AFGHANISTAN

Assistance to member states for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Draft inventory of historic monuments, Herat Province, Afghanistan.

by Flemming Aalund

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Up-dated inventory of historic monuments, Herat Province, Afghanistan


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February 1990.

The frontispiece shows the facade of the Ghorid madrassa Shah-i Mashad, survey October 1977 by F. Aalund.
LIST OF CONTENT.

Introduction

Draft inventory

Ghorid monuments

- Shah-i Mashad .............................................. 01
- Chest-i Sharif .............................................. 02
- Minaret of Jam ............................................. 03

Timurid monuments

- Qala Ikhtiyar al-Din ...................................... 04
- The Musalla ensemble ..................................... 05
- Gazur Gah ..................................................... 06
- Abu'l Valid ................................................... 07
- Abdullah al- Wahid ......................................... 08
- Shazada Abdullah b. Mu'awiyah and Abu'l Qasim .... 09
- Chehil Sutun ................................................. 10
- Karukh ......................................................... 11
- Sadr al-din Armani .......................................... 12
- Barnabad ....................................................... 13
- Ziyaratgah ..................................................... 14
- Haws-i Karbas ................................................ 15
- Ghurian ........................................................ 16
- Kuhsan .......................................................... 17
- Qush Ribat ..................................................... 18

Vernacular architecture and building tradition.

- traditional living house ..................................... 19
- horizontal windmill ......................................... 20
- anonymous caravanseraille .................................. 21
- vernacular architecture and housing ..................... 22
INTRODUCTION

1. The historic monuments in the Herat province of Afghanistan are a cultural heritage of national as well as international importance. Originating mainly from the flourishing Ghorid and Timurid eras of the 13th and 15th centuries A.D., they represent a cultural achievement of extraordinary beauty and artistic perfection.

2. It is one of the great tragedies of fortune that only a minor part of an architecture, which elicited such admiration from its contemporaries, have survived. The admirable 'Musalla' ensemble to the north of Herat city was destroyed by order of Abd-al Rahman in 1885 at British insistence. The British advised the destruction by artillery fire to prevent the use of the structures as a possible shelter by the Russians in the cause of the imperialistic warfare between the two powers in Central Asia. Most of the great Timurid monuments in Buchara in Turkestan shared a similar fate in 1920 during a few days of bombshelling by the Stalinist airforces. The decay of buildings has been furthered by looting and disrepair, leaving the extant buildings and ruins as an afterglow only of the former splendour.

3. Unesco was actively involved in the restoration of historic monuments in the Herat province of Afghanistan from August 1976 to October 1979 under the framework of the UNDP project AFG/75/022: 'Strengthening Governments Capability for the Preservation of Historical Monuments'. Furthermore, preparations were undertaken for the launching of an International Campaign to assist the Afghan Government to raise funds for the preservation and presentation of the built cultural heritage of the province.

4. Most unfortunate these endeavours came to an abrupt end in 1979 due to the civil war in Afghanistan and the consequent struggle for national liberation from the Soviet invasion. During the intermediate time of armed conflict all restoration works has been stopped. The sad state of affairs has discontinued the training of Afghan architects within the field of restoration and put an end to emergency rescue operations for structural repairs to endangered monuments. Furthermore, the fighting in the area has caused terrific damage to many of these buildings, which were already in a very critical state of preservation. Lack of maintenance has brought the monuments to an even more precarious condition. And the habitation and the general housing situation has suffered similar devastation.
5. Since the Soviet intervention, information on the condition of monuments have been difficult to obtain, but many reports refer to bombshelling in and around the city of Herat and within the province. It is evident that several monuments have been severely damaged or completely destroyed. The full extent of the damage is not known.

6. The present report is aiming to provide an overall view of the important buildings in the province, including up-dated informations on the actual condition of individual buildings to the extent that such informations are available.

7. Several scientific publications on Timurid architecture in Khurasan have appeared within the last ten years providing a basic documentation and appreciation of the Timurid architecture. The following works are especially important and indispensable reference books comprising extensive bibliographies. (The scientific sources cited in the inventory refer to the bibliography of the Golombek and Wilber publication on Timurid architecture of Iran and Turan.)


