

The British Cultural Heritage in Abbottabad

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The British cultural heritage in Abbottabad is rich because of its historical and cultural importance. This paper addresses the history of British socio-religious and politico-administrative heritage in Abbottabad. The socio-religious heritage of the British era in Abbottabad includes Saint Luke's Church, Saint Peter's Canisius Church, The Presbyterian Church, the old Christian Cemetery, the Lady Garden, the Schools, hospital, and Shahzada Bukhara Mosque. The British politico-administrative buildings include the old tehsil building, the Town Hall, the forest office, the residence of Shahzada Bukhara (Prince of Bukhara House), The court of deputy commissioner, office of superintendent police, court of district judge, cantonment police station, and the district jail. These buildings are based on a special British tant-shape style. The British engineers designed these buildings in such a way that natural ventilation, natural lightening system besides a quality material is used in such a way that these buildings are still used as educational institutions, worship places, besides offices and residencies of various government departments. These buildings have rich tourism potential; therefore, an urgent reservation is required to save this historical heritage for the posterities.

Keywords: Abbottabad Club, British buildings, Cultural heritage, Saint Luke's Church, Military Veterinary Hospital, Saint Peter's Canisius Church, Shahzada Bukhara, Shahzada Mosque, Presbyterian Church.

INTRODUCTION

Abbottabad is the modern city, and the area of Abbottabad is 18,013 km². The old name of Abbottabad was Orash, which was derived from the Uraga which means 'the lake' (Munsif, 2014). Abbottabad is the headquarter of Hazara division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is situated at an altitude of 1260m (4120 feet) above the sea level (Hamid Zulfiqar, Adnan Anwar, and Shahid Mansoor Khan, 2020). It is the capital city of district Abbottabad having highest official offices such as the High Court Bench, district courts, station headquarter, Pakistan Military Academy, revenue offices, and offices of district administration. The neighboring districts of Abbottabad are Mansehra to the north, Muzaffarabad to the east, Haripur to the west, and Rawalpindi to the south.

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The climate of Abbottabad is temperate with four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. The summer is pleasant while the winter is moderately cold with occasional snowfall. There are two major rivers in Abbottabad such as *Haro* and *Dor*. The topography of the district is dominated by the mountains and hills. The western most parts of the Himalayas lie within Pakistan to the East of the Indus River. Thus, the mountains in Abbottabad are part of the Himalayas.

Abbottabad came under the British control in 1849. Major James Abbott was the first Deputy Commissioner of Hazara district from March 1849 to April 1853 (Watson, 1907). After his departure, the name of this place was changed to Abbottabad by second deputy commissioner by Major H.B. Edwards in 1853 (Lee, 1906). The British established a cantonment in Abbottabad for the soldiers. Abbottabad remained under the British administration till the partition of India in August 1947; therefore, this city is home of significant British cultural heritage such as administrative institutions and other buildings.

