there is a long span of time of more than 1000 years, we do not find any chronological or cultural sequence that is called as Dark Age in the history of Sub-Continent.

From the period of Aryan there is no evidence of built heritage and Aryans were nomadic type of tribes they did not take interest in buildings. There is no solid evidences found that Aryans ever built any monument, they are mentioned as warrior people who were roaming here and there. But in ancient scripters like *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* mentioned big cities those were established on the banks of Ganges and Yamuna. They might had used perishable material as it is described often in historical literature they used to build mud houses and protect them from wild animals with the help of thorny plants (wheeler).

3.3 Influence of Foreign Invasions

The foreign invasions of 4th century B.C again highlight the land of Pakistan as the center of fortified settlements like forts, fortresses and castles. This is the time when Alexander the great started his invasion and his court historians mentioned the provinces of Pakistan with details, where we find many descriptions of the places where Alexander faced resistance. *Massaga* is fort that is mentioned in history as a difficult task which Alexander had to capture and he got wounded during his campaign to siege this fort. He had to build bridges and towers to approach the place (Hasan 2005:20).

Alexander's invasion brought a lot of Greek traditions here in Sub-continent the people of Alexander's force who settled here in Sub-continent set many trends and life styles on Greek Pattern they built many cities and the valley of Taxila during Gandhara period is a sublime example of Greek life styles (Quddus 1992:41).

The cities of *Sirap* and *Sirsukh* are the best examples of Greek and Central Asian architecture. These cities were fortified and highly protected. The era after Alexander is marked by the rule of *Shakaas*, *Becterian* Greeks, and *Hepthalites*.

The *Sirkup* and *Sirsukh* cities were built by Bactrian Greeks and Kushans. These cities had fortification walls, built of dressed stones of Ashlar, semi Ashlar, diaper and rubble masonry.

After those *Kushans* ruled for a long time their architectural features were influenced from Greek traditions but they brought some changes in architecture especially in terms of defensive architecture. They built their fortified cities the places beyond rivers and mountains *Sirsukh* city of Taxila is the example of their scheme. In 3rd and 4th century C.E. in whole north Pakistan Buddhism flourished and Buddhist architectural traditions came in vogue. Because of foreign invaders Buddhist monks used to build their monasteries according to defensive purpose. All the Buddhist sites like *Julian*, *Mohra Muradu* and *DharmaRajika* were the fortified settlements. *DharmaRajika* and *Bhumala* were built on high place, which were used as a platform to watch and supervise the area in case of emergency.

Moreover lot of fortified settlements of this period are reported like fort of *Bala Hisar* near *Pushkalavati* (Charsada), another *Bala Hisar* (high fort) in *Purushpura* (Peshawar) and mound of *Shorkot* in Jhang District, *Sibipura* and small fortresses of *Multan*. In middle of Punjab capital of Punjab in ancient times *Mian Ali*

Faqeeran (Taaki/Asroor) present day Gujranwala fort of Sialkot and many other monuments can be counted of this period (ibid. 1992)

In 5th century *Aryans* and *Huns* both were in favor to demolish the settlements of earlier rulers although they ruled on a vast empire for long time but there are no remains of any fortified settlements of that period. Another big ruling clan *HinduShahis* who made Kabul, Afghanistan their capital/ seat of power later they made *Nandna* their seat of power, and fort of *Nandna* is famous for experiences of *Alberoni* as traditionally it is believed that he had measured diameter of earth from that fort during the period he was imprisoned.

Hindushais made fortified settlements on the banks of rivers and along the series of mountains so that they might have a watching eye on upcoming Muslim states of northwest. Chakdara fort on the bank of river Swat, fort of *Nandna*, fort of *Kosuk* and *Malot* temple in Salt Range, North *Kafir kot* and *South kafir kot*, are the best military examples of this period before the invasion of *Mehmood of Ghazna*(Nadiem 2003:38-39).

According to the Wheeler:“Northern Kafir Kot is assured of a permanent place of high, if undefined, distinction in the Archaeology and topography of Pakistan”. He also added that sir Stein says in 1905 “ the largest and most conspicuous ancient remains still above the ground in the Indus valley below *Attock*”(1992:59).

Among these *Malot* temple was most highly protected and hard to access. It was 1500x2000 in length and width, and other part which was being used as fort was 1200x500 ft. it is situated at a distance of 9 miles from old *Singhpura*.

Muhammad Bin Qasim invaded Sindh in 712, this conquest of Sindh and some parts of Punjab brought a Social and cultural change into the region and promoted

Islamic architectural traditions. He built mosques at first attempt wherever he conquered, like *Almanura, Debal, Multan, Sehwan, Nirun*.

Almansura was the town which was founded during the Arab conquest of Sindh, this site is situated about 8 miles South-east of *Shahdadpur* in the district of *Sanghar* Sindh. This city is surrounded by Indus River and was a well-fortified city; spread over 9000 ft. by 4500 ft. with a height of 35 ft. During excavations a huge fortification wall built of bricks was uncovered. Three phases of building and rebuilding of this wall were calculated, this wall was surrounding the whole city.

A 9 ft. wide fortification wall ran over three miles to girdle the main city. It still survives to a height of 11 ft. at places. Semi-circular bastions created at regular interval of 100 ft. strengthened it. Out of four gates recorded by the Arab historians, two gates have been located and identified as *Bab-ul-Turan* and *Bab-ul-Behr* on the north-Western and north eastern direction of the city (Khan 1990:8).

Arabs conquests did not proceed to Multan but the period of Mehmood of Ghazna increased the number of these conquests and took over almost every part of sub-continent during the early decades of 11th century CE. He actually laid a foundation for Muslim monarchy and thus Muslim ruled in sub-continent for 800 consecutive years (Ibid. 1990).

This era influenced every aspect of life they brought new changes and trends, military architecture was also influenced with new techniques and changes. Muslims introduced arches, basements, domes, and use of wood on thick walls to enlarge the size of buildings. They also built bridges and roads to approach fortified buildings.

The Gakhars are told as up-to-date to Mehmud of Ghazna when he invaded Sub-Continent. He was severely resisted by the Ghakhars. These Gakhars were

warlike tribe and they established their capital at Pharwala at the bank of Soan River which runs through the Himalayan Mountains of Potohar region. This fort is located a best suitable site in terms of strategic position because it is defended by natural agencies like at one side by Himalayan Mountains and other side by the Soan river and Ghakhars built it to resist their enemies and to switch the area, this fort was made up over the ruins of a fort from Hindu Shahi period, it was built by Kai Gohar who was the founder of *Ghakhars* in Sub-continent.

At first Kaigohar built it and stayed there after him Hathi Khan Gakhar who was a chieftain of Gakhar tribe made this fort his capital, he totally renovated the fort and from this fort he defeated the Mughal king Akbar. He stayed there for 12 years as he ruled for 12 years and poisoned to death by his wife. After Hathi Khan, Sarang Khan came into rule, he shifted his capital from Pharwala to Rewat fort.

The Gakhars are of Persian origin descendants from Sultan Kaid, son of Gohar, or Kaigohar, a native of Kayan in Ispahan (Gazetteer Rawalpindi) *Kaigoharnama* is one of the authentic sources of information related to Ghakhars it was written by Riaz ud Din Duni Chand, it is written in *kaigoharnama* that Ghakhars were originally Sassanian Persian aristocrats who later on sought lands near the northeastern borderlands of then Sasanian Empire, like China, Kashmir and Tibet and they used the title of ancient noble/ royal title “kay” or “Kiyani” that was the title of the Sasanian aristocrats as they claimed themselves descent from semi mythological *Kiyani* kings of ancient Iran. Later on they joined hands with Mehmud of Ghazna during his expedition to India in 1008 and in response they were remunerated the land of Potohar and made it their own alike land till the present days.

But Ferishta is of the view that Ghakhars were an Indian tribe who once resisted against Mehmud of Ghazna in 1008, while supporting Anad Pal son of Jayapala Maharaja of the Punjab.

4 Mnuments of Gakhars in and around Potohar

4.1 Rewat Fort

Rewat fort is located in Potohar Pakistan. The fort was built in early 16th century by Gakhars. A tribe of the Pothohar plateau. It is 17 km east of Rawalpindi on Grand Trunk Road. The fort was the part of a battle between the Gakhar chief Sultan Sarang and Sher Shah Suri in 1546 C.E. The fort is almost in square plan and has two gates. It encloses a mosque consists of three big dome shaped rooms. There is also a quadrangular building with a dome. Along the wall there are additional small rooms. In the middle of the fort there is a graveyard. This is hosting the tomb of

Sultan Sarang Khan. His 16 sons, who died there while fighting with Sher Shah Suri, are also buried inside the fort.

4.2 Pharwala fort

Pharwala fort a naturally defended fort at the back of the fort, is running Himalyan hills and in front is Soan River. This fort is one the best examples of military architecture of the early Muslim Period.

4.3 Dangali Fortress(Pl. 1-2, Fig. 2-3)

Dangali is located in Kallar syedaan (Potohar Region) in district Rawalpindi, 20m right on the side of a road towards Kashmir. This fortress is now in ruins and its traces are good enough to determine its original plan and layout. This fort was built by Rajar Khan in 1105 CE, who was one of the descendants of Gakhar Shah. Kaigoharnama explains that Hathi Khan went from this point after defeating Janjuas and Mughal emperor Baber in a fight. Baber gave him the title of "Sultan" then.

When he was poisoned to death by his wife, he was buried in Palakhar Patta Haveli which was also situated in Parganah (local body government system) of Dhangali (JAC2010).

4.4 Sultanpur Fort (Jhelum)(Pl. 2, Fig. 4)

This fort was built by Sultan Sarang Khan in 1540. He built this fort in response of Rohtas Fort of Sher Shah Suri. Sultan Pur Fort was destroyed by Saleem Shah Suri, son of Sher Shah Suri¹. After him Sikhs also played their part to destroy this fort. Now due to the construction of Mangala Dam in 1965, this fort lies in ruins near the spillways of the Dam.

4.5 Tughlo Fort(Pl. 3, Fig. 5-6)

Tughlo fort was built by Sultan Adam Khan to defend Suris. This was a garrison fort and was being used as military garrison decades after the decline of Gakhars. This fort was abandoned during the period of Sikhs. Presently ruins of the fort are revealing the story of its ruined majesty. It lies in remnants situated on the eastern bank of the river Jhelum.

4.6 Mangla Fort(Pl. 4, Fig. 7)

Mangla Fort is located on the top of the hill adjacent to Mangla/ Mangallah Dam, serving as WAPDA headquarters. This fort was built by Gakhar female ruler Mai Mangllan (Mango) in 1710. This was the time of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir. Daughter of Rani Mango was also got married in this fort with the son of Aurangzeb alamgir, Akbar II. Rani Mango stayed in this fort for years. After the decline of Gakhars fort went into the custody of Sikhs, then later on it was occupied by the Dogras of Jammu wal.

¹ Personal communication with Sultna Zahur Akhtar

4.7 SAR Jalal (Water Tank)(Pl. 4-5, Fig. 8-9)

Jalal Khan Gakhar constructed a water tank during his reign in the area of his domain, district Karnota Jhelum. This site is at a distance of 15 km meter from Sohawa near Jhelum. Site is located along the Sha Rah-i-Azam (Grand Trunk Road). *Sar* is the word used for tank. Still tank is having a large of reservoir of water in it. According to locals this site was a Ferodgah (camp, resting place/ caravan serai) and Jalal Khan Gakhar built this place for armies.

This makes sense. This site was a camping site for Gakhar rulers during their travel. Ruins of Caravan Serai (FeroDgah) adjacent to this tank are visible. *Kaigoharnama* reveals, when Sultan Jalal Khan was ruling from Pharwala, once there was famine in the state. Jalal Khan ordered to build a pond on Karnuta road.

4.8 Mosque of Mai Mango(Pl. 5-6, Fig. 10,11,12)

Mosque is in a very good state of preservation and functional, being used for daily prayers by the people of the area.

Some of the walls of the structure of the caravan serai are revealing the story of its original grandeur and lay out of its construction. Some remaining parts of Caravan of Jalal Khan a deep and long tunnel built by Jalal Khan.

4.9 Tunnels at Jalal Sar(Pl. 7, Fig. 13-14)

These tunnels are accompanying the water pond and the purpose behind its construction was to control the water when over flow. These tunnels were serving as spillways of the pond.

4.10 Gulpur Fort(Pl. 8, Fig. 15-16)

Tharochi fort is known as Gulpur fort. Originally this fort was built by Jalal Khan Gakhar grandson of Sultan Adam khan Gakhar in 1610 to control Kashmir area.

It was captured by Gulab singh Dogra, or it is said that it was sold out to Gulab Singh Dogra for 75 lac rupees. He used this fort as his military garrison (Akhtar 2007).

Chapter 5

5 History of Pharwala Fort

Pharwala fort was a stake and centre for all the Islamic expeditions ran through India. It was built by kaigo har who was an associate of Mehmud of ghazna in 1008 C.E. It was residential place for all the warriors, scholars and missionaries who went to India.²

As far history of Gakhars is concerned almost all the historians and scholars are agree their origin from Ispahan (Kiyan) as their founder Kaigo har belonged to Ispahan and he joined Mehmood of Ghazna during his expeditions to India.

Prof. Ahmad Hassan Dani gives a complete different theory about the origin of the Gakhars. He says;

Gakhars came here in the wake of Sassanian conquest over the Great Kushanas in the middle of the third century C.E. In consequence of their conquest the Sassanian governors seized Kushana mint and issued coins in the Kushanastyle. The discovery of a Kushanatype coin bearing the name of Gadakhara(now Gakhar)reveals the secret of Gakhar origin and hence their title Kiani. Notwithstanding their Sassanian vanguards, the Gakhars fell a prey to the feudal system of the region and established their feudal lordship in Potohar plateau—a status of power and prestige which is clear from their retention of the earlier local title, Raja, in contrast to Rajput that became popular in medieval history during the time of the Huns (Dani 1997).

