This dissertation focuses on the study of the Sikh Shrines. There has been a little research into the Sikh Gurudwara architecture and this subject is still unexplored. This study attempts to collect the primary data by undertaking documentation and potentially contribute to the existing body of knowledge through an analysis of these Sikh Shrines. During the course of this study, forty five Sikh shrines are documented and analysed. Some of the historical shrines have been reconstructed recently after demolishing the old Gurudwaras or totally renovating the old structures. For example although Akal Takht was originally constructed in 1606 but was reconstructed in 1986, so it has been arranged accordingly. All these shrines are discussed in the following sections in the chronological order according to the date of their reconstruction.

5.1 Gurudwara: Harmandar Sahib (The Golden Temple)

Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1588-1601
Date of Re-Construction:1765
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: I-A and I-B

Historical Background
The Harmandar Sahib at Amritsar is also commonly known as the Golden Temple or Darbar Sahib. It is a living symbol of the religious and historical traditions of the Sikhs. It was Guru Amar Das’s idea to establish a place of pilgrimage for the Sikhs. He instructed Guru Ram Das to build a central place of congregation for them. Guru Ram Das started excavation work of the tank of Harmandar Sahib in 1577 (G.G. Singh, n.d.) and Guru Arjan Dev completed it in 1588. While the tank was under construction, Guru Arjan Dev conceived the design of the shrine to be built as a central place of worship for the Sikhs and decided to build it in the middle of the tank. The foundation of the temple was laid by a Muslim saint Mian Mir of Lahore in 1588 on the request of Guru Arjan Dev and the shrine was completed in 1601. There is no written record or contemporary sketch providing information about the shrine built by the Guru. It is believed that the construction of the Golden Temple, as it appears today, began in 1764 when Jassa Singh Ahluwalia laid the foundation stone and it was reconstructed as per the original design created by Guru Arjan Dev. Gold plating of walls and domes as well as marble work and other decorative work was done during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
Features of the Shrine

The Harmandar Sahib is constructed in the centre of the sacred parallelogram pool with angles of 86° and 94° and measuring 158.50mX159.30m. The shrine is accessed through a gateway on the northwest side of the pool which opens onto a causeway 61.57m in length and 6.4m in width. The causeway is provided with marble balustrades and intricate marble jaali at both ends and there are 20 golden lanterns set upon marble columns, 10 on each side at 6.38m center to center. On the northeast side of the causeway after the fifth lantern there is a sun clock on the marble pillar which works on sciography. The bridge is supported by 36 small cusped arches supported on rectangular piers built below both the edges of the causeway, thus water can pass through these spans and move along the bridge through gap between the piers. The design of the main shrine and its construction are based on the best techniques available at that time.

Guru Arjan Dev decided to build the shrine at a level lower than the surroundings instead of building it on a high plinth as was done in the Hindu architecture. The Harmandar Sahib is a three storeyed structure. It has two parts on ground floor- the northwest part is a 12.37m square from outside and 10.5m square from inside. Four doors, one in the centre of each side, are provided. Interior of the shrine is divided into four corner chambers, each of 2.31m square, with four rectangular compartments, of the size 2.0mX4.67m, in between and a double height parkash asthan, a square with side 5.25m, in the center. The three corner chambers have two arched openings on the interior and vaulted roofs. The fourth on the left of main entrance houses a 1.0m wide stair accessed from outside. The rectangular compartments have segmental arched openings towards central double height area, 7.42m high, and have vaulted roofs.

On the south east side is the Har Ki Pauri, which literally means flight to god. It is irregular quadrangle in plan and projects out like a bay window. It houses the 2.69m wide entrance in the centre of the structure to reach the pool of nectar. There is a flight of 16 marble steps descending to the base of the tank. This is flanked by two staircases, one on each side leading to the upper floors. There is a 3.86m wide covered passage, which separates main hall from the Har Ki Pauri.

At first floor level, main shrine is connected to the Har Ki Pauri and these two spaces merge into a single continuous space. The area on the first floor above the Har ki pauri is a richly decorated chamber and here the handwritten Guru Granth Sahib is placed. The area above front part is almost of the same design as that of the ground floor. The
double height *parkash asthan* is in the center and there is a gallery 1.85m wide on all sides of it. Each side has three windows in the central part opening towards outside provided in blind arches and three arched openings towards inside overlooking the double height area. All the openings are formed by square tapering pillars and arches with nine cusps. There is a balconied window, above each of the corner square chambers, on each side of the central windows on the front as well as on the left and right sides. The second floor has a terrace, mumties and a room known as the *Sheesh Mahal* above the central double height area. Externally the room is 5.92m square and internally it is 5.03m square. Each side of the room has 3 doors formed by tapering pilasters and cusped arches in wood and marble. The pavilion is surmounted by a low fluted gold plated dome, lined at its base with a number of smaller domes. The dome is built with an inverted lotus pattern at base and the Kalasa on top of it.

The external walls, up to the height of 3.05m, has white marble cladding with, *Jaratkari* work having various inlaid patterns and organic forms and above that the intricately woven patterns in gold embossing work. The fluted pilasters rise from each corner of the shrine. Façade of the first floor is divided into three parts. The central rectangle part is further divided into three rectangular parts by fluted tapering pilasters. On its sides, window openings are decorated with cusp arch containing a balconied window with elliptical decorative tapering mass on top and supported by decorative brackets. On the rear side, there is a balconied window supported by brackets and topped by half fluted dome with the usual *kalasa* motif on top flushed with the wall.

The parapets on the second level terminate in several rounded cupolas. There are four kiosks one at each corner. The parapet have small cupolas with square base, seven on front, thirteen on rear and nineteen on each side. The kiosks towards front are square having three openings on each side formed by fluted tapering pillars with cusped arches. The kiosks towards back, above *Har ki Pauri*, are octagonal with eight openings formed by fluted tapering pillars and cusped arches. These kiosks are topped by a ribbed dome.

**5.2 Gurudwara: Chola sahib**

Location: Dera Baba Nanak, Dist. Gurdaspur
Date of Construction: 19th Century around 1830
Shrine Type: Related to a relic of Guru
Plate Number: II
Historical Background

Gurudwara Chola Sahib is connected with a relic, a chola (cloak), believed to be presented to Guru Nanak Dev by a Muslim devotee at Baghdad. It is said that the chola, bearing some Qura’nic verses and Arabic numerals on it, was procured from Baghdad by Baba Kabali Mall, a descendant of Guru Nanak. It was brought to Dera Baba Nanak on 1st March, 1828 (Narotam, 1975). This shrine was constructed to keep the Chola Sahib and it is put on display at the time of a fair held from 21 to 23 Phagun (twelfth and last month of the Nanakshahi calendar, which governs activities within Sikhism. This month coincides with February and March of the Gregorian and Julian calendars) every year. Earlier, this Gurudwara was under private management of the descendants of Guru Nanak. During Gurudwara reform movement, the control of the Gurudwara was handed over to the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee. But the chola remained with the family, which they have now placed in a newly constructed Gurudwara near the old structure.

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Chola Sahib is a single storeyed shrine. Original structure is one of the oldest and the smallest surviving Sikh shrines. It is a small square room structure 3.57mX3.57m with double dome roof; internal height of the shrine is 4.76m at edges and goes up to the height of 6.44m at the centre of the room. External Verandah seems to be added later as it does not match with the original structure. It has three openings on Southeast, Northwest and Northeast sides. A door is provided in the recessed blind arch in the center of each of the four sides of the shrine. Octagonal chamber is constructed over the room. There is no opening to this chamber; it has blind recessed arches on all the eight sides with projected chhatri like pilaster detailing on the upper part of the arch. This chamber has a small projected eave over which stands the graceful sixteen ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. It is constructed using twin dome construction method.

5.3 Gurudwara: Darbar Sahib

Location: Dera Baba Nanak, Dist. Gurdaspur
Date of Construction: 1719, 1744-1761
Date of Re-Construction: Around 1830
Shrine Type: Memorial of a Sikh Guru
Plate Number: III-A and III-B
Historical Background

Dera Baba Nanak is situated on the left bank of the river Ravi in Gurdaspur district. Guru Nanak, on the completion of one of his long travels arrived at Pakkhoke Randhave village where the Guru’s family had been staying. Ajitta Randhawa, the headman of the village, requested him to settle down permanently there. It led to the foundation of a settlement called Kartarpur (now in Pakistan) across the river Ravi. Guru Nanak died on 7th September 1539. His ashes were buried near Kartarpur and a monument was constructed there. But it was soon washed away with floods in the river Ravi. Guru Nanak’s elder son, Sri Chand, who was then staying at Pakkhoke, got the urn containing the ashes salvaged, reburied it here and raised over the spot a small hut which came to be called Dera or samadh of Guru Nanak. Gurudwara Darbar Sahib is situated in the center of the town. The central shrine, called Thara Sahib, marks the thara (platform), on which Guru Nanak sat when he first came here. Later, Baba Sri Chand buried his father’s ashes at this place (G.G. Singh, n.d.).

Features of the Shrine

Darbar Sahib, Dera Baba Nanak is a double storeyed rectangular structure. On ground floor, there is a hall of size 14.20mX20.42m. Four entrances are provided to the shrine one on each side. Main entrance is on the south east side through an entrance foyer with dimensions 5.72mX4.20m having two doglegged staircases one leading to lower ground floor and other to first floor. Front part of the main hall is 14.20mX10.08m. On the back side of this hall is the Parkash Asthan, square in shape with side equal to 5.47m. The Parkash Asthan is enclosed in the middle by four columns and an arcaded circumambulatory 3.68m wide on sides and 3.63m wide at back. At lower ground floor level, the historical well, where Guru Nanak rested, is conserved. On the first floor, there is a room of the size 6.2mX6.2m, placed over the parkash asthan. Each of the four walls of the room has a door in centre and two windows one on each side of the door. On the circular drum, on top of the room, is a fluted dome with two successive rows of lotus petals motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. Dome of the shrine is unique. It has two layers of small cupolas at base and lotus petal motifs are provided with small kalasa. The dome is gilded. The gold work on top as well as on the sanctum was got done in 1827 by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who also made endowments in cash and land for the maintenance of the shrine.
5.4 Gurudwara: Darbar sahib

Location: Tarn Taran
Date of Construction: 1590-97
Date of Re-Construction/ Renovation: 1775, 1830
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: IV-A and IV-B

**Historical Background**

Fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, bought some land in Tarn Taran (Distt. Amritsar) and laid the foundation of a Gurudwara in honour of Guru Ram Das. He laid the foundation of the city and the Darbar sahib in 1590 and started the excavation of a tank even larger than the tank at Harmandar Sahib, Amritsar. The construction work of the Darbar Sahib and the tank (sarовар) had to be abounded due to unavoidable circumstances and the shrine remained as a kacha hut and the tank as an irregular pond till the Sikhs came in to power. In 1775, Sardar Budh Singh Faizalpuria, Sardar Khushal Singh and Sardar Jassa Singh Ramgarhia constructed the present structure and the tank (G.T. Singh, 2005). The remaining work including the beautification of the shrine was done by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1830. The Gurudwara has one of the largest tanks and resembles the golden temple, except that it is built on one side of the tank.

**Features of the Shrine**

Darbar Sahib is a three storey square structure with a basement constructed on a raised platform 29.38mX 31.03m and 1.31m high. Access to the main shrine is through flight of steps on four sides of the platform, the steps on west side descend into the tank. Open space around the shrine serves as circumambulatory around the shrine. The platform is decorated with marble cupolas and lamp posts with glided lanterns on them. Shrine is on the eastern side of one of the largest sarovars (holy tank) measuring 242.35m on west, 243.50m on east, 281.79m on south and 299.81m on north side. There are 22 steps descending to the water from all the sides of the tank.

Main shrine is 13.07m square with four entrances one on each side. Interior of the shrine is divided into four corner chambers, 1.85m square each, and rectangular compartments, 1.50mX5.72m on north and south side and 1.5mX5.33m on east and west side, enclosing the double height, 6.02mX6.36m, parkash asthan in the center. Each corner chamber has two arched openings. The square chamber on the northeast houses toshahkanna (temple treasury). The chamber on the northwest corner houses a
0.91m wide stair approached from outside. This leads to the first floor and opens into a rectangular chamber. The first floor is almost same as that of the ground floor with the space around double height *parkash asthan* acting as a 1.90m wide gallery. There are three cusped openings formed by square pillars on each of its side which opens towards the central double height area. On the second floor, there is a small square chamber constructed over the double height *parkash asthan*. Externally the room is 7.08m square and internally it is 5.00m square. Each side of the room has 3 openings formed by tapering pilasters, cusped arches, and projected cusped eave with cupola on each of its four corners over which stands the dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*.

Each corner consists of a square cupola with projected cornice on top. A fluted pilaster decorates the corner of the ground and the first floor. The lower walls are covered with inlaid marble slabs and the upper storey has embossed gilded copper plates. The shrine is tastefully decorated with frescoes and *gach* work. The front elevation has been divided into three parts; the central rectangle part is further divided into three rectangular parts with blind cusped arches and fluted tapering pilasters in each of this division. On both the corners there is one balconied window each, decorated with cusp arch with elliptical tapering mass on top and supported by decorative brackets. The facades on all the sides have almost similar architectural schemes. On top of the first floor, parapet is intercepted by four square pillared chambers one at each corner crowned with dome and one cupola at each of its corners.

### 5.5 Gurudwara: Bhai Bir Singh

Location: Village Naurangabad, Dist. Tarn Taran  
Date of Construction: Early 17th century  
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Saint  
Plate Number: V  

**Historical Background**

Naurangabad is a historical village. It was an important centre during Mughal and British period. Baba Bir Singh came to this village and settled here to serve humanity and Sikhism. His *dera* is still present there. He built the *Thara* where he used to sit and serve food to people. Then later on, a small *Sarai* and a *Langar* hall were built in this complex. This is one of the oldest Gurudwaras. There is beautiful fresco work done inside the Gurudwara. The shrine is in the centre of the main complex. Initially there
was a *Thara* (platform), where Baba used to sit and later on after his death a shrine was constructed over this *thara*.

