

CULTURE TOURISM & ANTIQUITIES
DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT
OF SINDH

**CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF
HISTORICAL BUILT STRUCTURE OF TAJJAR
BUILDING AT JINNAH BAGH LARKANO**



HISTORICAL BACK GROUND OF THE PROPERTY:

The "Tajjar Building" a small but an impressive square brick structure 42' x 42' is located close to the South East of Town Hall inside the Jinnah Bagh at Larkana.

It consists of three apartments, a central hall 14' x 38' with two side galleries each measuring 8' x 38'. At the time of its construction, the building was tastefully decorated with glazed tile work and floral fresco painting, the traces of which were traced out sometimes in the year 1976.

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

CONDITION OF THE MONUMENTS BEFORE CONSERVATION:

The historic Building had been declared as a protected monument under the Antiquities Act, 1975 vide Culture, sports and Youth Affairs Division Notification No. 5/52/76-AD, dated 20th May, 1980.

The "Tajjar Building" through the ravages of time fell victim to the human hands and underwent many additions and alterations, depriving of its all original grandeur. Giles, Commissioner of Sindh set up a library in this building in the year 1884 A.D. which later on followed



by the creation of Local Broadcasting Station. Also the building was used as a "Canteen" for a considerable time that greatly caused to its fast deterioration.

CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION MEASURES ADOPTED:

The conservation of this building is testament to our rich architectural, historical and cultural heritage and it also adds to the distinctive character and identity. More importantly, it gives a sense of history and memory to move forward into the future. Presently the monument is now under the protection of Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities department awaiting attention of authorities concerned to carryout conservation, preservation work to bring back its lost glory.

Some of the important items of work carried out are as follows;

- Scrapping of old plastered surface of walls and ceiling.
- Dismantling burnt brick masonry laid in mud, lime and cement.
- Dismantling cement jali 2" to 3" thick from the arch openings.
- Removing old mud, or cement plaster 2" thick from walls including raking out joints.
- Dismantling cement concrete (1:2:4) floors.
- ❖ Underpinning the walls with new brick tiles.



- ❖ Providing and laying stone dado on the exterior of the building carved in floral and geometric designs.
- ❖ Lime chioli plaster (1:2) 1-1/2" thick on the on the interior of the building.
- ❖ Glazed tiles work on dado (interior), arched panels, merlons etc. flooring inside the building with plain tiles.
- ❖ Providing & Fixing door as per designed original one.

Construction of Reservoirs tank & Preparation of Mortar

Before the commencement of conservation work, at Tajjar Building, a reservoir tank for water, for lime storage and lime sieving process storage were constructed on proper place. As per conservation manual as well as engineering method for the applying of lime plaster, lime concrete and lime pasting etc. It is mandatory for conservators, engineers and Archaeologist the unslaked lime may be duped in water for 20- 30 days and then sieve analysis it for finally mixed with jute chioli etc whatever needs to apply in the Historic building.



**SOME PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE
HISTORICAL BUILDING BEFORE AND AFTER
CONSERVATION WORK.**