Mehmood of Ghazna made his first expedition to India in 1001CE against Hindu Shahi ruler Raja JaiPal. According to Ibn-e-khuldoon³ and Ferishta⁴, Raja

² Kaigo harnama(partIII)

³ Tarikh-i-ibn-e-khuldoon

jaipal was supported by 30,000 “Khakars” who fought against Mehmood’s forces by tooth and nail and bumped into his forces and made them flee. These Khakars started living in Northern India in 7th century B.C. These were Achameneans of kayani Dynasty who were originally Turks over ran Kurdistan. They remained in power there for few generations therefore they are labeled kurds descended to Seistan in Iran.

They fund Achameneans dynasty and kiyani dynasty is the offshoot of them (present day Gakhars are called as kayani). These people were requested for help by Raja Pando against his brothers. Iranian forces were sent by Fridoon under the leadership of SAM and Fridoon’s son Doros. With their gallant support prince got victory, he allotted them a big part of his land from Sialkot to Peshawar, as a gift. A number of army men stayed here and dowelled thus prince shared his domain with Persian Empire of the time.

5.1 Nomenclature

Gakhars are named as Khakhars in textual records of old historians, like Ferishta and ibn-e-Khuldoun, and even in Tuzk-i-Baburi and Tuzk-i-jahangiri one finds different versions of the title of this clan.

These people were believer and worshippers of fire and sun god. Sun in Hindi language is known as “Kak” and one who is albino is also known as “Kaka” even in Punjabi and Potohari languages, too. Thus these people were known as “Kakars” (Babur also wrote kakar in Tuzk-i-Babri)⁵ but due to Phonetic and pronunciation difference it was termed as “Khakhars” (K, P, T are spoken as KH, PH, TH in

⁴ Tarikh-i-Ferishta

⁵ Babur-Nama, translated by Annete S. Beveridge

Sanskrit, Punjabi and Pothohari). This was the reason those were pronounced as Khakhars by old historians.⁶

5.2 *Kaigo har*

It is believed that the kaigo har was the founding father of Gkahr s in Sub-Continent. He came in sub-continent as an associate to mehmud of Ghazna during his expeditions to India. Before Mehmud his father Subkatgin was the ally of Kabul Shah (father of Kaigo har), he was overthrown from “Chota Tibet” (Baltistan) when he came across to Subkatgin who allotted him the state of Lamghan as a reward of fighting along with him, against Raja Jai Pal. This state was named after him as “Kabul”.

When Mehmud of Ghazna faced resistance by “Khakhars” he thought of a plan to control the Khakars by Kaigo har, as they were Persian origin. He also entitled him as “Khakhar Shah”. Because of him, local Khakhars support Mehmood of Ghazna and he over threw the throne of JaiPal, captured his state from up to Lahore.

Thence Kaigo har was awarded a land between the rivers of Bhet (Jhelum) and Nilab (Indus), by mehmud of Ghazna (Baqir:1965).

He was awarded this land as a support for Mehmud’s future trips towards Sub-Continent, to administer the area and to be helpful for the scholars and religious leaders coming towards India for missionary trips⁷.

⁶ Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

⁷ Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

Thus Kaigohar established his headquarter in Sub-Continent and built there fort of Pharwala. this was the first monument of the dynasty and can also be regarded as first Muslim period fort in the Sub- Continent⁸.

5.3 Nomenclature of Pharwala

Why this fort is named as Pharwala? There are many assumptions behind this terminology. First one is that *Kaigohar* was used to wear a feather as “Plume” which is called in Persian as ‘Par’ and ‘wala’ was used for wearer of the plume. Due to the difference of pronunciation it came to be termed as Pharwala.

Other assumption is that the word ‘Hala’ is used for the gap between the mountains and ‘Par’ is used for mountain in Potohari language, so with a little difference or corruption of the language it came as Pharhala. It could have pronounced as ‘Phar’ in Persian, it is mentioned in Babur-Nama, as ‘Parhala’ in Turkish language. He also wrote Khakhars as Gakhars which was translated in Urdu and Persian as ‘Kakars’.

Writer of kaigoharnama (1710 CE, detailed history of royal family of Gakhars in the form of prose and poetry) Raizada Duni Chand writes in Persian as “Phar hala” and his son Brij Nath the writer of third part of Kaigoharnama has written it as ‘Pharwala’.

Sultan Zahur writer of *Kaigoharnama* (Urdu) is of the view to support the term Pharhala, according to him this was fouling of language in the course of time⁹.

⁸Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

⁹Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

This aspect also fix the ambiguity of the building of the fort over the ruins of Hindu Shahi Period as it is believed that the fort was built over the ruins of Hindu Shahi period. Apparently this thing shows that there was nothing like that, if it would have been so, there must be some blend of terms, language or else. The derivation of the name of the fort is directly belonging to the founder of the fort, if it is not so, the only option remains is the deep digging. So one could go through the underneath ground level and bring the chronology into order. Otherwise relative chronology is best suitable option.

The fort was once hosting very beautiful and magnificent structures inside, before the period of Sikhs; there were palaces of Mai Mango and Tatar Khan. Places built for food and accommodation of elephants, stable for horses, rooms for guards and water tanks. About 50 elephants, about two hundred horses and five hundred foot soldiers were always stationed in the fort. During emergency situations number of soldiers was increased. This fort was serving like and urban Centre.¹⁰ Babur also mentioned whereabouts of this fort in Tuzk-i-Baburi as there were five graveyard in the fort.¹¹

5.4 History and Chronology of Pharwala Fort

The fort was built by Sultan kaigohar in 1005-1010 CE. It was serving as headquarter and capital of the state. All the missionaries going towards India. Mehmud of Ghana attacked India with the support of Kaigohar. This fort was serving as a corridor between Kabul and India.¹²

¹⁰Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

¹¹Tuzk-i-Baburi

¹²Kaigoharnama, (Persian) 1965, Punjabi Academy Lahore

5.4.1 Stay of renowned Sufi Saints

Sufi Saint Quttub Shah came in this fort in 1011 C.E. and stayed here. Then moved towards Khushab along with Kaigohar on his missionary expedition of religious propagation.¹³

Sufi Saint Data Ali Hajveri stayed in this fort as a guest, he prayed here and then moved to Lahore.

5.4.2 Stay of Alberuni at Pharwala

Abu Rehan Alberuni stayed at Pharwala in 1018 C.E. He tracked the high peaks of and tried to take the readings of the earth while he was measuring circumference and diameter of the earth. From here he moved to Nandna there he measured the final radius of the earth.¹⁴

5.4.3 Attack of Shahab ud Din Ghauri

Shahab ud Din Muhammad Bin Sam, Muhammad Ghauri, after destroying the town of Sultan Mehmud of Ghazna in 1191 CE, attacked the fort, while he was on his first expedition to India. He wanted to punish the Gakhars for being friends of Mehmud of Ghazna.¹⁵

5.4.4 Assassination of Muhammad Ghauri

In 1206 Shahab ud Din Muhammad Ghauri won the battle of Trein and captured the Delhi On his return with booty he was killed by Fidai khan Khakar at Dhamyak where he was buried. While Ferishta says his body was taken to Kabul.

¹³ Kaigoharnam(English) 2004, JEIA Graphics Rawalpindi

¹⁴ Kaigoharnama, (Persian) 1965, Punjabi Academy Lahore

¹⁵ Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

Ferishta and some other historians blamed Gakhars for the killing of Muhammad Ghauri. B.S Nijar negates Ferishta and says he may have borne some personal grudge, otherwise before Ferishta all the historians were agree those were khokhars not Gakhars. These two clans are mixed by the historians.¹⁶

5.4.5 Stay of khawarzum Shah

In 1220 C.E.Khawarzum Shah was chased by Changez khan, he jumps into the river Indus, along with his horse. He took refuge at Pharwala and then moved to Delhi.¹⁷

Onwards they remained busy with attackers from Sub-Continent and outside. From 1400AD to 1500 C.E.these 'khakars' became independent rulers and sovreigns. The fort was one of the important Parganas. This century Malik Sikandar, Malik Feroz, Malik Boga II, Malik Bair, Malik Peelo and Malik Tatar Khan ruled from this fort.¹⁸

5.5 Title of the Khan adopted by Gakhar Rulers

The Mangols called their army chiefs and generals as "Khan" so that the commanders of the troops of their opponents also started calling senior army staff as

¹⁶ Tarikh-i-Ferishta

- B.S Nijar, origins and History of Jats and other Nomadic tribes 900- B.C- 1947 A.D, Atlantic Publications and Distributors New Dehli

¹⁷ Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

¹⁸ Kaigoharnama (Persian) 1965, Punjabi Academy Lahore

“khan”. Thus the Khakar lineage was also filled with ‘Khan’ after the name their chiefs and rulers.¹⁹

5.5.1 Tatar khan at Pharwala

In 1523 C.E. after Malik Bair, his domain was distributed by his sons; Malik Palakh took the parganah of Dhangali and lower area. Malik Tatar khan took the Parganah of Pharwala upto the River Attock. In 1523 Babur’s envoy met Tatar Khan at Pharwala and made plan to attack Delhi. These negotiations were also attended by Daulat khan Lodhi.²⁰

5.5.2 Attack of Hathi Khan on Pharwala

In 1524 Hathi khan Gakahar (son of Peelo Khan, originally named as Hamad Khan but known as Hathi for his huge body size), attacked the fort. He killed his uncle Tatar khan captured the fort. This was the same year when Babur attacked the Delhi and stayed at Pharwala in the palace of Tatar Khan.

In 1524 C.E. Babur was at khushab, he received complaints against Hathi khan. They provoked King Babur he would face disturbances by Hathi Khan during his expedition to Delhi. Then moved towards the fort of Pharwala to silence Hathi Khan and he mentioned the account of this battle. He has written details of whereabouts of the fort and battle. In this account he used the word “Gakars” in Persian so henceforth they are known as Gakars and Gakhars in history.

¹⁹Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

²⁰Baburnama,

5.5.3 Details of the Attack of Babur at Pharwala

5.5.3.1 *The Kakars(kakars stand for Gakhars)*

In amongst the mountains of Nilab and Bhira which connect with those of Kashmir, there are, besides the Jud and Janjuha tribes, many jats, Gujurs, and others akin to them, seated in villages everywhere on every rising ground. These are governed by headman of the kakar tribes, a headship like that over the Jud and Janjuha. At that time (925 A.H) the headman of the people of those hill-skirts were Tatar Kakar and Hathi Kakar, two descended of one forefathers; being paternal uncles' sons.

Torrent beds and ravines are their strongholds. Tatar's place named Parhala is a good deal below the low mountains; Hathi's country connects with the mountains. Tatar kakar had seen Daulat Khan (yusaf Khail) and looked to him with complete obedience. Hathi had not seen Daulat khan; his attitude towards him was bad and turbulent. At the word of the Hindustan begs in agreement with them, Tatar had so posted himself as to blockade Hathi from a distance. Just when we were in Bhira, Hathi moved on pretext of hunting, fell unexpectedly on Tatar, killed him and took his country, his wives, and his having.

5.5.3.2 *Action taken against Hathi kakar*

(March 14th) people acquainted with the honour and glory(aab o tab) of this land and government, especially Janjuhas, old foes of these kakars, represented, " Hathi is the bad man round about; he it is robs on the roads; he it is brings then to ruin; he ought either to be driven out of these parts, or to be severely punished." Agreeing with this, we left Khawja Mir-i-miran and Nasir's Mirim next day with the camp, parting from them at big breakfast, and moved on Hathi kakar. As has been said, he had killed Tatar a few days earlier, and having taken possession of Parhala,

was in it now. Dismounting n the ther prayer we gave the horses' corn; at the Bed-time prayer we rode on again, our guide being a Gujjar servant of Malik Hast, named Sar-u-pa. we rode the night through and dismounted at dawn, when Beg Muhammad Mughal was sent back to the camp, and we remounted when it was growing light. At breakfast time (9 a.m) we put our mail on and moved forward faster. The blackness of Parhala showed itself from 2 miles off; the gallop was then allowed; the right went east of Parhala; the men of the left and Centre went straight for the fort, Dost beg being their rear-reverse.

5.5.3.3 *Pharwala Fort*

Parhal stands amongst the ravines. It has two roads; one by which we came, leads to it by the south east, goes along the top of ravines and on either hand has hollows worn out by the torrents. A mile from Parhala this road, in four or five places before it reaches the gate, becomes a one-man road with a ravine falling from either side; therefore more than an arrow's flight men must ride in single file. The other road comes from the north west; it gets up to Parhala by the trough of a valley and it also is a one man road. There is no other road in any side. Parhala though without a breast-work or battlement, has no assailable place, its side shooting perpendicularly down for 7, 8, 10 yards.

When the van of our left, having passed the narrow place, went in a body to the Gate, Hathi, with whom were 30 to 40 men in armor, their horses in mail, and a mass of foot-soldiers, forced his assailants to retire. Dost Beg led his reserve forward made a strong attack, dismounted a number of Hathi's men, and beat him. All the country round, Hathi was celebrated for his daring, but tray as he did, he could affect nothing; he took to flight; he could not make stand in those narrow places; he could not make the fort fist when he got back into it. His assailants went in just behind him

and ran on through the ravine and the narrows of the north-west side of the fort, but he rode light and made his flight good. Here again Dost Beg did very well and recompense was added to renown.

5.5.3.4 Baber's Visit into Pharwala Fort

Meantime I had going into the fort and dismounted at Tatar Kakar's dwelling. Several men had joined in attack for whom to stay been arranged.

(March 16th) Next day we went out by the north-west ravines and dismounted in a sown field. A few serviceable braves under Wali the treasurer were sent out to meet the camp.

(March 17th) Marching on Thursday the 15th, we dismounted at ANdaraba on the Suhan, a fort said to have depended from of old on ancestors of Malik Hast. Hathi khan had killed Malik Hast's father and destroyed the fort; there it now lay in ruins.

At the Bed-time Prayer of this same day, those left at Kalda-Kahar with the camp rejoined us.