The British cultural heritage in Abbottabad is divided into four parts: socio-religious, politico-administrative, military besides residential quarters. Due to security and connected issues, the researchers could not acquire data of military and residential quarters of the British era. Thus, the paper is divided into four main sections; 1) The British socio-religious heritage in Abbottabad; 2) The British politico-administrative heritage in Abbottabad.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS			ABBOTTABAD		
S.NO	NAME	PERIOD	S.NO	NAME	PERIOD
1	MAJ. J. ABBOTT	1849	41	J.H.R. FRASER I.C.S.	1915
2	MAJ. H.B. EDWARDS C.B.	1853	42	CAPT. D.G. WILSON I.A.	1916
3	MAJ. J.R. BEECHER	1855	43	J.H.R. FRASER I.C.S.	1917
4	CAPT. R. ADAMS	1859	44	LT. COL. E.H.S. JAMES C.I.E.I.A.	1919
5	H.D. COX	1863	45	J.L. B. WEIR I.A. (OFFG)	1922
6	A. WALDE	1865	46	LT. COL. E.H.S. JAMES C.I.E.I.A.	1923
7	CAPT. E.L. OMMANEY (OFFG)	1866	47	J.R. COPELAND I.C.S.	1924
8	A.R. HOLLISON	1868	48	J. ALMOND (OFFG)	1925
9	MAJ. G. SHORT	1870	49	J.R. COPELAND I.C.S.	1925
10	T.C. PLOWDEN (OFFG)	1872	50	A.W. FAGAN I.C.S.	1926
11	J. FRIZELL	1873	51	R.R. MACONACHIE C.I.E.C.B.	1926
12	CAPT. W.G. WATERFIELD	1874	52	D.R. GARDE I.C.S.	1927
13	MAJ. E.L. OMMANEY C.B.	1875	53	LT. COL. M.E. RASIA	1928
14	MAJ. C. MCNEIL	1881	54	A.J. HOPKINSON I.A.	1930
15	LT. COL. G. HASLINGS C.B.	1882	55	CAPT. M.C. SINCLAIR I.A.	1932
16	R. CLARKE C.S.I.	1883	56	LT. COL. A.E.B. PARSONS C.B. P.S.O.	1932
17	F.W.D. FRYER C.S.I.	1884	57	CAPT. S. SIKKANDAR ALI MIRZA I.A.I.P.S.	1932
18	S.S. THORBURN	1886	58	B.P. ROSS HURST I.C.S.	1936
19	F.D. CUNNINGHAM C.I.F.	1886	59	CAPT. R.H. BACON C.B. I.A.	1937
20	LT. COL. E.L. OMMANEY	1886	60	MAJ. A.A. RUSSELL M.C.I.A.	1937
21	F.D. CUNNINGHAM C.I.E.	1889	61	G.C.S. CURTIS I.C.S.	1939
22	CAPT. E. INGLIS (OFFG)	1889	62	MAJ. B.D.S. BEDI I.C.S.	1942
23	F.D. CUNNINGHAM C.I.F.	1890	63	MAJ. H.D. RUSHTON I.P.S.	1944
24	C.E.F. BUJARY C.S.I.	1892	64	O.C.B. ST. JOHN I.P.S.	1946
25	MAJ. R.P. LEIGH C.I.F.	1893	65	MAJOR OCB ST. JOHN	01-11-1946
26	C. RAWALISON (OFFG)	1894	66	GHULAM SARWAR KHAN PCS	05-10-1947
27	C.E.F. BUJARY C.S.I.	1896	67	SHER AFZAL KHAN CSP	10-12-1949
28	W.R.H. MERK C.S.I.	1897	68	HADAYAT ULLAH KHAN CSP	16-08-1950
29	R.H. MANT (OFFG)	1898	69	MIRZA FAZAL UR REHMAN PCS	18-08-1951
30	W.R.H. MERK C.S.I.	1899	70	WALI MUHAMMAD KHAN GAR	01-02-1953
31	T. MILLER C.S.I.	1899	71	ATTAULLAH JAN KHAN CSP	24-10-1953
32	LT. COL. H.P. LEIGH C.I.F.	1900	72	ARBAH NOOR MUHAMMAD KHAN PCS	17-03-1955
33	D.K. BLAKEWAY	1901	73	MUHAMMAD JAN KHAN PCS	18-06-1955
34	MAJ. C. FOWNEY THOMPSON I.A.	1902	74	ZAFAR ALI KHAN PCS	04-11-1956
35	G.C.L. HOWELL I.C.S.	1905	75	SYED MUNIR HUSSAIN CSP	16-03-1959
36	J.S. DONALD I.C.S.	1905	76	MUHAMMAD MASUD ZAMAN CSP	05-04-1961
37	CAPT. W.J. KEEN I.A.	1908	77	WALI MUHAMMAD KHAN GAR	06-12-1963
38	BAJ. B.C. VETERFIELD	1909	78	KHANZADA ABDUS SALAM KHAN PCS	15-11-1966
39	P.J. GIPSON I.C.S.	1909	79	LT. CDR A.A. NASEEM TQA CSP	27-12-1968
40	MAJ. H. STEWART C.I.E.I.A.	1913	80	SAHIBZADA MUHAMMAD AYUB KHAN	16-08-1969

