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British Period Archaeology in District Chakwal, Pakistan

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Abstract: Chakwal is named after Chaudhry Chaku Khan, from Jammu who founded the city in 1525 (District Gazetteer Jhelum 1904). In 1881, Chakwal was declared the Tehsil Headquarter. District Chakwal is blessed with rich cultural and archaeological heritage belonging to the different phases of human history. The present paper aims to highlight the potential of British archaeology in Chakwal.

Recent archaeological survey carried out in Chakwal city and its surrounding villages like Bhoun, Keryala, Neela, Dulmial, Mulhal Mughlan, Malot, Kot Chaudriyan, Dhudial, Jabair Pura, Choa Saiden Shah, Chinji, Kallar Kahar has brought to light many important British heritage including the structural remains and portable artefacts. The newly explored colonial buildings include police stations, hospitals, rest houses, educational institutions, railways stations, dak bungalows, religious buildings, cremation grounds, samadhis, *baolis* (stepped wells), graveyards, bazars, suburbs and havelis. While the portable artefacts include ceremonial swords, telescopes, hats, medals, commemorating plaques and epithets of graves of soldiers. These artefacts are still preserved and owned by the locals to honour and sustain their heritage.

These newly discovered colonial buildings and artefact provide us valuable information about the political, socio-religious and military history of the British people. But due to poor administrative control, lack of awareness and negligence, these important archaeological remains are constantly losing their authenticity. The present paper is an attempt to highlight the archaeological and historical significance of these discoveries.

Keywords: Chakwal, British Archaeology, Colonial Heritage, British Colonial Architecture, Archaeological Heritage, Portable Artefacts, Colonial Buildings, British India, Cultural Heritage, Heritage Conservation..

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to document, catalogue and characterize the extant British-period structures in Chakwal District, located in the Salt Range of Punjab. By assembling and recording this material corpus, the study seeks to provide a foundational dataset for understanding the presence and activities of the British in this relatively understudied rural region of northwestern South Asia. The paper primarily adopts a descriptive and architectural approach, focusing on the identification, recording and classification of standing buildings, while also offering limited observations on their functions, spatial distribution and stylistic features within their historical context.

Archaeology and architectural studies, particularly the archaeology of standing structures, can make an important contribution to the study of the British period by illuminating the material dimensions of colonial presence beyond major urban and military centres. While a considerable body of research exists on British-period architecture in cities such as Lucknow and Delhi, as well as in strategically significant locations like Rawalpindi and Peshawar, comparatively little attention has been given to the material remains of British activity in smaller, rural settlements in the northwest. In this regard, Chakwal provides an important case study for expanding the geographical scope of colonial archaeology in South Asia.

The documentation of these structures offers insights into the types of buildings constructed, their architectural characteristics, and their functional roles within the colonial administrative

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framework. Although this study does not attempt a comprehensive interpretative analysis of social interactions or ideological dimensions, it provides preliminary observations that may serve as a basis for future research into the relationships between colonial authorities and local populations, as well as the ways in which architectural forms may reflect administrative priorities and local adaptations.

The Salt Range is rocky offshoot of Himalayas, and is known for recent period both for salt and soldiers (Malcolm 1947: 84). The Salt Range region is divided into four administrative districts: Attok, Chakwal, Jhelum and Khushab (Syed 2014: 75). Chakwal is both an administrative district and a modern city located on the Potohar Plateau. The tribes, clans and castes that inhabit this area are the Awans, Jatt Bhutta, Mair Minhas Rajputs, Kahuts, Mughal Kassars, Janjua Rajputs, Gujars, Gondals, Syeds, Arains and the Sheikhs. (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 32). According to provincial census report of 2017 the population of District Chakwal is 14,95,982 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Govt. of Pakistan) and the total area of this district is 6,609 km^2. (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 32).

Outline history

Historical and archaeological evidence from the Salt Range and Chakwal District provides essential context for understanding the material remains documented in this study. After the Second Anglo Sikh war at Chaillianwala in 1849 Sikh Rule was overthrown by British Raj, and the Punjab became part of the British Empire (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 43, 44, 45). According to Brigadier Gulzar Muhamad, many people living in the Punjab did not greatly resist British Rule as they saw the British as preferable to the atrocities committed by Sikh Rulers (Niazi 2019: 340 341). In 1809 Commander Bhag Singh and Hari Singh Nalwa prepared a small artillery of soldiers from army of Ranjit Singh with the purpose to invade the area of Salt Range. After conquest Salt mines now known as Khwera Salt mine went under control of Raja Ranjit Singh until 1849 (Neha: The Sardars of Vihali, A Family History).

District Chakwal has considerable archaeological and historical significance starting with the Paleolithic Soan culture centered in Chakwal (De Terra 19XX) (Niazi 2019: 25 26). When Alexander the Great passed through Chakwal during his advance through India, he was greatly impressed by the natural beauty of the region (Niazi 2019: 25 26. There was a Sangha and Buddhist university in this area which is mentioned in the travelogue of famous Chinese pilgrim Huan Tsang as 'Sung Ho Plolo', which he visited in 630 CE (Awan 2002: 17).

The function of Chakwal settlement as a seat of administration has a long history, believed to go back to a Mair-Minhas Rajput from Jammu, whose descendants are at the present day proprietors of the land in the neighborhood (District gazetteer Jehlum 1904). The area of Dhanni or District Chakwal was for a sometime part of the Jammu State of Kashmir, though Janjuas and Gakkhars ruled the surrounding areas (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 42).