**Features of the Shrine**

Main shrine is located in the centre of the complex. The main shrine is a single room, single storey structure with a square plan of 7.23mX7.23m. Double dome has been used on top of the Shrine. It has four doors, one in the center of each side and no window is provided. Internally, shrine is a proper cube as the width of base is equal to its height. There is a projected cusped eave at ceiling level with four small cupolas one at each corner and above this is a dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. This shrine has fresco paintings that depict the Sikh Art. The whole complex is made in Nanakshahi Bricks. There is pilaster detailing at the corners and wall surfaces.

**5.6 Gurudwara: Bibeksar Sahib**

Location: Amritsar  
Date of Construction: 1622  
Date of Re-Construction/ Renovation: 1833  
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru  
Plate Number: VI

**Historical Background**

Gurudwara Bibeksar stands close to Gurudwara Shaheedan in Amritsar. The Gurudwara lies towards northeast of Ramsar between Chatiwind and Sultanwind gates of the walled city, Amritsar. Bhai Gurdas laid the foundation of the Gurudwara in 1622. Guru Hargobind established a camp here for his cavalry and soldiers soon after. On the south west side of the shrine is the tank Bibeksar got dug by Guru Hargobind in 1628 for the convenience of pilgrims. The Gurudwara was got constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1833. The *Langar* building and a well were added in 1905-06. The Gurudwara was controlled by *Nihangs* until its management statutorily passed to the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee in 1925 (“Bibeksar Gurudwara”, 2010).

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara Bibeksar Sahib is a three storeyed structure, main shrine is at first floor level and is approached through a straight flight of steps 3.07m wide on south east side. On ground floor is a pillared hall 14.99mX18.87m having cantilever of 2.62m wide on south west side. On first floor there is open circumambulatory around the shrine 2.62m
wide on both sides and 3.71m on front and back side. Main shrine is rectangular hall 9.75mX11.45m and there is no provision of windows in the shrine. On each side, there are two tier five blind cusped arches and fluted pilasters decorates all the external corners with door in central arch on sides and back and three doors are provided on south east side (front side) in central three blind cusped arches. On the top of the first floor, there is a projected eave which is crowned by parapet having square kiosks resting on square base on all the four corners of the parapet and there are 10 cupolas each on front and back side and 12 each on both sides resting on the parapet.

On the second floor, there is square chamber with three blind arches on all four sides. On top, there is a cusped arched projected eave with a cupola resting on all the four corners of projected eave and above that is a dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.

5.7 Gurudwara: Baba Atal
Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1770-1784
Date of Re-Construction/Renovation: 1835-1841
Shrine Type: Memorial of Sikh Guru
Plate Number: VII and I-A

Historical Background
Gurudwara Baba Atal is associated with Baba Atal Rai, son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru. According to a popular belief, Atal Rai, at the age of nine, restored the life of his close friend Mohan, after his sudden demise. Guru Hargobind considered this act against the Sikh tradition and rebuked him for performing a feat involving a miracle. It is said that Atal Rai told his father that he would lay down his own life for breaking the law of nature by reviving his friend from the dead. He went into a state of samadhi and died. Later on, to keep alive his memory this monument was raised. The construction of the present edifice commenced after the Sikh misls had established their authority in the Punjab. The foundation was laid in 1770 and the first three storeys were completed by 1784. The upper floors were raised by Maharaja Ranjit Singh during the 1835-41. The present nine storey building represents the nine years of Baba Atal’s Life (Narotam, 1975). Sardar Desa Singh Majithia contributed gold for gilding the dome.
Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Baba Atal Sahib is nine storey octagonal tower 40.07m high and was at one time the tallest building in Amritsar. Shrine has a double octagonal structure, outer octagon 13.68m overall width and internal side of 4.15m. There is an inner circumambulatory 2.13m wide near stairs and 2.67m on the remaining six sides around inner octagon 6.13m wide having each side of 1.45m. The first six storeys are constructed over external octagonal and upper three floors are constructed over internal octagonal leaving terrace on all sides on sixth floor. Two staircases 0.86m wide are provided in the thick walls on east and west side to connect upper floors. There are four doors on the ground floor, one on each of the cardinal sides and the main entrance is on north side. In the central part is the parkash asthan with a beautifully gilded canopy and have four doors on alternative sides. The doors are made of silver and brass with elegantly embossed designs. The first floor almost repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. It has eight openings in inner octagon and has windows on all the faces except on two sides where stairs are provided. The interior walls of the first floor are adorned with murals and frescos paintings depicting the life of Guru Nanak. Up to the fifth floor same scheme is repeated with a difference that second and fourth floors have central double height area and on third and fifth floors, a gallery is formed around this double height area. Sixth to eighth floors are constructed over the inner octagon and stair on western side goes up to eighth floor. On its sides, windows are decorated with balconied windows having cusp arches surmounted by a decorative elliptical top and base. These windows are supported by decorative brackets. The shrine is surmounted by a ribbed gold plated dome with an inverted lotus pattern at base and a kalasa on top of it.
5.8 Gurudwara: Saragarhi Sahib

Location: Walled city Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1902
Shrine Type: Memorial of Sikh Martyrs
Plate Number: VIII

Historical Background

Gurudwara Saragarhi Sahib is located approximately 300 meters from the Golden Temple just opposite to the multi-storeyed parking near Town Hall, Amritsar. It was built in the memory of gallant soldiers of the 36th Sikhs Regiment of the British army, who died at their posts in the defence of the frontier fort of Saragarhi on 12th September, 1897. They were fighting against a large number (approx. 10,000) of Pathans. To commemorate their bravery, three Gurudwaras were erected, one at Saragarhi, the venue of the battle, the second at Firozpur and the third at Amritsar. The memorial at Amritsar was unveiled on February 14, 1902 (Gazetteer 1976).

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Saragarhi Sahib is a single storeyed structure constructed in the center of a raised platform, of the size 15.42mX15.62m and 0.75m high, leaving space all around the shrine being used as open circumambulatory. The main shrine is nearly square, 10.76mX10.41m, externally. There is double height parkash asthan, 4.78mX4.7m, with four doors, one on each side. There is circumambulatory 1.8m wide on its all sides. Each side of this has three openings formed by tapering pilasters and cusped arches. On northwest side, there is a small room in a corner of the circumambulatory being used as sukhashan room (the retiring room).

The front elevation has been divided into three parts. The central rectangular part is further divided into three rectangular parts each having a cusped arch with fluted tapering pilasters on its sides. On both the corners, there is one balconyed window each in blind recessed arched opening with elliptical tapering mass at top and supported by decorative brackets. The facades, on all the sides, have almost similar architectural schemes. The top of the facade have projected eaves and is crowned by pillared square kiosk at each of four corners and a row of small cupolas in between these. There are four chhatris, one each in the middle of parapet, on all the four sides. A fluted pilaster decorates the corners. Finally, on top of a double height parkash asthan, a curved projected eave is provided and there is large cupola with square base on each of its four
corners and seven small cupolas in between the large cupolas on each side. Finally springs the dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.

5.9 Gurudwara: Bhatta Sahib

Location: village Kotla Nihang, Dist. Ropar.
Date of Construction: 1914
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: IX-A and IX-B

Historical Background

This Gurudwara commemorates the visit of Guru Gobind Singh who visited this place for the first time in 1688, when he was returning to Anandpur after winning the battle of Bhangani. It is said that when Guru Gobind Singh asked for a place to stay, the labourers working at the Bhatta (brick Kiln) pointed towards the burning ‘Kiln’. It is said that when the horse of the Guru stepped on the hot Bhatta it instantaneously cooled down. Chaudhary Nihang Khan, the owner of the Bhatta, was informed about this event. He rushed to Bhatta and, to his astonishment, saw Guru Gobind Singh sitting there. He took Guru to his fort and gave necessary amenities to his army (Gurudwara Bhatta Sahib, 2010). For the second time, Guru Gobind Singh went there to attend the engagement of Nihang Khan’s son in 1695. He went there for the third time in 1702, after returning from Kurukshetra, and for the fourth time, the Guru went there after leaving Anandpur Sahib forever in 1705.

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Bhatta sahib is a four storeyed structure. The ground floor is approximately square 18.44mX17.75m, enclosed by arched circumambulatory 2.9m on sides and back and 9.6m in front. Entrance to the ground floor is through three arches on northern side. The hall contains the ‘Bhatta’ which is 0.36m lower than the ground floor level. The Bhatta is enclosed in a square glass partition which is 3.35m wide. This enclosure is raised on a 0.9m high square platform which has a side of 9.14m approached through steps on both sides. There is a circumambulatory on all sides of this raised platform. There is a circular chamber of 2.57m diameter on each of the four corners of the shrine. These circular chambers take octagon shape with 0.82m side at first floor and goes upto terrace of the second floor. Main shrine is on the first floor. It is approached through
two flights of steps running along either side of the central arches leading wide open
terrace on the first floor.

The entrance to the main shrine is through four doors, centrally placed on each side of
the hall. Double height Parkash asthan, of the size 7.66mX7.44m, is in the center
surrounded by four central columns. There is a circumambulatory 4.97m on sides and
4.75m on front and back. There are four octagonal chambers one at each corner, front
two are used for holding akand paths and the other are used as stair wells. The second
floor almost repeats the same scheme of the first floor. There is a gallery around the
central double height area. At third floor level, the parapet is topped by 12 cupolas and a
centrally placed chhatri on each of the four sides. Four octagonal chambers projecting
out at vertices have kiosks with domes atop. The central dome resting over hexa-
decagon supported by squinches is placed over cuboidal space with 12 openings, 3 on
each side. The 16 ribbed dome with row of lotus petals rises on the circular drum with
an inverted lotus that holds the kalasa on the top of the dome.

5.10 Gurudwara: State Gurudwara
Location: Kapurthala
Date of Construction: 1915
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh King
Plate Number: X

Historical Background:
The Gurudwara, situated in the heart of the city on Sultanpur road, was built by
Maharaja Jagatjit Singh under the charge of Revail Singh on a site, measuring 73.76m
X 313.04m. The large and imposing red sandstone building (now painted white) of the
State Gurudwara was constructed in 1915 (Kapurthala, 2011).

Features of the Shrine
State Gurudwara is a four storeyed structure. The shrine stands on a rectangular
platform, of the size 44.64mX36.81m and 0.91m high, having a free space all around
for circumambulation. The plan is symmetrical about its central longitudinal axis. The
ground floor has six 1.5m wide entrances three on north and one each on the remaining
three sides. It is a three bay structure with a circumambulatory passage, 3.66m wide on
east and west side and 3.51m on south side. The central rectangular hall, of the size
18.12mX12.04m, is a double height area having height of 11.56m, 2.15m higher than
the first floor. The arcade separates the main double height hall from the side passage.
The *sukhashan* room is provided towards the east side of the *parkash asthan*. Two spiral staircases 1.5m wide are provided, one in the northwest corner near the entrance and other diagonally opposite in the southeast corner leading to the upper floors. The front part of the structure projects out like bay window. It is richly carved around the main entrance to the shrine. The other two faces contain balconied windows with elliptical tapering mass at top and supported by decorative brackets.

The whole façade is decorated with the repetitive use of projecting octagonal piers with carving near the base and brackets at the top. The elevation is treated by the repetitive use of cusped arches and octagonal corner piers. Vertical and horizontal lines carved out in plaster add to the beauty of the shrine. The vertical division of the façade is done by the use of projected eaves surmounted by parapet. There is a small terrace in the front having a *chhatra* with arched openings crowned by a domical member. The two corners of this terrace are marked by richly carved octagonal kiosks having cusped arches with a dome at the top. At the top of the first floor, a parapet, of 0.75m height rises on all the sides, intercepted by octagonal kiosks over each octagonal column.

The four corners are crowned with square kiosks having three arched openings on each side. The central hall of the shrine rises above the second storey and clear storey windows are provided in this space for light and ventilation of the main hall. The remaining area on the second floor acts as a terrace. The parapet of this double-storey hall is intercepted by the square kiosks, one at each of its four corners. On the second floor, there is a room, of size 5.74mX4.4m, on the top of the *sukhashan* room. On third floor, over this room, there is an open pavilion. It has three arched openings on all the four sides and projected cusped eave with a cupola on each of the four corners. There are series of small cupolas on curved eave on each side. Finally springs the dome, 16 ribbed dome, having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.

**5.11 Gurudwara: Thara Sahib**

Location: Golden Temple Complex, Amritsar  
Date of Construction: Late 17th century  
Date of Re-Construction/Renovation: Early 20th century  
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru  
Plate Number: XI
Historical Background

The Gurudwara Thara Sahib is a small shrine dedicated to the Ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur. It commemorates his visit to the Golden Temple. It is situated in the Golden Temple complex adjacent to the Akal Takht Sahib on its northwest side. The word *Thara* means a raised platform. At this place, the Guru rested when he arrived from Baba Bakala to pay homage at the Harmandar Sahib. Sodhi Harji, the grandson of Prithi Chand was the incharge of the Gurudwara at that time. He directed the *pujaris* and *mahants*, on duty, not to allow the Guru to enter the shrine. It is said that the peace loving Guru did not dispute and returned. Before leaving, he rested for a while on a *thara*. Later, Sikhs built a shrine over the earthen platform and named it Gurudwara Thara Sahib.