5.5.3.5 Submission of Hathi to Baber

It must have been after Hathi overcome Tatar Khan he started his kinsman Parbat to me with tribute and an accoutered horse. Parbat did not light upon us but, meeting in with the camp we had left behind, came on in the company of the train.

(March 18th) marching on and crossing the Suhan-water we dismounted on the rising ground. Here Hathi's kinsman (parbat) was robed in an honorary dress (khil'at), given letters of encouragement for Hathi, and dispatched with a servant of Muhammad Ali, Jang-Jang (BABUR-NAMA).

5.5.4 Death of Hathi Khan

Hathi Khan was killed by his wife who poisoned him. It is believed that he was poisoned in consultation with Sarang Khan and his brother Adam Khan. Griffin adds; "Sarang Khan was no of age, and finding that he could not oust his cousin by force by force of arms procured his death by poison, and assumed the chief ship in 1525 A.D".²¹Sarnag Khan became the king of Gakhars and started ruling from Pharwala. In 1535 C.E.Hamyoun khan was defeated by the Afghan officer to India Sher Shah Suri. Hamayoun took refuge at Dhangali with Sarang Khan. Sher Shah asked Sarang Khan to hand him over Hamayoun. Being friend of Hamayoun, Sarang Khan refused and challanged him for battle. Sher Shah Suri attacked the state of Sarang khan with huge army. Sarang khan was killed along with his 16 sons near Dina (Jhelum).

5.5.5 Adam khan at Pharwala

After the death of Sarang Khan, his brother Adam khan enthroned (1545-1550AD). He buried Sarang Khan and sons in Rewat fort. He revenged the Suri army where ever he found them in and around of potohar and fron River Jhelum to Lahore. In 10 years he deliverd 360 attacks on Suris from Pharwala and other forts Sultanpur, Mangla, Dhangali and Rewat. During the period of Adam Khan Pharwala fort was reconstructed. After the death of Sher Shah Suri, Adam khan continued fighting with his son Islam Shah.

²¹ Cheifs of the Punjab

In a battle with Islam Shah his brother in law was captured and he was thrown in River Soan from Lashkari Gate of Pharwala fort. In 1546 Islam Shah was defeated by Adam khan near Rewat and killed²².

In 1553-55 Adam khan invited Hamyoun khan back to India. He came back and Adam khan proclaimed him in an impressive way as king of India. Ceremony was celebrated at Pharwala fort.

5.5.6 Kamran Mirza at Pharwala

In 1555 C.E. Kamran Mirza who rebelled against his brother Hamayoun took refuge in Pharwala with Adam khan. On arrival of Hamyoun khan, he was presented before him. Hamyoun orderd to pluck out the eyes of Kamran and this ceremony was performed at Nakar Khana in Pharwala fort.²³ Later on he was sent on pilgrimage to Makka.

In 1562 on the complaint of Kamal Khan (son of Saranag khan) Hamayoun Khan ordered Adam khan to divide the country with his nephew. Adam Khan refused and was attacked by Hamayoun, his son Lashkari Khan was killed and he was imprisoned in Pharwala fort and died here, later on.

After Adam khan Sahdman khan, tha Sultan Jalal Khan and then Akbar Quli Khan became the imperial Generals of the Gakhars.

Akbar Quli khan was sain by nature and refused to take the charge. His wife Mai Manglan who was from Janjua tribe became the ruler and she ruled for 25 years. She led the troops and defeated Chib tribes. Mughal emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir was impressed of her bravery. He came to her and asked for her daughters hand for his son

²² Kaigoharnama(English) 2004 JeiAs printing press Rawalpindi

²³ Kaigoharnama (Persian, English)

Akbar II. He also presented her royal robe, and sword of honor, Mai Manglan's (known as mai Mango) daughter Mahpara was married to Mughal prince in 1692.²⁴

5.5.7 Muqarab Khan at Pharwala

Sultan Muqarab Khan was the last independent ruler of the Gakhars in Potohr. He was very gallant and brave. He extended the boundaries of his domain and recaptured his territories from all the tribes of Chibs, Janjuas Bangish and Kashmiri in between river Jhelum and Attock. During his period Gakhar state was at its peak in terms of power. He started minting his coins. He ruled from Pharwala and Dhangali. He joined Ahmas Shah Abdali during his expeditions in India. Ahmad Shah Abdali was impressed of his bravery, and gave him title of "Nawab".

During the expedition of Ahmad Shah Abdali he came off to Sikhs and got killed by them. Griffin is of the view that after got defeated by Sikhs outside the Gujrat, Muqarab Khan was deceived by the rivals of his own tribe. Himmat Khan from Domeli imprisoned him and put to death in 1765. He took over the control of the tribe. After him Pharwala was assigned to his two elder sons and Dhangali to his younger sons.

Griffin writes about the decline of Gakhars, indeed he is paying tribute to their prestigious part in the history and the boom period of their rule:

However great may have been the reverse of the Gakhars, they have lost neither their pride nor their courage. They have been crushed by the Sikhs, a people of yesterday, but there may still be seen in the chivalrous bearing of a Gakhar gentleman some remembrance of the days when Pharwala was the asylum for all who oppressed, and

²⁴ Kaigoharnama(Persian) Punjabi Academy Lahore

of the wars in which his ancestors fought, on equal terms, with the Emperors of Dehli.²⁵

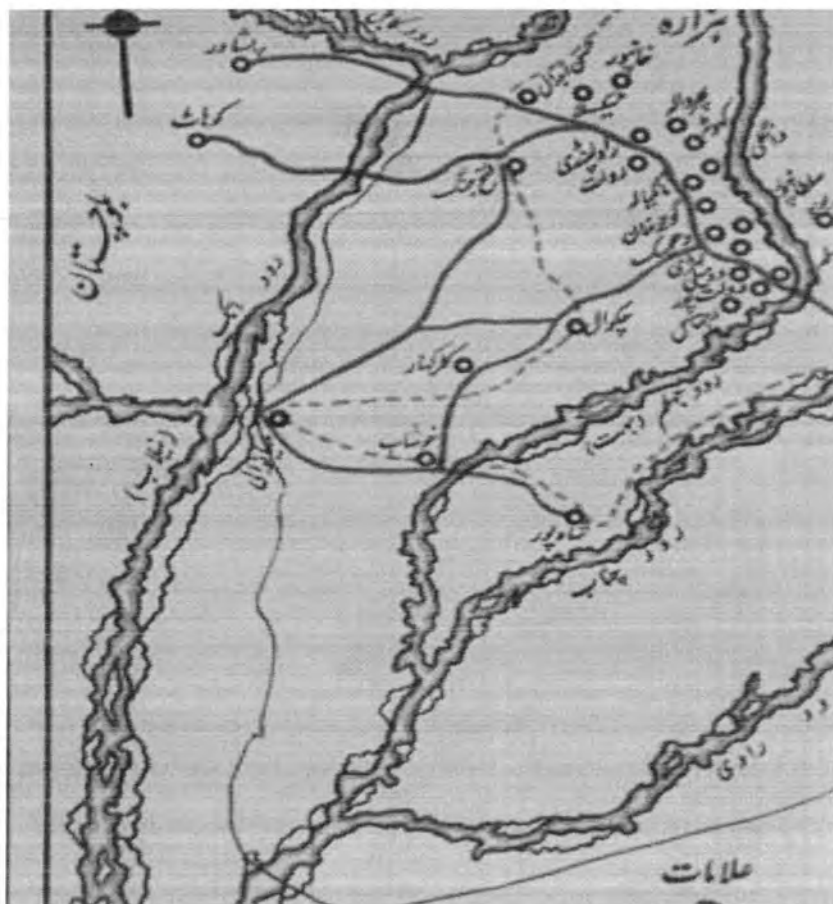


Figure 2. The Administrative map of the Ghakars Dynasty. (Kaigoharnama:1965)

²⁵ Cheifs of the Punjab

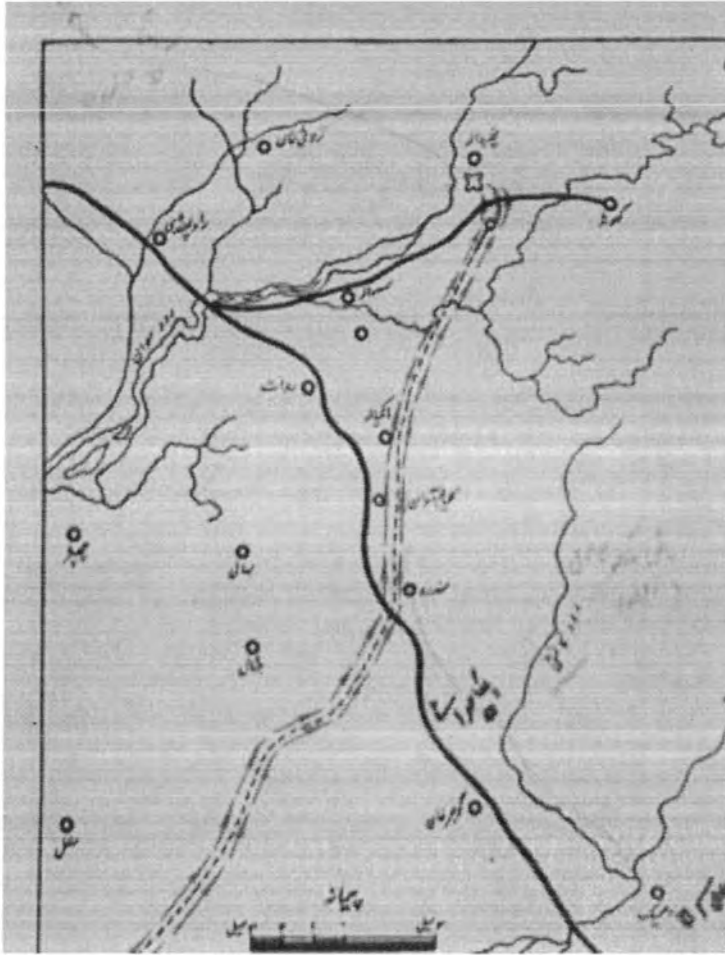


Figure 3. Route of Babur to the Pharwala Fort during his visit. (Kaigoharnama:1965)

6 Architecture of the Fort

Pharwala fort was built by Kaigoahar in 1002 C.E.²⁶ Fort is located on the bank of river *Soan* there is no proper bridge or passage to approach the fort one should have to walk through the shallow surface of water of River *Soan* and cross it to reach the fort. Fort is located at an ideal place. It is a typical military fort with all the features of a defensive fort (Pl.9, Fig. 17-18).

Original plan of the fort is following the mountainous drift it seems they did not try to crush the tops, nooks and corners but used all with quite studied way and built a naturally defended fort. This fort resembles the Samarqand fort (Distt.Chakwal) in its location and landscape. Both have strategic locations²⁷.

6.1 Plan of the Fort

The fort is irregular in plan , covers an area of 36 acres. This hill fort is atop a steep hill. Its coordinates are 33.371 N 73.175 E. Fort is situated in an uneven table land. Height above the sea level is 2531 and above river is 800ft.

This massive fort is built over the steep rocks protruding into the river *Soan*. Besides the fort is protected on the West by perennial river__ *Soan* which was blessing in disguise (Pl.9, Fig. 18).

At first place it protects the fort from the West and secondly it ensured water supply both for inhabitants and beasts during wars.

²⁶Personal communication with Col. Zahur Sultan, a person from Pharwala

²⁷Personal communication with Dr. Saif-ur-Rehman Dar who once conducted the survey of Samarqand fort

Even some forts and monuments have been provided artificial ditches and dikes to channelize water around the building to make it tougher for enemy. For example in Rohtas fort, deep ditches were dug all along the fortification wall.

It was equally favorable for daily needs and during fighting when enemy come to the river to quench the thirst of men and beasts can easily be fired from inside the fort. Here in this terrain as river gets narrow, so it makes easy to chase the enemy and to make them flee.

Fort has six gates namely Lashkari Gate, Begum Gate, Hathi Gate, Qila Gate, Bagh Gate and Ziarat Gate. The fortification wall is running all around the fort. All these gates were entered through arched entrances these arches depicting Muslim traditions and patterns in their construction.



Figure 4 Plan of the Pharwala Fort. (By: The present researcher)

6.2 Construction Material

Lime stone is used to construct the fort. Like all contemporary forts, *Pharwala* fort was also built with locally available stone. Stone was the only material available abundantly in this region and has lifetime sturdiness. For binding agent most probably it was lime stucco. Traces of lime plaster are still visible at some points. Along with lime, brick dust (Pulverized bricks mixed with lime common known as *Surkhi* plaster)

and white of egg were also used as construction material²⁸. Lime *Surkhi* plaster along with gypsum was used first time in Dybal and mansura and then Ghaznavid period in Giri fort and mosque at Taxila.²⁹

The use of lime was very limited in India before Muslims. But on the arrival of Muslims in India, the use of lime was very extensive and was used not only for binding but also as plaster for making the surface incised for decoration and encaustic enamel work.(Sharma:2005:15). All stones are dressed, and of different sizes measuring maximum 3ft. and minimum 1ft.

6.3 Construction Technique

Dressed and undressed stones are used. Percy Brown states, this dressed stone masonry introduced in India with building of Muslim Periods, he is of the view that the monuments of Mohammdan Period (Early Muslim) in other regions were built of bricks, plaster and rubble. He remarked the excellence of Indo-Islamic architecture with perfection of Indian craftsmen in stone masonry and explains that this stone masonry got its edge with scientific and artistic production in the monuments of Muslim period. (Brown: 1956:2)

6.4 Fortification Wall of the Pharwala Fort(Pl. 10, Fig. 19,20,21)

Fortification wall is one the integral parts of the fort. Hassan (2005:10) the real defense of as fort lies in the impregnability of its fortifications. Structure, height and thickness of the walls were depended upon the location, perceived threats, available construction material and availability of the finances. M.S Naravane is of the view that these massive walls were more to satisfy the ego and image of the king rather

²⁸ Personal communication with sultan Zahur Akhtar descendant of last independent ruler of Gakhars, Sultan Muqarab khan

²⁹ S. Ali Nadeem Rizvi, 2010. Medieval Indian architecture: Its history and Evaluation

than meet purely military requirements. The fortification is consisting of massive walls, which are pierced with monumental gateways. Provision of a rampart is somewhat necessary in order to strengthen the walls of hilly monuments. Without rampart a wall does not allow patrolling or observation, and defenders cannot fire the advancing enemy from bastions. It also makes escalating of enemy difficult. (Naravane: 1995:20). This technique was very much in practice during medieval period in India, Tughlaqabad city was provided with rampart technique (Nossov: 2006). To build such huge and tough walls, it was needed that there should be proper base and underneath filled trench.