District Chakwal under British

Javid (2011) argues that the British introduced an entirely new centralized state administration and infrastructure that both protected the new rulers and also supported local landowners and local elites in the Punjab. The centralization of the military power of the British played a role in this, and it is interesting to see how the influence and impact of the British Indian Army is manifest in a remote area such as Chakwal. Javid claims that "…the strength of the British colonial state in India was often exaggerated and its hold over society remained tenuous at best, dependent always on the collaboration of indigenous elites and classes who played an instrumental role within the colonial system of governance" (2011, 352). This view is supported by Gill (2017, 93), who says that it was critical for the British to keep the rural leaders of Punjab on side, and that this was achieved not only through revenue concessions, but also through the development of rural infrastructure. An aim of this paper and wider project is the investigation of the visibility of this tension in the architecture of this period; how political intentions can be seen in buildings.

The extent political and administrative dispensation in Chakwal owes its origin very much to the political and administrative development that took place at the local landscape in 1881 and then further events in later years. On 23rd March 1849, now under British control, Chakwal was updated to the level of a Tehsil of Jehlum, which brought with it expanded administrative functions and authority over revenue and local governance (District Gazetteer Jehlum 1904). The politics of Chakwal witnessed a new phase with the promulgation of All India Central Act for local Govt. In 1880, The Viceroy of India constituted Committees at *Muhallah* level (Grass root level) through nominations in all major cities. The members of these Committees were influential people of the community. As the rural suburbs didn't fall under the jurisdiction of this Act, the Viceroy than directed the provincial administration to enforce Provincial Act in order to compensate for the deprivation and frustration of the rural population. He further decreed that the Rural Development schemes must be completed through these Committees. Therefore, in 1906 the Provincial Local Self Government Act for Rural development was declared and during the 15 years between 1911 to 1925 a Corporation, city committees and municipal committees were established in Urban areas and Village Council were introduced in rural areas. The institution of area managers or *Zaildar* were busy in asserting supremacy of British Raj (Nizai 2019: 276 277).

Javid (2011), citing Neale (1969), Seal (1973) and Bayly (1973), emphasizes that in India, landholding was not merely an economic asset but a vital symbol and instrument of political authority. Possession of land conferred control over labor, resources, and local influence, making it a central pillar of power in Indian society. Aware of this dynamic, the British colonial state relied on the cooperation of local elites and influential classes to maintain effective governance. As part of this strategy, particularly under General Nicolson, the colonial administration transferred large tracts of land to loyal locals who provided services to the British Raj. This policy not only secured local support but also reinforced colonial authority by embedding it within traditional structures of power and patronage. A result of these developments mini states were established in present district Chakwal. Among them are Ragjan Kalas, Sardaran I Dulha , Chaudhrian kot and Chaudhrian Bhalla (Niazi 2019,p.58). Descendant of this distinct class has been at the helm of affairs from Nambardar to Parliamentarian since than (Nizai 2019: 276 277).

The First Word War started in (1914 -1918) meant the British needed the loyalty of Punjabis who in return were expecting solution to their economic problems. There were many men with no jobs in Punjab and an army job provided them with salary, uniform, after retirement benefits, facilities and prestige. As a result of which a significant number of men in British army were recruited from the Salt range and the Potwar (Potohar) regions of Northern Punjab (Soherwordi 2009: 21,22). Hence in Chakwal, a privileged section of local population was brought up to provide for the needs of martial recruitment and to thus prove fidelity of the locals to the British Rulers. This section of the community was rewarded with property, prizes and awards by the Crown (Nizai 2019: 276 277).

District Chakwal was a significant recruiting areas for the British Army to fight in both WWI and WWII (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 35), and many villages such as Dulmal and Jhangar take great pride in their reputation for residents taking up military service under the British (Malcom 1934: 70). Lyall Malcolm asserts military service has not only helped to ward off poverty but brought prosperity in villages of Salt Range (Malcom 1934: 70). Memorial plaques erected in prominent places within these villages commemorate the services of those who participated in the World Wars. From Dulmial some 460 soldiers were recruited, which is believed to be the largest number from a single place across South Asia (Malik and Noble 2014). In recognition of this Dulmial was awarded a 19th C memorial cannon by the British Government in 1925 (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 36). Jhangar valley in Chakwal District is also known locally as a military valley due to the number of brave men who participated in the World Wars under the auspices of the British military. Other recipient

of awards for martial merit include Subaidar Khudadad Khan from Chakwal, who was the first native Indian to receive the Victoria Cross; General Muhammed Akbar Khan (PA-1) from Chakwal was the first Indian to gain a commission and become a General in the British Indian Army; Raja Aurangzeb Khan was the first Chakwali to become a recruitment colonization officer in British era (Punjab Small Industries 2016: 46,55). Many local people are proud to keep a range of medals, ceremonial swords, certificates, and even Christmas presents awarded to their forefathers by the British military, along with various personal belongings that were used during the wars.

