

Historical Built Structure of Tajjar Building at Jinnah Bagh Larkano

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Abstract: Historical Built Structure Of Tajjar Building At Jinnah Bagh Larkano. The Article based on the past structure of the building and the current shape of the building which we preserved through taking efforts by antiquities/archaeology department Government of Sindh.

Keywords: Built-structure, Tajjar Building, preserve.

1. Introduction

The “Tajjar Building” a small but an impressive square brick structure 42’ x 42’ is located close to the South East of Town Hall inside the Jinnah Bagh at Larkana. It consists of three apartments, a central hall 14’ x 38’ with two side galleries each measuring 8’ x 38’. At the time of its construction, the building was tastefully decorated with glazed tile work and floral fresco painting, the traces of which were traced out sometimes in the year 1976.



Tajjar” is a Sindhi word which means “Arch”. Since the building contains many arches, therefore, it is known by that name. There have been many controversies about the “Tajjar” but the eminent scholars of the country believe that the building was constructed in the beginning of 19th Century A.D. by NawabWali Mohammad Khan Laghari, an accomplished scholar, diplomat, poet, warrior and enlightened Prime Minister under Talpurs. The Nawab used to hold Kutchery in this building very often. With the establishment of British Rule in the Province of Sindh, the Britishers continued to hold their official Kutcheries in this building till the beginning of the 20th Century A.D. when Larkana was carved out as new district from the districts of Shikarpur and Karachi. Some of the historians have mentioned that after his death in Zulquad 1247 A.H. (April-May 1932 A.D), NawabWali Mohammad Khan Laghari was buried in his own Garden at Larkana temporarily (As Amanat) and Tajjar was then constructed over his grave.

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The “Tajjar Building” through the ravages of time fell victim to the human hands and underwent many additions and alterations, depriving of its all original grandeur. Giles, Commissioner of Sindh set up a library in this building in the year 1884 A.D. which later on followed by the creation of Local Broadcasting Station. Also, the building was used as a “Canteen” for a considerable time that greatly caused to its fast deterioration.



In the Year 1975, Pir Ali Mohammad Rashdi, former Chairman, Pakistan National Centres, took due notice of the dilapidated condition of the “Tajjar Building” and placed the matter before the then Prime Minister Zulifquar Ali Bhutto Shaheed requesting him for its proper restoration and preservation. Then the Prime Minister passed the following orders: -

2. Tajjar Building May be handed over to Mr. Rashidi for his Hall of Mirrors

Subsequently the Ministry of Education which was concerned with the subject matter sanctioned a supplementary grant of Rs.5 Lac for the restoration and preservation of the “Building” during the financial year 1975-76 and placed the said amount at the disposal of Pakistan National Centre, Islamabad. Since it was a specialized job and entailed expertise, Mr. Rashdi approached the Department of Archaeology, Karachi. and requested it to undertake the work.

A meeting of the officers of the Department of Archaeology and National Centres was held at Larkana on 7th April, 1976 to discuss and study the various aspects of conservation and repairs of the “Tajjar Building”.

According to the decision arrived at the meeting, the Department of Archaeology took an immediate and prompt action in this behalf. Every endeavor was made to find out the original features of the structure by making in investigations and digging trial trenches around the plinth and across the floors. No. original traces of flooring, woodwork, stone plinth etc. were found. The traces of original frescoes were, however, found on the interior of the building. The Department of Archaeology was left with no other choice except to study the contemporary “Mirs Tombs” at Hyderabad and prepare a conservation plan suiting to the requirements of the “Tajjar Building”. The plan so prepared was approved by the Prime Minister and Mr. Rashdi, Chairman, Pakistan National Centres, Islamabad.

According to the approved drawings and plan, an estimate amounting to Rs.13,31 174/- (Rupees Thirteen Lac Thirty-One Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four Only) covering the cost of the

approved items of work was prepared by the Department of Archaeology and submitted to the Chairman, Pakistan National Centres, Islamabad for necessary approval and sanction.

The Department of Archaeology undertook the work on 9th June, 1976 which continued till January, 1977 when an amount of Rs.4,80,000/- provided by the Pakistan National Centres out of the total sanctioned amount of Rs.5 Lac completely exhausted.

2. After Devolution.

After the 18th amendment, Sindh government took control of it's assets and monuments, because when the heritage buildings became part of the federal government, they were in very neglected conditions. When the department of Culture, Tourism, and antiquities got handed over the monuments, it realized that something should be done for the preservation of the said monuments. Specially, our minister Sir Sardar Ali Shah and D.G antiquities and archaeology devised and approved a scheme for Tajjar building which was in horrible condition up until now. D.G Manzoor Ahmed Kanasiro sb. visited the site numerous times and envisioned that the building should be preserved in its previous condition, yet meeting the modern measures.



Conclusion.

The federal government had ripped open the existing doors of the building and shifted them somewhere else. Secondly, the federal government damaged the originality of the building and replaced lime plaster with cement plaster thus affecting the beauty of the building gravely. Furthermore, after that department of Antiquities and archaeology took some serious measures to restore the four doors that were previously missing. And the doors were tailor-made to the exact picture of the doors that were previously installed in the building.

Moreover, the department had to remove the cement plaster and reconstruct the building with the original materials used (chiroly and lime plaster), which we accomplished. Now, the building gives off the vibes of the building that was original constructed, thus attracting the visitors and enjoying the art and the vision that was originally envisioned in the building.

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