The height of the fortification wall is 28-30 ft. generally but according to the lie of the ground in a mountainous courtesy followed by the wall, it is different at different points. Though the fortification wall is no more complete__ it has crumbled and is still crumbling at many places but the intact parts of the wall are still good enough to show its original charisma and past magnificence of the fort.

The wall is surmounted by the battlements /merlons at irregular intervals. It is found in almost all the military forts from all period of times, even these merlons are used in residential forts as well for example in Lahore fort one can usage of false merlons in order to enhance the beauty of the structure. Fortification wall has been provided bastions all around the fort. These bastions were seventeen in number (Hassan: 2006). Among them few are intact some are fully and other are in advance stage of crumbling. The construction method and scheme of fortification wall it is double faced, broken parts of the wall are revealing the gap between the outer wall and inner wall was filled with rubble.



Figure 5 Front Elevation of the fortification wall

6.5 Bastions of the Pharwala Fort(Pl. 11-12, Fig. 22,23,24)

Bastions are also part and parcel of military architecture and usually built along the perimeter wall of the building at regular intervals or according to the feasibility of the structure. Naravane(1995:20) explains that the bastions should be big enough to hold a body of troops and to mount a gun. Bastions are provided at irregular intervals on fortification wall. Due to the lie of the ground, on which the fortification has been sued, the bastions are not at regular intervals. Irregularly positioned bastions are close to each other in defenseless places and far at those points where topography delivers natural hitches. Bastions are tapering and semicircular in shape. Bastions have wide bases and gradually grow narrower by getting conical shape towards top and highly projected. Many of the bastions are varying in shape.

The function of the bastion is to strengthen the fortification wall and to make it sustainable for years. Bastions also serve during the time of war. The bastions of the Lashkari gate are measuring 25'8" in height and 13'.9" in width, wall adjoining the bastions near the gate is measuring 41'.1.3/4". This was the standard of construction mode. However the height went bigger at some places according to requirement. The distance between them is more than 15 ft. Evidence shows that fortification walls and bastions were surmounted by the merlons and loopholes in them.

Sloping base of the bastions runs narrowing upward. Dressed stones of different sizes are fixed in a course, and bastions are almost availing the mountainous gist as the fortification wall is following the hilly slope and facing. Bases of bastions are half filled with rubble.

A slight dado level emerges at the base of the bastions and slight curvy flow leads to the top side. Then there are shooting slots and top most is ornamented with battlements/ merlons.,

During medieval period solid talus³⁰ or sloping base was very much in practice in military buildings. One can see its implication in Tughlaq period buildings especially of military architecture. As a result of Muslim influence, for example at the base of the walls and bastions of Tughlaqabad, third city of Dehli, built during 1321-25. (Nossov: 2006:27-29) Their primary function was to prevent Scaling ladders to reach the top of the walls during war time or in case of attack by the enemy and is also more easily broken due to the bending stresses caused by the angle. They are forced to adopt. Talus was also used to increase the thickness of the wall and bastions at the base and to provide protection against walloping barrels, the destruction of the wall at its foot and even against destabilization as the enemy would have to dig down to a great depth to make any progress.

6.6 Merlons/ Loopholes/Machicolations(Pl. 13-16, Fig. 25-32)

Merlons or battlements have been provided at the top of the fortification wall all around. Presently the fortification wall is in bad state of preservation and fully collapsed at several places.

But remaining part of wall is good enough to identify its original pattern. That shows fortification wall was once edged with a parapet that protected a walk way along the inner side of the top.

³⁰Talus: The sloping or scarped face at the base of a fortifications wall.

In military forts, fortresses and monuments, parapet usually consists of merlons and crenels i.e. the space between one merlon and the other the indentations or the succession of merlons³¹.

There four were different forms of merlons such as:

- Bud-like
- Lobe-shape
- Upside down tear drop shape

But among them most common was flame like shape. It is believed that this flame shape flourished during Muslim period influence in Siri (Fort built by Ala-ud-Din khilji) in the second city of Dehli. (Nossov: 2006) Here in Pharwala fort, we find same flame shaped merlons following the regular crenel order after every merlon. Some of the merlons are semicircular in shape, pointed at the top as it was typical form of merlons in India during medieval period. But at different points there is a series of merlons of typical flame shaped and edged merlons.

The fort remained under the use of different peer group and it was rebuilt or renovated during the period of Hathi Khan Gakhar (1524 A.D/9331 A.H). Another factor can be the techniques of different masons they hired from different backgrounds and expertise.

³¹The solid widths between the crenels are called merlons; merlons are also called cops and kneelers. A wall with battlements is said to be crenelated or embattled.

- The intact part of the wall shows that there was a solid parapet all around and true merlons were provided with regular intervals.
- A standard for the merlons is that merlons have semicircular, slightly sharpened flame like shape in the upper half.

These merlons have been pierced with two archery holes /embrasures pattern runs in all direction. It is square in shape. At some points it varies to round and slightly triangular. Width of the loopholes is 10 cm and height is 80-90 cm and used to fire for long distant target.

Parapet of the wall is built with two tiers of loopholes, one is formed by loopholes in merlons of the parapet, and other by slot machicolations directed downward from the walk way and emerging immediately under the parapet. These loopholes are narrow and vertical slits planned just for the archers. The height of the lower loopholes in outer wall is about 190 cm. These were used to command the foot of the walls, to pour hot water or boiling oil on the enemies.

The design of double tier of loopholes is the characteristic of the medieval period. We can find an apparent example of this scheme at the tomb of Ghays-ud-Din in Tughlaqabad (Nossov 2006).

A frieze is separating the merlons from the lower part of the wall and is studded with minor dentals at bottom. This may be a representation of the tradition of spikes or just for the decorative purpose.

Pharwala fort has is no single mode of construction for merlons, for all bastions and for all curtain walls, above all stereotypical architectural traditions were followed by all means, depending upon the material and economical resources available for that time.

Merlons are pointed at top and semicircular in shape, typical Indian style measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft in thickness and 5' x 5' ft. in height and width.

. Walkways are the firm evidence to suggest that these were built only for the movements of the soldiers during warlike situations to move quickly behind these battlements which protected them from enemy fire.

Shape of the loopholes/ archery holes is normally vertical throughout the fort although some of the horizontal loopholes are also in use but these vertical loopholes were quite helpful to raise the weapon and lower in order to meet different ranges to fire the enemy.

6.7 Gates

6.7.1 Lashkari Gate(Pl. 17-23, Fig. 33-47)

Lashkari gate is located at the south-western corner of the fort and is in a good state of preservation as compared to other gates. It is quite close to the left bank of the River Soan. It is a majestic piece of architecture providing grand entrance. Approaching the fort from the west one can easily see this gate standing on the other side of the river . Before entering the fort this is the magnificent and welcoming feature of the fort. It is measuring 30' in width and 39'-4" in height.

A slender base is provided for the gate that is to raise a platform in order to level the hilly surface and to create balance so that a huge majestic gate could be erected.

It is provided with projected façade with three arched entrance gate flanking by two huge towers to house a number of defensive features including meurtrières, draw bridges, port cullises, etc.

Triple arched entrance is delivered within a square frame measuring 10'-10" in width and 19'- 10^{3/8}" in height, followed by two more frames, width of this framed lay is 10 ft. that is 4 feet recessed inside.

Thick projections are supporting arched entrance. Fig) Spandrels are empty. There is nothing carved or relief work above the spandrels. A line above the frame that is a thin beam decorated with brackets, this tradition is same in Tughlaq time period buildings made as spikes specifically as elephant spikes in some monuments. These brackets are different as these look more like dentals than brackets.

Shape of the arches is true pointed four centered springing from impost blocks measuring 3 ft. in width. Four centered arch is also known as depressed arch or "Tudor" arch. This technical arch was borrowed from Timurid architecture after the decline of Saljuqian tradition of horse-shoe arch. This arch was being used in Timurid buildings universally and this technique was adopted by the masons of the northern India but with apprehensions at early stage, later on this arch shape proved to be technically and scientifically sound and was used extensively in the religious and secular buildings of Sayids and Lodhis (Brown: 1956:7). It is frequently used in Mughal period monuments especially in the buildings built during the period of Akbar the great. To give a sharp and fine shape to arch dressed stones are used in diagonal and slanting manner. Thin fabric and sharp edged stones are giving an accurate shape to the arches . Arches are constructed with corbelling which get narrowed down towards key stone. Above the frame there is a damaged and destroyed arched opening measuring 3'-8" x 4'-8" that shows the presence of a room which is collapsed. Similar room we can see in Rohtas fort that still exists on its gateway.

At both sides of the façade there are two blind arched panels following the same shape of the arch. These arches are also fixed within a square shape frame. Due to crumbling condition it is difficult to determine the presence of the decorative motifs over arches. These are not functional arches just for decorative purpose or to break the monotony of the structure.

At the bottom of the façade a series of square shaped blind panels is provided, five panels at each side are measuring 1 x10 x1 x4. These panels are above the base and over these panels a beam is provided, from where frame of the door and arched entrance takes start.

Lashkari gate is double gate, opposite side of the gate which is interior , is of same pattern but that is double arch , one overlapping by the other . False arches small in size, fixed within square frames are provided at both sides of the façade measuring 2' x 1'.5". Here these are four in number two at each side.

6.7.1.1 Feature of the Lashkari Gate(Pl. 17-18, Fig. 34-35)

There is a small alcove in the shape of blind arch on the pier parallel southern spandrel of the Lashkari Gate adorned with six foliated rosettes on either side of the spandrels. Slightly recessed arch of the alcove is carved in white sand stone and fixed within the square frame since, there is symmetry all over in Islamic architecture but the miniature blind arch is at the only side of the gate. It might be present originally on the other side as well, but with the passage of time, during repair it would have damaged and ignored by the masons to reconstruct. Blind arch is very small in comparison to the huge gate, not easy to measure but approximately according to the visual measurement it appears to be 1'.5"x 1.5". This is very fascinating, because this feature is not present anywhere throughout the architecture of the fort. The rosettes are in the shape of monocot flower family. Purpose of the alcove is not clear it seems to be just for ornamental.

6.7.1.1.1 Recessed niches (Pl. 18, Fig. 36-37)

Inside the gate deep recessed niches of more than human length are on either side, considered by Hassan (2005) as rooms for the watchmen. But according to

researcher's observation space is not enough to accommodate a man because it is only suitable for sitting. One can say it must be built for the purpose to break the monotony and to provide surface vacuum in context of material economy.

By applying this technique, material, money, labor and time can be saved. These arched niches are also fixed within square frames and are multi-faceted niches. Shape of the arches is pointed and curvature takes start from impost blocks made of dressed stone. One arch is true pointed arch and other one is tunnel vaulted. Its key stone has fallen down. The material used in the furnishing of the gate is lime Surkhi plaster.

6.7.1.1.2 Miniature Niche(Pl. 19, Fig. 38-39)

Interior of the right niche is decorated with a miniature arch. That is forming true pointed arch curve. Cut stones of small size are positioned in radiating manner forming a fine and beautiful miniature niche. Arch is shallow even does not contain a space to host an oil lamp. It seems nonfunctional; there is no symbolic use of it. It was built either from aesthetical point or representation of some sacred element, as this feature is mostly applied in Muslim architecture monuments, sacred monuments and mosques.

6.7.1.2 Ceiling of the Lashakari Gate(Pl. 20, Fig. 40-41)

The ceiling of the gate is made of stone and rubble lime plaster is also used. Stones of different sizes are fitted and set in horizontal and vertical corners. Small stones are set in slanting or diagonal direction in order to support the curvature of the ceiling of the arch, that is semi vaulted and forming half squinch inside.

Vaulted ceiling of arch is made of centering technique. Small and big stones are used in concentric circles to knit a fabric for the roof to make it symmetrical and balanced. Structure was plastered with lime.

Slanting ceiling on the sides is supporting the flat and curvy zone of the roof. Concentric arrangement turns the structure narrower towards the central part of the ceiling, where it develops its curve. Thus a strong and stable ceiling has been provided that could have borne the burden of the upper storey, built of guard's room where watchmen stationed twenty four hours a day and balcony etc.

The upper side of the roof is plain. Structure once built over has collapsed. Upper portion was approached by a staircase which was built at the left side, inside the fort. This staircase led from a room built at the back of the bastion.

6.7.1.3 Hinges in the Ceiling (Pl. 21, Fig. 43)

At the two corners of the ceiling of the gate, round stone slabs with a hole are fixed within the structure are evident. These stones were serving as hinges to support the heavy doors to slide or swing.

This gate resembles with the gate of Rewat fort surrounded by two bastions. According to Hassan gate was specified for the movements of the fighting troops and infantry (Hasan: 2005). For this purpose this gate suits very well as it is on a points to target the enemy moving towards fort. Perhaps this was the reason behind its nomenclature as group of fighters is called as Lashkar in Urdu. Another tell-tale

belongs to this gate is, the gate was built during the period of Lashkar Khan a Gakhar ruler from Pharwala. So the gate was named after him.³²

No proper passage is there, after crossing the river one has to find one's own way through large size boulders to reach the gate.

Large size boulders help as a staircase to approach the gateway. Boulders adjacent to the corners of the gateway or nooks of fortification wall are scraped.

According to R.J Kumar (2003) for forts built on hillocks, the sides of the hills were often scraped except on the path of approach, and were either left with natural rock exposed.