The British authorities invested greatly in the infrastructure in Punjab including schools, hospitals, police stations, postal services, railway lines and stations, irrigation systems and canals. Vestiges of the British period occupation and activities are still present throughout Chakwal District. Owing to its natural beauty and climate Chakwal was a favorite picnic spot for Mughal and British elites. For example, Sir Herbert William Wait who was a Deputy Inspector General in the Imperial Indian Police in Jehlum, was greatly taken with both the natural beauty of this area and also with the saint Lal shah from the village of Bhalial. Sir Herbert spent much time in this area and was loved by locals to extant that they call him Baba Wait, and his grave is located in Bhalial along with the grave of Lal Shah (Figs. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35). Lyall Malcolm (1934) praised the beauty of Kalar Kahar and adjacent villages in his book 'Wisdom and Waste in the Punjab Village'. The people of Chakwal have historically played a vital role in administration, with many families serving in government positions across generations The late Risaldar Major Sardar Bahadur Duni Chand of Bhon held administrative jurisdiction over 21 villages in the Chakwal Tehsil (District Gazetteer Jehlum 1904). Sardar Hari Singh of Vihali village of Chakwal was praised by British Govt. Officer for his administrative competency and was recognized by Viceroy for building a hospital at Vihali in honor of Silver Jubilee of Queen Victoria. He assisted in recruitment of soldiers from his village to participate in World War I (500 men in six months in 1918) and donated Rs. 10, 000 worth to various war charity fund and an extra amount for war Loan Victoria (Neha: The Sardars of Vihali, A Family History: 21, 22).

After the annexation, the British gave a lot of importance to education. British Government opened education department in 1856, under Wood's Despatch education scheme. The main objective of Despatch was to promote education in females (Kamat 1985) They kept the existing schools running and also opened new central schools for higher education in big cities (Grover 2000: 162) (Mehta 1971). 1833 charter opened up Indian mission in all churches. Christian missionaries, American Presbyterians, Church Mission Society of England, Church of Scotland, Baptists, United Presbyterians of America, Catholics and Methodists were active in Punjab (Emmette 1983). Likewise, during the post-1857 colonial period the existing schools in District Chakwal were updated to the level of secondary schools and missionary schools were introduced by Belgian missionaries (Malcolm 1934: 57). There was one High school, Anglo vernacular Middle school which was formerly a vernacular school but English department was added in 1888, Primary Board schools were situated at Malot, Lehri,Wahali, Pinwal, Buchal Kalan, Ara, Hasola, Karila, Murid, Padshahan, Balkasar, Dulla, Dharogi, Chingi, Kot Sarang, Dhudial (District gazetteer Jehlum 1904). Like entire female education was in under developed stage, there were 18 schools in District Jhelum with minimum attendance and Primary school at Chakwal was aided by Govt (District gazetteer Jehlum 1904).

Students of these schools emerged as politicians, bureaucrats, doctors and army officers. Raja Muhammed Sarfraz Khan (M.L.A 1929-58, Chairman District Council Jhelum) performed a vital role in the development of education in the area, particularly during British era. The Government School for boys was established in 1930s, and this was upgraded to become the first University of District Chakwal in 2020. Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India and native of the village Gah in Chakwal received his early education at a school in Gah built in 1920 during British Period. The Missionary School in Dalwal is still in service.

In 1861 the Indian Council Act was introduced

by the British Raj through which a professional police force known as the Indian Imperial Force was created. This policing system, introduced during British rule, relieved Zamindars of their traditional role in maintaining law and order—a responsibility they held during the Mughal period. Previously, Zamindars were tasked with apprehending habitual offenders, maintaining public peace, and performing other policing functions (District Gazetteer Khushab: 1162). In Chakwal five colonial period police stations in Chakwal, Neela, Dhuman, Kalar Kahar (outpost Buchal Kalan) were established between 1861 and 1892, and are still in service (Dhakku: 2017) (District Gazetteer Jhelum 1904).

The history of railway stations in India stretches back to the British Period, which is when they were first constructed alongside the railway network (Headrick 1988). An example of a British Period railways station is located between Mandra and Bhoun in District Chakwal. Continuing the tradition of caravanserais built during Mughal Period, *Dak* Bungalows with modifications were built in India during the colonial period. District Chakwal is dotted with such Dak Bungalows built, including examples such as the Kusuk Dak Bungalow located in Basharat, the Chinji Dak Bungalow in Chingi, the Sardi Dak Bungalow Dalwal Dak Bungalow in Pichwara, the Balkasar Dak Bungalow in Neela, and many others.

Medical facilities were also provided during the colonial period and dispensaries were built. There were dispensaries at Chakwal, Kalar Kahar, and Vihali. Dispensery at Chakwal was under the direct administration of Assistant Surgeon such as the District Head Quarter Hospital in District Chakwal

Army service had a significant impact on housing. Malcolm (1934) stated that in Gurah village of Chakwal some forty or fifty houses were rebuilt after the war with a considerable amount of money being spent on them, and the main source of this money was from service in the army. Malcolm adds that these houses were beautifully proportioned, the deodar ceiling beams were accurately laid, and the spotless cement floors were prepared by women (1934: 63).

These architectural remains and portable objects provide us with valuable information about the colonial period but many buildings are in a depilated condition and require the attention of appropriate authorities for conservation. Once conserved these buildings can be reused for many purposes, such as community centers, museums, or for the same purpose/s for which they were originally built.

Methodology

For the present study a selection of sites in District Chakwal have been surveyed and systematically documented. For the collection of data these sites were individually visited, and as well as completion of recording sheets, photographs of each sites were taken. Individuals with personal knowledge of buildings were also consulted, and their information was also recorded; this has helped in some cases to shed light on the dating of buildings and their historic significance.