(iii) G.A. Pougatchenko, Chefs-d'œuvre d'architecture de l'Asie Centrale XIV°-XV° siècle, Unesco 1981.


8. The cursory informations presented in this report can be considered as the starting point for the preparation of a full-fledged and up-dated inventory, which may be instrumental in assisting the responsible Afghan authorities to formulate an operative action plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage and secure its reintegration into contemporary society. Any step in this direction will demand a good knowledge of the actual condition of the buildings, including a thorough scientific documentation.
9. The draft inventory is by no means exhaustive. Only the major monuments appear in the list and there is no mention of monuments and buildings within the old town walls of the city of Herat, except for Qala Iktiarrudin. The town itself will need a special survey, when working possibilities are restored. Preliminary investigations by Afghan scholars are published by Rafi Samizay in the above mentioned publication from 1981, and by Abdul Wasy Najimi, Herat, a study in urban conservation, Curson Press, London 1988.

10. In view of the present situation in Afghanistan development of infra-structure, housing and general health condition will call for high priority of investments. New efforts to preserve the invaluable historic monuments should be concentrated on emergency rescue operations to the most endangered monuments according to mature considerations and priorities. Essentially it will imply (i) structural consolidations, (ii) that the upper surface of roofs are repaired and stay watertight, (iii) that the safety of decorative features, tile mosaics etc. are secured in situ, and (iv) that movable objects and building fragments are safeguarded for later restoration works or museum purposes. Assuming a successful completion of these immediate measures, restoration proper may be started on individual monuments according to an established list of priorities.

The map shows the location of the major monuments of Ghorid and Timirid origin within the Herat province of Afghanistan (source: Samizay, 1981).
Map B  Sketch Map of Herat and Environs
1. Gazur Gah
2. Bāgh-i Jahān Ārā
3. Maṣjid-i Jamī’
4. Citadel
5. Kipchak Gate
6. Mosque and Madrasah of Gawhar Shād

7. Mausoleum of Bāysunghur (6 & 7: the Muṣallā complex)
8. Madrasah of Sultan Husayn Bāyqara
9. Shrine of ʿAbd Allāh
10. Shrine of Abū al-Qāsim
11. Shrine of Abū al-Valīd (Āzādān)
12. Shrine of ʿAbd Allāh al-Waḥīd

(Source: L. Golombek, 1969.)
Province (Wallayat): Badghis
District (Uluswali): 
Location of site: Near the village of Jawand, on the bank of the Murghab River, about 2 km up river from the mouth of its tributary

Name of monument: Shah-i Mashad
Type of building: Ghorid Madrassah Date: 561/1165-6
Main features: The building represents one of the first known examples of a madrassah with four iwans. Exquisite example of Ghorid masonry with deep relief.


Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition: no recent records.

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: Sketch plan and elevation of main facade, survey October 1977, Location sketch plan, Four B/W photos, October 1977,

Inventory prepared by: Inventory revised by: Date: Date:

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
SHAH-E MEJHAD
BADGHIS, AFGHANISTAN
CHORID MEDRESSA, LOCATION SKETCH
APPR. SCALE 1:10000, SURVEYED OCTOBER
FLEMING AGLUND, ARCHITECT, 1977
Shah-i Mashad, site view, 1977, F. Aalund.

Shah-i Mashad, general view of main facade, 1977, F. Aalund.

Shah-i Mashad, Detail of masonry from inside the entrance way, F. Aalund
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali):
Location of site: App. 170 kilometres east of the city of Herat along the Hari Rud river.

Name of monument: Chest-i Sharif
Type of building: madrasa/Khanaqah
Date: 12th cent. A.D.
Main features: Two domed structures are the only remains of a once extended Ghoriid building complex with a quadrelateral plan. There are other ruins in the area and an extended graveyard, whose importance will become clear only after thorough archaeological investigations.


Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition: There is no recent records about the actual building condition

Measures for preservation: Structural consolidation is needed, together with a flashing for the protection of exposed masonry decor.


Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: F. Aalund
Date: February 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.

Province (Wallayat): Ghor

District (Uluswali):

Location of site: Jam's minaret is situated in the centre of Afghanistan, 1900 m above sea level on the bank of the Hari Rud River at the intersection of two deep gorges.