List of Deputy Commissioners Abbottabad (Hazara)

Before arrival of the British, most of the buildings in Abbottabad were built of wood and mud. The British used plaster along with dressed stones block for the construction of buildings. The British built most of the buildings on the tent-shaped pattern. Most of the buildings are single-stories, but some buildings are double-story with wooden roofs. The roofs of the British buildings in Abbottabad are slope pattern like the tent. Among them are religious buildings, government administrative buildings and socio-political buildings.

Objectives of Study

1. To demonstrate the history of the British cultural heritage in Abbottabad in a view to preserve the rich history of Abbottabad.
2. To highlight the tourism potential of the British cultural heritage in Abbottabad.

METHODOLOGY

The qualitative method is used to complete this article specially the survey of buildings besides interviews are conducted from the persons concerned. The authors visited the buildings of the British era and observed the condition, structure, and current use of these buildings. There is lack of data because the district record was destroyed after 2011 because of a short circuit. The British era gazetteers provided some basic information about the buildings, but pictures and exact location of the buildings is not mentioned in the gazetteers.

Moreover, the officials did not provide permission for British era residencies because these are still used by the officials of police and district administration. Moreover, buildings under the use of army are not included in this article because they did not provide permission to visit these buildings which are still in the use of army. The buildings accessible in Abbottabad city and the urban cantonment area of Abbottabad are part of this study. There are some limitations of the study. For instance, most of the buildings under the use of military are not accessible at this time. Similarly, the district administration also refused permission for Commissioner Houses besides residence of Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG). Thus, a separate article is required to fill this limitation/gap if permission is granted by the authorities concerned.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a paucity of literature because most of the studies are purely on archaeological perspective. There is a gap concerning the historical approach towards the British cultural heritage in Abbottabad. Sher Bahadur Panni has given important information about some selected buildings of the British era; however, he did not provide information about the structure of buildings and the history of such buildings (Panni, 1969). Similarly, some other scholars provide information about the British heritage specially Saint Luke's Church, forest offices, Town Hall, Victoria Memorial School, and old Christian cemetery (Khan and Muhammad, 2015). This work is useful, but it did not provide historical information in detail. Moreover, Hamid Zulfqar's article is also in archaeological perspective of the British heritage in Abbottabad. The writers highlighted the material and structure of the

buildings; however, they did not provide history and use of these buildings (Hamid Zulfiqar, Adnan Anwar, and Shahid Mansoor Khan, 2020). The works of archaeologists remained useful for the writers of this article; however, the approach of this article is historical.

THE BRITISH SOCIO-RELIGIOUS HERITAGE IN ABBOTTABAD

The socio-religious cultural heritage is an important part of the British rule in the sub-continent. The Socio-Religious heritage of British in Abbottabad is significant in terms of service as well tourism potential. The social heritage includes schools, hospital, Abbottabad Club, Lady Garden and other buildings; however, the religious buildings are the British era churches and a Mosque in Abbottabad. There are three British era churches in Abbottabad city such as Saint Luke's Church, Saint Peter's Canisius Church, The Presbyterian Church, and the old Christian Cemetery. The British era mosque is Shahzada of Bukhara Mosque.

