



ਵਸਦੀ ਸਾਘਨ ਅਪਾਰ ਅਨੂਪ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਪੁਰ ॥ (ਪੰਨਾ ੧੩੬੨)

Vasadhee Saghan Apaar Anoop Raamadhaas Pur ॥

(Ramdaspur is prosperous and thickly populated, and incomparably beautiful.)

A quotation from the 5th Guru, Sri Guru Arjan Dev, describing the city of Ramdaspur (Amritsar) in Guru Granth Sahib, on Page No. 1362.

It is engraved on north façade of the Town hall, the starting point of Heritage Walk.



HERITAGE WALK ROUTE PLACES

- 1 WALK PAUSE POINT
- STRUCTURE
- TRADITIONAL FAÇADE
- WALK ROUTE
- OPTIONAL WALK
- SACRED TANK
- GARDEN
- STREET

• Heritage Walk starts from Town Hall at 8:00 a.m. and ends at Entrance to - The Golden Temple 10:00 a.m. everyday

• Summer Timing (March to November) - 0800hrs

• Winter Timing (December to February) - 0900hrs (December to 2000 hrs (Summer) Evening: 1600 hrs to 1800 hrs (Winter)

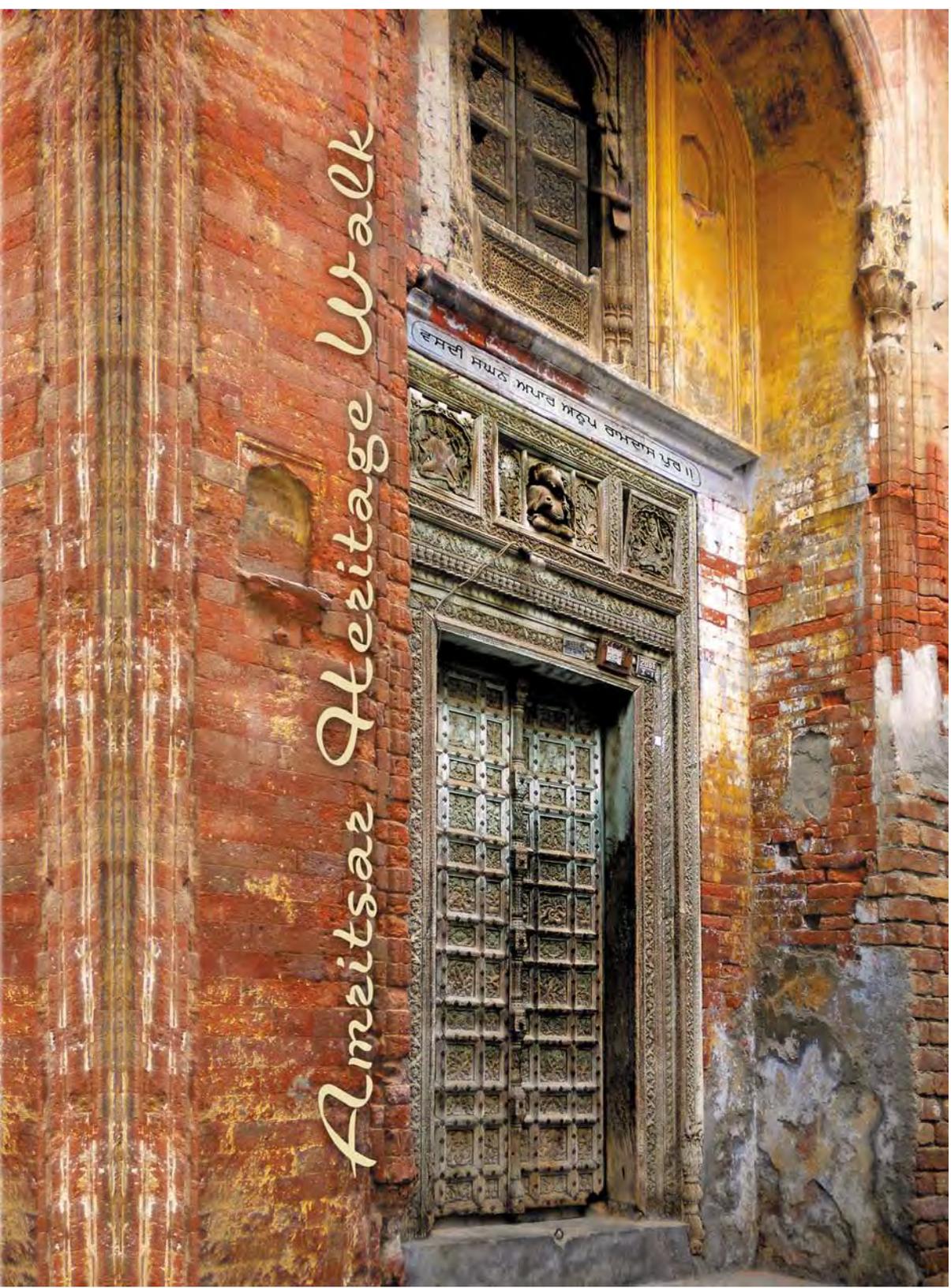
• Heritage Walk contribution: Rs. 25/- for Indian Rs. 75/- for Foreigner

• For further information: Tourist Information Centre, Exit Gate of The Amritsar Railway Station, Tel: 0183-402452



M.R.P. Rs. 50/-

Published by:
Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board
 Archives Bhawan, Plot 3, Sector 38-A, Chandigarh 160036
 Tel.: 0172-2625950 Fax: 0172-2625953 Email: phtpb123@gmail.com
 www.punjabtourism.gov.in



Amritsar Heritage Walk

ਡਿਠੇ ਸਭੇ ਥਾਵ ਨਹੀ ਤੁਧੁ ਜੋਹਿਆ ॥
Ddithae Sabhae Thhaav Nehee Thudhh Jaehiaa ॥
I have seen all places, but none can compare to You.

ਬਧੋਹੁ ਪੁਰਖਿ ਬਿਧਾਤੇ ਤਾਂ ਤੂ ਸੋਹਿਆ ॥
Badhhohu Purakh Bidhhaathai Thaan Thoo Sohiaa ॥
The Primal Lord, the Architect of Destiny, has established You;
thus You are adorned and embellished.

ਵਸਦੀ ਸਘਨ ਅਪਾਰ ਅਨੂਪ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਪੁਰ ॥

Vasadhee Saghan Apaar Anoop Raamadhaas Pur ॥
Ramdaspur is prosperous and thickly populated, and incomparably beautiful.

ਹਰਿਹਾਂ ਨਾਨਕ ਕਸਮਲ ਜਾਹਿ ਨਾਇਐ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਸਰ ॥੧੦॥
Harihaan Naanak Kasamal Jaahi Naaeia Raamadhaas Sar ॥10॥
O Lord! Bathing in the Sacred Pool of Ramdas, the sins are washed away, O Nanak. ॥10॥



ਵਸਦੀ ਸਘਨ ਅਪਾਰ ਅਨੂਪ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਪੁਰ ॥(ਪੰਨਾ ੧੩੬੨)

Vasadhee Saghan Apaar Anoop Raamadhaas Pur ॥

(Ramdaspur is prosperous and thickly populated, and incomparably beautiful.)

It is engraved on north façade of the Town hall, the starting point of the Heritage Walk.



The Golden Temple, Amritsar, 1833

Etching by J. C. Armytage from a Sketch by W. Carpenter Junr.



Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board



Front Cover

Woodwork

"..... there were other substantial wooden elements notably doorways, with windows above and also over-hanging balconies, the whole providing a very artistic wooden façade. The doorways were generally framed with fanciful and elegantly carved design."

K. C. Aryan, "Folk Paintings, Metalware, Woodwork, Ivories" in *Homage to Amritsar*, Marg, 1976-77, XXX [3], pp. 65-71

Published by:

Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board

Archives Bhawan, Plot 3, Sector 38-A, Chandigarh 160036

Tel.: 0172-2625950; Fax: 0172-2625953; Email: phtpb123@gmail.com

www.punjabtourism.gov.in

Concept: **Debashish Nayak**, Advisor PHTPB

Background Research: **Surinder Kochhar**

Text Editing: **Geetika Kalha**

Layout Design: **Nilesh Dave**, STATUS INC

INTRODUCTION:

The Heritage Walk is a guided tour deep inside the narrow lanes and bye-lanes of the 400 years old city of Amritsar. One gets to see Katras, Akharas, Bungas, Havelis and Hattis- the vocabulary of traditional town planning and architecture. The walk takes you back in time as you witness traditional trades and crafts being practised in the same place and in the same manner, as has been done for centuries. It is, however, the famous intricately carved wooden facades that will take your breath away.

This walk is an opportunity to feel part of this beautiful, sacred, vibrating, Guru Di Nagari.

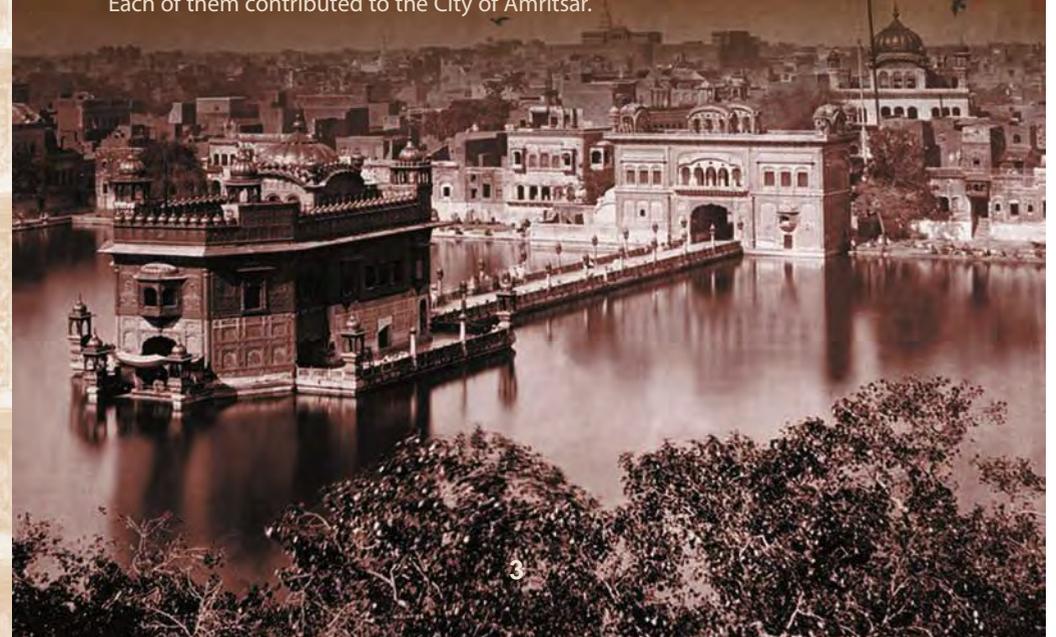
Welcome to Ramdaspur. Welcome to Amritsar.