Name of monument: Minaret of Jam

Type of building: Ghorid minaret

Main features: Date: between 1163 and 1202 A.D

The minaret of Jam is a symbol of the Ghorid period of excellent buildings, but also an outstanding monument of the Islamic World in general.


Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition:

Intermediate consolidation of the river banks to contain the surrounding water stream was carried out in 1978 as part of the Unesco assistance to Afghanistan for the preservation of historic monuments.

There is no recent records of the building condition.

Measures for preservation:


Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund

Inventory revised by:

Date: February 1990.

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Province (Wallayat) : Herat
District (Uluswalli) :
Location of site : The famous citadel of Herat stands on an elevation just inside what was the north wall of the square pre-Timurid city.
Name of monument : Qala Ikhtiyar al-Din
Type of building : citadel
Main features :
Date : 810-18/1407-15
several periods of const.

The chronology of the various construction periods is not yet verified. Most probably, the plan of the citadel has been essentially realized before the Timurid period. It is likely that the Timurid work was confined to the extensive redecoration programme, of which the decorative revetment on the NW tower is representative.

Source (1) : Golombek and Wilber, 1988, pp. 301-302
O’Kane, 1987, pp. 115-117.
UNDP-Unesco/A. Bruno 1976 (The citadel and minarets of Herat)
UNDP/Unesco : Restoration of monuments in Herat, 1981, restricted technical report (FMR/CLT/CH/81/286)
Allen 1981a, no. 54.
Belenitskii 1945, pp. 176-180.
Ferrier 1857, p. 170.
—— 1860, p. 472.
Hill and Grabar 1964, fig. 36.
Lézine 1963, pp. 127-143, plan.
al-Samarqandi 1843, pp. 20-21.
—— 1946-49, pp. 174-175, 1167.

Studies and reports :

Restorations and present condition : UNDP/Unesco project AFG/76/022 August 1976 - March 1979. No recent reports on actual condition.

Measures for preservation :

Documentation enclosed : B/W photo : general view of northern facade
Isometric drawing, partly restored.

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund
Inventory revised by :

Date : February 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Qala Ikhtiarudin, Herat: general view, northern facade, 1978 (F. Aalund).
Province (Wllayat): Herat
District (Uluswali): Location of site: NW of the city of Herat

Name of monument: The 'Musalla' Ensemble
Type of building: madrasa, majid and Date: 820-870/1417-1465
Main features: mausoleum.
The building complex consists of three separate structures situated next to each other; (i) to the north the Madrasa of Sultan Husain, (ii) in the middle the Madrasa and mausoleum of Gawhar Shad, and (iii) the Masjid-i jami of Gawhar Shad to the south. The history of the complex is easier to reconstruct than its physical appearance today, when only six minarets and the mausoleum remain.

Allen 1991a, pp. 92-93, nos. 431, 437.
Goy 1916, pp. 16-19.
Hill and Grabar 1964, figs. 126-129.
Holdich 1888.
Ishwari 1959-60.
Khankoff 1860, pp. 537-543.

Restorations and present condition: Restoration works and excavations undertaken by Unesco (UNDP/AFG/75/022) from 1976 to 1979.

Severe damage has occured to the minarets of the Madrasah of Bayqara Husain due to bomb shelling in 1985.
The only standing minaret of the Masjid of Gawhar Shad was destroyed in 1985 due to military operations.
No recent records exist about the Mausoleum of Gawhar Shad and the mosaics stored inside the building; a photograph taken in 1987 shows that the top of the ribbed dome has fallen in and damaged has occured to the masonry at the top of the remaining minaret of the former madrasah.

Documentation enclosed: 7 pages.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by:

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Medresah of Husayn Bayqara, minaret no. 1 and 3 at the plan by Golombek and Wilber.

Damage has occurred to the shaft of the minarets; the photograph shows several big craters due to bomb shelling, probably in 1985.

(Photo: Anonymous Afghan, 1986)
General view from SW of the 'Musalla' ensemble, spring 1977 (F. Aalund).

General view of the 'Musalla' ensemble, autumn 1977 (F. Aalund).

'Masulla' complex: View of Madrassa of Sultan Husain, photo 1978 (F. Aalund).
The one remaining minaret of the former Masjid-i Jami of Gawhar Shad
The minaret of the former masjid-i jami of Gawhar Shad. The minaret was destroyed because of bomb shelling in 1985; only about ten meters of the shaft is still standing. (Photo Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
The mausoleum of Gawhar Shad and the one remaining minaret of the madrasah of Gawhar Shad.