Features of the Shrine

The Gurudwara Thara Sahib is a small single room single storeyed structure with a basement chamber. The basement chamber is known as *Bhora Sahib*. It is a polygon structure having twelve sides, 2.29m each with overall outer width 8.51m and inner width 6.73m. The main entrance is on its southwest trough a flight of 1.27m wide steps. *Parkash Asthan* is in the center of the room. Three 0.63m wide staircases are provided in between the walls of the structure. The staircase on the southwest side leads to the basement. On the northeast side, there are two staircases. The staircase, on the front, leads to the terrace and the staircase at back also lead to the basement. The original *Thara* is situated at the basement floor. At the centre of the room, Guru Granth Sahib is installed on a 0.9m raised platform in an enclosure formed by the four columns, one at each corner of the platform joined with arches. Adjacent to this on another raised platform, a trunk of the tree, under which Guru Tegh Bahadur meditated, is conserved. Two ventilators are provided for lighting and ventilation of the basement floor.

On all the sides of shrine, blind cusped arches with *jaali* on top have been provided. There are openings on seven sides, with two sides having a door each and five sides having a window each, and the remaining five sides have blind cusped arches without opening. A projected eave runs around the top on all sides of the ground floor. At the parapet level, there are cupolas 1.57m high at every corner of the polygon except the two corners, one where mumty is provided and the other at the front of the structure, where a chhatri is constructed of height 3.43m.
5.12 Gurudwara: Burj Sahib

Location: Dhariwal, District, Gurdaspur
Date of Construction: 1922
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XII

Historical Background

Gurudwara Burj Sahib is located at Dhariwal, district Gurdaspur. In 1655, the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, went from Amritsar to meet Baba Shri Chand at Dera Baba Nanak (District Gurdaspur). While coming back to Amritsar, he stayed in a small hut in a jungle. On his arrival, the villagers from surrounding areas came to pay homage to him and seek his blessings. A leprosy patient came to him to seek his blessings and cure his disease. Guru asked him to dig a burj in the ground and throughout the sand. He did as per Guru’s instructions and got relieved from his curse. Later a Gurudwara Burj sahib was constructed on this place (G.B. Singh, 1989).

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Burj Sahib is a three storeyed square, 14.52mX14.52m, structure and have a portico, of the size 3.50mX4.27m, on east side. The shrine stands on a rectangular platform measuring 20.65mX22.12m with space on all the sides of the shrine serving as the open circumambulatory. The shrine is located in the center of this platform. The ground floor has four 1.5m wide doors, one in the centre of each side. The interior of the shrine is divided into four corner chambers each 2.7m square and four rectangular compartments, each of the size 2.75mX5.23m. These square chambers enclose the parkash asthan, a 5.23m square of double height, in the center. Each corner chamber has two openings. Two chambers on east side houses 0.74m wide stairs. The first floor is almost same as that of the ground floor with the space around the double height parkash asthan acting as a 2.72m wide gallery. The second floor has a terrace, chhatris, kiosks and an open pavilion above the central double height area. Externally, the room is square in shape with side 6.58m and internally it is square in shape with side 5.46m. Each side of the room has 3 openings formed by tapering pilasters and cusped arches and projected cusped eave with a cupola on each of the four corners. Finally springs the dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.
A fluted pilaster decorates the corner of the ground and the first floor. The front elevation has been divided into three parts. The central rectangular part is further divided into three rectangular parts each having blind cusped arch with fluted tapering pilasters. On both sides of each corner, there is a balconyied window with elliptical tapering mass at top and supported by decorative brackets. The facades of the other sides have almost similar architectural schemes. The facade is treated by dividing the surface with pilaster which follows the structural lines of columns, piers and openings creating well modelled surfaces. On top of the first floor, a 0.75m high parapet is provided on all the sides which are intercepted by four square pillared kiosks one at each corner. The parapet has been decorated with small repetitive foils on all the sides. At the centre of each side of the parapet is a rectangular chhatri with arched openings.

5.13 Gurudwara: Shaheedan Sahib

Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1803, 1823
Date of Re-Construction: 1924
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Martyr
Plate Number: XII

Historical Background

The Gurudwara Shaheedan was constructed to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Deep Singh, a Sikh general. He came from Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo) in Bathinda district to liberate Harmandar Sahib, which had been attacked and desecrated by the Afghan invaders. He came with his Sikh soldiers fighting his way through enemy lines. On 11th November, 1757, his head was almost cut off about four miles away from Amritsar. He expired, while moving towards the Harmandar Sahib, and his body was cremated at this place. Jassa Singh of Ramgarhia misl raised a memorial platform in 1803 on this site and later, in 1823, a Gurudwara was constructed here by Akali Phula Singh (G. Singh, 1995). The old building was demolished and a new building was constructed in 1924.

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Shaheedan, is a three storeyed rectangular structure of the size 13.87mX37.82m. It has chamfered corners on eastern side and arcaded verandah on all sides of the shrine. There is an octagonal parkash asthan of 1.8m side in the center of the hall constructed over the site of the original shrine constructed by Akali Phula
Singh. This structure has opening on each side of the octagon. There are three doors one each on north, south and east side and a window each in the center of remaining sides. Fluted pilasters on tapered columns decorate the corners of the octagon. The shrine is approached from eastern side through arched portico having three cusped arches in front and two on each side. On remaining three sides of the hall, there is one door in the center of each side which opens into an arcaded 3.0m wide verandah. Front part on eastern side is without parapet but back side is surmounted by cornice and parapets at the top. Blind arched gates with cusped formation decorate the external walls of the shrine.

There is an octagonal chamber built over central parkash asthan, on first and second floor. Access to the first floor is through a staircase in a verandah on north side which is connected to the shrine at roof level. On each side of these octagonal chambers there is one arched opening. These openings have cusped arches supported on tapered pilasters. There is a cusped arched projected eave on second floor over which stood the dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. Total six square kiosks are constructed on the first floor, two each over central part of verandah on north and south side. Similar two kiosks are also provided over the entrance portico. These kiosks have curved projected eave over which stand the graceful dome holding the inverted lotus and the Kalasa at the centre with one cupola on all the four corners.

5.14 Gurudwara: Pipli Sahib

Location: Putligarh, Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1930
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XIV

**Historical Background**

Gurudwara Pipli Sahib is situated in the Putlighar area of Amritsar. It was constructed in remembrance of three Gurus, Guru Ramdas, Guru Arjan Dev and Guru Hargobind (G. Singh, 1995, pp. 105). There was a big Peepal (Banyan) tree on this site. This site was on the route to Lahore. Due to this shady tree, travellers used to stop here to take rest. So the fourth Guru, Guru Ram Das, got a well dug here.

When Guru Arjan Dev took over as the Sikh Guru, this news spread around and the devotees, eager to meet him, set out for Amritsar from distant places. Once, a sangat,
from Kabul, was on its way to Amritsar. The sangat camped here. Guru Arjan asked Mata Ganga, his wife, to prepare food. They went barefoot carrying the food and water on their heads to the camp site. They served the food and water to the tired and hungry sangat.

Sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind, also visited this place. He fought and won his first battle near this site and killed enemy commander Mukhlis khan. Thereafter he took rest here.

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara Pipli Sahib is a three storeyed square structure, 12.07m square from outside and 11.56m square from inside. Basic design of the shrine is similar to the Harmandar Sahib. Four doors are provided, one in the centre of each side. Main entrance to the shrine is on the southeast side. Interior of the shrine is divided into four 2.09m square chambers one at each corner. There are four rectangular compartments, of size 2.09mX5.75m, in between these corner chambers enclosing the double height parkash asthan, of size 5.75m square, in center. Each corner chamber has two arched openings towards interior of shrine and on the exterior only blind arches are provided without any window. The square chamber on northern edge houses a 0.7m wide stair approachable from outside. The rectangular compartments have segmental arches. The first floor almost repeats the same design of the ground floor. There is a 1.84m wide gallery around double height parkash asthan. There are five windows on each side on the first floor, three windows in the central part above the door on ground floor opening towards outside and three arched openings overlooking the double height area. There is one window, on corner, above the square chambers. All the openings are provided in recessed blind cusped arches divided by square tapering pillars. A projected eave runs around the top on all sides of the first floor. The second floor has a terrace, a mumty and an open pavilion above the central double height area. Externally the pavilion is 6.04m square and internally it is 4.44m square. Each side of the pavilion has three openings formed by tapering pilasters and cusped arches and projected cusped eave on top with a cupola on each of the four corners. Finally springs the dome covered with white glazed tiles having double row of lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the tall gilded kalasa.

A fluted pilaster decorates the corners of the ground and the first floor. The ground floor facade is divided into a number of smaller panels with the help of pilaster details and
blind cusped arches are provided in two tiers above terrazzo panels on ground level on all the four sides.

**5.15 Gurudwara: Hatt Sahib**

Location: Sultanpur Lodhi  
Date of Construction: 1938  
Shrine Type: Related to Guru  
Plate Number: XV

**Historical Background**

Guru Nanak Dev spent 14 years in Sultanpur Lodhi. Jai Ram, his brother-in-law, got him employed in the service of Nawab Daulat Khan Lodhi. The Nawab was impressed by Nanak and offered him the job of administrator of the Provision Supplies Department, the *Modikhana*. As a custodian of the store, Nanak Dev worked with complete honesty. He gave everybody his due. Everybody was satisfied and spoke highly to the Nawab about the good work of Nanak Dev. This Gurudwara has been built, with a *sarовар* adjoining it, at the site of the store where the great Guru distributed provisions. Here eleven stone weights, said to have been used by the Guru, are also preserved (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara Hatt Sahib is a three storeyed rectangular structure. Shrine enclosure at the ground floor level is of the size 18.45mX12.27m with octagonal chambers of 1.33m side at all four corners. These octagonal chambers are provided with openings in alternative walls having one door and three windows. One of these chambers encloses the staircase. One is used as *sukhashan* room and remaining two are used for holding *akand paths*. Arcaded verandah is provided around the hall which is 3.85m wide on sides and in front and back with this verandah projects out from central part having width of 5.6m in center and 1.75m near corners. Main entrance is through three doors on northwest side and one door is provided in the center of each of remaining three walls. *Parkash asthan*, of the size 3.95mX3.95m, is enclosed by four arcaded piers towards the back of the main hall, of the size 11.47mX12.27m. There is an inner circumambulatory 1.82m wide at back and 3.5m wide on sides of the *parkash asthan*. There is variation in height. Ceiling of the main hall is at 6.25m and that of the verandah is at 3.68m. At first floor level, there is a square room constructed over *parkash asthan* and octagonal chambers have projected eave painted in blue colour over which the
graceful ribbed dome holding the inverted lotus and the *kalasa* at the top is provided. On the terrace of verandah, octagonal kiosks are provided at each corner with two additional such kiosks on longer walls. In the center of each side, one *chhatri* is provided. At the second floor level, pavilion with three cusped arches on each side is provided over room on the first floor. On top of this is a cusped arched eave and dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the gilded *kalasa*.

5.16 Gurudwara: Ber Sahib

Location: Sultanpur Lodhi
Date of Construction: 1937-41
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XVI

**Historical Background**

Gurudwara Ber Sahib, the main shrine at Sultanpur Lodhi, is situated on the bank of the rivulet Kali Bein. It is half a kilometre to the west of the old town. During his stay at Sultanpur Lodhi, Guru Nanak used to go to the rivulet every morning for bath and meditation. One morning, as per the *Janamsakhis*, Guru Nanak disappeared into the stream and was not seen for two days. He reappeared at a spot 2 km upstream now known as Sant Ghat. The first words that he uttered, after his reappearance, were, “No one is Hindu, no one is *Musalman* (Muslim)”. Gurudwara Ber Sahib is built by the side of an old ber (Jujuba) tree which is believed to be planted by him and the one under which he used to sit for meditation. A shrine was built there by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, the founder of the Kapurthala State. Later on, the present building of Gurudwara Ber Sahib was built by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala. The foundation stone was laid by Bhai Arjan Singh of Bagarian on 25th February 1937, and the Gurudwara was completed on 26th January 1941 (G. Singh, 1995)

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara Ber Sahib is a four storeyed structure with cruciform shape and has a small basement, of the size 6.32mX6.40m, below the *parkash asthan*. It is constructed on a high plinth having ground coverage 40.68mX20.99m. Main approach is on the south side through three bay portico, of the size 9.74mX8.23m, supported by twenty four octagonal columns. This leads to the entrance foyer, of the size 4.73mX3.67mt. On east side, there is 1.08m wide doglegged staircase enclosed in a room, of the size 5.62mX3.67m, A similar size room is provided on the west side of the foyer. Main hall
of the shrine is of the size 19.36mX18.88m. It is divided into three bays. Central triple height (10.28m) bay is 11.68m wide and side bays are 3.0m wide. Side bays are separated from the central part with the help of an arcade of pseudo arches supported on octagonal columns. At the back of the hall in the central part, there is an area 6.98mX6.56m, having parkash asthan 3.91mX3.99m in the center, with white marble palki (canopied throne) leaving 1.88m on sides and 1.94mt at back for circumambulation. On both the corners at the back of the main hall, there are rectangular rooms, of the size 6.71mX4.46m, having openings towards central bay and parkash asthan. There are three doors in the central part and two windows on both the corners on the front side and two doors and seven windows on the back wall, one on each side at both the corners and three in the central part. Five doors and eight windows are provided on both the side walls, one door each on front and back room and three in the main hall. All these doors, except the central one, are provided with window at both of their sides. The central door is provided in double height blind cusped arch and has octagonal columns on corners.

First floor repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. The side bays acts as a gallery and 1.07mt cantilever projects towards central triple height area. There is same layout on front and back part also. On second floor, there are rooms on front corners. In between these two rooms, there is a terrace on the central part. On the back side, there is a room above the parkash asthan. The central triple height area has clerestorey windows on both the sides along the central bay. There are three stairs leading to third floor one on each side and one in the front central part. On the third floor, there is an open pavilion 6.15mX 5.74m with three cusped arches on each side constructed over the room on the second floor. On top of this is a cusped arched eave and dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the gilded kalasa.