There was once a mansion behind the Lashkari Gate; eyes of Kamran Khan were plucked out there by the order of Hamayoun Khan, while he was entertained for refuge in the fort.

³²Personal Communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent ruler of Gakhars, sultan Muqarab Khan

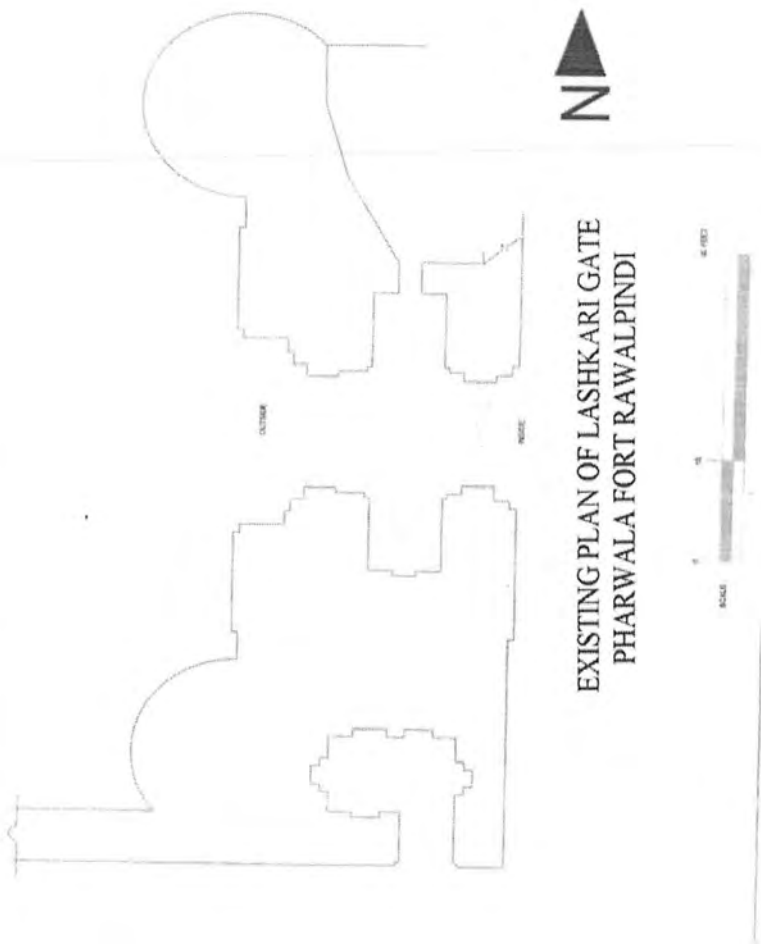
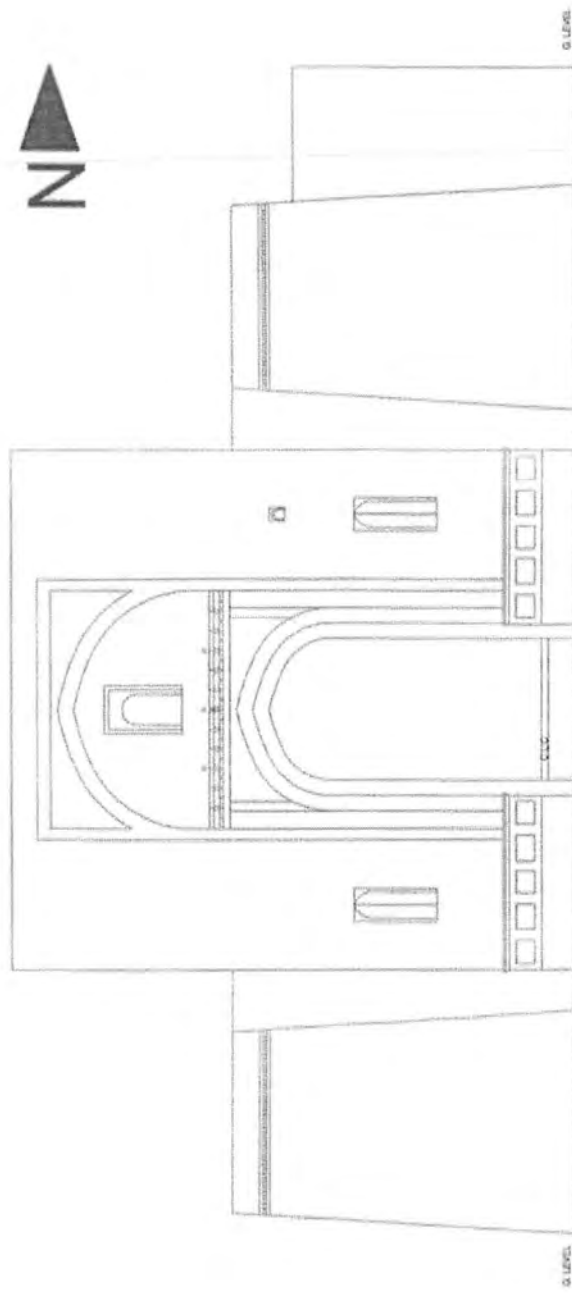


Figure 6 Ground Plan of Lashkari Gate.



EXISTING PLAN OF LASHKARI GATE
PHARWALA FORT RAWALPINDI

Figure 7 Front Elevation of Lashkari Gate.

6.7.1.4 *Painting of the Mansion in Pharwala Fort*³³ (Pl. 24, Fig. 48)

Pharwala fort was badly damaged by the Sikhs when Gakhars were defeated by them. Presently no structural remains of residential area are left, only a specimen of relief is found from the descendent of the fort. The worth watching relief depicts one of the original mansions of the fort, as mentioned by Babur in his memoirs Baburnama. He says that he stayed at the palace of Tatar Khan in the fort (Babur). This mansion, according to Sultan Zahur Akhtar, was behind the Lashkari Gate overlooking Soan River from the on the west side. Here Kamran Mirza was imprisoned, and blinded at the orders of his brother Hamayoun³⁴. In the relief, door hosting a room was the exact spot where Kamran was imprisoned. Picture depicting the original plan and shape of the mansion, it was consisted of triple arched entrance veranda from where a staircase leading to the roof of the room. Room adjacent to veranda was domed. Dome was standing on base. Dome resembles with the dome of Asif Jah's tomb that is double dome as per tradition of the Mughal period. Above the curvature domé varies its shape than Asif Jah's tomb, it seems pointed dome. Pointed dome was practiced in tomb of Ghay-ud-Din, Tuglaqabad this dome was also known as "Tatar" dome and become a prominent characteristic of Indo-Muslim architecture (Brown:1956:21) Relief is depicting a circular window pierced in the frontal wall of the room. Double leaf door of the room was hosted by a true pointed arch that is overlapped by another semicircular arch. Pillars of the arches were supported by square bases, which are running upward in three steps in ring circles. Plain shafts of the pillars are provided with square shaped impost points from where

³³ Antiquity from Pharwala in custody of Sultan Zahur Akhtar

³⁴ Personal communication with Sultna Zahur Akhtar

arches are springing and forming a curvature of semi-circular shape. Courtyard in front of veranda seems to be provided by a railing.

6.7.2 Qila Gate of Pharwala Fort(Pl. 24-26, Fig. 49-51)

This gate is standing in the North-East of the Lashkari Gate. This is a double arched entrance. Outer and inner arches are fixed in square shaped frame. Upper part of the gate is missing. The present day residential area inside the fort is accessible through this gate. Currently this gate is also in miserable plight. There was a palace of Tatar Khan, near this gate, where Babur stayed once.

Inside the entrance deep recessed and sunken niches are provided at both sides, to light oil lamps and perhaps for breaking monotony. These interior arched niches measuring 3'6" in width and 18' in height are remarkable for their beauty.

These arches are also fixed within square frames. Spandrels of the gate are empty. No carving or relief work is found. This gate is constructed within curtain wall. There is no bastion or flanking towers. Stones are fixed in radiating manner, forming true arch. Cut stones are used to give a sharp and refine shape to arches. Shape of the arches is true pointed.

Both inner and outer arches are intact and the roof of the gate is stable in its position. Technique of ceiling is the plain and ingenious just knitted stones with the use of rubble and lime mortar. Evidences of the use of lime mortar are visible and fragments of plaster are reflecting that once it was plastered.

6.7.2.1 Stone Hinges in the Ceiling(Pl. 26, Fig. 51)

At the four corners of the ceiling a round shaped stone with one wide hole have been fixed at corners. These stones have been used to support the gate to slide and swing. Same stones were provided at the bases of the gates. These stones hinges

are also used in Rewat fort of Gakhars and their usage have also been seen in Buddhist monasteries³⁵.

The gate covers 30 ft. area in width and 28ft. in length. The stone masonry laid in lime plaster. The difference between style of gates shows that these were constructed in different time periods. This gate might be earlier than the others. Apparently it's on the corner of the fortification wall but it leads to the central part of the fort inside. Perhaps that is the reason behind its name, Qila Gate (Fort Gate).

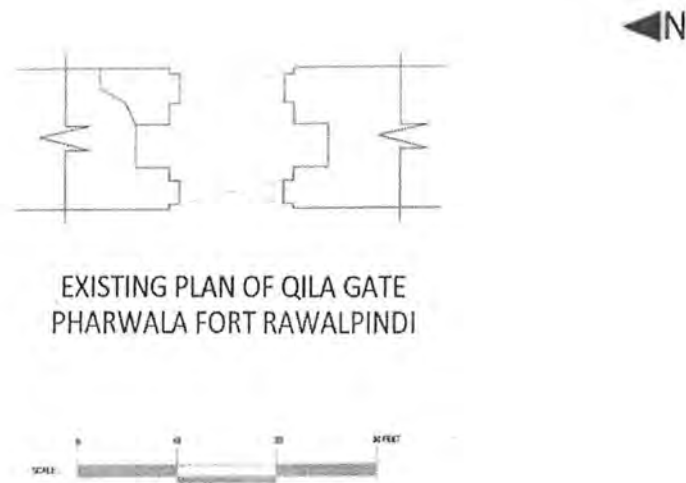
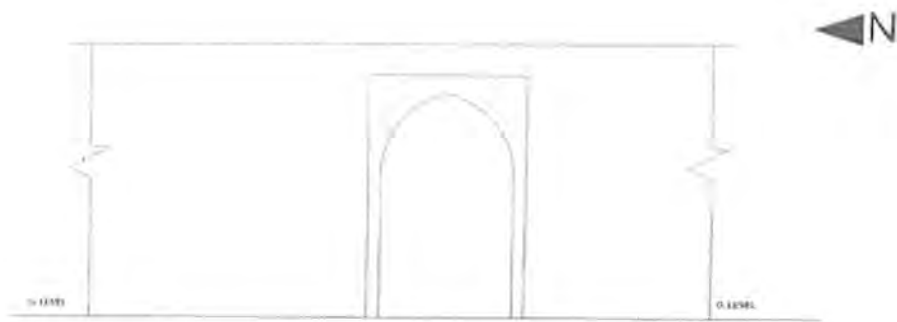


Figure 8 Front Elevation of Qila Gate.

³⁵Personal communication with Dr. M. Ashraf Khan



**EXISTING PLAN OF QILA GATE
PHARWALA FORT RAWALPINDI**



Figure 9 Front Elevation of Qila Gate.

6.7.3 Hathi Gate of Pharwala Fort(Pl. 26-30, Fig. 51-59)

Hathi gate is facing South-West location. This gate is flanking by two huge towers. This gate is located at a sloping point. This gateway covers an area of 30ft. in width and originally it was 34'-7" in height. Right bastion measures 26'-8" and left 33'-4". Coming from South, one has to cross a small tributary of the river and a hillock to approach this gate.

One bastion has fully collapsed while the other one is half intact and in standing position. It depicts the original shape and plan of the gate. Blind panels are made on the exterior of the gate. This is a double arched entrance. Both arches are four centered and fixed within a square frame.

Thick projections are supporting the main arch and giving sharp edged look. Finely dressed stones positioned in radiating manner forming a refined arch. Arch is springing from impost block that is based on a stone slab finely dressed.

Face of the gateway is embellished with square shaped small blind panels at the base level. Those have been made on bottom of the pier of the gate. Plate) Two blind rectangular framed arches have been made on both sides of the façade those are ornamental, reflecting the interest of the mason in composition of apparently appealing charms. These blind arches also enhance the strength of the structure.

Within the frame, over the arch, a row of dentals have been provided, running over the spandrels. Spandrels of the entrance arch are also empty. A unique feature of this gate is recessed niches inside the gate.

6.7.3.1 Decorated Spandrels of Inside Hathi Gate(Pl. 27-28, Fig. 54-55)

Spandrels of the arches of inside niches are adorned with beautiful rosettes or (*Shamsa*) medallion pattern, carved in high relief. This technique is enhancing the delicacy and texture of the petals. These rosettes are round in shape and stylized design. There are four numbers of rosettes on two arches. This rosette (*Shamsa*) is divided into three parts, petals are carved in three concentric circles, and these circles subsequently got narrower. This rosette (*Shamsa*) represents sun hence it is called *Shamsa*. One can see application of rosettes in pharwala's contemporary fort of Rohtas, on the entrance gateway and the mosque inside Rohtas fort. Decoration of spandrels is continuation of the Hindu tradition of Lotus flower depiction as ornamental motif. *Shamsas* also the representation of Surya motif of Hindu art. Hindus were used to carve their sun-god in their temples and other buildings and

figural depiction is prohibited in Islam so Muslims took this tradition in symbolic manner and started designing sun as decorative motif³⁶,

Niches are hosted by pointed true arches and arches are decorated with rosettes. Both arches are fixed within rectangular frames. Spring of the arch takes start from impost blocks made of dressed stone. These arches are covering enough space inside that shows the rooms built over the roof of the gateway were large in size. Ruins of the staircase leading to the rooms over the gate are visible at the inner side of the right bastion.