The previous repair to the top of the ribbed dome is evidently to some extend fallen in and damage has occured to the masonry at the top of the minaret. These damages have occured during the 1980's.

(Photo: Leon Flamholc, 1987)
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali):
Location of site: The complex is located four and one-half kilometers northeast of the old walled city of Herat, in the foothills of the Zangirgah mountains.
Name of monument: Gazur Gah
Type of building: shrine complex
Date:
Main features: The complex is composed of (a) the Shrine of Khvajeh 'Abdullah Ansari, 829-832/1425-1429; (b) the Zarnigar Kharneh, late 15th to early 16th century; (c) cistern 'Zamzam'; (d) the pavilion of Namakdan; and (f) the underground mosque. Additionally the village of Gazur Gah is located next to the shrine complex.


Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition: Structural consolidation of the great iwan of the shrine in the 1960s (Danish architect J. Hertz); restorations by the Antiquities department in the late 1970s (Afghan architect S. Reha).

No recent records on the building condition.

Measures for preservation: The road constructions in the 1970s were cut through the graveyards situated to the southwest of the shrine complex leaving scattered Timurid tomb stones. Comprehensive restoration plan needed, including measures for the restoration of individual houses within the village of Gazur Gah.

Documentation enclosed: site plan and ground plan of the shrine.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by:

Date: February 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
GAZUR GAH

Sketch of the Shrine Complex

A, the shrine and its additions
(1...tomb of Khvajah Ansari)
B. Zaminâr Miânah
C. cistern "Zamzam"
D. Namakdân
E. site of second Namakdân
F. underground mosque
G. recent oratory


(source: Golombek and Wilber, 1988)
Province (Wallayat) : Herat  
District (Uluswali) :  
Location of site : The shrine and mosque is situated about four kilometres west of Herat north of Hari Rud in the village of Azadan.

Name of monument : Abu'l Valid  
Type of building : shrine and mosque  
Date : 903/1497-98

Main features : The complex consists of a long rectangular court or maydan with the mausoleum and its additions on the northwest and a covered cistern on the opposite end. The iwan and related minarets are rebuilt in 1923 and 1956.

Source (1) : Golombek and Wilber 1988, pp. 318-319.  
O'kane 1987, pp. 271-275  
Samizay 1981, pp 75-81.  
Allen 1981a, no. 573.  
Babur 1921, p. 207.  
Niedermayer 1924, pl. 174.  

Studies and reports : Herat International Project/Unesco inventory card HE/01, 1978, including plan and elevation of main facade, scale 1:50.

Restorations and present condition : The building complex was completely destroyed in 1987 as appears from the enclosed photograph.

Measures for preservation :

Documentation enclosed : 3 pages, b/w photographs

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund  
Date : January 1990

Inventory revised by :  
Date :

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Abu'l Valid, Azadan
exterior, 1978
(F. Aalund)

Abu'l Valid, Azadan
main iwan, 1978
(F. Aalund)
Province (Wallayat) : Herat  
District (Uluswali) : 
Location of site : Located just outside the Piruzabad Gate south of the walled city of Herat in the village of Khanchehabad.

Name of monument : Shrine of 'Abdullah al-Wahid  
Type of building : shrine  
Main features : The mausoleum consists of a large dome chamber entered through a broad iwan on the east. The paintings in the dome chamber is recent although it no doubt follows the original lines of the star vaults (1325/1907-8):

Source (1) : Golombek and Wilber, 1988, pp. 313-314. 
Samizay, 1981, 82-85. 
Allen 1981, no. 599. 
Khanikoff 1860 (monument located on map). 
Salji 1967a, pp. 12, 155-101 (commentary). 
Yate 1887, p. 94 (date on the tombstone read as 890/1486).