Residents of the village of Dulmial of District Chakwal also shared family stories of British rule and contribution this made in terms of different political, economic and social events and buildings for District Chakwal. The author also visited a private museum owned by locals and took photographs of artifacts and prepared a catalogue of the collection.

Data has been collected from main city and the villages of Bhoun, Dulmial, Neela, Dalwal, Munday,Buchal Kalan, Basharat, Chinji, Pichwara, Sardi, Bhoun, Dhudial, Ara, Dhuman and Wahula, Noor pur Sethi. . Data collected includes structural remains and portable objects. Structural remains are divided into two categories: religious buildings and secular buildings. Religious buildings comprise temples, *Samsana* or *Samsana ghat* (cremation ground usually located near a pond), grave yard and mosques. Secular buildings comprise railway stations, police stations, dak bunglows, rest houses, hospitals, schools, mansions, shops, *bazar* and houses. Some buildings have memorial plaques narrating the dates and names of people involved in construction. Other buildings are dated via comparative analysis of architectural elements that compare with other securely dated buildings.

The portable objects recorded comprised coins, ceremonial swords, medals, guns, wrist watches, gift boxes. In addition, commemorating plaques and epithets of graves of soldiers have also been recorded.

Secondary sources consist of articles, books, old archives, reports, photographs as well as ancient and modern maps of the region.

Religious Buildings

Temples

1. Ram Das Temple

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Located in *Mohallah Chddaran*

Site: Temple

Period British

Condition: Preserved

Description: The temple attributed to Siri Hanuman was built by Ram Das in 1894 (Fig. 1a) and is a prominent structure in Bhoun (Kalhoro 2019). It is adorned with charming floral and fish motifs, rendered in both paintings and reliefs. The façade features a figure of Hanuman wearing a shawl and holding a bowl. The central front of the fence surrounding the *shikhara* displays reliefs of opposing fish at the top and felines at the bottom (Fig. 1b). The *garbhagriha* (sanctum) is ornamented with additional paintings and reliefs (Fig. 1c).During colonial period existing religious institutions were not intrigued and religious structures like temples continued to flourish carrying cultural and religious traditions in form of artistic endeavors.

Currently, an immigrant Kashmiri family is residing in the temple and has defaced the figurative wall paintings. The *garbhagriha* is being used as a storeroom, resulting in further mutilation of the remaining artwork. In addition, the temple's western wall has collapsed into the earth (Fig. 1d). The structure is in urgent need of conservation



Figure 1b. Ram Das Temple

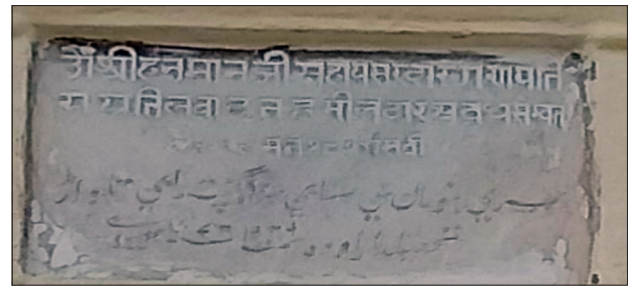


Figure 1a. Marble plaque



Figure 1c. Sanctum of Ram Das Temple

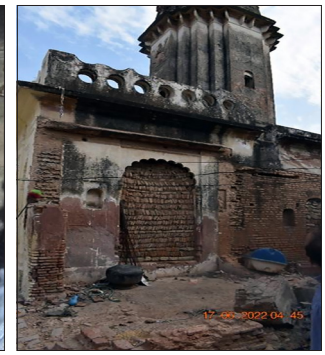


Figure 1d. Western wall of Ram Das

2. Madu Sain Kalan Temple

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Located in *Mohallah Naka*

Period British

Condition: Abandoned and Deteriorated

Description: This temple locally known as Madhu Sain Kalan is approximately a furlong from Ram Das temple and is in deplorable state. There is a pond near this temple known as Madu wali ban (pond). This small temple is consisted of an octagonal drum and a circular dome. This temple has an *ardhamandap* with enclosed *grabagriha and mandap* (Fig. 2). Inscription on the top of entrance is faded, door which according to locals was beautifully carved is missing now. Beautiful vegetal paintings inside of temple are fading quickly (Fig. 3). Bhoun was dotted with many small temple it was more like a cluster rather than isolated shrines that advocates for stronger Hindu community and continued patronage of British Raj.

As soon as one enter in the premises of temple herd of cattle and stack of hay welcomes, for this temple is turned into a cattle farm. If this temple is not preserved in urgent it will soon cave in. The conversion of use of temples at present indicates altered social priorities and patronage and loss of undocumented wall paintings is an irreversible loss.

3. Samsana, Samsana Ghat and Samadhi

i. Samasana Ghat (Sabu Wali Ban)

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Located in *Mohallah Jhamat*

Site: *Samsana Ghat*

Period: British

Condition: Marginally damaged

Description: Hindus traditionally built samsānas (cremation grounds) near ponds to dispose of the ashes of their deceased after cremation. One such samsāna ghat, locally known as Sabu Wali Ban, is located in Mohallah



Figure 2. Madu Sain Kalan Temple



Figure 3. Interior showing fresco

Jhamat (Fig. 4). The pond still contains water, and the staircase remains intact. However, the site is now surrounded by thick, thorny bushes. This survived structure helps in understanding Hindu funerary rites and this structure along with temple cluster marks ritual network that continued during colonial period.

ii. Samsana & Samadhi

Location: Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Located in Mohallah Jhamat

Site: *Samsana* and *Samadhi*

Period: British Condition: Abandoned

Description: This ground was traditionally used for religious rituals conducted both before and after cremation. However, a poultry farm has now been established adjacent to the site, and the litter from the birds, along with weather-related damage, has severely affected the *samādhis* located here. Despite this, two *samādhis* remain in relatively better condition. These structures feature octagonal drums, circular domes, and small entrance doors (Fig. 5).