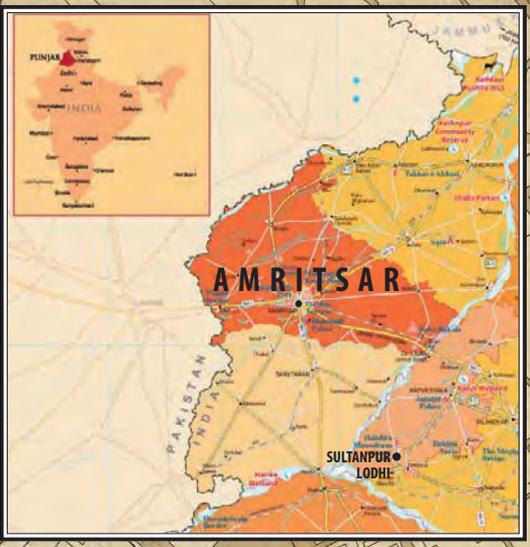
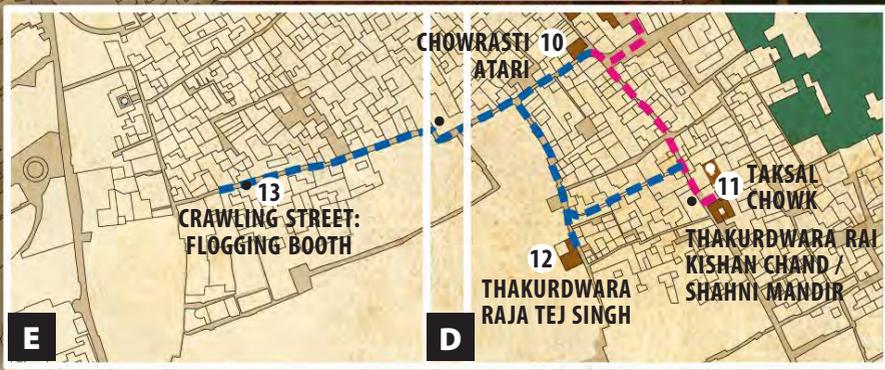
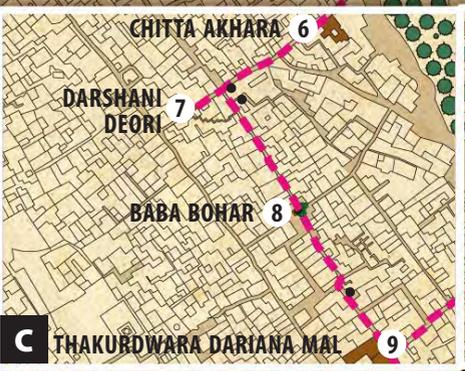
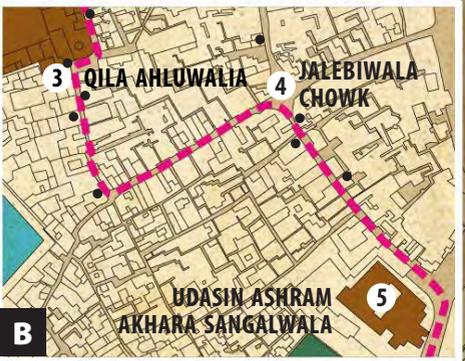
HISTORY OF AMRITSAR

Amritsar was founded by Sri Guru Ramdass, the fourth guru of the Sikhs in about 1574 A.D. Before the city was founded, the area was covered with thick forests and had several lakes. To start the city the Guru invited 52 traders from different sects belonging to nearby places like Patti and Kasur to settle here. These families started the first 32 shops in the city which still stand in the street called Batisi Hatta (32 shops) The Guru himself shifted to live among them in the city which came to be called Ramdaspur and has been eulogised in the Guru Granth Sahib.

The construction of Amrit Sarovar from which the city gets its present name was also started by Sri Guru Ramdass. His successor, Sri Guru Arjan Dev, completed the project and located the Harmandir Sahib in its midst. Later, when Guru Arjan Dev completed the writing of the Holy Granth Sahib a copy of Guru Granth Sahib was ceremonially installed in Harmandir Sahib. Baba Buddha Sahib was appointed the first Granthi.

After the last Guru Sri Gobind Singh Baba Banda Bahadur a Sikh from Nanded came to Punjab and inflicted several crushing defeats on the Imperial Mughal forces. This led to the rise of the Sikh power and the rise of several "jathas or bands" called Misls. 12 Misls of the Sikh confederacy controlled Punjab and from time to time attempted to expand their territory and resources. 4 of these Misl, namely; the Ahulwalia Misl, Ramgarhia Misl, Kanhiya Misl and Bhangi Misl controlled Amritsar from time to time. Each of them contributed to the City of Amritsar.





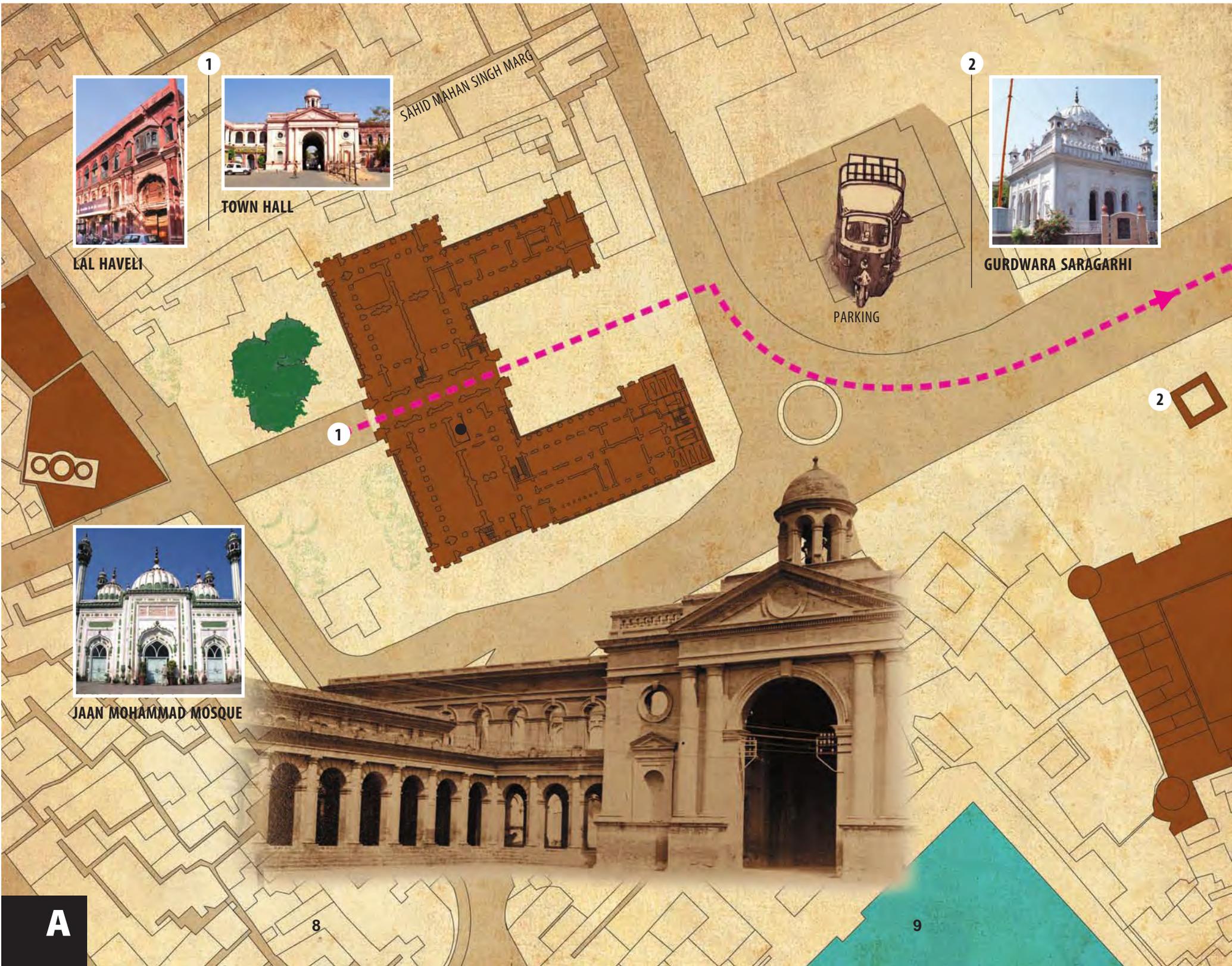
HERITAGE WALK ROUTE PLACES

- 1 WALK PAUSE POINT
- STRUCTURE
- TRADITIONAL FAÇADE
- WALK ROUTE
- OPTIONAL WALK
- SACRED TANK
- GARDEN
- STREET



*Amritsar
Heritage
Walk*

ਵਸਦੀ ਸਘਨ ਅਪਾਰ ਅਨੂਪ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਪੁਰ ॥ (ਪੰਨਾ ੧੩੬੨)
Vasadhee Saghan Apaar Anoop Raamadhaas Pur ॥
 (Ramdaspur is prosperous and thickly populated,
 and incomparably beautiful.)



LAL HAVELI

1



TOWN HALL

SAHID MAHAN SINGH MARG

2



GURDWARA SARAGARHI



PARKING



1

2



JAAH MOHAMMAD MOSQUE



8

9

A

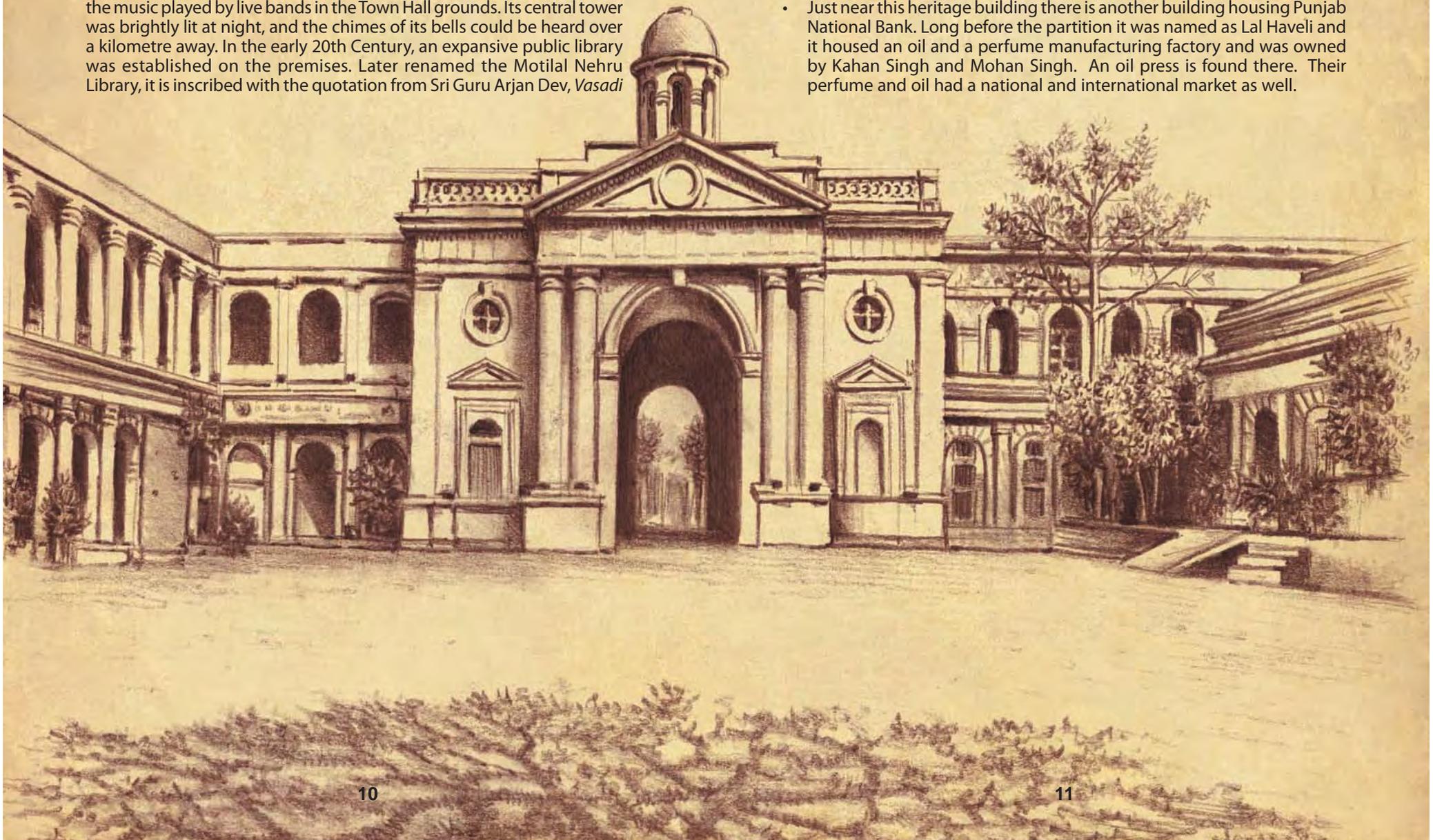
1 TOWN HALL

Built by the British in 1866, the historic Town Hall is the centre of Amritsar's local administration. When the British gained control of Amritsar in 1849 one of their first actions was to demolish the robust outer fortification. In its place, a new wall was built, followed down the years by the Railway Station, Town Hall, Government School building, District Courts and Treasury Headquarters. The Town Hall consequentially became the nucleus of colonial Amritsar, with its grandiose architecture.