Studies and reports :

Restorations and present condition :

Measures for preservation :

Documentation enclosed : plan and section (sketch), scale 1:200

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund Date : February 1990
Inventory revised by : 

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
SECTION

SULTAN MIR ABDUL WAHED SHAHID SHRINE

source: Samizay, 1981
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Ulussuli):
Location of site: The shrine is located on a mound north of the citadel opposite the shrine of Abu'l-Qasim. The mound is known as 'Kuhandazh' or 'Quhandiez-i Masrakh'.
Name of monument: Shazada Abdullah b. Mu'awiyah
Type of building: shrine
Date: 865-893/1460-88
Main features: The Timurid shrine is remarkable for the complexity of its internal design, which takes into account the preexisting locations of the tombs. The mound is believed to be the remains of earlier city walls and fortifications.

Source (1): Golombek and Wilber, 1988, pp. 312-313
O'Kane, 1987, pp. 277-280
Samizay, 1981, pp. 86-91
Pougatchenkova, 1981, pp. 160-161
Pougatchenkova 1970b, pp. 34-35.
Saljuqi 1967a, pp. 8-10, 31-37 (commentary)
Wolfe 1966, p. 27 (incorrectly identified).
Yate 1887, pp. 94-95.

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition: Aside from a repair of the dome, the plaster and painting in 1325/1907, and some modifications of the entrance facade, the building has undergone little change.
No recent records on the actual building condition.

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: Plan and section, sketch, scale 1:200

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
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Date: February 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Province (Wallayat) : Herat
District (Uluswali) :
Location of site : The shrine is located on a mound just north of the citadel of Herat and next to the Shazada Abdullah Mu'awiyah shrine

Name of monument : Shahsada Abu'l Qasim
Type of building : shrine
Main features :

Source (1) : Samizay, 1981, pp. 92-95

Studies and reports :

Restorations and present condition : The dome was rebuilt in 941-42/1540-1541. Originally the interior of the dome was decorated, but during restoration works in 1325/1905 the paintings were never completed.

No recent records on the actual building condition

Measures for preservation :

Documentation enclosed : plan and sections (sketch), scale 1:200

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund
Inventory revised by :

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
(source: Samizay, 1981)
Province (Wallayat) : Herat
District (Uluswali) :
Location of site : Ca. 300 metres south of the Masjid-i Jami of the village of Ziyaratgah, located twenty-one kilometres south of Herat.
Name of monument : Majid-i Chihil Sutun
Type of building : Mosque
Main features : Date : ca. 1485 (according to Pugatchenkova 915/1510).

The building is composed of five rows of seven domed bays, three rows forming a closed winter prayer hall (Zawistan), the other two being open at the front and sides. The original mosaic-faience decoration of the mihrab of the summer mosque is well preserved.

Source (1) :
Golombek and Wilber 1988, pp.350-351
O’Kane 1987, pp. 303-05
Pougatchenkova 1981, pp. 128-29
——— 1969c, pp. 36-40. (One year prior to Professor Pugachenkova’s visit to the site in 1967, Golombek was unable to find the inscription Pugachenkova attributes to the mihrab, bearing the titles of Sultan Husayn and the puzzling posthumous date.)
Saljuqi 1967a, p. 113.
Wolfe 1966, p. 60.

Studies and reports :

Restorations and present condition :
According to AFRANE (Amité Franco-Afghane) the mosque was damaged due to military operation in 1982.

Measures for preservation :
The peripherel walls of the wintermosque were dangerously unstable in 1978, when the mosque was visited by members of the Unesco team.
The actual condition of the building is not known in detail.

Documentation enclosed : sketch plan and section photograph of the mihrab.

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund  Date : January 1990
Inventory revised by :  Date :

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
2. Le mihrab

*Source: Pougatchenkova, 1981.*
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswall): Location of site: Village of Karukh, ca. thirty-two kilometers west of Herat, beyond the northern slopes of Diwandar mountains.
Name of monument: Masjid-i jami Karukh
Type of building: mosque
Main features: The structure has similarities to the 16th century khanaqah mosque of Khwaja Zainuddin in Bokara.


Restorations and present condition: In 1978 the front part was leaning towards the outside and the roof was obviously leaking. The outer wall was temporarily supported by timber props.

There is no recent reports on the actual building condition

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: four b/W photographs taken in 1978.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: Date: February 1990.

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Masjid-i Jami Karukh, interior of winter mosque, photo 1978 (F. Allah).

