

*“Documentation of Unexplored Indo-Islamic Monuments in the Hinterland of Grand Trunk Road in
Haryana and Punjab”*

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During documentation trips in the two states the documentation team noted a number of sites having remarkable Indo-Islamic structures which were not included in the earlier schedule. While some of these additional monuments were simultaneously documented during the first three field trips of sites in Haryana and Punjab, documentation of many of them had to be postponed due to bad weather and the schedule. Since the earlier documentation in the above two States had enabled the teams to cover most of the major structures of the regions, for example, the monuments on Agra – Lahore or G. T. Road or the Pre-Mughal structures on the old travel route in North-Western and Southern regions of Haryana, it was considered important to cover the remaining monuments to fill in the gaps in the earlier coverage. An extension of 6 months to the grant period by the Embassy enabled a fresh documentation of the remaining structures during the above period. The sites documented during the period included Jhajjar, Kaithal, Hisar, Hansi, Barwala, Fatehabad, and Tosham in Haryana and Sirhind, Mahlian Kalan, Doraha, and Nakodar in Punjab. (Appendix - list of sites and monuments in Haryana and Punjab). Moreover, photographic and architectural documentation of an early 18th century palace complex “Sheesh Mahal” from Farrukhnagar, District Gurgaon, Haryana was also undertaken during the period under review as this monument could not be documented earlier due to some ongoing restoration work. This palace complex was earlier a part of the walled city of Farrukhnagar. In the phase I documentation the CSAAA teams had documented other surviving structures of this walled city such as the gateways, Jami-mosque and the octagonal stepped-well but the Sheesh Mahal. The documentation teams spent five days in created a meticulous to – the – scale ground plan of the entire palace complex and photo-document all the details of this building. This exercise was considered necessary in order to understand the plan of the royal residence and its placement in the walled city in connection with other monuments of the walled city such as the stepped – well that is said to be connected with the palace originally. As no such architectural documentation has been attempted before of the site, these drawings will be immensely useful for the agencies

(such as INTACH) which are planning to restore the entire walled city and convert it into a tourist site. In addition, two large stepped – wells built during Mughal period (17th – 18th centuries) in Haryana, in the towns of Meham and Kaithal both then located on main travel routes, were also documented and their detailed architectural drawings were prepared. One of the famous and most extensive Mughal Gardens constructed on the Agra – Lahore highway for royal caravans was the Aam Khas Bagh that the teams got an opportunity to document during this phase. While a large number of monuments in Sirhind were documented by the CSAAA teams earlier, this garden couldn't be included. Similarly, documentation of two major Mughal caravan – sarais (rest houses), the sarai Dakhni at Mahlian Kalan, District Jalandhar and sarai Doraha in District Ludhiana, and another tomb garden complex at Nakodar, District Jalandhar, all in Punjab was undertaken during this field trip. Some significant Indo-Islamic monuments of the pre- Mughal period surviving along the Delhi – Multan travel route such as fort complex of Firoz Shah Tughluq in Hisar, mosques and dargahs of famous sufi – saints of the period in Barwala, Fatehbad and Tosham and remains of an ancient fort in Hansi that was captured by early Muslim invaders and modified, were also included and detailed photographs and architectural drawings were made.

Vandana Sinha