During British rule, people would gather every evening to relax and enjoy the music played by live bands in the Town Hall grounds. Its central tower was brightly lit at night, and the chimes of its bells could be heard over a kilometre away. In the early 20th Century, an expansive public library was established on the premises. Later renamed the Motilal Nehru Library, it is inscribed with the quotation from Sri Guru Arjan Dev, *Vasadi*

saghan apar anoop Ramdaspur, – "Amritsar is thriving, flourishing and beautiful." The Town Hall's importance echoed in all facets of daily life during the British Raj. It continues to wield a significant presence today.

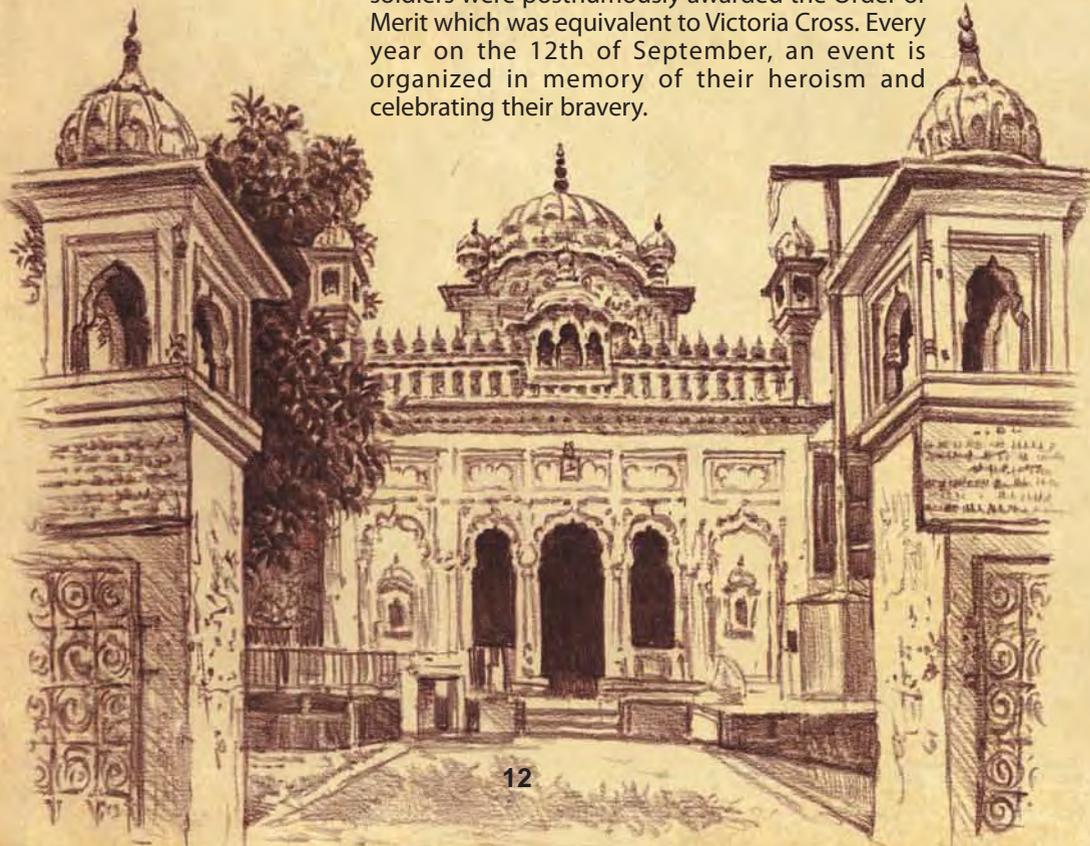
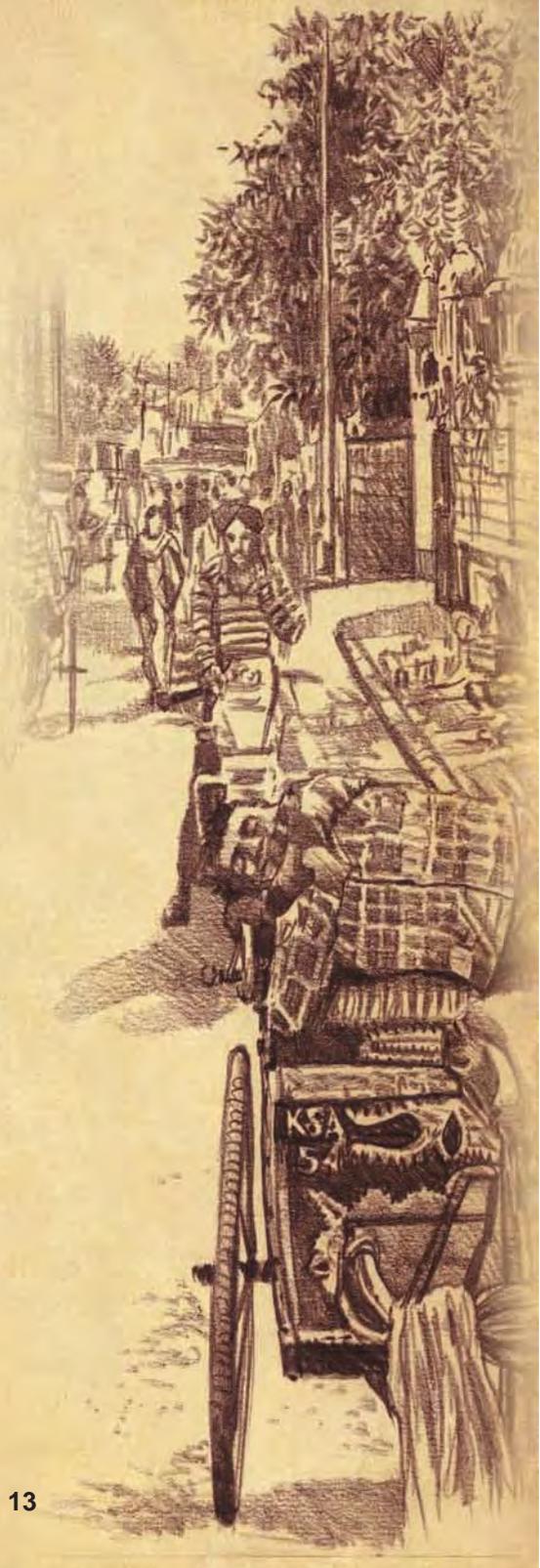
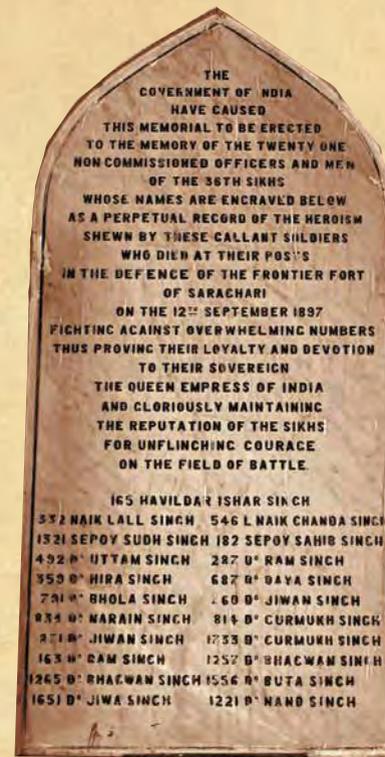
- Near the Police Station there is a Jaan Mohammad Mosque. This mosque was built by Mian Jaan Mohammad in the Hijri Year 1289 (1872 A.D.). Mian Jaan had come to Amritsar for the purpose of business from Kashmir, he liked the city and decided to settle here. After his death as per his wish he was buried besides the mosque constructed by him.
- Just near this heritage building there is another building housing Punjab National Bank. Long before the partition it was named as Lal Haveli and it housed an oil and a perfume manufacturing factory and was owned by Kahan Singh and Mohan Singh. An oil press is found there. Their perfume and oil had a national and international market as well.

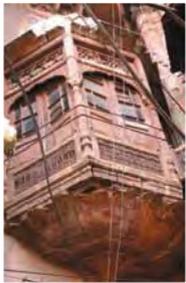
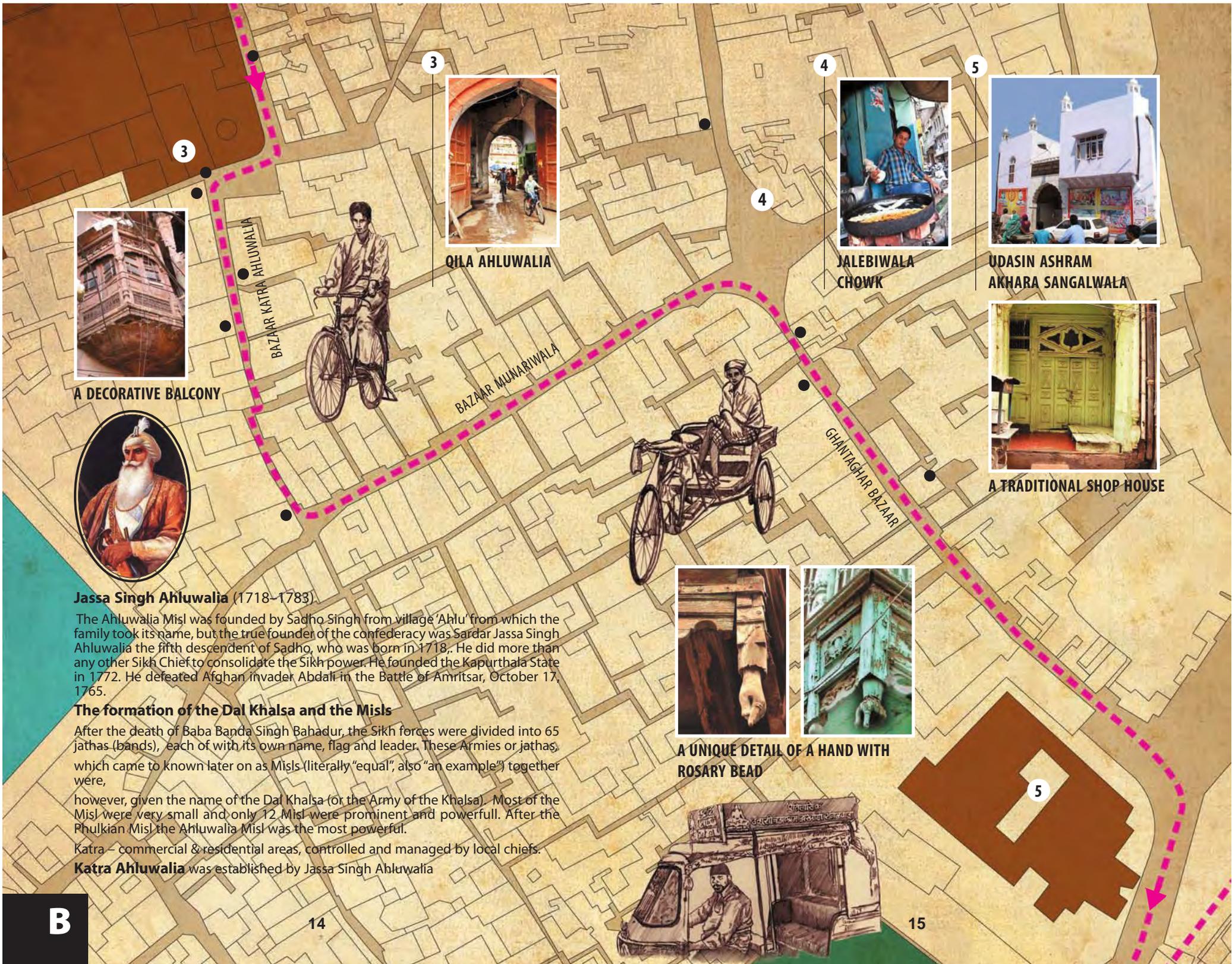




2 GURDWARA SARAGARHI

The Gurdwara Saragarhi is dedicated to the twenty-one soldiers of the 36 Sikhs Battalion who lost their lives bravely defending their posts on September 12, 1897. The soldiers, members of the Sikh regiment of British India, were sent to protect Fort Lockhart in Saragarhi, located in the North-West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan). While standing guard, they were unexpectedly ambushed by ten thousand Pathan tribesmen. In keeping with the tradition of the Sikh Army, the men fought to the death, refusing to surrender. Although they were only twenty-one, the battle lasted over six hours and is considered by UNESCO as one of the eight most important demonstrations of collective bravery. To commemorate their bravery, three gurdwaras were erected — one at Saragarhi, the venue of the battle, the second at Firozpur called the Saragarhi Memorial and the third here at Amritsar, called Gurdwara Saragarhi. The memorial at Amritsar was designed by the architect Ram Singh and was unveiled on February 14, 1902. All twenty-one soldiers were posthumously awarded the Order of Merit which was equivalent to Victoria Cross. Every year on the 12th of September, an event is organized in memory of their heroism and celebrating their bravery.