Masjid-i Jami Karukh, general view of summer mosque, 1978 (F. Allah).
Masjid-i jami Karukh, detail of colonnade, 1978 (F. Ataturk)

Masjid-i jami Karukh, wooden column, photo 1978 (F. Ataturk)
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali):
Location of site: In a cemetery on the edge of the village of Arman, now called Dih-i Manar, ca. 20 km SW of the centre of Herat.

Name of monument: Khanaqah of Shaikh Sadr-al-din Armani
Type of building: Date: after 889/1493-4
Main features: Both in form and size its resemblance is close to the Khanaqah of Mulla Kalan.

Source (1): O’Kane, 1987, pp. 265-266
Eadem, Zodchestvo, pp. 78-9.
Eadem, Chefs-d’oeuvre, p. 48.
Saljuqi, pp. 119-22.
Ball, Gazetteer. No. 278.

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition: very poor condition; no recent records.

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: Plan and elevation,
Photos, east facade

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: Date: February 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Khanqah Sadr-al din Armani, east facade 1978, F. Aboona
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali):
Location of site: Within the general region of Herat some thirteen kilometers northeast of the larger village of Ghorian, which is located about sixty-six kilometers to the west of Herat.
Name of monument: Barnabad
Type of building: Khanaqah, mosque and Date: late 15th cent.
Main features: mausoleum
The village of Barnabad has numerous historic monuments originating the Timurid period, the most noticeable are: (i) the masjid-i jami of Barnabad; the mosque stands in the very centre of the town. (ii) Khanqah Kvajeh Vahid al-Din, mosque and cemetery of Mulla-i Kalan; the group of buildings is situated to the north of the village. The cemetery has about forty Timurid tombstones, among which thirty-one are carved in black stone with the marvellous flourish design of the Timurids.
Source (1):
Golombek and Wilber, 1988, pp. 297-298
Saljuqi, 1967, pp. 147-148

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition:
No recent information on the actual building condition is available. According to informations dating from 1986 the Masjid-i jami of Barnabad is destroyed during the early 1980's.

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: B/W photo, general view of the village.
B/W photo 1986 of the masjid-i jami.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: F. Aalund
Date: February 1990.

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Baranabad, general view of the village 1978 (photo F. Salum).
Interior of the Masjid-i Jam’i of Barnaba’d showing recent destructions.
(photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Province (Wallayat) : Herat
District (Uluswali) :
Location of site : The village of Ziyaratgah is located twenty-one kilometers south of Herat, ca. twelve kilometres west of the airport.

Name of monument : Masjid-i jami Ziyaratgah
Type of building : mosque
Date : 887-89/ 1482-85
Main features : The court with its four axial ivans is overshadowed by the soaring portal screen of the sanctuary ivan. The embellishment of the structure was kept to a minimum. The concept of the whole is a grandeous example of the Timurid masjid.

Source (1) :
Golombek and Wilber 1988, pp. 351-52
Samizay 1981, pp. 42-45
Pougatchenkova 1981, pp. 176-77
Niedermayer and Diez 1924, fig. 165.
—— 1969, pp. 30-37.
Saljiqi 1967a, pp. 112-113.
Wolfe 1966, p. 60.

Studies and reports :

Restorations and present condition :
No records of the actual condition of the building

Measures for preservation :

Documentation enclosed : sketch plan and section, scale 1:500

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund
Inventory revised by :

Date : January 1990
Date :

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
102. (Cat. No. 123) Ziyaratgah. Masjid-i-jami'. Plan
(source: Golombek and Wilber, 1988)
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali):
Location of site: The building is situated four kilometres to the west of Herat in the village of Ghalvar (or Haws-i Karbas)

Name of monument: Haws-i Karbas
Type of building: masjid
Date: 845/1441-42
Main features: Most striking is the decoration and inscription of the mihrab of outstanding quality. The present facade has been rebuilt in recent times.

Source (1): Golombek and Wilber 1988, pp 311-312
Pugachenkova 1981, pp. 148-149
——— 1970b, pp. 32-34.
——— 1976a, pp. 64-65.

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition:

The building was damaged due to military operations in 1982 according to informations from AFRANE (amité Franco-Afghane).