On the front part above the entrance portico, there are square kiosks on both the corners and a chhatari in the central part. There are octagonal columns on each corner of the shrine which projects at the terrace level and are topped with octagonal kiosks. At the first floor level, there are balconied windows above the doors on sides and back of the shrine. Central balconied window on the sides is a bay window with domical top and other balconied windows are rectangular with tapering top. There is a wide balconied window in the central part of the back side provided in the triple height recessed bind arch. There are intricate details at the exterior corners and the interior of the shrine.
5.17 Gurudwara: Takht Keshgarh Sahib
Location: Anandpur Sahib
Date of Construction: 1689-1699
Date of Re-Construction: 1936-1944
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XVII-A and XVII-A

Historical Background
Gurudwara Keshgarh Sahib, also known as Takht Shri Keshgarh Sahib, is located in the heart of the city of Anandpur Sahib. This is the birthplace of the Khalsa. The city was founded by Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1665 and was known as Chakk Nanaki at that time. Guru Gobind Singh spent 25 years of his life in this city and added greatly to the city’s size and gave it a new name Anandpur (city of Bliss). The foundation of Keshgarh fort was laid on 30th March, 1689 and was completed in 1699. Baba Baghel Singh of the Karora Singhia Misl, who had taken charge of Delhi and constructed many Sikh shrines there, visited Anandpur Sahib in the 1780s and decided to construct, repair and renovate the shrines of the city. The present complex was constructed during 1936-44 under the supervision of Sant Hari Singh Kaharpuri. The shrine is constructed on sloping site and is built in levels. The complex has two levels protected by retaining walls on the sides (Dilgeer, 2003).

Features of the Shrine
Gurudwara Keshgarh Sahib is a four storeyed structure constructed in levels on a hillock. There is an entry gateway on the northeast side. It has a flight of steps leading to the ground floor level at high plinth having vast open space in front. Ground floor is covered from three sides with earth filling and only chamfered front facade on northeast is visible. There is a flight of steps, 8.84m wide on northwest and southeast side, leading to wide open terrace at first floor level 1.94m above lower terrace. On the ground floor, there are three rectangular rooms in central part. Two octagonal rooms on sides are being used for holding *akhand path*. The first floor is approached through the door on southeast side. There is a 4.07m square room towards south west direction in the hall, of size 20.63mX11.32m, where the weapons of Guru Gobind Singh are displayed. The *parkash asthan*, of the size 3.54mX5.03m, is on a raised platform in front of room displaying weapons. This area is provided with brass railing and segmental arches on top. There is a 3.13m wide circumambulatory on sides and back and 4.42m wide passage on northeast side segregating 3.57m wide space with chamfered corners in
front. Initially, the shrine was a square structure but semi octagonal part and the octagonal towers were added later. The octagonal room with circular shape from inside near the entrance houses a 1.27m wide spiral staircase leading to the second floor, while the other similar room near exit is used as *sukhashan* room. The second floor is a rectangular hall, of size 16.17mX11.35m, having a raised platform above the room on the first floor. There is a straight flight 0.78m wide stair on the south western side leading to the third floor. There is a small terrace in front of the hall, above chamfered part of first floor, having a *chhatri* in middle of front façade. There are octagonal kiosks on its sides with cusped arches and dome on the top. On the third floor, there is an open pavilion constructed over a room on the second floor. It is surmounted by a gilded dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. The inner sides of arches and dome are painted with floral patterns. The rear and side façade have two balconied windows each and in addition to this there are two balconied bay windows one each above entry and exit.

The front façade has three openings in the central part and circular and rectangular *jaalis* on the sides. On top, there is a projected eave supported by decorative brackets and is surmounted by parapet which is crowned by square pillared kiosks and a row of small cupolas with gold plated upper part. Front façade has an attached pillared marble portico, on a raise plinth in its central part. The front portico is built completely in marble and is decorated with floral patterns.

### 5.18 Gurudwara: Rakabsar Sahib

#### Location: Muktsar Sahib

#### Date of Construction: 1945

#### Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru

#### Plate Number: XVIII

#### Historical Background

It is located on the outskirts of the city of Muktsar on the Guru Har Sahai-Muktsar bye pass road opposite Gurudwara Tibbi Sahib. According to a common belief, as Guru Gobind Singh came down from *Tibbi* and was going to mount his horse, the stirrup (*rakab*) snapped. That *Rakab* is still kept in the Gurudwara. Hence the name of the shrine was called Gurudwara Rakabsar Sahib (as inscribed on the shrine).

#### Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Rakabsar Sahib is a single storeyed nearly a square structure 12.78mX12.70m wide externally. There is a double height (7.82m) approximately square,
of the size 4.55mX4.39m, *parkash asthan*. There are four rooms, one at each corner of the *parkash asthan*. The shrine is provided with one door in the centre of wall on each side. Four rooms, of the size 2.79mX2.83m and 4.70m high, at the corners are provided with a window each on both the external walls. In between these square rooms, rectangular areas of 2.27mX2.93m on sides and 4.09mX2.31m on front and back are provided. Thick masonry piers are provided to transfer the load of the superstructure. External façade is plain without any decorative elements and top of the facade have projected eaves. There is a square chamber on terrace level enclosing the double height central area. It has niche in the center of wall and projected flat eave at ceiling level. There is a pillared square kiosk one at each corner. On top of this is a 24 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*.

**5.19 Gurudwara: Achal Sahib**

Location: Batala, Dist. Gurdaspur  
Date of Construction: Late 19th Century  
Date of Re-Construction: 17 October 1935  
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru  
Plate Number: XIX  

**Historical Background:**

Achal Sahib is located on the Jalandhar - Batala road, 6 km south of Batala. Achal Batala was the most important centre of *Nathpanthi yogis* during the Mughal rule. Guru Nanak came to this place on the *Shivratri* festival along with his disciples. As soon as Guru Nanak reached the place, people gathered around him. This created jealousy and bitterness in the hearts of yogis. Assuming that Guru Nanak was an intruder into their sacred place to win over their disciples, their leader Bhangar Nath had a bitter debate with the great Guru. Gurudwara Achal Sahib stands on the spot where Guru Nanak had discussion with Yogi Bhangar Nath. The foundation of the present building was laid on 17th October, 1935 and was completed in 1946 (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**

Achal Sahib is a three storeyed square structure. It is of the size 12.0mX12.0m at ground floor level and has central double height area measuring 5.73mX5.73m where Guru Granth Sahib has been installed. There is a 2.09m wide arcaded circumambulatory at ground floor level around the central *Prakash Asthan*. At first floor level, there is a 1.83m wide gallery around double height area at the first floor level. Central piers are
interconnected with the help of arches. At second floor level, open pavilion, above the double height area, has been provided. There are three cusped arched openings on each side of the pavilion. It has cusped curved eave at springing point of dome and has a cupola one at each corner. On top of this is a 12 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.

There is a square domed kiosk, one at each of the four corners and chhatri in the center of south east facade at first floor terrace level. There are four doors on the ground floor, one in the center of each side. There is no window on the ground floor. At first floor level, five rectangular windows are provided, three in the central part and one on each side of it in blind recessed arches. Facade on all the sides up to first floor level has been cladded with marble. Facade is divided into a number of small panels with the help of marble cladding and play of levels. 0.85m wide Eave projects out at first floor ceiling level.

5.20 Gurudwara: Tibbi Sahib

Location: Muktsar
Date of Construction: 1950
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XX

Historical Background

Gurudwara Tibbi Sahib is associated with Guru Gobind Singh. This place is situated in sandy terrain at a raised ground (tibbi means a small hillock). Here Guru Gobind Singh fought his last battle known as the battle of Khidrana. This battle was fought, on 29th December, 1705, with Mughal troops of Wazir Khan. A village women, Mai Bhago, gathered together forty Sikhs who had earlier deserted Guru Gobind Singh at Anandpur Sahib. They were camped between the Guru and his men in the forest and the approaching enemy in the dry plains. Guru Gobind Singh and his accompanying Sikhs took up a position on top of a sand dune at this spot and showered arrows on the approaching enemy (G. Singh, 1995).

Features of the Shrine:

Gurudwara Tibbi Sahib is a small three storeyed square structure of the size 12.5mX12.3m. It has a 2.4m wide inner arcaded circumambulatory with 4.2m high ceiling around double height central parkash asthan, of the size 4.5mX4.3m. On the ground floor, there are three doors on each side with ventilator at the top. The first floor almost repeats the same scheme. There is a gallery around double height area and three
windows are provided on each side instead of doors. Fluted pilasters decorate the corners up to the first floor ceiling level. The top of the facade have projected eave on all the four sides. At second floor level, there is a square chamber constructed over the double height area of the ground floor. There is no opening in this chamber. On top of this chamber, is a cusped projected eave and at each corner is a square cupola. This supports 16 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. External facade is completely cladded with marble from ground to top level.

5.21 Gurudwara: San Sahib

Location: Village Basarke near Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1854
Date of Re-Construction: 1950
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXI

**Historical Background**

Guru Amar Das was forced to leave his headquarters at Goindwal by Datu, a son of Guru Angad, who was jealous of not being named as successor by his father. In order to avoid any conflict, he returned to his ancestral village in Basarke. Here the Guru shut himself up in a small hut with a note on the door, ‘He who opens this door is no Sikh of mine, nor am I his Guru’. When a delegation of Sikhs, led by Baba Bhuddha, found the hut they were confused as what to do. Finally, they decided to make a hole in the wall so as not to go against the Gurus order. Once inside, they pleaded with the Guru to return to Goindwal as only he was their true beloved Guru and the Sikhs could not live without him. Guru Amar Das finally relented and returned with the Sikhs. Later, a Gurudwara was constructed on the site of that hut and the hole in the wall is still preserved inside the Gurudwara San Sahib (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara San Sahib is a three storeyed rectangular structure constructed on a raised platform 2.2m high from the ground level having main entrance on the southwest side. Approximately 100.0m long and 10.0m wide causeway with two flights of steps near the shrine leads to the main building. Around the main shrine, there is an open space on three sides and a *sarovar* on the back side. The *sarovar* is at a lower level than the front and the sides. There are three entrance porticos one on the front and one each on sides
of the shrine. At ground floor level, there is a hall measuring 10.76mX15.15m with approximately a square room 3.62mX3.58m in the center with circular opening on the back wall. On three sides of the central room, two arches are provided on each side connecting room with side and back walls. In the front part beams have been provided. The front and the back sides have one door each, but the other two sides have two doors each. At the back, two 1.0m wide staircases are provided which lead to the first floor and the lower ground floor.

At first floor, there is a sukhsham room, of the size 3.6mX3.6m, constructed over the central room on the ground floor. On the top of it is the square pavilion supporting the 16 ribbed dome on top. At first floor terrace level, there are four square kiosks, two kiosks at the corners of front facade are smaller than the two provided towards backside.

On the back, there are two chhatri, one at each corner. An 0.6m eave is projected at ceiling level of the first floor. Front facade is divided into three parts by three cusped blind arches with door in the central arch and windows on side arches. Similar treatment is provided on side facades with addition of blind arches on stair case block.

5.22 Gurudwara: Bir Baba Bhuddha Sahib
Location: Village Basarke, Dist. Tarn Taran
Date of Construction: early 17th century
Date of Re- Construction: 1951
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Saint
Plate Number: XXII

Historical Background
Baba Bhuddha stayed here for a long period of time. He used to live here in a forest outside Amritsar. Guru Arjan Dev’s wife Mata Ganga was, after marriage, childless for many years. Guru told her “If you wish a child, ask a pious Sikh like Baba Bhuddha, the aged seer and devout disciple of Guru Nanak for a blessing”. Mata Ganga went to seek the blessings of Baba Bhuddha with a large entourage and presented Baba Bhuddha with many delicacies to eat but Baba Bhuddha refused to give any blessings. After hearing this, Guru Arjan Dev told his wife to return this time on foot, with a simple meal prepared by her. This time Baba Bhuddha was delighted and partook the simple food. He prophesied; “A son will be born to you who will crush the enemies of Nanak's house, just as I have crushed this onion with my hand”. That prophecy soon came true with the birth of Guru Hargobind in 1595. Gurudwara on this site was constructed later (G. Singh, 1995).
Features of the Shrine
Gurudwara Bir Baba Bhuddha sahib is a three storeyed structure. The Shrine is approached through a covered three bayed pillared portico 9.5mX8.2m on southeast side. The central bay is wider which leads to main entrance. Portico is supported on beams with brackets and looks like a pseudo arch. Near the main entrance, there are two rooms enclosing doglegged staircases one on its each side. Three bay central hall is of the size 13.34mX14.34m. The central nave, 6.7m wide, is double height with clearstory lighting arrangement on top. There is a 3.18m wide bay on both the sides of the central bay separated from it with arches. Double height, parkash asthan, on northwest side has double height arch in front. There is a verandah, of the size 6.11mX6.06m, on back side of the shrine with chamfered corners. In the central part of the side walls are the doors which are approached through small portico of size 3.55mX3.02m on each side. Elevation details of side porticos and rear verandah are similar to the portico in the front.

At first floor, on the terrace of front portico, the facade have projected eave and is crowned by two square pillared kiosks with chhatri in the middle and a row of cupolas on sides. Three rooms are provided, one on top of the both the side porticos and one on the verandah at back. These rooms are used for holding akand paths. There is a 4.6m wide arcaded gallery on both sides of the central double height area. Both the staircase enclosures are provided with ribbed circular column on exterior edges. These columns go upto the second floor level and on top of them, there are raised square kiosks with small dome on top. Both the mumties are joined with cusped semicircular arch at second floor level. There is a pavilion, over the parkash asthan, with three cusped arches on each side with a cupola on each of the four corners. On top of this, there is a cusped arched eave and dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. The shrine has intricate details with chhatri in front and four square pillared kiosks with dome on top, two on the front portico and one each on the side porticos. On sides, four raised kiosks on circular ribbed column are provided on each side, two on top of staircase outer edge and two at the back side.