Right now these niches are blocked by the residents of the fort. Interior of these niches is decorated with blind three pointed rectangular arches running inside. This feature is not found anywhere else in the fort.

There is a double tier of three pointed arches, one tier of large size arches and above them small arches. These blind arches are deep sunken and framed. These arches are lacking symmetry in their style and construction. No geometrical pattern is followed in construction.

Some arches are narrow some are wide, but in crude form and technique. Some of these arches resemble in shape with unique miniature false arch made on the façade of Lashkari gate. All these arches are three pointed. This technique is used for breaking monotony and for material economy as well, also to increase the strength and stability of the structure.

Ceiling of the gateway that is shouldered by two bastions is revealing its structure. The roof is thatched with rubble stone, dressed stones and lime plaster.

³⁶ Personal communication with Dr.Saif-ur-Rehman Dar, Dr. Memoona Khan and Dr. Ghazala Misbah

This gate is called as Hathi Gate because it was specified only for the movements of elephants, horses and animals (Hasan: 2005). Another assumption can be, it might have built during the rule of Hathi Khan previously it would not have existed, and thus it might have come after his name.

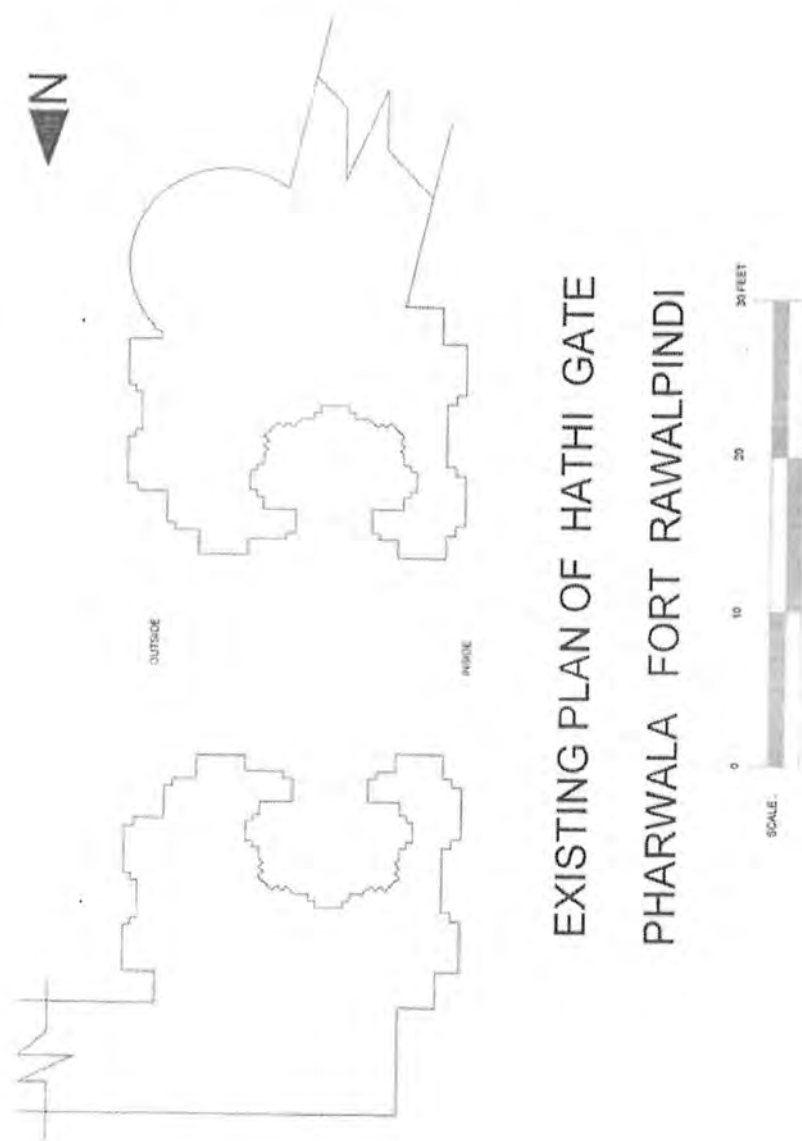
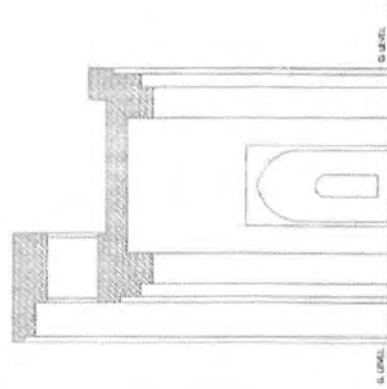


Figure 10 Ground Plan of Hathi Gate



**CROSS SECTION OF HATHI GATE
PHARWALA FORT RAWALPINDI**

Figure 11 Front Elevation of Hathi Gate.

6.7.4 Ziarat Gate(Pl. 31-34, Fig. 60-65)

Ziarat gate is located along the North-West direction of the fort. This is a single arched entrance from inner side. Gateway is fixed within fortification wall. This gate leads to the shrine of a holy saint straightway inside the fort, that is infact grandson of the Kabul Shah who is regarded as saint by the inhabitants of the fort that is why it is called as Ziarat Gate³⁷.

The inner arch is pointed vaulted arch. Outer side of the gate is badly damaged. Its outer face is missing its original majesty. However a blind trifoiled framed arch is still intact at on side of the gate way. Plate). The interior of the gate is provided by a miniature framed false arch. This false arch is missing on the other side. Gate is not shouldered by any bastion or towers.

Deep recessed niches provided inside only one remaining, measures 7ft. in width and 18ft. height. Niche is 3.5 ft. recessed inside and deeply sunken.

There is a miniature niche inside one of these niches that is hosting trifold arch, measuring 2' x1.3" and recessed deeply as far compared to other miniature niches of this sort. These miniature niches are also common in tombs and shrines of saints where people go to light oil lamps as an offering. Plate). The gate opens to a steep slope measuring approximately 30 ft. in downward direction.

Spandrels of the gate are empty. There is a line of triangular dentals over the frame of the arch those are not so clear. The same technique is repeated on the outer side of the gate with an additional square framed blind arch on the right pier of the gate. The arch is trifold in technique. Half of the gate is collapsed it is not possible to

³⁷Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

explain whether it was single storey or double. Ruins are showing the curvature of the arch only a half part of the arch is intact even key stone has fallen . The area covered by the gate in breadth is 28' with approximation, height of the gate is equal to height of the adjoining wall.

Presently, adjacent to the holy shrine there are the remains of Muslim graves in monolithic form. Some of the graves are covered with monolithic slabs. Some graves bearing a description in Persian about the body underlying. (Plate).

Stone Hinges:

This gate bears the evidence for stone hinge at the ground level. A hinge is intact and surviving at this gate for the support of gate to let it slide or swing. (plate.)

When Babur Attacked the Pharwala fort he and his forces went away from this gate after defeating Hathi Khan³⁸.

6.7.5 Begum Gate(Pl. 34, Fig. 66)

Begum Gate is situated along North-West direction and is standing as structural leftover. This gate was associated with female royal members of Ghakhar family as they used the gate for their entrance and exit in the fort. Once there was a palace of Mai Mango adjacent to this gate.

The structure consists of only two pillars and an entrance that was once hosting an arch but now it is only a semicircular curve. These were seeing through two pointed arches. Evidences indicate that structure was either a gateway or forming a veranda. The surrounding evidences indicate that, this was tripartite. There is a clear

³⁸ Personal Communication with Col. Sultan Zahur Akhtar

evidence to show that the central arch was followed by two more arches of the same size and height. It was probably a triple entrance gateway to the fort.

These square shaped pilasters are medium in size and made by dressed stones. No evidences of bastions surrounding this gate are found. But sharp edges of the pillars show that there were projections on the façade, face of the gate was broader and was heavily ornamented.

6.7.6 Bagh Gate(Pl. 35, Fig. 67)

Bagh Gate is totally destroyed and vanished; no ruins of the gate are visible. This photo from the old record is the only source of information about the structure of the gate. This gate was also provided by bastion on one side and once leads to the garden named as Bagh Gate. According to locals this gate was provided with the system of emergency alarms for the inhabitants in case of physical attack by enemy. There was once a room that was specified to watch over the surroundings of the fort. Terraces and patches of the ground still exist to identify that once there was a garden.

6.7.7 Escape Gate(Pl. 35, Fig. 68)

Emergency exit of the Pharwala fort is of human length. It does not seem a full fledged and traditional gate though it's also adjacent to a bastion that could serve as shutter in emergency. Structure is based on a semi-circular true arch built of radiating technique and fixed within a square frame. Forts are always seen with tunnels and underground passages for emergency exit. This fort was also provided with tunnel which led towards Lehtrar road³⁹. Lahore fort is also provided with underground tunnel but *Hassan(2005:15)* talking in terms Lahore and Attock forts of Pakistan states

³⁹Personal communication with Chief of Gakhars, Sultan Zahur Akhtar, descendant of last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab khan

that one cannot find any mention in the contemporary accounts about their purpose to facilitate the stealthy escape of the inmates of the forts in grave emergencies. Gate is standing in south west direction parallel to Hathi Gate.

6.8 Gakhar Monuments in Environ of Pharwala Fort

6.8.1 Mosque of Mai Qamro(Pl. 36, Fig. 69)

The mosque of Pharwala is located at the right bank of the Soan River and Pharwala fort is on the opposite bank of the same river. The construction of the mosque is associated with a lady of Ghakhar dynasty that is Mai Mango. Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro mentioned in an article that this mosque was built by Mai Qamro wife of Hathi Khan that is not correct. There is no character name Mai Qamro in the history of Gakhars⁴⁰.

In every fort of a Muslim ruler, there must be a mosque inside the fort. Even at Rewat, a large mosque is there inside the fort. However, the Pharwala for is the singular example for complete absence of this compulsory religious structure. The mosque shown here is located outside the fort _ actually some 500 meters 2^{1/2} kilometers away from the fort wall. Probably this mosque was built to compensate this flaw or another assumption may be, most of the historians including Ferishta stated that they were not Muslims originally, converted to Islam late on. It might be possible they built this mosque after conversion. Besides, it is situated on the opposite bank of the river. This seems that when the river was in spate during summer or other rainy days, it was not possible for the inhabitants of the fort to pray in the mosque.

⁴⁰ Personal communication with sultan Zahur Akhtar chief of Gkakhars, descendant of last independent ruler of Gakhars, sultan Muqarab khan

The plan of the mosque is rectangular. Mosque contains three arched entrances facing east and this is a unique feature usually sanctuary of the mosque is provided with one arched entrance. Central arched entrance is bigger than others and portal or frontal gate of the façade leads directly towards main arched entrance. Entrances are provided with rectangular doors. The façade of the mosque has recessed panels those are provided with pointed blind small arches which are enhancing the beauty of the mosque.

Mosque was crowned by three domes among them one has collapsed and two are in intact. Mosque is built of dressed stone; use of burnt brick has also been seen, material used as binding agent is lime plaster. The ornamentation on the outer face of the mosque is made with burnt bricks. Cut bricks have been used to embellish the outer face of the façade.

Interior of the mosque is based on single chamber that is divided into three equal portions with the help of two bays. Each of these portions has dome. There are three niches or *Mehrab* deeply recessed in the western wall one of them is supposed to be for daily prayers, other two are for symmetrical purpose.

The evidences of the boundary wall of the mosque are visible at some points. Domes of the mosque are low and low domes only show that they are Pre Mughal. The mosque resembles in shape and plan with the mosque of the Rewat Fort built by Sarang Khan of Gakhar dynasty and the period of Rewat mosque is better known.

Portal gate of the mosque leads towards the main entrance of the mosque. Dome of the central arch is slightly bigger than other two domes. This was the standard mode of construction. Same scheme is applied at Rewat fort mosque.

The mosque is in a bad state of preservation unfortunately mosque is fully surrounded by wild plants and being using by the locals as a place to stock food for their animals and courtyard of the mosque is being used for the accommodation of animals, that is a tragic thing and ruing the beauty of this national heritage. According to Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro, a research scholar, this mosque is considered to be the earliest mosque of the Islamabad and is the second oldest mosque of the Potohar region, the earliest in Potohar being the Giri Mosque in Taxila valley.

Near the mosque there is a tomb that is of the Gakhar ruler Muqarab Khan and some graves of the Gakhar rulers like Sultan Adam Khan and Momer Khan, these are at the north side of the mosque.

6.8.2 Tomb of Muqarab Khan(Pl. 37-39, Fig.72-76)

The tomb of Muqarab Khan is located at a little distance of the mosque. There are some other graves near to the tomb. Muqarab Khan was the last ruler of Gakhars.

Tomb is very beautiful and unique in its construction. It follows Hindu style of architecture but it is very beautiful in itself. Tomb is octagonal in plan.

A vestibule is provided on the entrance of the square portico has true arch at its entrance and opposite to it. Portico is flanking by two small pilasters. A beam is provided to the parapet of the portico, parapet is made of false blunt merlons those are five in number and in crude shape.

This portico leads towards tomb building; the entrance of the tomb is deep recessed niche that is double framed arch and multi cusped arch. Inside the tomb there is a series of multi cusped blind arches those are hosting deep sunken small niches in themselves.

Outer face of the tomb is unusual and unrepresentative, suspended arch is running all around the tomb. A low parapet runs around the dome based on pseudo/false miniature merlons. Dome of the tomb is typical Indian style. This lofty dome is very beautiful and refined.

Along with the tomb there is an enclosure that is roofless. There were graves of Adam Khan Gakhar and Momer Khan which were vandalized by Sikhs. It is said there were graves of some Gakhar personnel's in the courtyard adjacent to the tomb of Muqarab Khan, now there are no traces or ruins of those graves.

6.9 Antiquity from Pharwala Fort

6.9.1 Pottery(Pl. 40-41, Fig. 77-78)

All the pottery collected from the Pharwala fort is of utilitarian nature and seems to be used for daily usage. No floral or figural representation is found over the potsherds. Some simple patterns of decoration, curvy, zigzag and rippling lines were carved. Fabric of rims and bases is of medium thickness made of baked clay.

