



A brief history and monuments of Fatehabad: An analysis

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Abstract

The town was founded by Firoz Shah Tuglhaq after his son Fateh Khan and it was a historical town of Medieval period. After decline of Mughals it was taken over by Bhattis. Many structure of Fatehabad, tell us stories of past as Idgah, Stone pillar, Fort, and Tombs.

Keywords: Firoz Shah, Fateh Khan, medieval, Idgah, Pillar, Jamalpur, Ratia, Tohana

Introduction

Today Fatehabad District is bound by Punjab State in the North and Rajasthan in the South West. Sirsa District makes its boundary in the West and to it East lies Jind district and a big stretch of the boundary in the southwest in made by Hisar district. Fatehabad district lies between 29°15' and 20°49' north latitudes and 75° 13' and 75° 58' east longitudes. In 13-15th Century Fatehabad was a part of the administration division of the Hissar District as mentioned in *Ain-i-Akbar*. Feroz Shah Tuglaq built two canals, one taking off from the Ghagghar upto Fatehabad and second from the Yamuna to Hansi and Hisar known as western Yamuna canal. After Firoz Shah's Death, Timur reached Fatehabad via Sirsa in 1398AD. The town of Fatehabad was captured without any opposition from the inhabitants, the town of Fatehabad was found in 1352AD by Feroz Shah Tuglaq was named it after his son Fateh Khan. The site on which the town was found was originally a hunting ground. In 16-18 Century By 1760 the Fatehabad Pargana was taken over by the Bhattis of Northwest. In 1774, Maharaja Amar Singh of Patiala took over Fatehabad, Tohana, Sirsa and Rania held by the Bhattis. After a treaty of Jind in 1781, Fatehabad and Sirsa were given over to the Bhattis. By 1798, Agroha and Tohana pargana were under the control of George Thomas. Later, it was under the Marathas.

In 19-20th Century

Which the treaty of Suraj-I-Arjungeon in 1803, The British became the rulers of this area and the Marathas were defeated. The whole of Delhi territory of which Fatehabad formed a part was surrendered by the Marathas to the British in 1810. The Headquarters of the western district was shifted from Hansi to Hissar in 1832^[1]. Fatehabad District have wealthy Cultural heritage and main monuments of Fatehabad are describe below.

Idgah Column

The town of Fatehabad was founded by Firoz Shah Tuglhaq. Firoz built a idgah, and an old inscription in Idgah, which praises about Mughal emperor Humayun. Its indicates

that Humayun built some structures of this building. According to *Cunningham*, "Idgah was set up by Firoz Shah's eldest son, Fateh Khan^[2]. It is now in the center of an Idgah used by the Muslim community of the town. Its foundation reflects that it was meant for this purpose in the past as well^[3]." Idgah is built by red bricks that it was meant for this purpose in the past as mihrabs. The central *mehrab* has a cusped arch and others four centered arches. There are two inscriptions in the Idgah. First relative to the Humayun Mosque is affixed on the left of the central mihrab of the Idgah Wall. It is of ten lines, measuring 2'3" by 1'5", is light-coloured rectangular sandstone. The translation of the inscription^[4] is as under:-

In the Name, etc. "The prophet Upon Whom be peace say "He who builds, etc. This Mosque was finished in the day of the region of the great king, the exalted prince, the master of the necks of crowds of Nations among the Indians, Turks, Arabs and Persian, who raises the standard of holy strife and war, Muhammad Humayun, Badishah-i-Ghazi..... Ali-God Almighty on the 2nd of the month Ramzan AH 945 (the 22nd January 1539).

The second inscription is to the north of the outer wall of the idgah. The translation of the inscription^[5] is an under.

In the name etc. invoke Ali, the manifestor of miracles, though wilt find him for they help in Adversities. Every care and every sorrow will surely vanish through the prophet ship, o Muhammad, through they saintliness, o'Ali, o'Ali, o'Ali.

Lat or Stone Pillar

The stone pillar was created in the centre of an Idgah and is situated at the north east corner of the Fatehabad fort. It is believed that this column was erected to commemorate the sultanate of Tuglaq. The column was erected by Feroz Shah Tuglaq, the sultan of Delhi. The column is now in the centre of an belong enclosure wall built of bricks. The column has

two distinct parts separated by a round slab of stone. The lower part is constructed of yellow sandstone and is possibly a part of a more ancient column and the upper part of the column is built of red sandstone. The column is crowned with a dome resting on a stone base. A number of inscriptions are present on the column.

One of the inscription describes the events after the death of *Khaji Sultan Mubarak Shah* and the role of *ghiyas-ul-din-Tuglaq* in removal of the assassins and becoming the king. It then describes the death date of *Ghiyas-ul-din-Tuglaq* on his return from *Lakhnauti* and succession of *Muhammad-bin-Tuglaq Shah*. The end of the inscription notes the beginning of *Feroz Shah's* region among other events.

Fortress of Ratia

Ratia town is located on the bank of *Ghaggar* about 23km North of *Fatehabad* ^[6]. *Ratia* is a small town in *Fatehabad* District situated near the dividing boundary line of Punjab and Haryana. It was deserted the disastrous famine of 1783 AD and was re-established by *Mr. Rattan Singh Jat* in 1816 AD. Local tradition attribute the foundation of *Ratia* to *Rattan Nath*, a *Sadhu* with extraordinary powers who meditated at the site and the town was named after him ^[7]. The area was held by *Bhatties* of *Fatehabad* and *Patiala Rajas* after natively. During the stable reign of *Patiala Rajas* over *Ratia* area ^[8], one of them constructed a fortress ^[9] here to strength them his defence. The fortress functioned as an outpost for a long period now its external enclosing walls and gateway are surviving, while its inner building had fallen.

Tombs at Tohana

Tohana is *Tehsil* head quarter in *Fatehabad*. *Tohana* is mentioned by *Panini* and can be identified with ancient *Taushyana*. Local tradition attributes the foundation of the town to one *Amongpal*, and *Anangsar* tank named after him still exists in the town ^[10]. *Tohana* is another old *Pargana* of *Bhatti* estate of *Fatehabad*. After the disastrous famine in 1783 AD, it was re-established by a French commander ^[11] of *Marathas*, named it *Bourquin* 1801 AD. Here three tombs in the town. Two are close by the northwest, while third one is situated in East of the Town. All the three tombs are though not so magnificent, but still are architecturally important. There is also an old *Baoli* with a well and having inscription. It is a three tiered *Baoli* and can easily be restored in its previous shape.

Jamalpur Idgah

Jamalpur is a large village near *Tohana* and had some past historical importance. During *Mughal* period, it was a *Mahal* of *Hissar Feroz Sarkar*. The resident of *Tohana* and *Jamalpur* were Chiefly *Mohammadan Ranghars*. Who played an active role in Muderling the British at *Hansi-Hisar* during revolt of 1857. In *Jamalpur* e an old *Idgah* and *Mosque* situated and both being architecturally attractive.

In *Tarikh-a-Firozshahi* and *Ain-i-Akbari*, some content about *Fatehabad*. During *Tuglaq* period, the town *Fatehabad* was established by *Feroz Shah*. *Ratia*, *Tohana* and *Jamalpur* are another centre of the *Fatehabad* district. *Tuglaq*, *Mughals*, kings of *Patiala*, *Maratha* and *British* ruled here in differentive period. Main monument of *Fatehabad* are *Idgah* column,

Stone pillar with inscriptions, *Fortress of Ratia*, *Tombs of Tohana* and *Jamalpur Idgah*. Thus, *Fatehabad* district have a rich culture heritage and many monuments are available here.

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