A DECORATIVE BALCONY



Jassa Singh Ahluwalia (1718-1783)

The Ahluwalia Misl was founded by Sadho Singh from village 'Ahlu' from which the family took its name, but the true founder of the confederacy was Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia the fifth descendent of Sadho, who was born in 1718. He did more than any other Sikh Chief to consolidate the Sikh power. He founded the Kapurthala State in 1772. He defeated Afghan invader Abdali in the Battle of Amritsar, October 17, 1765.

The formation of the Dal Khalsa and the Misls

After the death of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, the Sikh forces were divided into 65 jathas (bands), each of with its own name, flag and leader. These Armies or jathas, which came to know later on as Misls (literally "equal", also "an example") together were,

however, given the name of the Dal Khalsa (or the Army of the Khalsa). Most of the Misl were very small and only 12 Misl were prominent and powerful. After the Phulkian Misl the Ahluwalia Misl was the most powerful.

Katra - commercial & residential areas, controlled and managed by local chiefs.

Katra Ahluwalia was established by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia



QILA AHLUWALIA



JALEBIWALA CHOWK



UDASIN ASHRAM AKHARA SANGALWALA



A TRADITIONAL SHOP HOUSE



A UNIQUE DETAIL OF A HAND WITH ROSARY BEAD

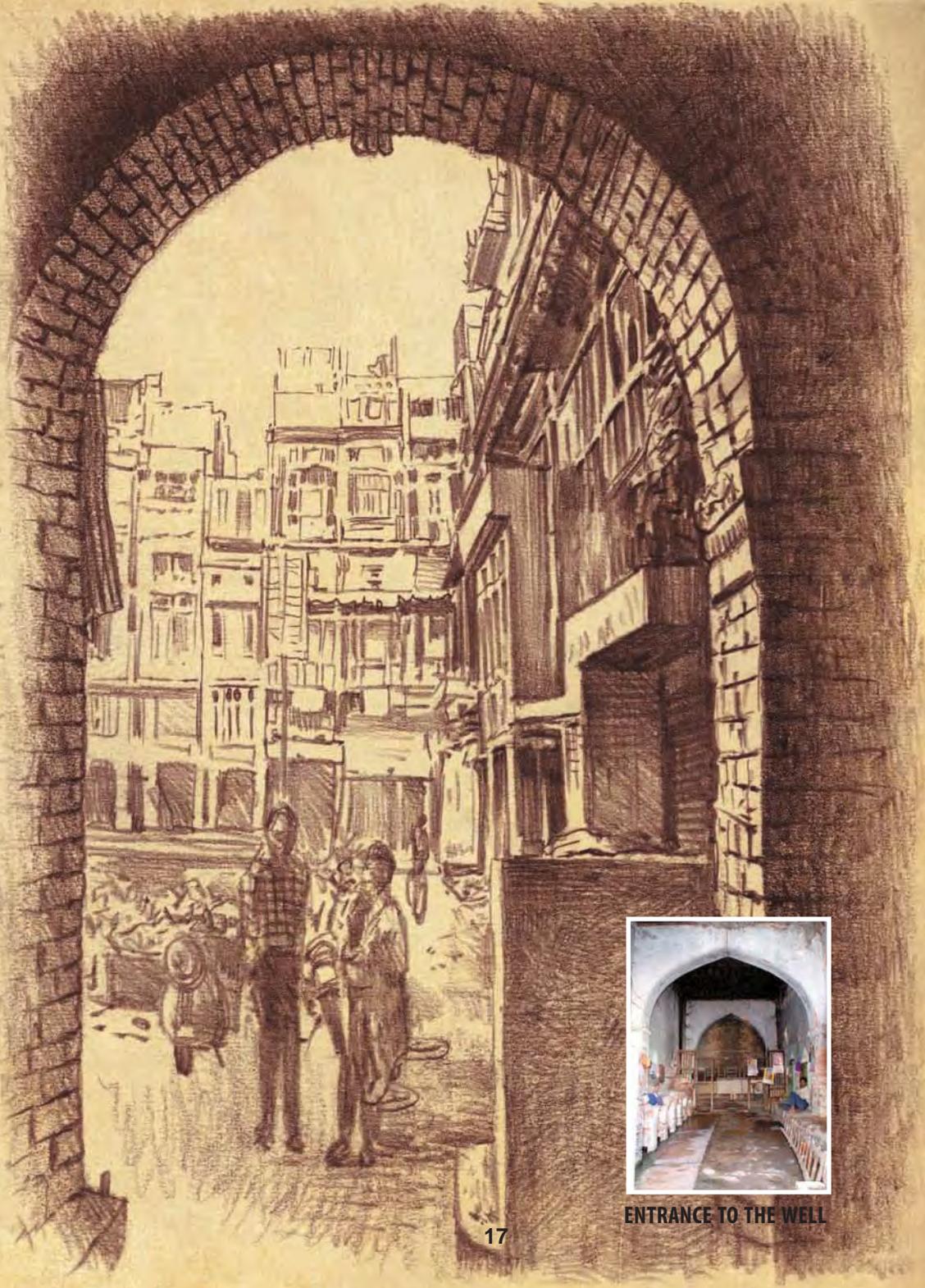


3 QILA AHLUWALIA

The fort once belonged to Ahluwalia Misl, Its famous leader Jassa Singh Ahluwalia played a crucial role in repelling foreign invasions during the 18th Century. Owing to his numerous victories in battle and triumphant conquest of Lahore in 1761, he was awarded the title Sultan-ul-Qaum, or 'Emperor of the Sikh community'. His bravery played a vital role in paving the way for Maharaja Ranjit Singh to establish Sikh rule in the Region.

The Municipal Committee eventually auctioned the fort to Marwari families in 1900. They in turn restructured it to set up their businesses and homes. Today, Qila Ahluwalia is located in the heart of downtown Amritsar's business district, which bustles with commercial activity.

The fort is rich in colonial-style architecture, complete with intricate stonework and beautifully designed gates and spiral staircases. Inside, the well and adjacent stable were integral to its functioning. There was a tank in the middle of the property, which is now a parking lot.



ENTRANCE TO THE WELL

4 JALEBIWALA CHOWK

Located in the heart of Amritsar's commerce sector, Jalebiwala Chowk is a gastronome's delight. It is home to a world famous jalebi shop that has been in operation since 1956 and is renowned for creating one of the best melt-in-your-mouth treats, sure to satisfy everyone's taste buds. Jalebi (juh-lay-bee) is made by deep-frying batter in pretzel or circular shapes, which is then dipped and soaked in a vat of sugar syrup. It is known as the 'Celebration Sweet of India', widely served across India on festive occasions. In some parts of North India it is traditionally served in the morning as a breakfast item, alongside fresh puri (fried bread) and vegetables in rich, creamy gravy, or simply as a stand-alone, lip-smacking snack.

Jalebiwala Chowk also has a historical significance. On April 9, 1919, the Hindus and Muslims of Amritsar jointly celebrated the Hindu festival of Ram Navami. They came together to protest against the British policy of divide and rule, in a strong sense of camaraderie that had never before been seen between the two groups. The Hindus proudly sported Muslim taqiyahs (head caps), Muslims applied Hindu saffron-coloured tikas ('third eye' marks) on their foreheads, as a token of unity and friendship. As the rally gained momentum, the crowds boisterously cheered in one voice, "Long live Hindu-Muslim unity!" On that fateful day, Jalebiwala Chowk became a symbol of hope and courage, a reminder that true strength is only possible through unity.



5 UDASIN ASHRAM AKHARA SANGALWALA

Akhara are Sarais for Sadhus, Yogis & Holy men, who stay and practice religious ceremonies.

Founded in 1771, Udasin Ashram Akhara Sangalwala was originally known as Nirvan Akhara after its founder, Nirvan Priyatam Dass. This was originally in a desolate and uninhabited expanse, there was nothing in the area except a large tree, where Nirvan Priyatam Dass conducted daily meditation and prayers. Nearly one hundred years later, the new Mahant (Chief Priest) of the akhara attached a thick iron chain to its main gate, a symbolic act to perpetuate the memory of its creator.

The Akhara is in a cave thirteen feet underground. It has seen many priests come and go and continues to be a place of religious education today. Its central location and proximity to the Golden Temple makes it popular for religion seekers.



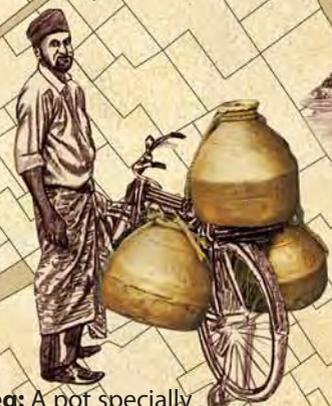
PRATAP BAZAAR



BAZAAR SABUNIAN

7

Dona: It is a specially designed brass pot used for carrying milk particularly available in Amritsar area of Punjab.