6.9.2 Coins(Pl. 42-43, Fig. 79-81)

Gkhar kings established their mints at Pharwala and Dhangali from where they minted gold, silver and metal coins as per the economy of their state which were later on captured by Sikhs. Sikhs melted all the coins and reminted with their own identity.

The coins of the last Gakhar ruler Sultan Muqarab Khan bearing Kalima at reverse and his name and boundary of his domain at obverse:

Obverse: Muqarab Khan was the king of the territory between River Attock and Jhelum

Reverse: Kalima

Obverse: Muqarab Khan King of the territory between river Attock and Jhelum

Reverse: Mint name Pharwala (coin was minted at Pharwala)

6.9.3 **Weaponry** (Pl. 44-48, Fig. 83-89)

Weaponry is depicting the sequence from bows and arrows to swords shields and so to guns.

6.9.4 **Medallion**(Pl. 49, Fig. 90)

This medallion belongs to the last independent Gakhar ruler Muqarab Khan. Presently it is custodian is Sultan Zahur Akhtar who is the descendant of Muqarab and successor of the time.

7 Analysis

Architecture of Pharwala fort is remarkable in its beauty and charm. Being on a formidable site it is one of the best examples of the military forts and defensive architecture. Fort's architecture is telling the story that it was one of the dynamics of engineering.

Notable feature of the fort is the selection of the site and then a perfect building and structures meeting the need of that time as well as following the design and pattern that was being practiced then.

One remarkable feature of the fort is the symmetry in its arches, arches of gateways either four centered or simple circular or true in shape all are very refine and accurate in technique and construction. Dressed and undressed stones are used very genuinely to form a flow of the arches and to build a structure on true essence of architecture. Main entrance arches of Lashkari and Hathi Gate are very beautiful and majestic pieces of architecture. Both the gates are huge in size and hallmark of the fort for being defensive.

Symmetrical implementation of the blind arches provided on different parts of the fort is worth watching and distinctive feature, (this thing is never seen in any contemporary fort either in Rewat fort or Rohtas fort) giving an impact of the interest of the owner in aesthetics. Blind framed arch on the exterior of the Lashkari is marvelous feature of ornamentation. Another miniature blind niche inside the big niche of the Lashkari gate is eye catching feature of the gate. Blind panels and arches on the facades of the gates are reflecting the balance and genius approach of the masons and engineering in the building.

Inside arched niches of Hathi gate with decorated spandrels are fascinating. Arches are very refine in shape and technique. Motifs over spandrels carved in high relief are enhancing the beauty of the structure. Niche inside the Ziarat Gate is also provided with another niche to put oil lamps in it.

In short if one looks in terms of aesthetics to this fort, one can find a diversity of arches a very prominent feature of the fort which is worth watching and quite unique in its scheme, provision and technique.

8 Conclusion

Pharwala fort is an example of living history and archaeology. It is national heritage and pride of our past. Fort belongs to the early Muslim period built by Kaigoahar founder of the Gakhar dynasty, from Ispahan.

The reason behind the selection of this fort was to document it and bring into light it from dark. This fort remained in oblivion even very less people knew about this fort before 1980 when it came under the protection of Department of archaeology and Museums Government of Pakistan.

This was neglected rather forgotten fort. This fort played a part in the history of eight hundred years and unfortunately nothing has been done for its scientific conservation and preservation. The inhabitants of the fort are ignorant people they are not aware of its historical and cultural value, as a result fort is in advance stage of decay. All the materials used in the construction of historical buildings undergo deterioration when exposed to aggressive environments. The rate and symptoms of such a process are influenced by a number of factors, including the properties of material itself, the natural factors and human actions. These factors either act separately or in various combinations. Conservation refers to systematic measures taken to keep the monument in good condition. It is the action taken to *prevent* decay. It embraces all acts that prolong the life of our cultural and natural heritage, the object being to present to those who use and look at historic buildings with wonder, the artistic and human messages that such buildings possess. Richard Nickel says; "Great architecture has only two natural enemies: water and stupid men."

The present researcher tried to fix the chronology of the fort and to mark its importance in the history of Pakistan. There was an uncertainty in the chronological sequence of the fort and the dynasty which resided here and ruled from here. This researcher has tried to fix that uncertainty in context with all the available textual record, numismatic evidences and antiquity acquired from Pharwala fort.

For example there is mythical character named Mai Qamro, often as seen in some articles and papers, which mentioned her as wife of Hathi khan, and some monuments associated with her but this researcher went through the written records of Gakhars in Persian, English and Urdu there was nothing like this character and came to know there was no lady named as Mai Qamro, as wife of Hathi Khan in Gkaghars clan. Only one prominent female character of the Gakhars that was Mai Manglan, commonly known as Mai Mango, she was the wife of Abdul Quli Khan and she ruled for more than 25 years. She was very brave and courageous lady. She set her capital at pharwala like all other male kings of the Gakhars, before her.

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10 Plates

Plates 1



Figure 12 General view of Pharwala Fort.



Figure 13 General view of Dangali Fortress



Figure 14 Bastion and the fortification wall of Dangali fortress



Figure 15 Genral view of Sultanpur Fort. (Google)

Plates 3



Figure 16 General veiw of Tughlo Fort. (Google)



Figure 17 Canonn at Tughlo fort. (Google)

Plates 4



Figure 18 An aerial view of the Mangla Fort. (Google)



Figure 19 Sar Jalal water tank.



Figure 20 Another view of the Sar Jalal water tank.



Figure 21 Mosque of Mai Mango.

Plates 6



Figure 22



Figure 23

Plates 1



Figure 24 External view of the Tunnel of SarJalal.



Figure 25 An internal view of the Tunnel of Sar Jalal

Plates 8



Figure 26 Panoramic view of Gulpur fort. (Google)



Figure 27 Bastion and fortification of Gulpur fort.

Plates 9



Figure 28 General view of the Pharwala Fort.



Figure 29 General view of the fort, nearby River Soan and geographical features.

Plates 10



Figure 30 Fortification wall of Pharwala Fort.



Figure 31 View of Fortification of Pharwala Fort.

Plates 11



Figure 32 General view of the Fortification wall of the Pharwala fort.



Figure 33 Bation of Pharwala fort

Plates 12



Figure 34 Bastion of Pharwala fort



Figure 35 General view of the fortification wall. bastions of Pharwala fort

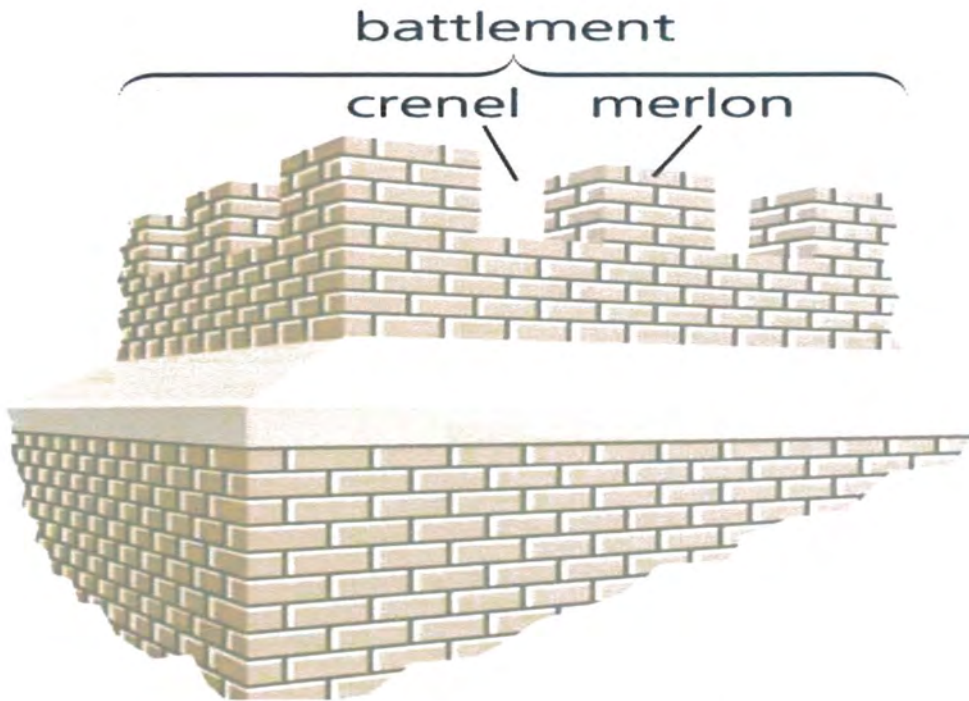


Figure 36 Diagram shows parts of a parapet/ battlement. (Google)



Figure 37 Battlement/ parapet of Pharwala Fort.

Plates 14



Figure 38 A view of Merlon and Slit of Pharwala Fort.



Figure 39 General View of battlement over fortification of Pharwala Fort.

Plates 15



Figure 40 Battlement of Pharwala Fort.



Figure 41 Fortification wall with battlement.



Figure 42 Close view of battlement of Pharwala Fort.

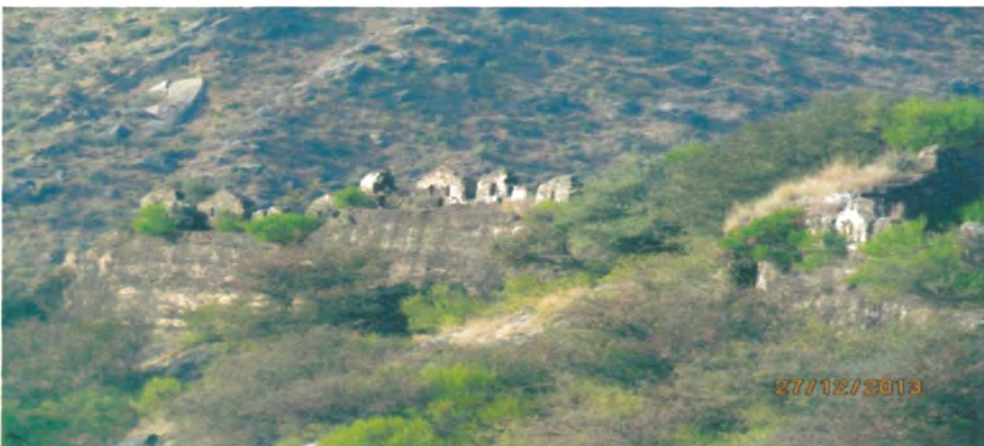


Figure 43 General view of Fortification wall with battlement.



Figure 44 Frontal view of Lashkari Gate.



Figure 45A small blind arch shape alcove with rosettes.



Figure 46 Sketch of alcove with rosettes.



Figure 47 Deep recessed niches inside of Lashkari Gate. Figure 48 Deep recessed niches inside of Lashkari Gate

Plates 19



Figure 49 Close view of the miniature arched niche.



Figure 50 Miniature arch niche in recessed arch niche.

Plates 20



Figure 51 The intrados of Lashkari Gate



Figure 52 Intrados of Lashkari Gate



Figure 53 Room at back of the bastion.



Figure 54 Stone hinges of Lashkari Gate

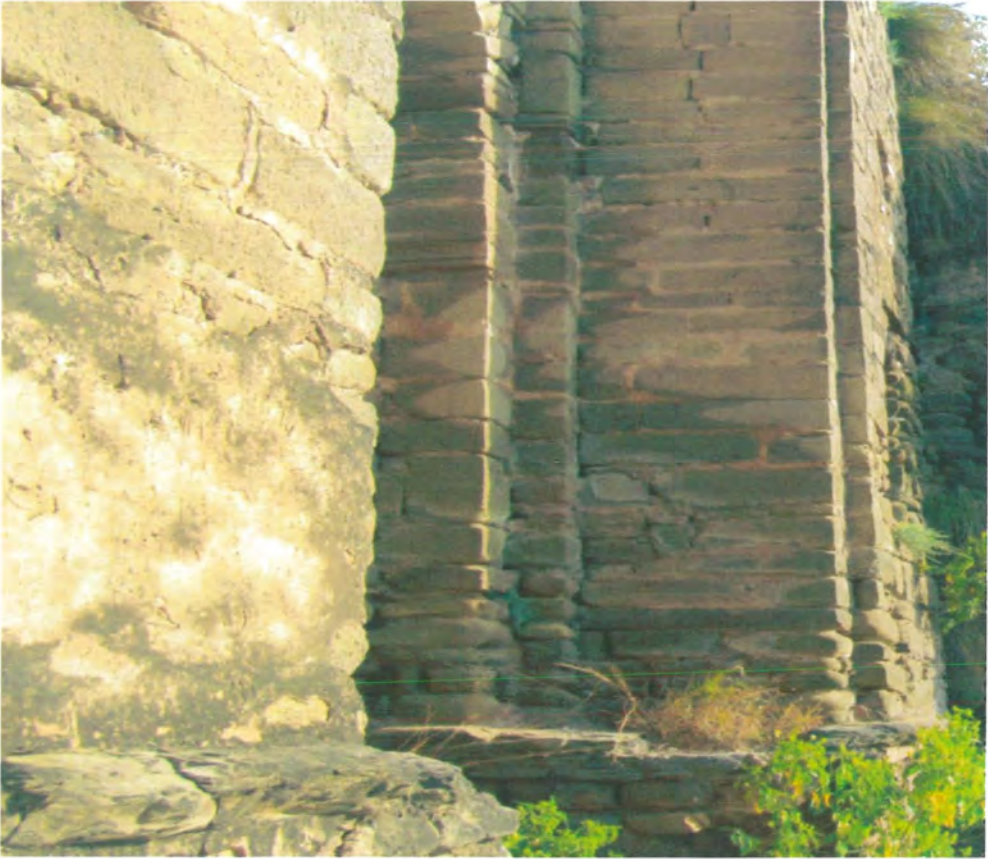


Figure 55 Masonry of the Lashkari Gate

Plates 22



Figure 56 False arch niche at front of Lashkari Gate.



Figure 57 An interior view of Lashkari Gate



Figure 58 The façade of Lashkari Gate.