5.23 Gurudwara: Fategharh Sahib
Location: Fategharh Sahib
Date of Construction: 1711, 1763, 1813
Date of Re-Construction: 1952
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Martyr’s
Plate Number: XXIII

**Historical Background**

After victory of Sirhind by Sikh forces led by Banda Bahadur in 1710, a memorial was raised marking the spot where the *Sahibzadas* were martyred. It was named as Fatehgarh. Sirhind, however, soon fell back into the hands of the Mughals and finally in January, 1764 the *Dal Khalsa* and Sikhs occupied the area around Sirhind. To honour the memory of the young martyrs, a Gurudwara was constructed on the site of the old memorial and named Fatehgarh Sahib. Maharaja Karam Singh of Patiala got the Gurudwara rebuilt in 1952 (Johar, 1978).

**Features of the Shrine:**

Gurudwara Fatehgarh sahib is a four storeyed square structure with a basement. Entrance to the shrine is from west side, two stairs one each on north and south side towards front leads to the basement. Basement is a 20.3m square hall with double arcaded 2.58m wide circumambulatary around the central square room and 2.36m on outer side. In the central part, a memorial on the spot, where the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh were bricked alive, is conserved. Basement walls and arches are cladded with marble. On the ground floor, the shrine is a 12.6m square structure with an open arcaded 2.4m wide verandah around it and four rooms, of the size 2.7mX2.3m, one at each corner. A room on northeast and southeast corner encloses the staircase leading to upper floors and the rooms on northwest and southwest act as foyer to basement entry. There is a 2.98m wide circumambulatory around central double height *parkash asthan* enclosed by four piers having a wide arch on each side.

The First floor almost repeats the same spatial layout of the ground floor. There is a 2.9m wide gallery around double height area and arcaded verandah on all the sides with total seven open arches on all the four external walls. A projected eave is provided on all the sides at the ceiling level of the first floor. Two projected balconied windows with domical top are provided in blind recessed arch on two external sides of each of the four rooms provided at corners. The second floor almost repeats the same layout of the first floor, but there is an open terrace above the covered verandah of the first floor. There are four free standing rooms topped with ribbed dome at the corners. On the third floor, there is a room constructed over the *parkash asthan* with three cusped arches on each side. On top of this, there is a cusped arched eave with four cupolas one on each corner. Above this, there is a gilded dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus
at the top which supports the *kalasa*. At ground floor level, the exterior facade is divided into three parts, each having an arch. The arch in center is wider than the surrounding arches and an entrance is provided through it. On the first floor, central part is further divided into three parts by three arches. On its sides, there are two arches each. Fluted pilasters decorate the corners of the rooms on external edges.

5.24 Gurudwara: Datansar Sahib
Location: On the outskirts of Muktsar city
Date of Construction: 1955
Shrine Type: Related to Guru
Plate Number: XXIV

**Historical Background**
This Gurudwara is associated with Guru Gobind Singh. During his stay at Muktsar, he was brushing his teeth one morning and a Mughal soldier attacked him from behind. He reacted swiftly and hit the soldier on the head with the utensil that he had with him. The Mughal soldier was killed on the spot. Later on, a small Gurudwara was constructed at this place and named Datansar. The grave of the Mughal soldier is also present near the Gurudwara (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**
Gurudwara Datansar Sahib is a small single storeyed two room structure. Both the rooms are of the same size 3.54mX4.32m. These are connected through 3.4m wide opening in the central part. Main entrance to the shrine is from north side. There are total five doors with ventilator on top. There is no provision of windows in any of these rooms. Three doors are provided in the room towards north and two on the sides of the room on south. Room in front has flat roof with ceiling of height 3.45m which is 1.0m lower than the ceiling height of the room at back. Simple facade without any detail with thick masonry is used to transfer the load of the structure. A projected eave runs at top on all sides of the room towards south. On the top of this is a dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*.

5.25 Gurudwara: Kandh Sahib
Location: Batala, District. Gurdaspur
Date of Construction: 1956
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Saint
Plate Number: XXV
Historical Background
Gurudwara Kandh Sahib derives its name from *kachchi kandh* (mud wall). When Guru Nanak's wedding party arrived at Batala and rested for some time. Guru Nanak sat down close to this wall. An old lady, living nearby, told him to move away from the spot because of the dilapidated condition of the wall. Guru Nanak smiled and said “This wall will not fall for centuries; the will of God shall prevail”. This wall blessed by the Guru became an object of worship for the devotees. They constructed a memorial platform near it. A symbolic mud wall, neatly plastered, 1.5m wide, 0.45m thick and 0.9m high encased in glass, stands next to the Guru Granth Sahib on the ground floor of the shrine. The shrine was maintained in a private house by a hereditary priest until it was acquired during the 1950s by the *sewa* committee of the Gurudwara Kandh Sahib. The foundation of the present building was laid on 17 December 1956 (G. Singh, 1995).

Features of the Shrine
Gurudwara Kandh Sahib is approximately square, of the size 10.50mX10.62m, in shape. The four storeyed structure is constructed in the middle of a marble paved compound about 2.0m above the street level. Four doors are provided one in the centre of each side. Main entrance to the shrine is on south side. Interior of the shrine is divided into four square, with side 2.16m, chambers one at each corner. There are four rectangular compartments, of the size 2.15mX4.15m, in between these corner chambers enclosing the double height *parkash asthan*, *square in shape with side* 4.15m, in the center. First floor is approached through a staircase provided in the side verandah. The first floor is almost same as that of the ground floor. It has entry on east side with a 2.25m wide gallery around double height *parkash asthan*. At the second floor level, there is a room, of the size 4.53mX4.62m, constructed over central columns around the *parkash asthan*. There are three doors on each side of this room. This room is used for holding *akand paths*. There is a 2.3m wide circumambulatory around this room. On the third floor, there is a room, of the size 5.13mX5.29m externally. Each side of the room has 3 doors provided in blind cusped arches. This room has a projected cusped eave on top with a cupola on each of the four corners. Finally springs the dome covered with white glazed tiles having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the tall gilded *kalasa*. A projected eave runs around the top of the first floor on all sides. The second floor has projected eaves crowned by square kiosks at each of the four corners. Two balconied windows project out at first floor on the north and the south side. The external corners are decorated with octagonal pilasters.
5.26 Gurudwara: Anandgarh Sahib

Location: Anandpur sahib
Date of Construction: 1689
Date of Re-Construction/ Renovation: 1960
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXVI

Historical Background

Anandgarh (fort of bliss) was one of the one five forts built by Guru Gobind Singh for the protection of Anandpur from surrounding hill rulers. This was the first fort to be built at Anandpur and the foundation stone of this fort was laid on 31st March, 1689. This fort was almost demolished by the army of Ajmer Chand in December, 1705. Later, the Sikhs built a Gurudwara at the site of Anandgarh fort. Guru Gobind Singh spent about sixteen years in this fort. Earlier, a few remains of the fort built by the Guru could be observed, but in 1985 a new building was constructed on the side of the fort that totally eliminated all the signs of the old structure (G. Singh, 1995)

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Anandgarh sahib is a double storeyed square structure constructed at a height on a hillock. It has main entrance on the northwest side through an arched foyer, of size 3.67mX5.21m, with 1.51m wide staircase on northeast side and a room, of the size 1.53mX5.21m, on southwest side. The Shrine at the back is a square, with side 13.35m. The double height area, 7.40m square, in the center is enclosed by four piers one at each corner with two columns in between these piers on all the four sides. Guru Granth sahib is installed on a platform, of the size 2.15mX1.83m and 0.61m high, covered with marble palki. There is one door in the center of each side. The first floor almost repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. On the northeast side, there is a staircase and a room on southwest side over the entrance foyer. There is a 2.36m wide gallery all around the central double height area. Three cusped arches are provided on each side of this gallery towards double height area. On top of this is a large 8.7m diameter 12 ribbed dome constructed over a raised circular drum. The underside of the dome is visible from the shrine. At terrace level, there are four square chambers one at each of the four corners with ribbed domical tops. Each of these chambers has two rectangular openings towards the terrace. There is a chhatra in the central part of the entrance.
A 0.88m wide eave is provided at ceiling level of the first floor and the front part has a 0.59m wide eave projecting out at ceiling level of the ground floor also. On northwest (front) side of the ground floor, there is a cusped segmental arch in the central part through which the entrance is provided and on its sides in a rectangular recessed area. There are blind cusped arches having pointed arched openings in them. On the floor, there are five windows one on each corner above windows of ground floor. In the central part, the area is divided into three rectangular parts by fluted tapering pilasters. Each of this part has blind cusped arch with rectangular openings. Side walls and back wall of the main hall are divided into three parts. The central part has double height rectangular recessed area with blind cusped arch in it. A door is provided in the center of this on the ground. On both sides of the central part, there is a double height blind cusped arch in rectangular recessed area with rectangular openings on ground floor and pointed arched opening on upper floor. Similar treatment is given to the facade on the sides of the foyer. Fluted pilasters decorate all the corners up to ceiling level of the first floor. Exterior facade on all the sides is cladded with marble slabs.

5.27 Gurudwara: Fatehgarh Sahib

Location: Anandpur sahib
Date of Construction: Early 18th century
Date of Re-Construction/ Renovation: 1960
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXVII

Historical Background

Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib is situated on the northern outskirts of the town of Anandpur. It was constructed on the site of the fortress bearing Qila Fatehgarh built by Guru Gobind Singh to defend the Anandpur Sahib. When fortress was under construction, Sahibzada Fateh Singh was born on 30th August, 1700. So it was named Qila Fatehgarh (Fort of Victory). The present building was constructed during the late 1980s under the supervision of the successors of Sant Sewa Singh of Qila Anandpur. In front of the Gurudwara, an old well is conserved which once served the needs of the Fatehgarh Fort (G. Singh, 1995)

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Qila Fatehgarh Sahib is a double storeyed rectangular structure with main entrance from northwest side. Main hall is of the size 13.32mX9.31m and has arcaded
3.25m wide verandah on all the sides serving as an outer circumambulatory. This verandah is surrounded by four octagonal chambers of 1.04m side on all the four corners. There is a square parkash asthan, with side 3.93m, towards back of the main hall. At southern corner of the main hall, there is a 0.88m wide stair leading to 2.18m wide mezzanine floor provided at the back of the parkash asthan. The Parkash asthan is enclosed by four piers one at each of its corners. These piers are joined with the help of cusped arches on all the four sides. There is one door on each of the four sides. On northwest (front) side, there are two rectangular window openings provided in blind cusped arch enclosed by recessed rectangular area one on each side of the door. On southwest and southeast side, four similar windows are provided, three towards the front and one below the mezzanine floor.

On the first floor there is terrace, mumties and a square room, with side 3.93m constructed over the parkash asthan. Each side of the room has a door in its center and one blind cusped arch on both of its sides and tapering pilasters. The room has arched cusped eave with one large cupola at each of the four corners and nine smaller cupolas on it on each side. Finally springs a 12 ribbed 4.35m diameter dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. Four open octagonal kiosks project out at vertices and open towards terrace of verandah which is at a height of 0.82m, lower than the roof of the main hall. These kiosks have cusped arched openings in a recessed rectangular part on all the eight sides and on top there is the ribbed dome. At the ceiling level of the ground floor, a projected eave runs round the building and this eave is surmounted by a parapet.

5.28: Gurudwara: Janam Asthan Patshahi Chhevin

Location: Village Vadali Guru, Near Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1718
Date of Re-Construction: 1960s
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXVIII

Historical Background:

Vadali Guru is a village 7 km west of Amritsar. Guru Arjan Dev resided here from 1594-1597. Guru Hargobind was born here on 19th June 1595. Gurudwara Janamasthan Patshahi Chhevin, also known as Atari Sahib, marks the house where Guru Arjan
lived and where Guru Hargobind was born. The present shrine was constructed by Baba Kharak Singh during the 1960s (G.S. Giani, n.d.).

**Features of the Shrine**

Janam asthan Patshahi Chhevin is a five storeyed structure, of the size 13.49mX18.29m, with a basement. The Shrine is approached through pillared portico 5.64mX5.82m on South side and there are also small porticos, of the size 2.49mX2.29m, on east and west sides of the shrine. It has double height hall, of size 12.27mX9.30m, with a parkash asthan, of size 4.19mX3.52m, on the back side of the main hall. There is a 3.43m wide circumambulatory on sides and 2.92m wide on back of the parkash asthan. On the northern end, there are two 1.07m wide stairs one leading to basement and another to the first floor. A room in the basement, of the size 3.85mX6.85m, called Bhora Sahib is believed to be the site where Guru Hargobind was born. The first floor plan almost repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. There is a sukhashan room above the parkash asthan and a 1.3m wide gallery on three sides of the double height rectangular hall. On the second floor, there is an octagonal room, with 1.68m side, above the sukhashan room. It has door on the north and the south side and windows on the east and the side. This room is connected with stairs at back with a 1.98m wide and 3.66m long corridor. The third floor plan almost repeats the same scheme of the second floor with only difference that staircase block at back terminates at third floor and fourth floor is accessed through a 0.6m wide stair provided in a room on the third floor. There is a 0.6m wide gallery around the room.