Cluster of temples and funerary ground and structures adovacte for continuity of indigenous religious practices and funerary rites rather than adaptation of colonial rituals.

Secular Buildings Markets

4. Old Bazar

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab; It is located in middle of Bhoun

Site: Bazar

Period: British

Condition: Marginally damaged

Description: During British Period Bhon was considered a very important place as is mention in Jhelum Gazetteer "Bhon, a village in Chakwal Tehsil, is located approximately 8 miles from the tehsil headquarters. By the early 20th century, its population had shown gradual growth, reaching 5,340 in 1901. The village featured pucca houses, two masonry tanks, and a school building. It was known for its tradition of government service among local families (District gazetteer Jehlum 1904).). The village of Bhoun once had the largest trade market in the area and served as a hub of economic activity (Kalhoro, 2019). A remnant of its past glory is the small bazaar located at the center of the village (Fig. 6). This bazaar contains many old shops featuring wooden balconies and ornamented verandas (Fig. 7). In some places, streets are roofed over to connect buildings on both sides of the alley and to help



Figure 4. Samsana Ghat



Figure 5. Samsana Ghat and Samadhi

keep the bazaar cool (Fig. 8). The walls display blind arches, and a variety of arched designs adorn the wooden balconies. The façades of the shops are beautifully carved.

Such bazars were inevitable for supporting colonial economy to trade crafts, agricultural produce and other commodities while reinforcing systems of taxation and control. Architecture of bazar represents indigenous building practices rather than imperial style. Roofed streets helps in understanding adaptations according to weather needs.

Residential Buildings

During British period in different tehsils of Jhelum houses of masses were comprised of two or more rooms called kothas, a courtyard vehra. The rooms were built of clay with flat roofs. Courtyard usually had a khurli and shed for livestock (District gazetteer Jehlum 1904). Few houses were built of boulders and clay. However, havelis of rich people were built of squared dressed stone fixed with mortar or were of burnt bricks.

5. Mari

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Located in main bazar of Bhoun near Qazian mosque,

Site: *Kothi* House

Period: British

Condition: Preserved

Description: This three-storey building, consisting of fourteen rooms, was built by Rai Bahadur Sardar Jai Singh in 1930 (Kalhoro, 2019). It is located in the main bazaar (Fig. 9), near Qazian Mosque. The upper storey has now been dismantled. The ground floor featured a veranda leading to a courtyard, which was surrounded by highly ornamented columns. This courtyard was traditionally used by women for various domestic chores. The second storey was reserved for men and married couples, while the ground floor accommodated younger family members and guests. Several rooms in the building are richly decorated.

Striking features of the structure include an intricately carved wooden door and elegant balconies The main entrance (Fig. 10) is flanked by Corinthian pillars and framed by a variety of arch designs. Above the door is a small pavilion, intended for enjoying the cool evening breeze, These buildings substantiate the strong economic position of Hindu communities during colonial period but architecture carries local craftsmanship and artistic choices.



Figure 6. Street of old bazar that leads to Mari

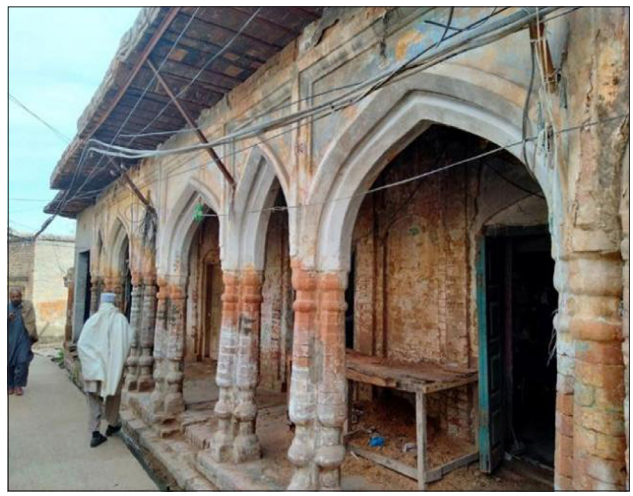


Figure 7. Ancient shops of old bazar

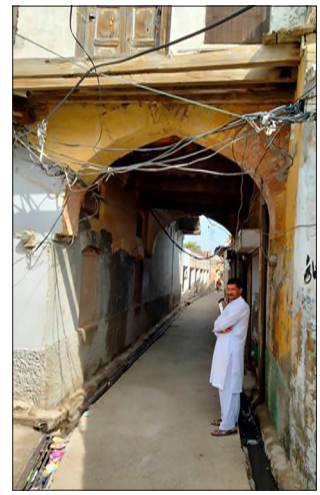


Figure 8. Covered streets of old bazar

6. Jang Ghar

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Located in *Mohallah* Jamat

Site: *Kothi* House

Period: British

Condition: Marginally damaged

Description: Most remarkable structures of British period in Bhoun Chakwal is Jang Ghar located in a street back of Ram Das Temple (Fig. 11). Jang Ghar was a building reserved for gatherings during marriage since it has a courtyard and spacious veranda to accommodate people. A person called Bikarma Jeet built it in the early 19th century (Wonders of Pakistan). Interior of the building is consisted of a veranda lined with columns forming pointed arches all around the courtyard. Windows are provided with colored glass and walls are beautifully carved. Standing in the courtyard, *shikhra* of Ram Das Temple gives a beautiful view (Fig. 12). The distinguished features of the Janj Ghar are the ornately carved doors, windows, ceilings, mural paintings and stuccowork. There is a need to preserve and renovate these fading vestiges of glorious past (Fig. 13). This building helps in understanding the community gathering of locals in residential buildings for events such as marriages.