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed:

Sketch plan and section, b/w photograph, Mihrab, b/w photo 1986.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: 

Date: January 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Haws-i Karbas
Mihrab, 1978
(photo P. Aalund)

plan and section (sketch)
Haws-i Karbas
(Pougatchenkova).
Naqjid Hawš-i Karbas. Photograph showing recent damages.
(photo: Stefan Hinnegren, 1986).
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali):
Location of site: The masjid is situated on the eastern edge of the town of Ghorian, about sixty-six kilometers to the west of Herat.

Name of monument: Masjid-i jami, Ghurian
Type of building: Timurid mosque
Date: late 15th cent. A.D.

Main features: The plan is strikingly similar to the masjid-i jami of Ziyaratgah, only the scale is smaller. There are no traces of any decorative material being used. The mosque is anepigraphic.

Source (1): Golombek and Wilber, 1988, pp. 300-301
O'Kane, 1987, pp. 351-352.

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition:
By 1978 the overall structural condition of the mosque was in a very poor shape. Cracks that are the result of earthquakes and water leakage was visible all over the building.

No recent records of the building condition.

Measures for preservation:

B/W photo 1986. (exterior and interior)

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Date: february 1990
Inventory revised by: Date:

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.

Courtyard and main iwan, Masjid-i Jami, Gharian, photo 1978 (F. Nirand).
Hasjed-i jami of Ghurian; actual condition 1986. According to the local population the damages are not the direct results of war actions, but the building condition has changed dramatically within the last eight years. (Photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Masjid-i jami of Churjan; interior of cupola.
(photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswall): Kühşan
Location of site: Ca. 10 kilometres East of the border with Iran in the northern part of the village of Kühşan.

Name of monument: Madrassa of Tüman Agha, Kuhsan
Type of building: Tomb/mausoleum
Date: 844/1440-41
Main features: The structure is known today as the tomb or the madrassa of Gawhar Shâd.

The complex is consisting of a mausoleum, a ziyarat Khaneh and a masjid. The structure was visited by Khanikoff in 1858. He saw the original complex in ruin. The ribbed dome was the one of only two domes of this type existing in Afghanistan.

Pougatchenkova 1981, pp.144-147
O'Kane 1987, pp.197-200
Pugachenkova 1968, pp. 27-41.
——— 1976a, pp. 24, 89.
Haravi 1970b, pp. 32-34.
Khanikoff 1860, pp. 537-543.
——— 1861, p. 122.
O'Kane 1979, p. 101, n. 81.


Restorations and present condition: Although the original complex was ruined already before 1858, the remaining parts are of great importance representing a unique structure originating from the Timurid period.
The mausoleum, including the high tambour and the ribbed dome was destroyed by bomb shelling in 1985.

Measures for preservation:
The edifice can only be preserved as a historic ruin. It will be important to prevent looting of glazed tiles, which should be rescued for museum purposes. When the site is being cleared the remaining structures need intermediate consolidation until definite plans for future measures can be desided. Archaeological excavations will be desireable.

Documentation enclosed: B/W photo 1976
B/W photos after destruction in 1985.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by:

Date: January 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Madrassa of Tuman Agha, Khusan; also referred to Gawhar Shad. Building condition in 1976 (Photo: F. Aalund, 1976).

Plan and section of mausoleum (source: Unesco/F: Franchini, inventory card HE/014, 1979)
Hodrasah of Tuman Aqha, Khusan, also referred to Gawhar Shad. Destructions due to Soviet and government war actions in 1985. (photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Madrasah of Tuman Agha, Khusan, also referred to Gawhar Shad. Destructions due to Soviet and government war actions in 1985.

(photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Madrasah of Tuman Agha, Khusan, also referred to Gawhar Shad. Destructions due to Soviet and government war actions in 1985.

(photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Hadrasah of Tuman Aqha, Khusan, also referred to Gawhar Shad. Destructions due to Soviet and government war actions in 1985. (photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswali): Kushk
Location of site: Some 40 kilometres north-northwest of Herat along the road leading towards Torghundi on the border to USSR.

File no.: 18

Name of monument: Qush Ribat
Type of building: Caravansarai
Main features: A large brick caravanserai consisting of two adjoining structures: a court building and a lower hall. Recorded in 1884 as still in a fair state of preservation.

Date: 905/1499

Pugachenkova 1970a, pp. 45-49.