A projected eave runs around the top on all the sides at the first floor level. Fluted pilasters decorate the corners and columns are also decorated with beautiful floral designs. On the front façade at the ground floor level, three openings are provided in blind cusped arches in the center. On each side of it, there is a recessed double height blind arch having balconied windows at first floor level decorated with elliptical tapering mass at top and supported by decorative brackets. Same treatment is given on all sides of the third floor. On top of the fourth floor, there is a cusped arched eave. Above that, there is a dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.
5.29 Gurudwara: Baba Gurditta

Location: Village Daroli Bhai, Near Moga
Date of Construction: Not Known
Date of Re-Construction/ Renovation: 1963
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Saint
Plate Number: XXIX

**Historical Background:**

Daroli Bhai village is located about 14 kilometres west of Moga in Moga district. Baba Gurditta (15th November, 1613-15th March, 1638), the eldest son of the sixth Sikh Guru Hargobind and Mata Damodari, was born here. He was also an elder brother of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru. A beautiful Gurudwara stands at this site, called Gurudwara Daroli Bhai that marks the birthplace of Baba Gurditta who was a great saint (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**

The shrine is a six storeyed rectangular structure with rounded corners, having radius of 5.94m. It has a double height hall, measuring 16.05mX18.06m and 6.70 m high, with central *parkash asthan* of the size 4.88mX4.95m. There are two doors to the main hall on east side and one door on each of the remaining three sides. On west side there is a door which opens into a rectangular room of size 6.25mX7.77m towards back of hall. On both the sides, of this door, are 0.69m wide stairs enclosed in small cabins. There are total twelve windows, three on each of the circular segment at corners. On the first floor, there is a room above the central *parkash asthan*, of the size 4.88mX4.95m. A 4.04m long and 1.6m wide bridge through double height leads to this room. On the second floor, above the central *parkash asthan*, there is a square room with 4.73m side with door on all the four sides. There is a 0.6m wide balcony around the room. A 0.6m wide staircase is provided in this balcony which leads to the upper floor and there is an open terrace all around the room. The third, fourth and fifth floors repeat the same scheme of the first floor. On top of the fifth floor, there is a projected eave with cupola at each of the four corners and finally a 12 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. At first floor level there is a *chhatri* on top of main entrance. A parapet in the shape of semicircular arches is intercepted by square kiosks with cupolas on ends of each straight facade. Continuous vertical strip of concrete *jaali* is provided at the corners of the balconies on the upper floors.
5.30 Gurudwara: Garhi Sahib
Location: Chamkaur Sahib, Dist: Ropar
Date of Construction: Early 19th century
Date of Re-Construction: 1963
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXX

**Historical Background**

Gurudwara Garhi Sahib is situated at Chamkaur Sahib in Ropar district. Guru Gobind Singh, along with his two eldest sons and 40 Sikhs, made it to the town of Chamkaur while being pursued by Mughal contingent of approx 1,000 after the attack at the river Sarsa. This Gurudwara is constructed on the site where Guru Gobind Singh and the forty Sikhs sought shelter in a fortress like double storeyed mud house, with a high compound wall around it and only one entrance from the north. It was used by Guru Gobind Singh as a temporary citadel in the battle of Chamkaur on 7th December, 1705. Against these overwhelming odds, the Sikhs ventured out in small groups to fight the enemy and bravely laid down their lives. Thirty Seven Sikhs were martyred that day including Guru Gobind Singh’s two eldest sons as well as three of the five beloved ones. The old Gurudwara building constructed on the site has been demolished and replaced by a new structure (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**

This is a four storeyed structure constructed on site, measuring 47.9mX51.6m, having four octagonal chambers one at each corner. Main shrine is a square in plan with 20.8m internal side and having octagonal towers, of side 1.43m, on all the four corners. Front two towers enclose a stair case and the other two are used for holding *akhand path*. At first floor level, there are octagonal kiosks on top of these covered with dome on top. A double height *prakash asthan*, of the size 7.75mX7.75m, is in the central part of the ground floor. It is enclosed by four columns with 6.52m wide arcaded circumambulatory around it. The shrine is accessed through three doors, in center of all the four sides, and windows in blind recessed arch are provided on both sides of these doors on ground floor. On the first floor, there are similar five windows, three on top of the doors on the ground floor and one on each side of them. At the first floor, three arches are provided on each side of the central columns enclosing double height area and a 6.52m wide gallery is provided on all sides. On the second floor, there is a square room in center, measuring 8.66mX8.66m, which has 1.83m wide arcaded verandah.
around it. Four octagonal towers are topped by 16 ribbed domes and there are four chhatris, with base 2.75mX1.07m, at the center of each of the four sides and a 965 mm wide eave projects outwards at terrace level. At the third floor level, there is an open pavilion, of the size 7.75mX7.75m, having three cusped arches on each side and projected curved cusped eave with cupola at each corner. On top of it is a 24 ribbed 7.05m diameter dome with kalasa on top.

5.31 Gurudwara: Katalgarh Sahib
Location: Chamkaur Sahib, Dist: Ropar
Date of Construction: 1831
Date of Re-Construction/Renovation: 1963
Shrine Type: Related to historical event
Plate Number: XXXI

Historical Background
Katalgarh Sahib lies towards the west of Gurudwara Garhi Sahib and is the main shrine at Chamkaur Sahib. This Gurudwara is located on the site where the hand to hand fighting took place on 7th December, 1704 between the Mughal army and the Sikhs. During the battle of Chamkaur, Guru Gobind Singh and his forty Sikhs fought against overwhelming odds. Guru’s forty Sikhs along with his two sons, Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh, died in the battle at this spot. Originally a Gurudwara was constructed here, by Sardar Hardial Singh of Bela, in 1831, under the instructions of Raja Bhup Singh of Ropar. Old structure was replaced during the 1960s by a new complex raised under the supervision of Sant Piara Singh and later of Sant Bishan Singh (G. Singh, 1995).

Features of Shrine
The main shrine is an elegant four storeyed structure with square plan build on a raised platform measuring 38.07mX 44.33m. Main entrance to the shrine is through an arched portico on the west side. Internally, the shrine is a square, of side 21.7m, with a square parkash asthan, of side 4.5m, in the center with twin circumambulatory around it. The Central parkash asthan is enclosed by a square, of side 10.8m, having three arched openings on each side creating a covered circumambulatory path in between. It is further enclosed in a square, of side 21.7m, having a door in the center of the exterior wall on each side and arches towards the inner circumambulatory. The ground floor has four octagonal chambers, of 1.22m side, on all the four corners. Two of these octagonal chambers are used for holding akhand path (continues recitation of gurbani from Guru
Granth sahib). The other two enclose the staircases on the southern side leading to the first floor.

There are two open doglegged stairs on the south side leading to the first floor. The first floor is constructed over the central part and inner circumambulatory with terrace all around it. There is a square hall, of side 11.8m, with columns identical to the ground floor. Two internal staircases run from the first floor to the second floor. Four octagonal chambers project out at vertices having kiosks with domes atop. Second floor is similar to the first floor except that there are two balconyed windows on each side and has only one door in the eastern side. On the third floor, there is a square open pavilion with three arched opening on all sides constructed over central columns. It has a dome on the top.

There are room sized octagonal kiosks, with dome on top, at four corners on the first floor and a chhatri is provided on top of the entrance portico in the central part. Four square kiosks, one at each corner, and two balconyed windows on each facade are provided at the second floor level. At the ground floor, there is one gate in each side. On the first floor there are three rectangular windows, placed blind within foliated arches. There is a projected eave round the building on top of the ground and second floor. It is surmounted by a parapet with kiosks at the corners.

5.32 Gurudwara: Manji Sahib

Location: Village Alamgir, District Ludhiana
Date of Construction: Early 18th century
Date of Re-Construction/ Renovation: 1969
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXXII

Historical Background

Gurudwara Manji Sahib is situated in the village Alamgir, 11 km from Ludhiana, on Ludhiana-Malerkotla highway. Guru Gobind Singh reached here in 1705 from Machhiwara, after his four sons and mother were martyred by the Mughals. This Gurudwara stands at a place where Guru Gobind Singh stayed for a few days. After reaching here Guru did not find any drinking water, he then shot an arrow into the ground and a spring appeared here (G.G. Giani, n.d.). This spring has been converted into a sarovar known as tirsar (Arrow Like). The shrine is one of the most frequently visited Gurudwara by devotees in the Ludhiana district.
Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Manji Sahib is a five storeyed structure with a small basement. Main entrance to the shrine is on northeast side. It has doors on all the four sides and there is a low height, 3.05m wide arched verandah on northeast, northwest and southeast sides. Front verandah projects out in the central part and is 4.25m wide and has 2.06m wide arch which provides access to the main shrine. Towards northeast side, there is a 7.3m high rectangular hall, of size 10.03mX14.68m base. At the back of this hall, there is a square parkash asthan, of side 4.84m, with 2.36m wide arched verandah on sides and back forming circumambulatory. On the corners of this verandah, there are two octagonal chambers with 0.9m side. They go up to the second floor. There is a basement below parkash asthan where old weapons are kept. It is approached through two stairs at the back of the parkash asthan. First floor is approached through a staircase provided in verandah on northwest side. Second third and fourth floor are constructed over the parkash asthan. All these floors have similar plans with one door on each of the four sides. There is a cantilevered balcony all around the room with rounded corners. At the ceiling level of the second floor, the octagonal chambers have a projected eave over which stands the graceful dome holding the inverted lotus and the Kalasa. On top of the fourth floor, there is a 12 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. Lower part of the facade is finished with terrazzo.

5.33 Gurudwara: Sisganj Sahib

Location: Anandpur Sahib
Date of Construction: Late 17th century
Date of Re-Construction: 1970
Shrine Type: Memorial of Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXXIII

Historical Background

Guru Tegh Bahadur embraced martyrdom in Delhi on 11th November, 1675. His head was brought to Chakk Nanaki at Anandpur Sahib by Bhai Jaita and his associates. The cremation of the head was held here on 17th November, 1675. When Guru Gobind Singh Sahib left Anandpur Sahib, on the intervening night of 5th and 6th December, 1705, he visited this place and appointed Bhai Gurbakhsh Das Udasi as caretaker of this shrine. It is believed that the central pedestal of the shrine is the oldest structure of
Anandpur Sahib. A memorial shrine in the form of a platform within a small room was
got constructed by Guru Gobind Singh himself The renovation and extension of the
monument was carried out under the supervision of Baba Seva Singh of Anandgarh in

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Sisganj Sahib is a three storeyed structure with nearly a square shape, of
size 17.75m X19.1m, and a total height of 17.75m. On the ground floor, there is an
inner 3.9m wide circumambulatory on all sides of the central prakash asthan, of size
7.7mX9.1m, enclosed by acquisitively designed marble columns. A staircase is
provided at the northwest corner on the front side. On the ground floor, there are three
arches on the central part of each side. Entry to the shrine is through the central arch
while adjoining arches are provided with glazing on all the four sides. There is a blind
arch with flat window on each side of these arches on all the four sides. There is a
0.73m wide projected eave at ceiling level of the ground floor. On the first floor, there is
a covered area with overall size of 8.6mX8.6m, with 1.95m wide arcaded verandah
around a square room, of 3.8m side. There is a 0.58m wide projected eave at the ceiling
level of the first floor.

The top of the facade on all the sides has projected eaves and is crowned by pillared
square kiosks at each corner. At the second floor level, there is an open pavilion, of the
size 3.79mX3.79m, in the center with three cusped arches on each side and a projected
curved cusped eave over which stands the dome having lotus petal motif at the base and
inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. Parapet at the first floor level is
crowned with square kiosks at all the four corners and 15 small cupolas in between
these kiosks on all the sides. A fluted pilaster decorates the corner of the ground floor.
5.34 Gurudwara: Holgarh Sahib

Location: Anandpur Sahib
Date of Construction: Late 17th century
Date of Re-Construction: 1970
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXXIV

Historical Background

Agamgarh or Holgarh (a fort of colours) was a Qila (fort) where Guru Gobind Singh, in the spring of 1701, started the tradition of the celebration of hola on a day following the festival holi (a festival of colours). Unlike the sprinkling of colours, as is done during holi, the Guru made hola an occasion for the Sikhs to demonstrate martial skills. It is about one and a half km northwest of Anandpur, across the Charan Ganga rivulet, in the district of Ropar. It was the third fort built by Guru Gobind Singh at Anandpur (G. Singh, 1995).

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Holgarh sahib is a three storeyed octagonal structure with main entrance on southeast side. The layout and façade treatment is symmetrical about the central axis. The shrine is raised on an octagonal platform with free space all around for circumambulation. The shrine has a double octagonal structure enclosing a square parkash asthan in the center. The outer octagon, of 17.67m overall width, forms a verandah, 2.32m wide, on the exterior of the shrine. It has three cusped arched openings in a recessed rectangular surface on all the eight sides. The second octagon, of 12.07m overall width, is the main hall of the shrine. In the central part, there is a parkash asthan, square in shape with 4.0m side, enclosed by four piers with cusped arches. Two 0.68m wide staircases are provided in the thick walls on north and west. The staircase on north side terminates at the first floor and the one on west goes up to the second floor. There are four doors and four windows on the ground floor, one each on alternative side. The main entrance is on the southeast side. There is a 2.7m wide circumambulatory on south and east corner and 2.03m in front of stairs on north and west corner. The first floor almost repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. There is an open terrace above outer verandah and inner circumambulatory acts as verandah having three cusped arched opening in a recessed rectangular surface on all the eight sides. There is an octagonal room with overall size 4.0m and an internal side of 1.08m.
constructed above the central *parkash asthan*. This room is 0.45m higher than the surroundings. It has a door on the northeast side and a window each on the southeast and southwest side and on the remaining sides there are niches with cusped arches. On the second floor, there is an open octagonal pavilion constructed over room on the first floor. On top, there is a cusped arched eave with eight cupolas one at each corner. This pavilion is surmounted by a 12 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. The facade is treated with pilasters and a projected eave runs at the ceiling level of the ground floor and the first floor on all the sides. Door and window openings are provided within blind recessed cusped arches.