Figure 9. Front view of Mari



Figure 10. Entrance of Mari



Figure 11. Janj Ghar



Figure 12. Courtyard of Janj Ghar



Figure 13. Entrance

Official Buildings

8. Railways Station

Location: Town: Bhoun, Tehsil: Kalar Kahar, Town: Bhoun, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab

Site: Railway Station

Period: British

Condition: Abandoned and deteriorated

Description: History of Railway stations in India goes back to British Period when it was constructed in India in 1850 (Headrick 1988). In Pakistan between Karachi and Kotri first railway track of 105 miles was opened for masses on May 13, 1861 (Naubada:2020: 807). Railway station built during British Period are extended to entire Pakistan. One such disassemble railway station is laid between Mandra and Bhoun (District Chakwal) (Figs. 14, 15). This railway station at Bhoun is dismantled due to weather conditions and human abuse. Thick roots and branches of wild plants have damaged walls and roof, rooms are used to store fodder of animals and waiting lounge is a resting place of animals nowadays. This Railways station has a godown, lamp room, store, waiting lounge for masses and elites, kitchen and ticket room for males and females etc. However, at the moment if building is not preserved will cave in soon. With junctions at Dhudial, Chakwal City and Bhoun, railway also played a vital role to commute weapons, goods and soliders during world wars.

9. Schools

Mission High School, Dalwal

Location Town: Dalwal, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab

Site: School

Period: British

Condition: Good and working

Description: There were three high schools in the district: a government high school in Jhelum, a board school in Pind Dadan Khan, and an aided school in Dalwal managed by the Catholic Church (District Gazetteer Jhelum). When Capuchins Missinories were given control of local diocese of Lahore, they established mission schools across Punjab in 1888 (Dhakku: 2017).

"The Dalwal Mission School, or to give its full name, the Salt Range High School, is perhaps the most interesting in the District. It was formerly a Board Primary School (October 1899): in January, 1900, it was handed over to the Capuchin Mission of Lahore, and it became a High School in April, 1903. It is situated at an altitude of 2,400 feet, in a climate which is



Figure 14. Front view of Railway station at Bhoun



Figure 15. Godown and Station master room

never rendered intolerable by excessive heat, and the boys enjoy considerable immunity from sickness. There are two boarding houses, for Christians and non-Christians and the school is generally in a very flourishing condition (Jhelum Gazetteer 1904, 134-135).

Marble plaque fixed at entrance of Mission High school, announces that school was built in 1900, and the land worth costs over Rs. 10,000 for this school was provided by Raja Shakir Mehdi who was a wealthy man of Dlawal village (Figs. 16a-b). It is in charge of two Roman Catholic Fathers and one brother. There work was not evangelic in nature but of providing education and medical facility. In 1904, 230 boys were enrolled in school (Jhelum Gazetteer 1904).

Father Sylvester was the first manager of the Catholic Hostel of the School and later he became Principal on 1st April, 1932. He devoted his life for school and rarely enjoyed holidays. This school produced army officials, engineers and politicians. Building of the school is well preserved in fact in good condition. School is still working however had lost its previous academic record.

10. Hospital

Location District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Site: District Head Quarter Period: British

Condition: Rebuilt

Description: In 1884, District Head Quarter Chakwal was established as a basic health unit by British Government (b2c.com.pk)., which was later on upgraded to a Civil Hospital in 1928 (Dawn: 2025) and Tehsil Head Quarter Hospital in 1954. (Dawn: 2018) (District gazetteer Jehlum 1904). This hospital is located in hub of city and marble plaques are installed in hospital commemorating contributions of local philanthropists who contributed in its construction (Fig. 17). In 1940, Jawala Devi (resident of village Vahali Zer) (Dawn: 2025) contributed remarkably by donating for the establishment of separate hospital for women in the premises of the hospital. Separate hospital for females shows consideration of provision of privacy for women during colonial era and contributions of locals for this noble deed.

11. Police Station Neela

Location: Town: Neela, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab

Site: Police Station

Period: British Condition: Damaged

Description: In 1861, after introduction Indian Council Act, professional police force and police stations were built in British era to maintain law and order in a society (Naz: 2014: 131). Five British built police stations are in service in Neela, Dhoman, kalar Kahar, Tamna and Lawa. These are constructed with proper plan and design. Neela police station is consisted of main door, two locker rooms flanking office of registrar and station house officer. A spacious veranda opens up to a



Figure 16a. Mission High School, Dalwal



Figure 16b. Mission High School, Dalwal

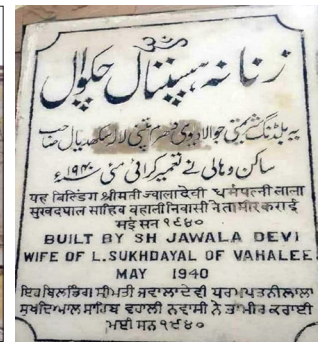


Figure 17. Marble plaque from District Head Quarter Hospital Chakwal

courtyard (Figs. 18a-b). However, building is calling for preservation. Prominent placement and formal design of police stations conveyed authority and permanence, reinforcing the presence of the colonial state at the local level.