Deeg: A pot specially manufactured for Ladakh region

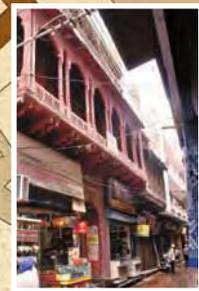


20

6

6

8



CHITTA AKHARA



BABA BOHAR

KATHIAN BAZAAR

7

9

MAI SEWA BAZAAR



DARSHANI DEORI



THAKURDWARA
DARIANA MAL

8



9

21



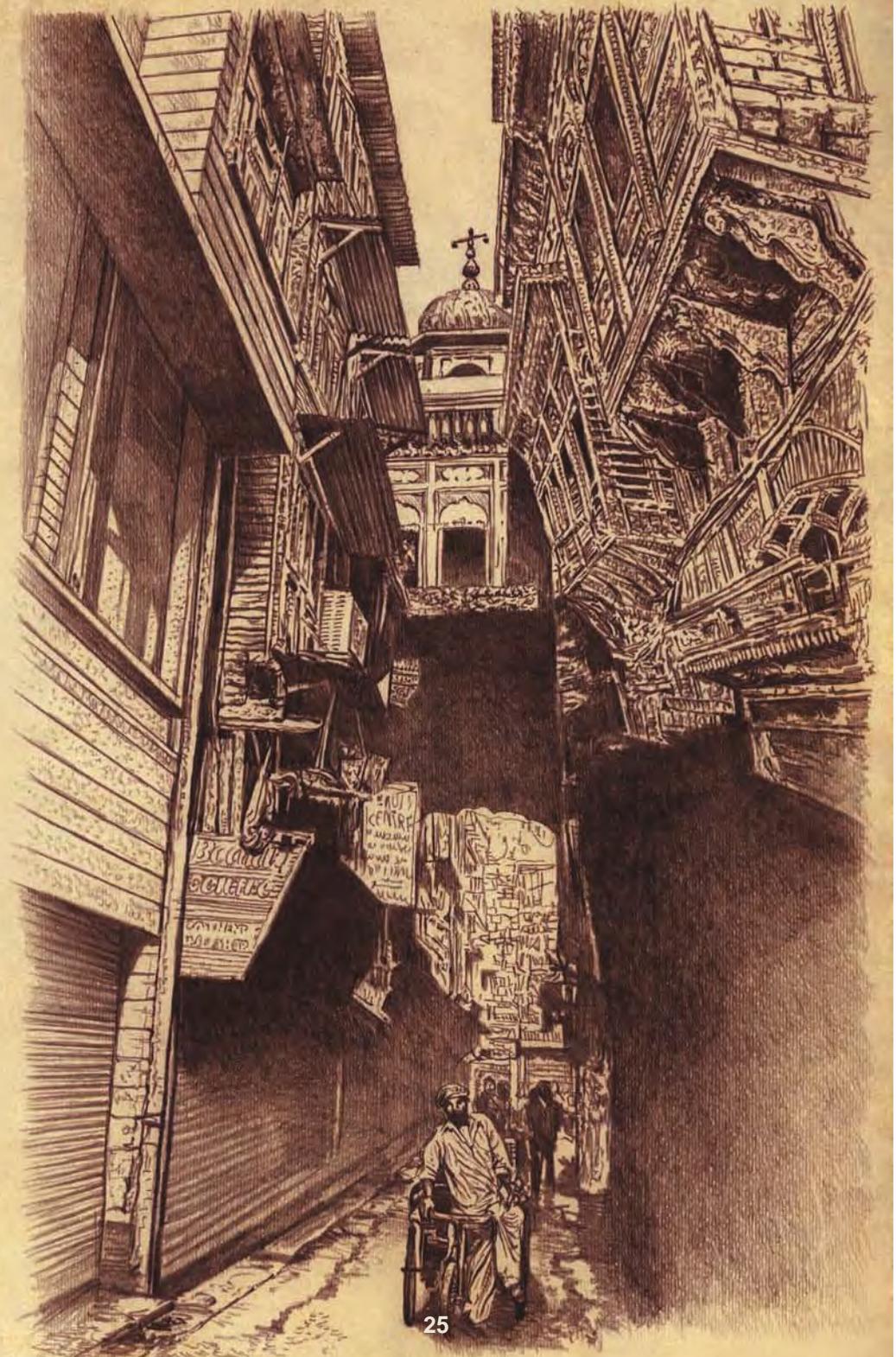
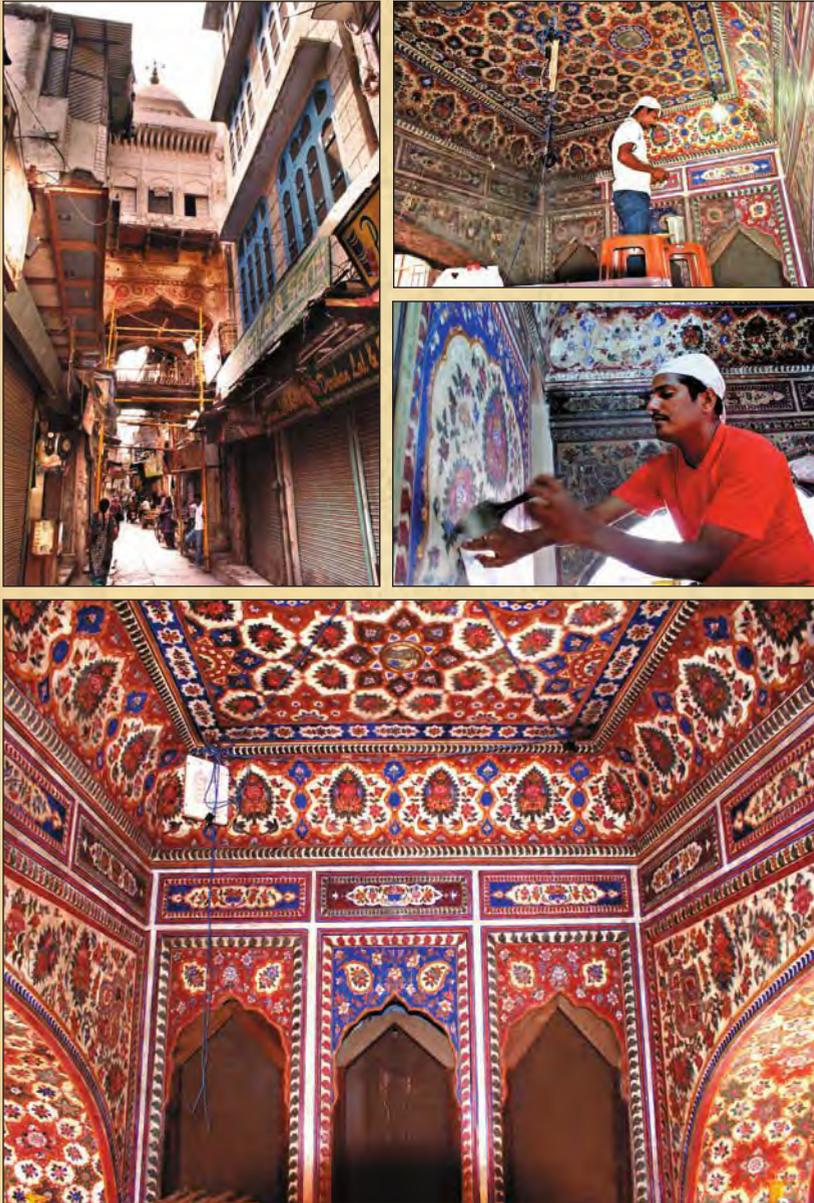
6 CHITTA AKHARA

Chitta Akhara, also known as Ganga Ram Akhara after its founder Mahant Ganga Ram, was established in 1781, making it over two centuries old. Located in the heart of the city, it serves as a window on the architectural beauty of the past, with very intricate designs carved into the building's stone. There is an ancient tomb inside, surrounded by walls decorated with vibrant paintings and religious idols.



7 DARSHANI DEORI

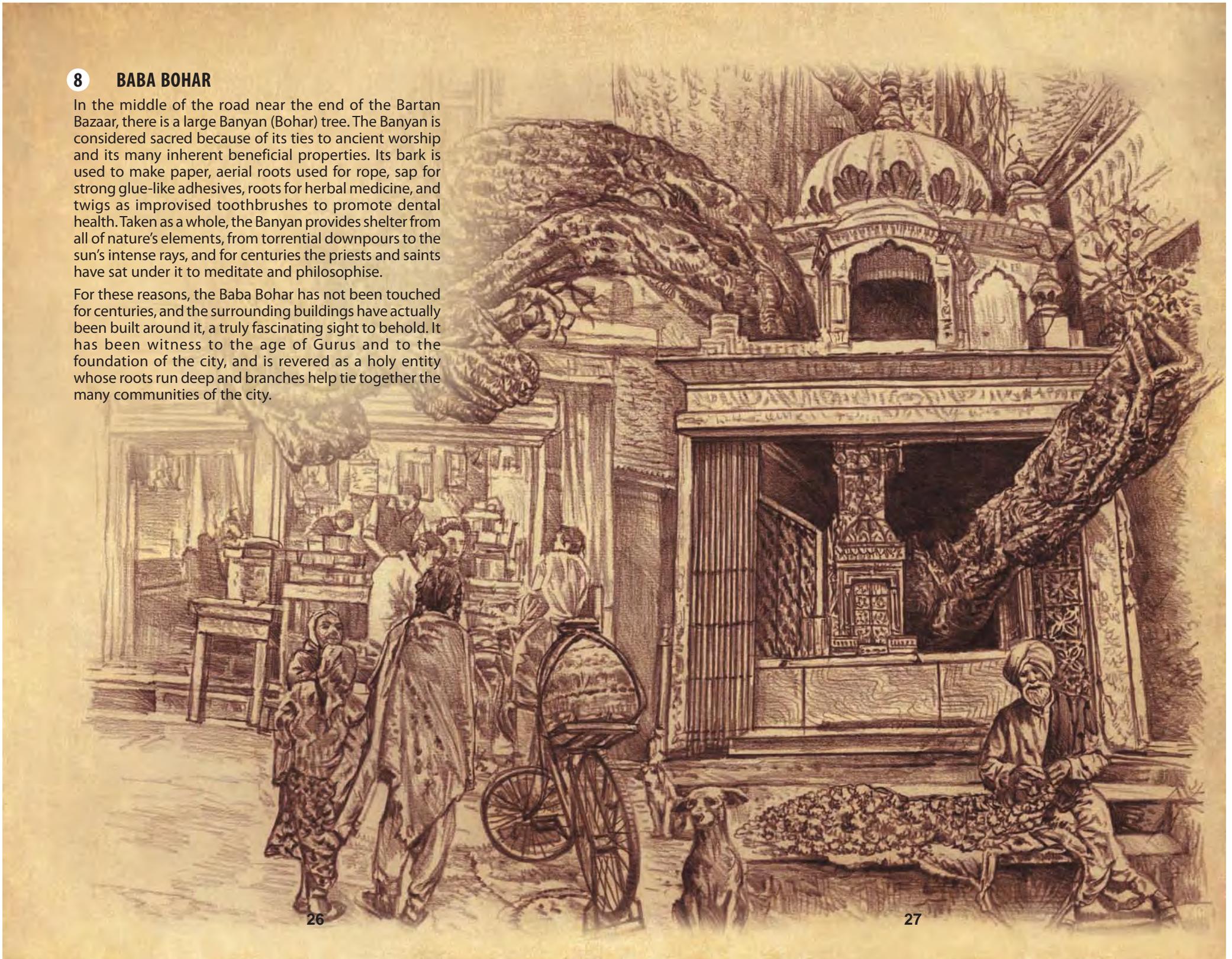
This marks the spot from where Sri Guru Arjun and Sri Guru Hargobind would stand to view the Golden Temple. As there were no buildings around it at that time, there was a clear view of the shrine from this spot. Much later the beautiful painted and gilded ceiling was added.



8 BABA BOHAR

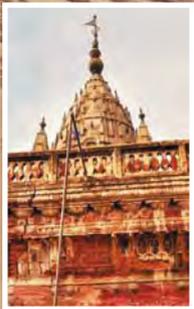
In the middle of the road near the end of the Bartan Bazaar, there is a large Banyan (Bohar) tree. The Banyan is considered sacred because of its ties to ancient worship and its many inherent beneficial properties. Its bark is used to make paper, aerial roots used for rope, sap for strong glue-like adhesives, roots for herbal medicine, and twigs as improvised toothbrushes to promote dental health. Taken as a whole, the Banyan provides shelter from all of nature's elements, from torrential downpours to the sun's intense rays, and for centuries the priests and saints have sat under it to meditate and philosophise.

For these reasons, the Baba Bohar has not been touched for centuries, and the surrounding buildings have actually been built around it, a truly fascinating sight to behold. It has been witness to the age of Gurus and to the foundation of the city, and is revered as a holy entity whose roots run deep and branches help tie together the many communities of the city.