### 5.35 Gurudwara: Angitha Sahib

**Location:** Khadoor Sahib  
**Date of Construction:** Mid 16th century  
**Date of Re-Construction:** 1970s  
**Shrine Type:** Memorial of Sikh Guru  
**Plate Number:** XXXV

#### Historical Background

Khadoor Sahib (Distt. Tarntaran) is a sacred town where Guru Angad lived for 13 years. He introduced *Gurmukhi* script here and established the first Sikh school. He compiled the hymns of Guru Nanak in *Gurmukhi*, and prepared the first *Gutka* of Guru Nanak’s *Bani*. He left for heavenly abode at Khadoor Sahib after performing great religious and social service to the people. The place, where Guru’s last sacred rites were performed, is given the name of Angitha Sahib *Paatshahi Dooji*. Later, a shrine was constructed at the site. The eight Sikh Gurus have visited the Khadoor Sahib and made this town of great historical importance.

#### Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Angitha Sahib is a three storeyed rectangular structure, of size 20.56mX23.77m, with main entrance from east side. The front hall is, of the size 19.02mX11.89m, and has double height area, of the size 14.63mX9.98m, in front of 6.20m square *parkash asthan*. On north and south side of the *parkash asthan*, there is a 3.51m wide circumambulatory. The circumambulatory is 2.79m wide on the west side. On the northwest and southwest corner, there is a small room, measuring 1.95mX2.47m, enclosing 1.10m wide staircase. On north and south side, there is a 1.68m wide verandah between stair block and the front hall. Verandah, on both the
sides, has three cusped arches supported on ribbed tapering circular columns resting on a square pedestal. On the east side, there are three doors. Each door has a window on both of its sides. There is a door and two windows each on north and south side towards front after the verandah. One door and two windows on each side are provided on the side walls of the front hall. On west side, there are two doors and three windows. All the windows are provided in recessed rectangular surface with blind cusped arch. The first floor almost repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. There is a 2.44m gallery around the double height area. Verandah on the ground floor is covered and becomes part of gallery at the first floor. On the western side, there are two staircase enclosures and there is a room above the parkash asthan. Towards back of the main double height hall, there is an arch spanning the double height area starting from the railing level of the first floor. The second floor has a terrace, mumties and a room above the parkash asthan. Externally the room is a square of side 7.62m. Each side of the room has 3 openings formed by tapering pilaster and cusped arches. The room has a cusped arched eave topped with four cupolas one at each of its corners. Above that, there is a 16 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. At terrace level, there are four square kiosks one at each corner and on the central part of the west side is a chhatri and eave projected out at the ceiling level of the first floor.

5.36 Gurudwara: Thada Sahib
Location: Khadoor Sahib
Date of Construction: Mid 16th century
Date of Re-Construction: 1970’s
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXXVI

**Historical Background**
The Thara (platform) marks the spot where Guru Amar Das used to sit in meditation during his free time when he was not engaged in serving Guru Angad or his Sikhs. Later on a shrine was built over this spot. This Gurudwaras is managed by the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar.

**Features of the Shrine**
Gurudwara Thara Sahib is a single storeyed rectangular structure, of size 13.12mX21.18m externally. Main entrance is from the south side. There is a 1.91m
wide arcaded verandah with seven cusped arches on west side and four cusped arches on south side. These arches are supported on ribbed tapering circular columns resting on a square pedestal. There are two doors one each on west and south side opening into verandah. On southeast end, there is a 0.76m wide staircase leading to the terrace. There is an approximately square hall, of size 9.78mX10.26m, in front. On the north side of this hall is a 3.58m square parkash asthan enclosed by four thick piers having cusped arches. There is a 2.13m wide circumambulatory on east, west and north side of the parkash asthan. On the northwest corner, there is a small room of the size 1.91mX2.56m. There are three windows each on east and north side. On west side, there are four windows, two on either side of the door. There are two windows on south side, one on each side of the door. These windows are provided in a rectangular recessed surface enclosing a blind cusped arch. A projected eave runs at ceiling level of ground floor on all sides. This separates the ground floor from the parapet above. The parapet is crowned with small pillared square kiosks having fluted cupola with row of lotus petals rising on a circular drum and an inverted lotus kalasa at the top. At terrace level, there is a double layer 16 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.

**5.37 Gurudwara: Privar Vichhora Sahib**

Location: village Nangal Sirsa, near Ropar.

Date of Construction: Not Known

Date of Re-Construction: 1975

Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru

Plate Number: XXXVII-A and XXXVII-B

**Historical Background**

Guru Gobind Singh along with his family and followers came to this place after leaving the Anandpur Sahib on the morning of 6th December, 1705. They were moving towards the river Sirsa, 15 km to the east, when they were attacked by a strong contingent under the leadership of Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind. A fierce battle took place here in which many of Guru’s followers lost their lives. This is the place where Guru was separated from his mother, two younger sons and wives Mata Sunderi and Mata Sahib Devi and then moved towards Kotla Nihang along with two elder sons and 40 followers. A Gurudwara called Parivar Vichhora Sahib marks the site where the family of the Guru was separated (Parivar Vichhora Gurudwara, 2011).
Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Parivar Vichhora is constructed on a mount, lower part of which is covered with stones to check erosion. Base of the mount, of the size 57.3mX 53.4m, is with tapering sides having slope of 40° approx. on all sides. The Gurudwara is a four storied structure and is approached through a straight flight of steps 2.75m wide on west side. The ground floor can also be approached through a separate 0.9m wide staircase provided at the northwest corner. The plinth level of the shrine is at 7.1m. The ground floor plan is approximately square in shape having octagonal chambers on front two corners and circular chambers on rear two corners. The chamber at northeast side has a diameter of 4.88m and the other chamber on the south east side has a diameter of 1.5m. There are 12 rooms on the sides along the retaining walls holding an earthfill in the central part. First floor is at a level of 10.4m from the ground. It is a rectangular structure with arcaded corridor on all the sides and a central earth filling. There is an open circumambulatory on each side with the embattlement parapet. The Nishan sahib is on the northeast side. The second floor is at a level of 14m from the ground. On all the four corners of the second floor, there are octagonal kiosks of side 0.74m each. There is raised platform 1.2m above the second floor level supported by columns. The main shrine is constructed over this platform having octagonal shaped corners. Main shrine is at the third floor level at a height of 15.2m. The parkash asthan measures 7.0mX6.0m and has octagonal projections on each of its four corners. At terrace level, there are four kiosks, one on every corner, with octagonal base of side 0.6m. On the east side, there is a Chhatri with rectangular base of 2.4m x 1.52m and. On the west side, there is a room, of the size 2.75mX2.75m, which supports the dome. The shrine is constructed in the form of a stepped pyramid.

5.38 Gurudwara: Santokhsar Sahib

Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1575- 88
Date of Re-Construction: 1978
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXXVIII

Historical Background

Guru Ram Das came here to find a place for excavation of the holy tank on the instructions of Guru Amar Das and started the work in 1570. Guru Arjan Dev
completed the excavation work of one of the biggest tanks in Amritsar in 1588. According to one folklore, in 1584 a rich and was issueless man, named Santokha, came to Guru Arjan Dev to seek his blessings. He wanted to be blessed with a child. He offered 250 gold coins to the Guru which he spent on the excavation of the tank and named it Santokhsar after Santokha. According to another folklore, while the digging of the tank was in progress, a room was found underneath. When its door was cleared, a yogi Santokh Das was found meditating here. After sometime the Yogi opened his eyes and told him that he had been meditating here for a long time, waiting for a Guru to give him salvation. The sarovar was named Santokhsar after him. A small structure was constructed here at that time. Baba Hari Singh started kar sewa of the present building of the Gurudwara, sarovar and installation of marble in parikarma, gate and rooms in the year 1979. It was completed by Baba Jagtar Singh in year 1985.

Features of the Shrine
Gurudwara Santokhsar Sahib is one of the oldest Gurudwaras in Amritsar district. It is a three storeyed structure with main shrine on the first floor approached through 4.75m wide flight of steps on south west side. There is an open space on all the sides of the shrine acting as an open circumambulatory around it. The shrine is a rectangular structure having hall 12.00mX10.55m with a 4.00m square parkash asthan enclosed by four columns joined together with arches. The shrine has eight doors, one on southwest, three on northeast, and two each on remaining sides. Above these doors, near the ceiling level, ventilators are provided. The second floor has a terrace and an open pavilion constructed above the parkash asthan. Externally it is a square with side 4.95m and internally it is a square with side 4.00m. Each side of the pavilion has three rectangular openings. There is a projected eave above at top with a cupola one at each of the four corners cupola is provided over which stands the dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. A fluted pilaster decorates all the corners of the first floor. A projected eave runs around the top of all sides of the first floor. On top of this, a parapet is intercepted by four square pillared kiosks one at each corner crowned with small dome and a row of cupolas, fourteen each on southwest and northeast side and eleven each on the remaining two sides.
5.39 Gurudwara: Lohgarh Sahib

Location: Anandpur sahib
Date of Construction: Late 17th century
Date of Re-Construction: 1980’s
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XXXIX

Historical Background

Lohgarh (fort of steel) was the second strongest fort after Anandgarh fort. It was constructed by Guru Gobind Singh to protect the southern side of the city of Anandpur. Guru Gobind Singh had set up here a factory for manufacturing of arms. The armies of surrounding hilly provinces attacked the city of Anandpur many times but they hesitated to attack the fort because of their fear that its gate could not be broken. It is situated at one and a half kilometre southwest of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib. Gurudwara Lohgarh sahib is constructed on the site of the Lohgarh fort (G. Singh, 1995).

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Lohgarh sahib is a three storeyed octagonal structure with main entrance on southeast side. The layout and façade treatment is symmetrical about the central axis. The shrine has a triple octagonal structure with overall width of 17.13m. Outer octagon acts as a 3.08m wide verandah. It has three cusped arched openings in a recessed rectangular surface on all the eight sides. The second octagon has overall width of 9.38m. It is the main hall of the shrine. In the central part of the octagonal hall, there is a parkash asthan of overall width 3.72m. The central octagonal parkash asthan has eight rectangular doors one on each side. Two staircases, 0.72m wide, are provided in the thick walls on south and west side. The stair on south side terminates at the first floor and, on the west side goes up to the second floor. On the ground floor, there is one opening on each wall of the main shrine and total four doors and four windows are provided, one each on alternative sides with the main entrance on southeast side. There is a 2.10m wide circumambulatory in front of stairs and 2.6m wide on the remaining sides.

The first floor almost repeats the same scheme of the ground floor. There is an open terrace above outer verandah and inner circumambulatory acts as verandah having three cusped arched openings in a recessed rectangular surface on all eight sides. There is a room above the central parkash asthan constructed 0.92m higher than the surroundings. It has four doors one each of the alternative sides. On the second floor, there is an open
octagonal pavilion constructed over room on the first floor. On top of this pavilion, there is a cusped arched eave on all the eight sides. The pavilion is surmounted by a 12 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. The facade is treated with pilasters and a projected eave runs at the ceiling level of the ground floor and the first floor on all the sides.

**5.40 Gurudwara: Kothri Sahib**

Location: Sultanpur Lodhi  
Date of Construction: Not Known  
Date of Re-Construction: 1980’s  
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru  
Plate Number: XL

**Historical Background**

Guru Nanak worked for Nawab Daulat Khan Lodhi as in charge of Provision Supplies Department, the *Modikhana*. It was reported to the Nawab by some jealous elements that the Guru was stealing from the inventory. Kothri Sahib is a narrow low roofed cell in a small house in Mohalla Vaddian where Guru Nanak was detained temporarily while his stocks were verified following a false complaint lodged by his detractors. When the inventory was checked and found to be intact, the Nawab released Guru Nanak and apologised profusely. He even offered Guru Nanak a promotion to Minister of the state. Guru Nanak refused to accept the position as he had decided to dedicate his life to the spread of the Sikhism. A narrow well, now covered, dug during the times of Guru Nanak Dev is still intact. Later, Gurudwara Kothri Sahib was constructed here (G. Singh, 1995).

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara Kothri sahib is a double storeyed rectangular structure with 4.0mX8.9m hall at ground floor level. It is approached through a door provided in blind arch on the northern side. On the northeast corner of shrine, there is a small *kothri* (chamber), measuring 1.1mX1.59m and 1.56m high, accessed through 1.2m high door. Guru Granth Sahib is installed at back under a *palki*. Three windows, one each on side walls, and one in the back wall are provided in recessed blind arch. A 0.76m wide Eave projects out only on front facade at ceiling level. The first floor is accessed through a straight flight of stairs on the western side. There is an open pavilion with single opening on front side and three openings on the other three sides. This chamber has a
curved projected eave over which stands the 12 ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa. This is a simple structure without any intricate details. The front exterior wall is cladded with marble.

5.41 Gurudwara: Akal Takht Sahib

Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1606, 1774
Date of Re-Construction: 1984, 1986
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XLI-A, XLI-B and I-A

Historical Importance

Akal Takht is the highest temporal seat of the Sikh faith. It was raised as a platform by the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind, in 1606. Later in 1774, the first storey of the building was constructed. Maharaja Ranjit Singh added the remaining part of the monument, except the gilded dome at the top which was, later on, constructed by Hari Singh Nalwa. The Akal Takht was damaged in the operation Blue Star and the construction was started in 1984 by the government of India. This was again demolished by the Sikhs and the reconstruction was undertaken in 1986 through kar sewa and donations from the community. This monument is used for holding congregations and courts concerned with crucial decisions of the Sikhs. From time to time, edicts known as Hukamanamas are issued, on various religious, social and political issues confronting the faith, from this place (G.T. Singh, 2005).