12. Dak Bangla

Location: Town: Bhoun, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Loacted near Tehsil Headquarter Hospital Bhoun Site *Dak* bungalow

Period: British

Condition: Abandoned and deteriorated

Description: Continuing the tradition of caravanserais built during Mughal Period, *dak* bungalows with modifications were built in India during colonial period. The Indian postal system was introduced in 1774 and *dak* bungalows were established to relay the *dak* (Bhandri: 2013, pp.4-7)

District Chakwal has many *dak* bungalows some are preserved while other are in bad condition. One such *dak* bungalow to facilitate postal officials was built in Bhoun (Figs. 19a-b). Local villagers also claim that this building was used by British army to recruit locals in army. However, this building is in deplorable condition, doors are removed and building is full of litter, roof is damaged (Fig. 19c). This building yearns for immediate attention.

These buildings represented colonial power in a very practical way. They were not just structures, but working spaces that brought the British administration into everyday local life. Serving as semi-official places, they connected the colonial government with the local population by supporting communication, travel, and military activities. Through their location, layout, and regular use, they made the presence of colonial authority visible and familiar, turning abstract state power into something people encountered in their daily routines.



Figure 18a. Police Station Neela



Figure 18b. Veranda of Police Station



Figure 19a. Front view of dak bunglow



Figure 19b. Side view of dak bunglow



Figure 19c. Entrance of dak bunglow

13. Rest House

Location Town: Neela, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab

Site: Rest house

Period: British

Condition: Good condition

Description: Since vehicles were not available British travelled around in India sub-continent on horse backs. Therefor to facilitate them rest houses were built at particular distance so that travelers can rest after a weary journey. Many such rest houses are dotted in District Chakwal and one such well-preserved rest house in built in vicinity of Neela Police station. Its architectural plan and lay out resemble above mentioned *dak* bungalow (Fig. 20).

Memoirs of World Wars

Portable objects in this paper are memoir of world wars. People of South and South East Asia participated in World War. The first native Indian to get the Victoria Cross was Subaidar Khudadad

And the first Indian to get commission and become a General in the British Indian Army was General Muhammed Akbar Khan (PA-1) from Chakwal (2016.p.46). Dulmial is one such village of District Chakwal which provided 460 men out of population of 879 to fight in British Army. This is the single largest contribution of any village in Asia (Patowary:2021). This massive contribution is mentioned in a book Wisdom and Waste in the Punjab Village' by Malcolm Lyall Darling (Jamal: 2018)

Villagers of Dulmial take pride in their military history and consequently preserved with honor the awards bestowed to their forefathers for their valor in World War by British Government (Dulmial is one of the two towns on earth which was awarded with the Victoria Gun after WWI in 1920 (Punjab:2016: 36). Riaz Malik who is great gran son of Captain Ghulam Muhammad and son of Sub. Ghulam Malik have established a private museum in Dulmial where notable letters certificates, medals, swords, binocular, coins, Christmas presents awarded by Britishers are preserved. Captain Ghulam Muhammad was the highest rank and most awarded soldier of the village.



Figure 20. Rest House

Portable Objects

14. Canon

Location Town: Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Install at the entrance of village

Object canon

Period: British Condition: Good

Description: The most decorated soldier of Dulmial Captian Ghulam Muhammad was approached and asked by British authorities as how he would like the village be awarded for its services in World War. He eschewed the offer of money, land and water facility and chose cannon instead. Field Marshal William Birdwood, the Royal Indian Army Chief, in 1925 presented 1.7-ton British naval cannon as a gesture of thanks (Figs. 21a-d). (Jamal: 2018)

15. Plaques

Location Town Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab

Object Plaques

Period: British Condition: Good Description:

This plaque is installed in primary school of Dulmial which lauds the endeavor of 460 men who participated in World War (1914-1919) (Fig. 22). Such plaques have been installed in other villages of Chakwal commemorating the services of soldiers of that village.

Ceremonial Sword

Location Town Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Sitting in a private museum in Dulmial

Object Ceremonial Sword

Period: British Condition: Good Description:

Villagers of Dulmial take pride in their military history and consequently preserved with honor the awards bestowed to their forefathers for their valor in World War by British Government. Riaz Malik who is great gran son proudly displaying ceremonial sword of his father. Sub. Muhammad Khan (Fig. 23). This sword was awarded by British Govt. to honor services of Sub. Muhammad Khan.



Figure 21a. Dulmial Village



Figure 21b. Canon installed at the entrance of village



Figure 21c. Marble plaque with canon



Figure 21d. Captain Ghulam Muhammad



Figure 22. Marble plaque installed in primary school of Dulmial



Figure 23. Riaz Malik grandson of Captain Ghulam Muhammad holding ceremonial sword of his father Sub. Muhammad Khan

16. Christmas Gifts

Location District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Sitting in a private museum in Dulmial

Object Christmas Gifts Period: British

Condition: Good

Description: These Christmas gifts were given to soldiers of British army and this box belongs to Sub. Muhammad Khan (Fig. 24).