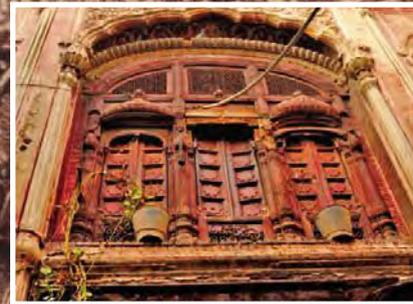


9 THAKURWARA DARIANA MAL

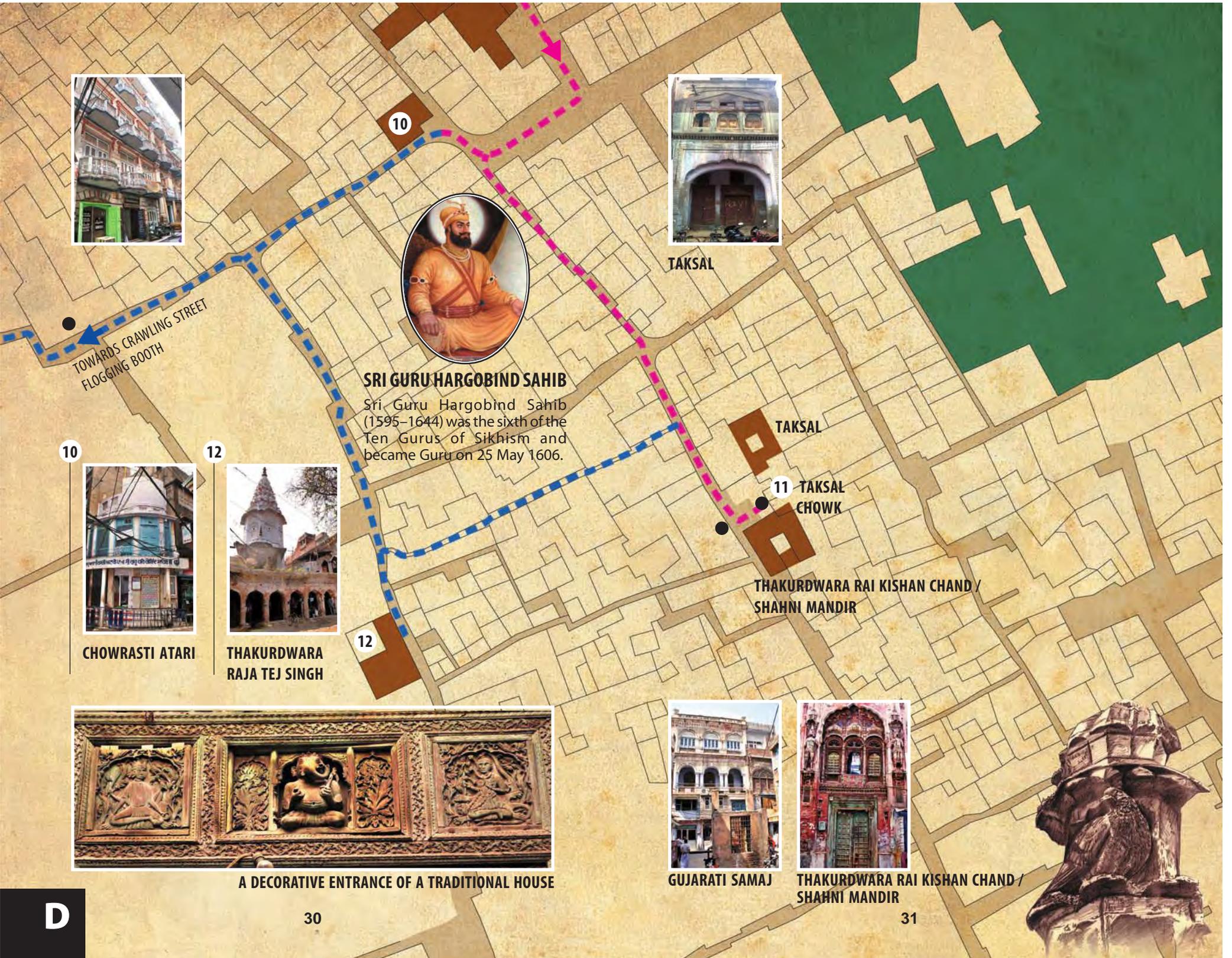
Entering the courtyard of the Thakurdwara is like stepping back in time, shedding light on the beautiful colonial-style architecture that has influenced much of downtown Amritsar. The frescoes represent intricate floral patterns, ornamentation and various incidents from Hindu mythology particularly from the life of Lord Rama. Completed in 1876, the Thakurdwara is dedicated to Lord Krishna and contains two shrines. Upstairs, the intricate designs and striking artwork add to the lure of the structure. It is situated in Katra Mohar Singh near the Chowrasti Atari.



28



29



10



TAKSAL

TOWARDS CRAWLING STREET
FLOGGING BOOTH



SRI GURU HARGOBIND SAHIB

Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib (1595–1644) was the sixth of the Ten Gurus of Sikhism and became Guru on 25 May 1606.

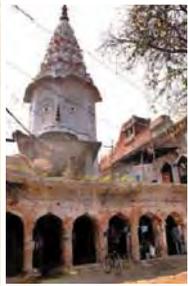
TAKSAL

10

12



CHOWRASTI ATARI



THAKURDWARA
RAJA TEJ SINGH

11 TAKSAL
CHOWK

THAKURDWARA RAI KISHAN CHAND /
SHAHNI MANDIR

12



A DECORATIVE ENTRANCE OF A TRADITIONAL HOUSE



GUJARATI SAMAJ



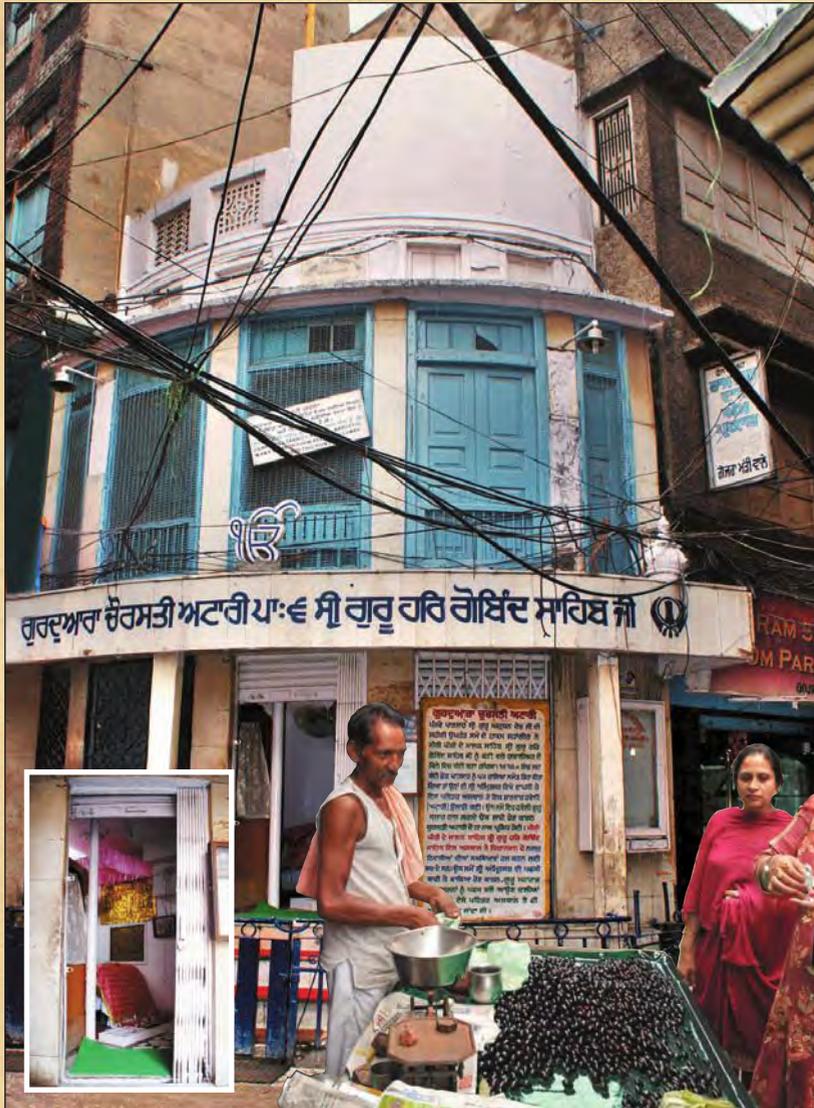
THAKURDWARA RAI KISHAN CHAND /
SHAHNI MANDIR



31

10 CHOWRASTI ATARI

Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib, the sixth of the ten Sikh Gurus, built The Chowrasti Atari complex in the early 1600s, with four passages and thirty-two shops. Guru Hargobind's invited artisans and traders to settle in the area. Also, because it was very close to his residence, he would often spend time here with his devotees, engaging them in conversation and providing them with the guidance and wisdom. Chowrasti (crossroads) Atari (terrace) is located at the end of the Guru Bazaar.



11 TAKSAL (MINT)

Located at Katra Hari Singh, this is Amritsar's first mint, where Sikh regime coins were once struck. In 1803, Maharaja Ranjit Singh issued coins dedicated to his queen, Moran (peacock). Later known as the Moranshahi coin, they were charmingly embedded with the plume of a peacock. Since Moran was actually a dancing girl, this did not go well with the priests of the Golden Temple and they declared that he was guilty of religious misconduct and ordered their production to be stopped. The royal Taksal was once an integral part of the industrial prosperity of the city.



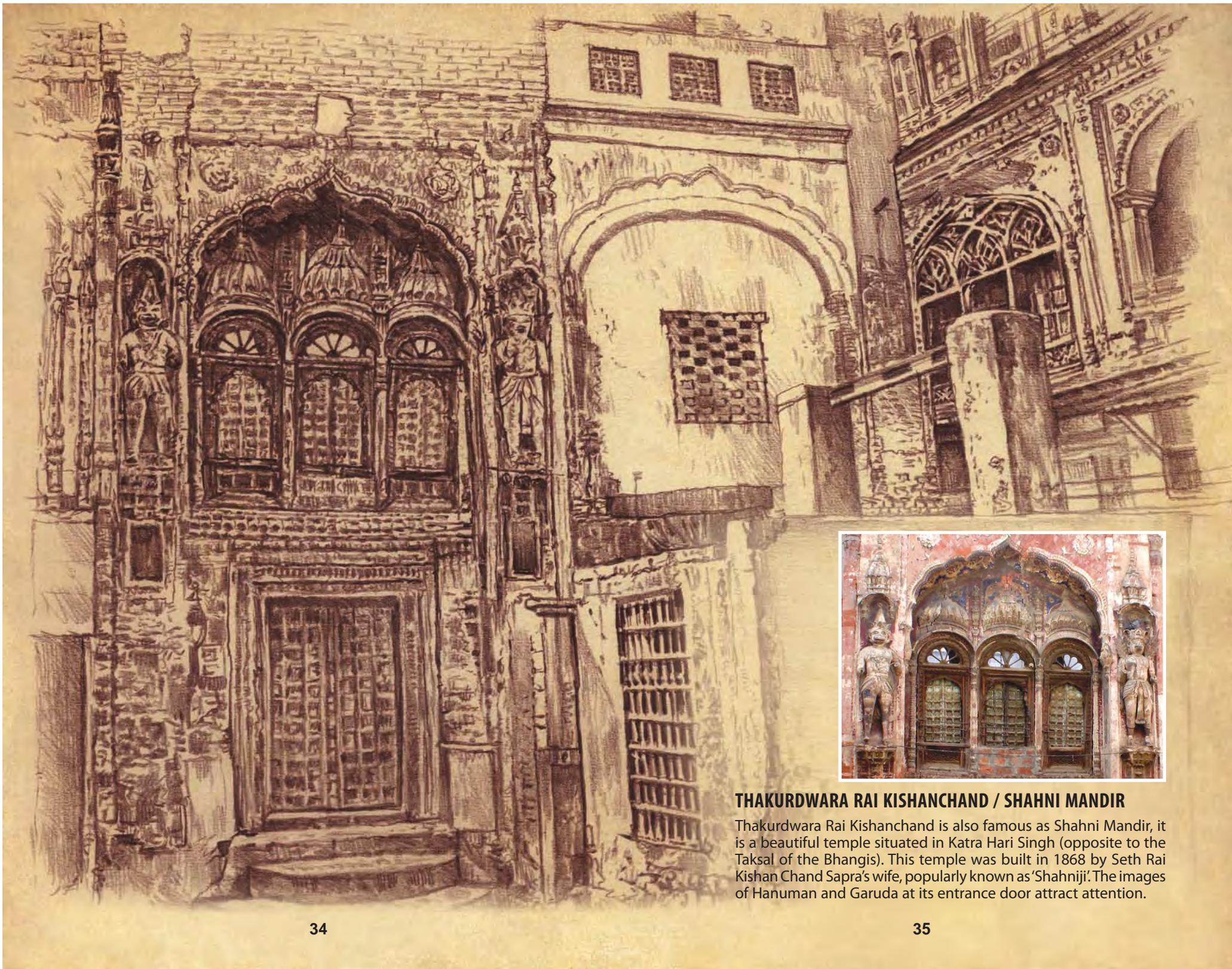
Coins of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's period:
An early rupee coined by Ranjit Singh at his
Amritsar mint in VS 1870 (1813 CE).