Studies and reports: Visited by the Herat International Project team in 1978 and found in a fairly good condition.

Restorations and present condition: The complex has been in use for many years as a garage and a workshop. Most lately it has been in use by the military. No recent reports on the actual condition is available.

Measures for preservation: It is imperative that the complex is evacuated and the edifice will be used for some pertinent functions, which can ensure its future preservation.

Documentation enclosed: plan, Golombek and Wilber 1988. photo, view from the west

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: Date: January 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
95. (Cat. No. 107) Qush Ribat, Caravansary Plan

(source: Golombek and Wilber, 1988)

Qush Ribat, caravanseraille, view from west, 1978 (photo F. Aalund)
Province (Wallayat): Herat  
District (Uluswali):  
Location of site:  

File no.: 19

Name of monument: Vernacular architecture and building tradition.  
Type of building:  
Main features:  

The local building tradition of the Herat region represents a genius adaptation to climate, availability of local building materials, etc. The traditional way of building was still dominant in the 1970's, providing an appropriate housing of exceptional high architectural qualities.

Source (1):  
Samizay, 1981  
Najimi, 1988

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition: The knowledge of the spatial organization and building techniques of vernacular housing in the region is very important for the formulation of future rehabilitation programmes in consideration of the extensive destruction, which has occurred to town and village during the last ten years of war.

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: - two B/W photos showing traditional house in the village of Ghorian.  
- sketch survey of traditional house in Herat.

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund  
Inventory revised by:  
Date: February 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Sketch survey of traditional house, Herat, march 1978 (F. Aalund).
Facade towards the courtyard, private house, Ghorian, 1978 (F. Aalami).
Exterior and interior, traditional house, Ghorian, 1978 (F. Aalund).
Province (Wallayat) : Herat
District (Uluswali) :
Location of site : Still operative in the 1960s in the regions west of Herat, on the outskirts of Herat, near the village of Ghorian and halfway between Herat and the frontier at Islam Qal'a close to the main road.
Name of monument : Horizontal windmills
Type of building : vernacular architecture
Date : uncertain

Main features:
The horizontal windmills represent a vernacular building type of ingenious intervention in areas where water-power plays a minor role - in the dry and fairly level plains which lie mainly between the spurs of central Afghan mountain ranges and the northern frontier mountains of Iran. The tradition of the use of wind-mills goes back about 1000 years or more. The mills sometimes stands alone, or in pairs, but most often about 10-12 mills were built together.


Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition:

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: B/W photo 1978

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund  Date : february 1990
Inventory revised by :  

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Pair of horizontal wind-mills, general view 1978 (photo F. Aalund)

Horizontal wind-mills, detail 1978 (photo F. Aalund)
Province (Wallayat): Herat
District (Uluswalli): 
Location of site: Between Chest-i-sharif and the villag of Obé, approximately 150 kilometers east of Herat city along the river Hari Rud. The site is visible from the present road.

Name of monument: 
Type of building: Caravanseraille
Main features: 

Source (1): no records, personal observation 1978

Studies and reports:

Restorations and present condition:

Measures for preservation:

Documentation enclosed: one b/w photograph (1978).

Inventory prepared by: F. Aalund
Inventory revised by: 

Date: february 1990

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Province (Wallayat) : Herat
District (Uluswali) : 
Location of site : 

Name of monument : vernacular architecture and housing
Type of building : 
Main features : 

Source (1) :

Studies and reports :

Restorations and present condition :
The destructions of the habitat within the Herat province during the last eight years of war has been devastating. The Soviet and government war actions in the province has been tremendous due to heavy and constant shelling of the villages. The actual extend of the damage and destruction is not known. Measures for preservation :

Documentation enclosed :
Recent photographs from Herat city and villages in the province of Herat.

Inventory prepared by : F. Aalund                          Date : february 1990
Inventory revised by : 

Note: 1) All scientific sources are cited in the bibliography.
Village of Kawarzan, west of Herat (Photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986)

Village of Maladan, outside Herat city (Photo: S. Lindgren, 1966)
Bazaar-e Kandahar, Herat city (photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986)

Village of Serkuche, outside Herat (photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986)
Bazaar-e Kandahar, Herat city, destruction from shelling (photo: Stefan Lindgren, 1986).