Figure 24. Christmas Present given to the soldiers recruited in British army

17. Medals

Location Town: Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Sitting in a private museum in Dulmial

Object Medals

Period: British Condition: Good **Description**:

Some soldiers who participated in the war lost their lives, others went missing, and those who returned from the expedition had their chests laden with glittering medals. Subedar Muhammad Khan, who participated in both World War I and II, was awarded several medals (Fig. 25). The image also shows medals granted to other military personnel for their bravery (Fig. 26).



Figure 25. Medals of Sub. Muhammad Khan who participated in World Wars



Figure 26. Medals awarded to honor soldiers who participated in World Wars

18. Wrist Watch

Location District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Sitting in a private museum in Dulmial

Object Wrist watch

Period: British

Condition: Good and Working

Description: The locals of Dulmial and neighboring villages take great pride in preserving the souvenirs of their ancestors who participated in the World Wars. One such item is the wristwatch of Subedar Muhammad Khan Malik, which is kept in the private museum of his son, Mr. Riaz Malik. Mr. Malik claims that his father wore this watch during his service in World War I (Fig. 27).

19. Binocular

Location: Town: Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Private museum in Dulmial

Object Binocular Period: British

Condition: Good and Working

Description: This binocular, which was used during the World Wars, is kept in private museum us still in working condition (Fig. 28).

20. Coins

Location: Town: Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Sitting in a private museum in Dulmial

Object Coins

Period: British Condition: Good Description:

Coins minted during British Period having portrait of King George V are kept in private museum of Malik Riaz Ahmad (Figs. 29a-b).

21. Cenotaphs of Grave

Location Town: Dulmial, District: Chakwal, Province: Punjab Installed on graves in grave yard of Dulmial

Object Epithets of Grave

Period: British Condition: Good condition **Description**: :The greatest number of soldiers from Asia who participated in and gave their lives during the World Wars came from the village of Dulmial. The graves of some of these soldiers can still be found in the village graveyard. Among them is Captain Ghulam Muhammad, who died on 15th January 1947. He participated in the World War and was awarded a cannon in recognition of his service. His grave is also located in this graveyard (Fig. 30).

Conclusion

District Chakwal is endowed with a rich cultural and archaeological heritage representing multiple phases of human history. Historically, it served as



Figure 27. Wrist Watch of Sub. Muhammad Khan Malik



Figure 28. Binocular used in World War kept in private museum



Figure 29a. Coins of British Empire India



Figure 29b. Coins of British Empire India

a small central town of Taluka Dhan Chaurasi. In 1881, during the British colonial period, it was designated as a Tehsil Headquarters. The town still bears the imprint of the British era, evident in its colonial architecture, including police stations, hospitals, rest houses, educational institutions, railway stations, dak bungalows, religious structures, cremation grounds, samadhis, baolis, graveyards, bazaars, suburbs, and havelis.

The people of South and Southeast Asia contributed significantly to the World Wars, and many individuals from various villages of District Chakwal participated. While some soldiers sacrificed their lives, others returned with medals and relics, such as ceremonial swords, telescopes, hats, plaques, and commemorative inscriptions on graves. These objects serve as tangible reminders of the district's involvement in global conflicts.

However, due to inadequate administrative oversight, lack of awareness, and general negligence, many of these important archaeological and colonial-era structures are gradually losing their authenticity. Without timely preservation measures, these invaluable historical resources are at risk of being permanently lost.



Figure 30. Epithet on grave of Captain Ghulam Muhammad



Figure 31. Grave of Sir William Herbert Wait

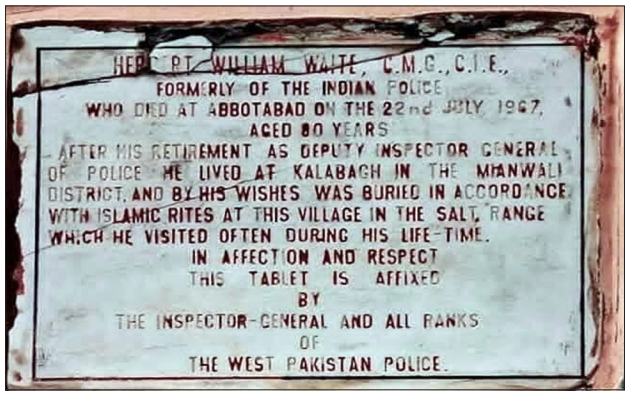


Figure 32. Plaque

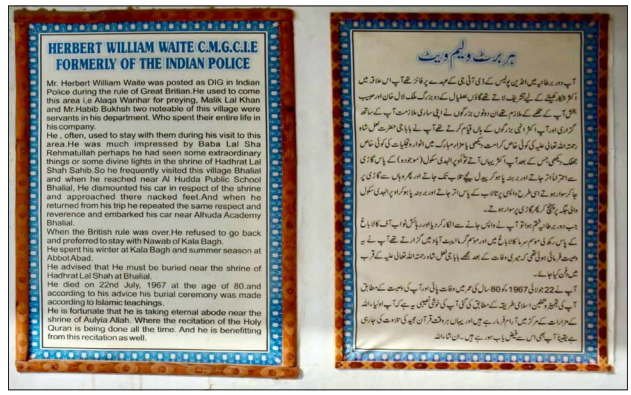


Figure 33. Plaque



Figure 34. Cenotaph of grave of Sir William Herbert Wait



Figure 35. Sir William Herbert Wait

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