A later silver rupee dated VS 1883 (1826)



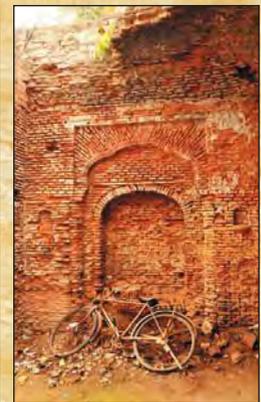
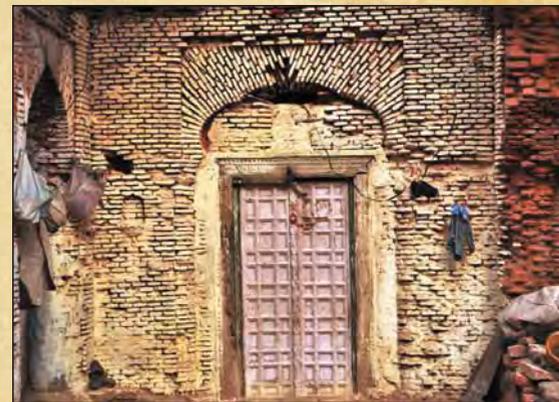
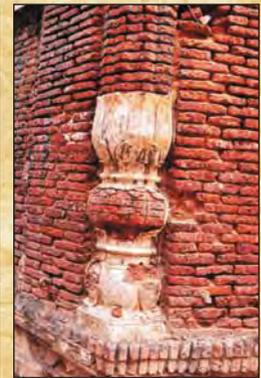
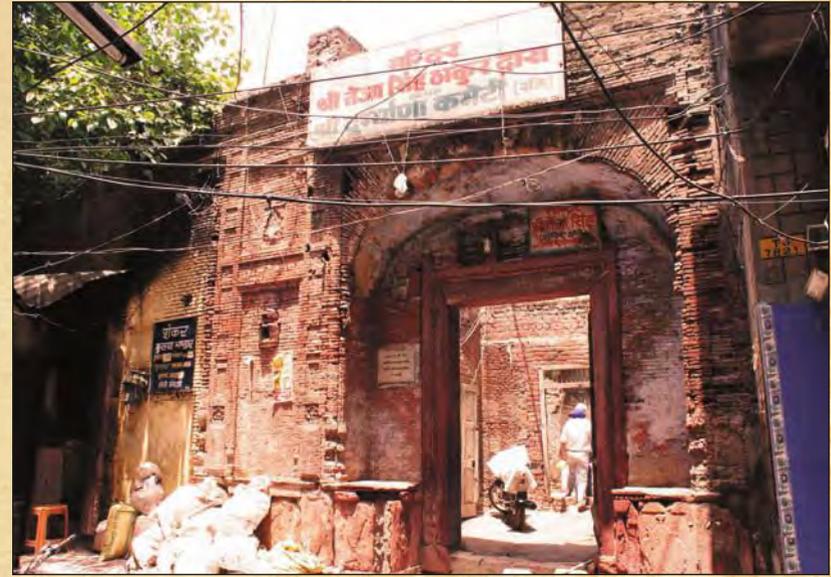
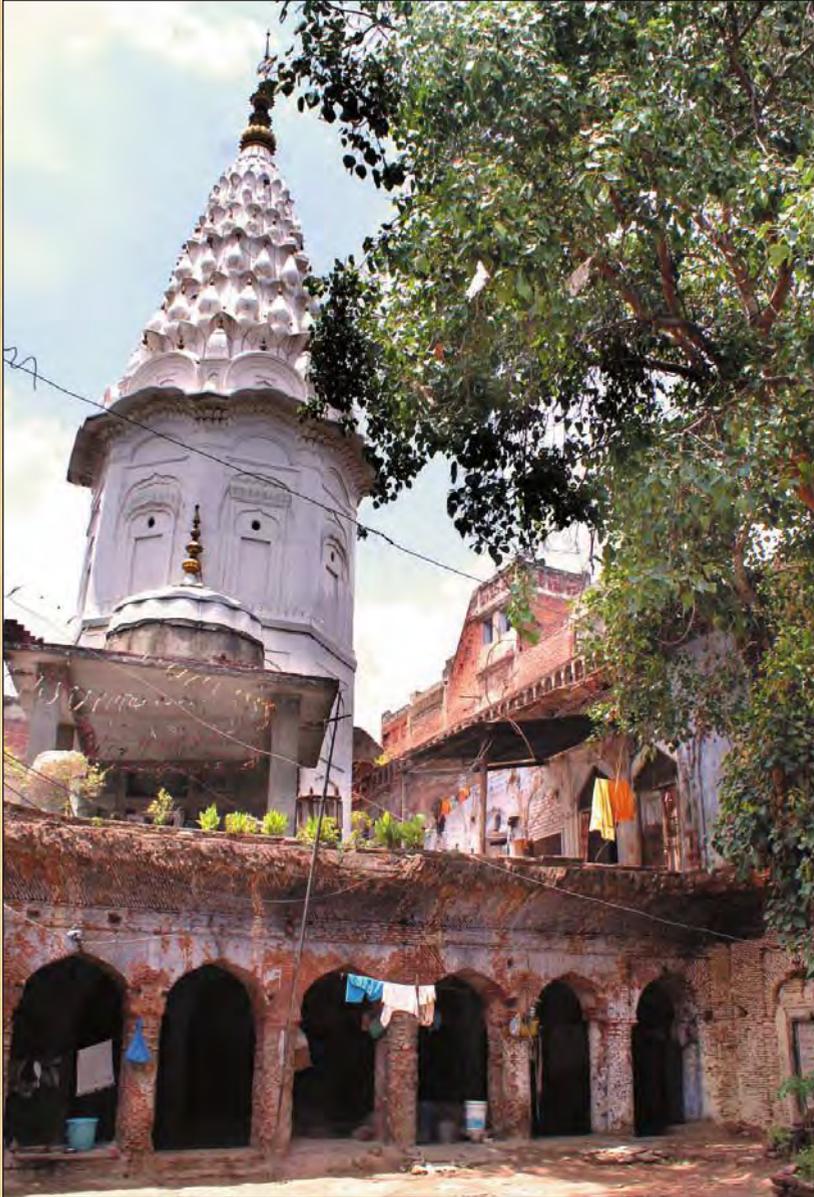
A silver rupee dated VS 1885 (1828), minted at
Amritsar; blown up to show its lovely detail and
workmanship (Original Moran Coins are displayed
in Patiala museum)

**THAKURDWARA RAI KISHANCHAND / SHAHNI MANDIR**

Thakurdwara Rai Kishanchand is also famous as Shahni Mandir, it is a beautiful temple situated in Katra Hari Singh (opposite to the Taksal of the Bhangis). This temple was built in 1868 by Seth Rai Kishan Chand Sapra's wife, popularly known as 'Shahniji'. The images of Hanuman and Garuda at its entrance door attract attention.

12 THAKURDWARA RAJA TEJ SINGH (OPTIONAL TOUR)

Thakurdwara Raja Tej Singh, in Katra Jamadar, was constructed in 1851 by Raja Tej Singh, nephew of Jamadar Khushal Singh. The large rooms made up of bricks and the shops that were made earlier, have all lost their historical appearance as they have been renovated.



13 CRAWLING STREET (OPTIONAL TOUR)

On April 9, 1919, the day after Hindus and Muslims jointly celebrated Ram Navami in Jalebiwala Chowk, an angry mob took to the streets on a mission to exact revenge on the British. Enraged by the oppressive policies of British authorities, they took their aggression out on the first person they saw, British missionary Ms. Marcella Sherwood. Struggling for survival, she knocked on the doors of many houses in the neighbourhood for help. Her cries fell on deaf ears, however, as the local residents were fearful that they would become targets of the rabble who left her lying in the middle of the street, nearly dead.

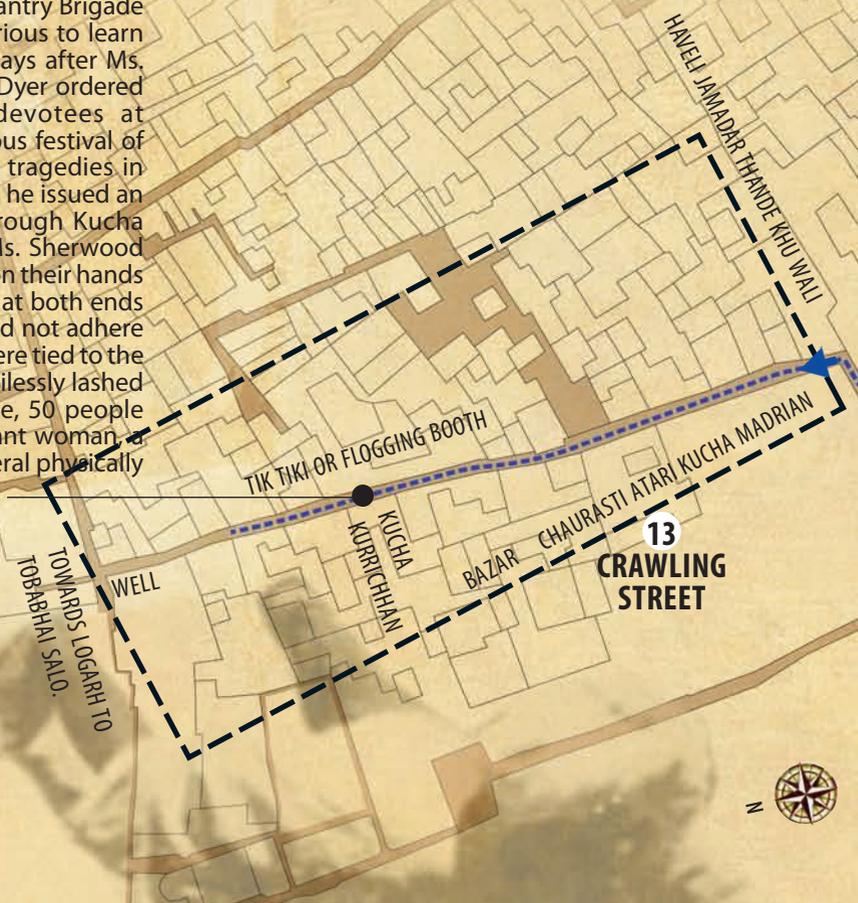
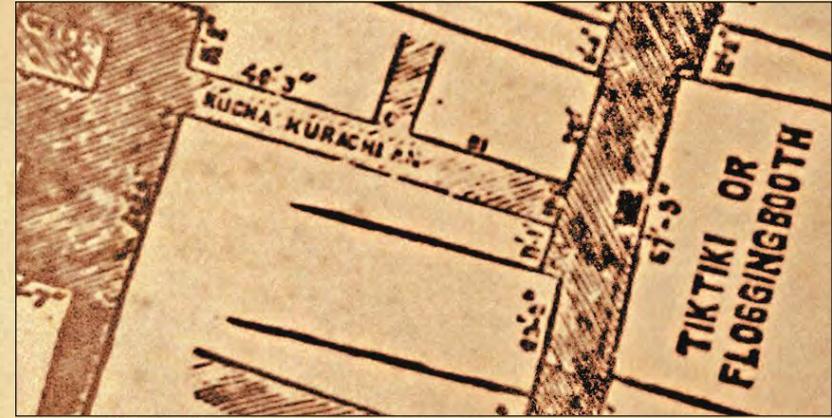


SOLDIERS OF THE 25TH LONDON ENFORCING THE 'CRAWLING ORDER'.