Features of the Shrine

Akal Takht is a five storeyed structure with a bay like projection 1.49m on southeast and 1.68m on northwest sides. On lower ground floor, there is a hall, measuring 24.31mX15.77m, at the level of -1.45m from the front piazza. This is approached through southwest and northeast sides through a flight of steps. On northwest side, there is a stair connecting upper ground floor leading to the Akal Sar (an old well) dug by Guru Hargobind Singh for washing of the Parikarma. It is a 15.24m deep well having 3.96m diameter. This well is dry at present and was damaged heavily during the Operation Blue Star (1984). There is a pillared marble portico on the front façade with cusped arch opening with glazing on a raised plinth in its central part for providing the view of the ancient Takht. The upper ground floor is approached through two flights of steps from the front piazza. At this level, there are five doors, two each on the northeast
and southwest sides and one towards the northwest. The upper ground floor is divided into five bays. The second bay on the southwest side has the *sukhashan* room, measuring 4.57mX5.79m. The third and fourth bay has double height vaulted ceilings with rich fresco paintings. The first and fifth bay acts as a circumambulatory. The third bay has the main Takht (sanctified Area) which has been enclosed with a low height 45cm marble carved railing. The throne of Guru Hargobind Sahib has been given the form of a gilded *palki* raised over a marble platform. Two staircases on the northwest side lead to the first floor. The southeast facade of the central hall has three openings with blind cusped arches. There is a balcony, in front, approachable by four doors and triple openings in the centre. The first floor almost repeats the same scheme of the upper ground floor. It has a room on the southwest side over the *sukhashan* room and has a gallery on three sides which has three cusped arched opening in each bay giving a view of the hall below. The second floor is a large hall with elliptical cusped arches and square pillars, and galleries on all sides which is being used for the baptising ceremony. On second floor, there is a balcony on sides and the front part similar to that of the first floor. On top of the façade there is a projected eave, supported by decorative brackets and surmounted by parapet. The external openings along the gallery have distinct low cusped arches with balconied windows. The ceiling of the floor has fresco paintings. It is surmounted by parapets on three sides whereas the northwest side consists of a verandah with the staircase leading to the upper floor. It has a terrace on three sides. The *Nishan Sahib* has been installed on the southeast side. Four beautiful octagonal pillars, with an octagonal kiosk surmounted by dome and *kalasa*, are provided on all the corners of the floor. On northeast and southwest terraces, there are two mumties which enclose the staircases.

The third floor is an extension of the lower central hall and has three cusped arched openings on each of its sides. There is a square chamber 6.5m from exterior being used as *sukhashan* room. This room is decorated with a projected ornamental eave and a kiosk surmounted by *kalasa* on each corner. Finally, there springs a gilded dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the *kalasa*. Six beautiful octagonal pillars, each supporting an octagonal kiosk surmounted by dome are provided on all the corners of the floor. Blind recessed arches and false balconied windows are provided on facade to improve the overall aesthetics of the building. The rear elevation is also symmetrical similar to front facade. There are projected *jharokhas*
which serve as the ventilating shafts to the floor underneath on the rear side. Similar treatment is given to the side elevation comprising of the balconyed windows and the cladding in marble.

5.42 Gurudwara: Sant Ghat Sahib
Location: Sultanpur Lodhi
Date of Construction: 18th Century
Date of Re-Construction: 1990
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate number: XLII

Historical Background
At this place, Sri Guru Nanak Dev took a dip in Kali Bein and enchanted Kirtan of holy Gurbani with a Rabab. The Guru appeared near a cemetery about 3 miles up-stream after about 72 hours of his disappearance. A monument was constructed at the spot. During Maharaja Ranjit Singh's regime, the management of the Gurudwara vested in Udasi Mahants. Sant Sadhu Singh Nirmla, Jathedar Santa Singh Lasuri, and Sant Udham Singh have done commendable work to reconstruct the new buildings at the site of the old building which was washed away by floods. Guru Nanak assumed his holy mission from this spot and Guru Arjan Dev named it Sant Ghat. Baba Jagtar Singh ji, Kar Sewa Tarn Taran wale, started kar sewa of the building of Gurudwara Sahib, parikarma, and the boundary wall in the year 1985. It was completed in the year 1990 (Sant Ghat, 2011).

Features of the Shrine:
Gurudwara Sant Ghat sahib is a three storeyed approximately square structure constructed on high plinth. The ground floor hall measures 14.19mX15.51m and 5.91m high. There are two tiers of five recessed blind cusped arches on front (south) and back side. In three of these arches, rectangular doors are provided leaving two blind arches, one on each side of the central door in lower tier. Similarly on east and west sides, there are two tiers six blind arches and two of these are provided with doors in lower tier. There is no window at ground floor level. A square Parkash asthan, with side 4.5m, is provided towards the back of the main hall, measuring 14.19mX6.07m. It is enclosed by four columns, with 4.3m wide circumambulatory path on sides and 3.96m at back. At the ceiling level, there is a 0.73m wide projected eave. It is crowned by square pillared
kiosks one at each of the corner and a row of small cupolas over parapet. There is one chhatri in the middle of each of the four sides.

On the first floor, there is a closed square room constructed over the parkash asthan with three recessed blind arches on each side. On top, there is a projected eave with cupola on each of the four corners and two more cupolas in the center of each wall. The second floor almost repeats the same scheme of the first floor and has a cusped arched projected eave over which stood the ribbed dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.

5.43 Gurudwara: Ramsar Sahib

Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: 1602-03
Date of Re-Construction: 1855, 1992
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XLIII-A, XLIII-B and XLIII-C

Historical Background

Gurudwara Ramsar sahib is situated near Chatiwind Gate of the walled city Amritsar. After the completion of the Harmandar, Guru Arjan undertook the compilation of Adi Granth, the Holy Book, now known as Guru Granth Sahib. For this task, he chose a secluded site. This spot was then a shady area, one km away from the hustle and bustle of the town. To make the surroundings more pleasant, the Guru started the excavation of the sacred tank of Ramsar in 1602. Here, Guru Arjan composed his famous Sukhmani (the Psalm of Peace) and with Bhai Gurdas, as his scribe, compiled the Adi Granth during the period of 1603-04. A small structure was built by Guru and later a bigger shrine was built in 1855 (Narotam, 1975). The present Gurudwara building was constructed in 1992 after demolishing the old building.

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Ramsar Sahib is a seven storeyed rectangular structure, measuring 31.37mX19.23m from exterior, and has a basement. The entrance to the Gurudwara complex is gained through gateway on the eastern side. This building houses a Shiromni Gurudwara Parbandhank Committee printing press where Guru Granth Sahib and other religious literature is published. Only front part of the building on the ground and the first floor is used for the shrine. The ground floor is built on a raised plinth level of 1.9m height. The shrine is a three bay hall measuring 16.03mX17.70m. The hall has a
double height area of 9.35mX8.71m in the central part. It has a 4.06m wide
 circumambulatory in front and on the sides. The circumambulatory is 2.64m wide at
 back. There is a 2.44m wide corridor at back of the hall, with 1.42m wide staircase and
 lift room at the back of this corridor. The first floor has 4.06m wide gallery around
double height area with two rooms, each measuring 2.39mX4.14m, on the corners of the
back wall. The second, third and fourth floors are almost the same as that of the ground
floor. On fifth floor, there is a square chamber constructed over double height area of
the ground floor and a chamber at back constructed over the lift well and the staircase
enclosure.

There are seven blind recessed arches in front and back with a door in the central arch
and two windows on both of its sides. On sides, there are eleven blind recessed arches
with eight having windows. There is door in the fourth arch from the front. The blind
recessed arches on both the corners are without any opening. There is a 1.18m wide
balcony all around the building with a parapet having cupolas at 2.62m center to center
on pillars, in between these cupolas there are three panels of jaali on the second, third
and fourth floors. On the fifth floor, there is a room constructed over double height area
on the ground floor. It has an arcaded verandah on all the sides. On the sixth floor, there
is an open pavilion constructed over the room on the fifth floor. Each side of the
pavilion has three openings formed by tapering columns and cusped arches. Above this
is a dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which
supports the kalasa.

5.44 Gurudwara: Tap Asthan Baba Bhuddha

Location: Ramdass, Dist. Amritsar
Date of Construction: Late 17th century
Date of Re-Construction/Renovation: 2002
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Saint
Plate Number: XLIV

Historical Background

The original name of the place was Jhanda Ramdass. It was founded by Bhai Bhana,
son of Baba Bhuddha, and was named Ramdass after the fourth Sikh Guru. It is said
that the Guru added the name of the young great grandson of Baba Bhuddha and called
it Jhanda Ramdass. Gurudwara Tap Asthan Baba Bhuddha is on the southern edge of
the village where the Baba Bhuddha spent the last days of his life till his death in 1631
It is said that Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s troops sacked Jhanda Ramdas in 1824 and destroyed the house of Baba Bhuddha’s descendants. When he came to know about this, he was filled with remorse and later got this Gurudwara built on the site of the demolished house. The old shrine was demolished and a new structure was constructed in 2002.

**Features of the Shrine**

Gurudwara Tap Asthan Baba Bhuddha is five storeyed square structures. This is constructed on a raised plinth on first floor in the middle of at compound which is below the street level. On the ground floor, there is an open arcaded pillared hall, measuring 34.25mX41.2m, with octagonal chambers of 1.0m side at each of the four corners. These chambers are provided with octagonal kiosks topped with 16 ribbed dome at the first floor level. Main shrine is on the first floor approached through two grand flights of 4.65m wide steps on southeast and northwest side of the shrine. It is a square structure, of side20.75m with octagonal chambers of 1.38m side at each of its four corners. Two of these chambers enclose stairs and two in front are used for holding *akand paths*. The shrine has been provided with three doors in blind arches on each side. The central door is 1.8m wide where as the doors on the sides are 1.5m wide. Two blind arches are provided on both the sides of central doors and there is a window in one of these blind arches and the other is without any opening for aesthetics only. Octagonal chambers are provided with recessed blind arches on all the sides with opening in alternative sides. There are three windows and a door on the fourth side. This treatment is provided on all the four sides. A double height *parkash asthan, square in shape with side 7.01m*, is in the centre of the shrine. It has a 6.5m wide arcaded circumambulatory around it on all four sides. The second floor is similar to the first floor. There is a 6.5m wide gallery around the central double height *parkash asthan*. Facade treatment is similar to the ground floor. Instead of doors, three windows are provided in the central part in blind recessed arches, so each side has five windows. On the third floor, there is a room over double height area with 1.53m wide arcade on all the sides of the room. At corners of the terrace, there are octagonal kiosks topped with 16 ribbed dome. On the fourth floor, an open chamber with three cusped arches on each side is provided over room on the third floor. On top of this is a cusped arched eave and dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the gilded *kalasa*. An intricate pilaster detail covers the whole elevation.
5.45 Gurudwara: Chheharta Sahib

Location: Amritsar
Date of Construction: early 17th Century
Date of Re-Construction: 2006
Shrine Type: Related to Sikh Guru
Plate Number: XLV

Historical Background

Guru Arjan Dev stayed at village Vadali Guru, approximately one km to the south of Chheharta during 1594-97. At this place, his son, Hargobind, was born. To celebrate this, Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) constructed a well at this place to overcome the shortage of water in the area. This well had six Persian wheels to draw out the water and thus came to be known as Chheharta (having six (chhe) Persian wheels (hart or harta). This well helped in removing water scarcity in the area and enabled the greening of the fields. A Gurudwara was constructed near the site of this well (Chheharta Sahib, 2011). The well is still conserved in the compound. The Gurudwara complex includes a divan hall, main shrine, sarovar, sarai, and a school.

Features of the Shrine

Gurudwara Chheharta sahib is a four storeyed rectangular structure of overall internal size 18.31m X32.75m. Front part of the hall, measuring 18.31mX19.66m, is double height. On back side of this hall, there is an approximately square double height Parkash Asthan, measuring 6.53mX6.77m. It is enclosed by four columns and a brass railing. A 5.12m wide circumambulatory runs on sides of Parkash Asthan. It is 4.58m wide on the back side. There are eight doors provided to the shrine. Three doors in the front, four on the sides (two on each side) and one is provided at the back. There is a doglegged staircase on southwest corner of the back side leading to the first floor. At the first floor level, a sukhashan room, measuring 3.55mX3.70m, is provided on northwest corner of the shrine. A 1.23m wide gallery is provided along the three sides of the front hall. At the second floor level, there is room above the Parkash Asthan with arcade around it. At the third floor level, there is an approximately square open pavilion with three cusped arches on each side, constructed over columns around the Parkash Asthan. On top of this pavilion, there is a projected arched cusped eave having a cupola on all the four corners and above this is a 16 ribbed lotus dome having lotus petal motif at the base and inverted lotus at the top which supports the kalasa.
There are four large square kiosks with dome on top, at each corner at roof level of the first floor, resting on top of the parapet. These are surrounded by small square kiosk at each of its three corners on the parapet. In addition to this, there are two additional such kiosks in the central part of the parapet on both the sides. There are chhatris on all the four sides. A chhatri is provided in the central part on the front and the back facade. On the sides, the chhatris are provided towards back of the shrine in the front of the room above the parkash asthan. Small cupolas are provided on top of the parapet between these kiosks and chhatris. The structure is completely cladded with marble slabs on the exterior as well as on the interior.

5.46. Summary
This chapter discusses the forty five case studies of the Sikh shrines based upon primary research and documentation and tries to bring out the concepts that have been adopted for the construction of the Sikh Gurudwaras. All these shrines are arranged in the chronological order according to the date of their reconstruction. Harmandar Sahib at Amritsar is the oldest shrine and Gurudwara Chheharta Sahib at Amritsar is most recently constructed shrine amongst the documented and analysed shrines. It appears that the brilliance of the Sikh shrines is reflected in architectural elements used in Sikh shrines. There are numerous varieties and types of the architectural elements, the literal description of which is insufficient to express properly the architectural ideas, forms and imageries they represent. The most consistent of Sikh architectural vocabulary is represented by the Gurudwaras across Punjab. It is devotedly exemplified in lavish splendour in the Golden Temple at Amritsar and many other historical Gurudwaras. This chapter have attempted to describe, document and analyse the important Sikh shrines, architectural features and symbolic meaning of the structure. Thus, it presents conclusions from the primary surveys, historical and formal information.