Figure 59 Painting depicting mansion at Pharwala Fort.



Figure 60 General view of Qila Gate



Figure 61 The interior arch of Qila Gate



Figure 62 Stone henges at the ceiling.



Figure 63 Frontal view of Hathi Gate.



Figure 64 Blind panels at the base of Hathi Gate.



Figure 65 Decorative floral motifs at Hathi Gate.



Figure 66 Close view of decorative floral motif.



Figure 67 Ruined Stairs.

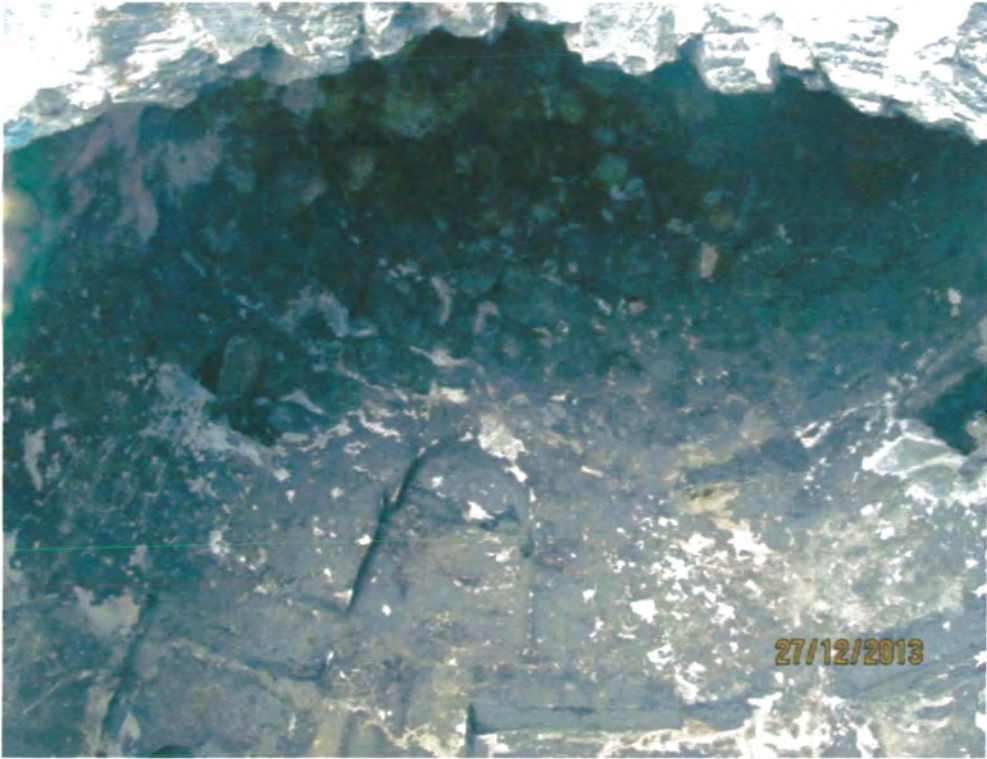


Figure 68 An internal view of the architecture of .



Figure 69 An internal view of the architecture of .

Plates 30



Figure 70 Sketch of the Frontal View of Hathi Gate.



Figure 71 Façade of Ziarat Gate.



Figure 72 An internal view of Ziarat Gate.



Figure 73 Sketch of niche inside Ziarat Gate depicting miniature niche.



Figure 74 Niche inside of Ziarat Gate.



Figure 75 Ground level stone hinge of Ziarat Gate. Figure 76 Stone hinge along the ceiling of Ziarat Gate.



Figure 77 Front view of the Begum Gate.



Figure 78 General view of Bagh Gate. (Kaigoharnama)



Figure 79 Façade of Escape Gate.



Figure 80 Mosque of *MaiQamro*.



Figure 81 mosque of Rewat Fort.



Figure 82 Mosque of Pharwala fort.

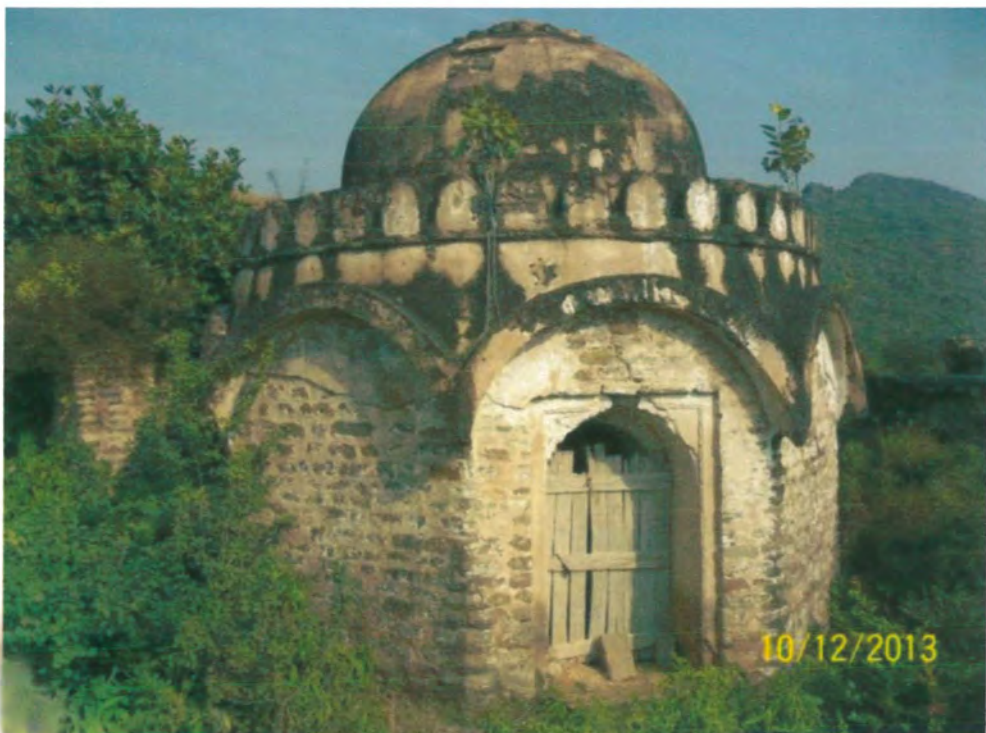


Figure 83 the tomb of Muqarab khan.



Figure 84 Front view of the vestibule.



Figure 85 General view of the vestibule and tomb.



Figure 86 Tomb depicting suspended arches.



Figure 87 Enclosure hosting graves of Adam khan and Momer Khan.

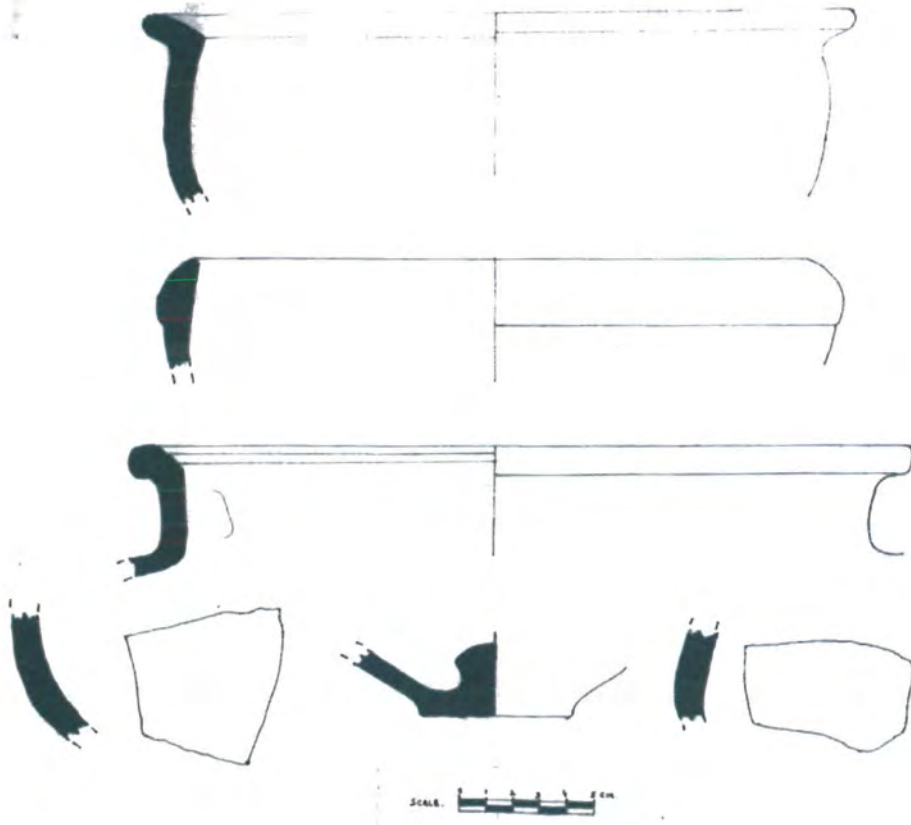


Figure 88 Drawing of Pottery from Pharwala Fort.

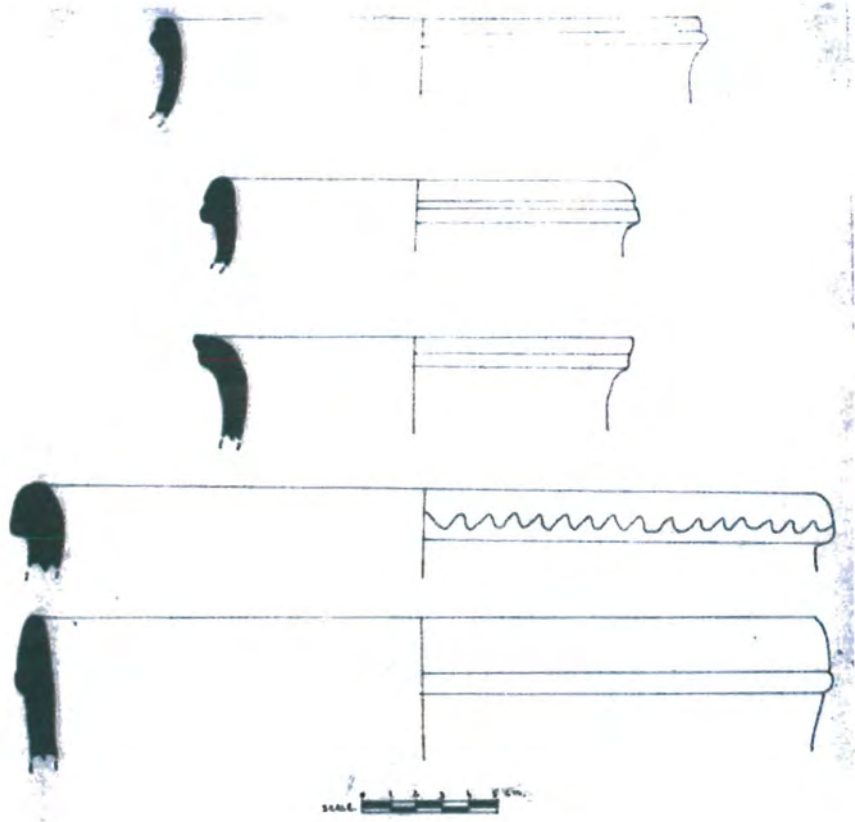


Figure 89 Drawing of pottery from Pharwala fort.



Figure 90 Numismatic evidences of Ghakar rulers.



Figure 91 Coins of Muqarab Khan.



Figure 92 Coins of Muqarab Khan



Figure 93 Shield of Gakhar Army.



Figure 94 Weaponry of Gakhars' army, arrows, daggers, swords and guns.



Figure 95 Sheath and Daggers of Gakhars' army.



Figure 96 Dagger of Gakhars' army.



Figure 97 Armor of the Gakhars' army.



Figure 98 Dagger of Gakhars' army.



Figure 99

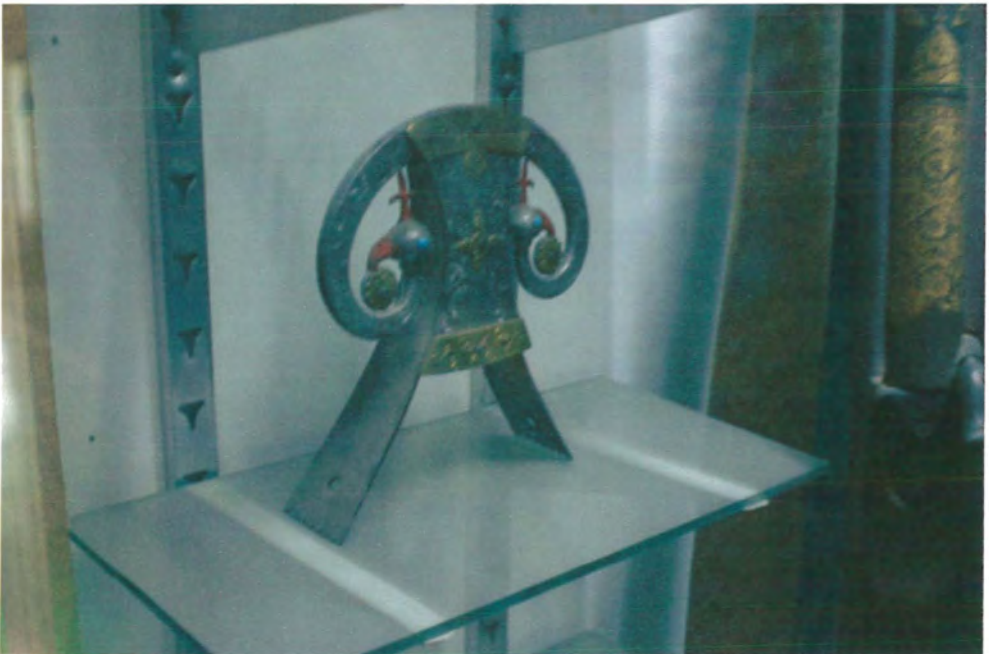


Figure 100 Stand for Swords.