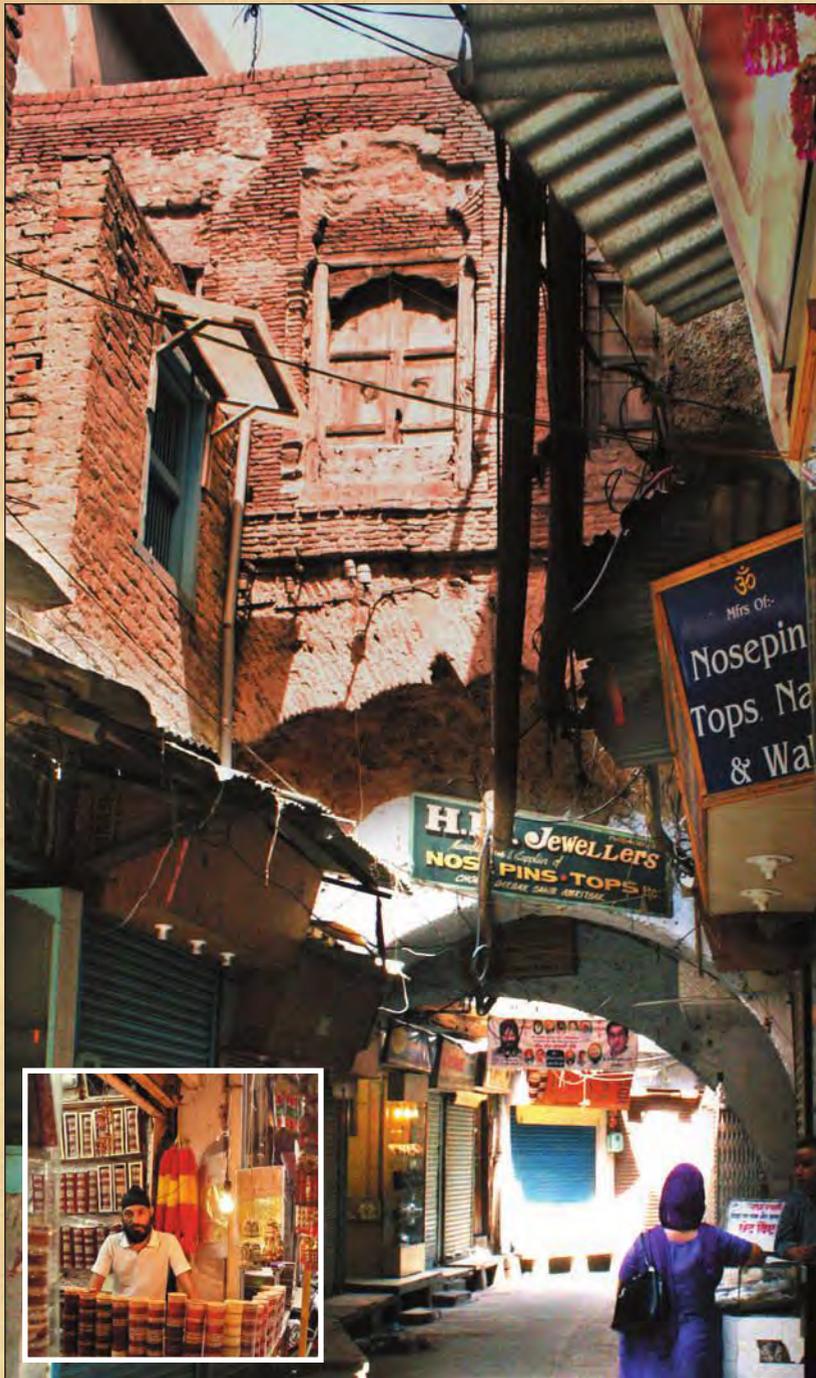
The British Commandant of the Infantry Brigade at Jalandhar, General Dyer, was furious to learn of this event. On April 13, three days after Ms. Sherwood was assaulted, General Dyer ordered the mass execution of Sikh devotees at Jallianwala Bagh during the religious festival of Baisakhi, one of the most horrific tragedies in modern Indian history. On April 19, he issued an order that any Indian passing through Kucha Kurrichhan, the street on which Ms. Sherwood was attacked, would have to crawl on their hands and knees. Dyer deployed soldiers at both ends of the street to flog anyone who did not adhere to his decree. Those who resisted were tied to the flogging post nude, and were mercilessly lashed thirty times. On the first day alone, 50 people were punished, including a pregnant woman, a blind man, a senior citizen and several physically disabled people.



ENTRANCE TO WELL AND KUCHA KURRICHHAN



• Source: Map displayed in Jallianwala bagh

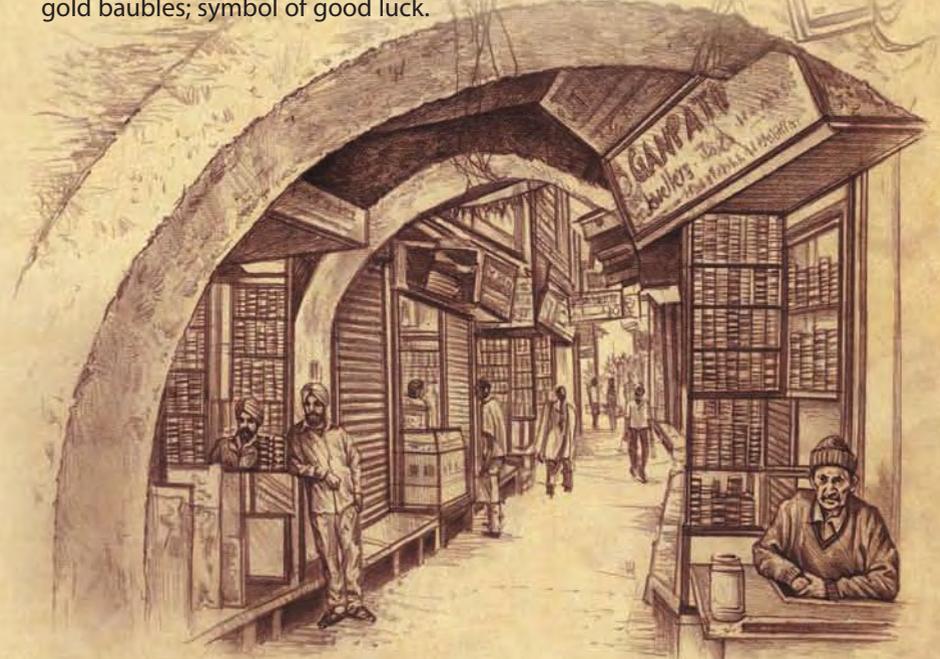


14 ANCIENT PASSAGE

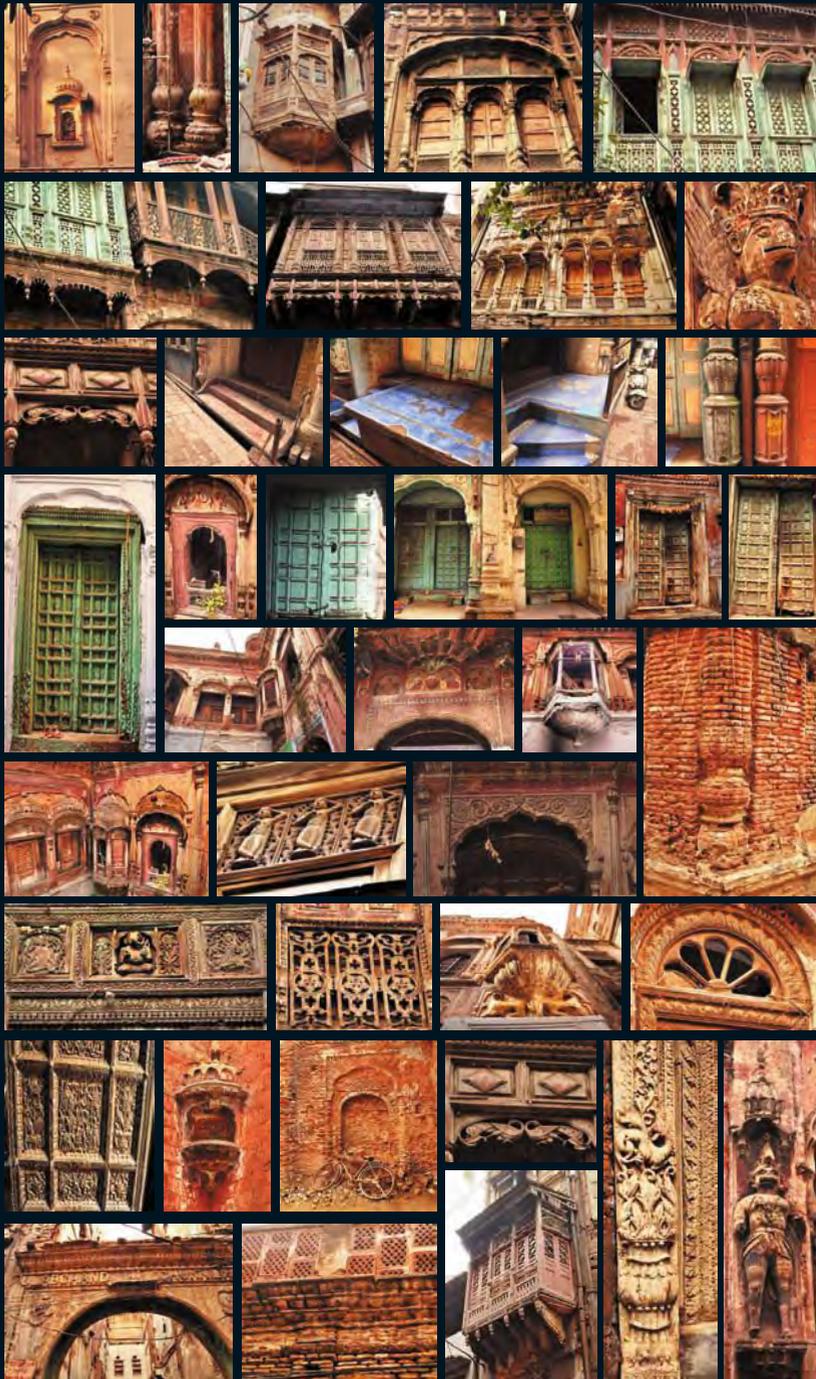
This ancient passage is typical archway between various mohallas and katras of old Amritsar, established by Sikh Misl. These gateways were important for the safety of the different markets that were enclosed in the Katras. The traditional 'Chudi Bazaar' – bangle market in this ancient passage is very popular in Amritsar.

The market is famous for wedding ornaments especially the "Churas" which is worn by a Sikh bride for the wedding ceremony. Traditionally, the girl's maternal uncle makes her wear this, set of red and white ivory (since ivory is now banned, it has been replaced by plastic) bangles that have been dipped in kachchi lassi or buttermilk.

In addition to this the bride also wears a steel bangle or "kada" on each of her wrist onto which her family and friends tie the "kaleerans" or dangling gold baubles; symbol of good luck.



Traditional Architectural Elements of Old Amritsar



Glimpses of Amritsar Heritage Walk