Saint Luke's Church

Saint Luke was the one of the 12 companion of the Jesus Christ, so the Church was named after his name. When the British came to Abbottabad, their Christian military officers need a place for their worship, congregation, and marriages. Consequently, this church was established in 1864 in Abbottabad. Saint Luke's Church was the military Church (Indian Church Act 1927). In the frontier of Hazara, all the Churches were made up of tant style. It is said that the land for this church was gifted by the Queen Victoria, however, the researchers found no documentary proof of this claim. The Lady Garden in front of Saint Luke's Church was also part of this Church, but it was separated later on by construction of a road. Currently, the land of the Church is 39 canal (Priest Rafique, Personal Communication, and November 07, 2023). The British used lentils, jute, and egg white for the construction of Church along with the dressed stone blocks. The constructions of Church was completed in six years.



The main gate of this church is called Queen Victoria Gate. It is said that Queen Victoria entered the church through this gate, however, the fact is that Queen Victoria never visited India during her entire tenure. This gate is now closed, however, there are two other

gates such as Lady Garden gate, and The Club gate. The Bishop of Calcutta was the first Bishop of Saint Luke's Church. The chair of the Bishop of Calcutta is still preserved in this Church. There is also a British era pipe organ which was used to play religious songs. This Church also contains some memorabilia of the British army officers. The memorabilia are inscribed on plaques on walls of the Church (John Paton Davidson Memorial, 1865).

Along with the church, some other buildings were also constructed including the Vicarage, which was the residence of priests, a Sunday school for the education of young Christian children, a guest room, and a servant quarter. The Sunday school building was used for teaching of young Christians, and currently it had two female teachers who teach the children while the parents go to church for worship. This building is still used for this purpose (Priest Rafique, Personal Communication, and November 07, 2023). The Vicarage (Residency of priest) was the priest's residence. The current priest Rafique is still living in the Vicarage with his family. The salary of priest during the British era was equal to an army subedar. The guest room of the Church is damaged, and it needs an urgent preservation, however, the servant quarter is used by a female teacher at Sunday school as her residence. For water supply, the well of British era is still intact in the lawn of Church. "The Church Missionary Society opened a branch at Abbottabad in 1899...In 1901, the [Hazara] District contained 17 native Christians" (Watson, 1907).

Saint Peter's Canisius Church

The Christianity is divided into two major dominations: the Catholics, and the Protestants. When the British came to Abbottabad, they established the Protestant Church. Some British officers were Catholics, and there was need of a separate place for their congregation. Within this context, the British established a small Catholic Church in a military barrack in Abbottabad. The Fathers of the Mill Hill Missionary Society (MHMS) used to worship and congregation for the British Catholic soldiers in this barrack (Church Record Book, 2023). In 1909, Monsignor Rev. Fe Dominic Waggener of Mill Hill Missionary Society requested the British government to allot a land for the Catholic Church and Parish Houses in Abbottabad. The British accepted this request and allotted 21836 yard (36 canal) land for the Church and Parish Houses in which 18984 yards of land had been earmarked for the Parish Houses while the remaining 2842 yards for the Catholic Church (Church Record Book, 2023, also the Church board of honour).



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The foundation stone of Saint Peter Canisius Church was laid on January 07, 1910 by Rev. Fr. Adrian Van Deysse, and the Church was consecrated on April 27, 1911, by Monsignor Rev. Fe Dominic Waggner, the high priest of Kafiristan and Kashmir (Church Record Book, 2023). The construction of this building was based on mud, stone, iron, and wood. The roof of this church was constructed with the wood and iron sheets with the perfect ventilation system. The four windows were constructed in the four direction for the purpose of light and ventilation. The Parish rooms and servant room are also within the Church area. There are some wooden tables and a stone table of the British era.

This building is renovated by the Christian community and the outer wall were construed by bricks. Adrian van Deysse became the first father of this Church (1910-14) and Rev. Joseph Devlin was the second father of this Church (1914-1919). Nasir William is the current father of this Church. Almost 200 people are the followers of Catholic Church in Abbottabad. The various portraits of Jesus Christ besides a statue of Bibi Maryam is also in the church which is made up through the modern technology. Now only four canal land is the Church property, and other 32 canal under the control of government and locals (Church Record Book, 2023).

The Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church Abbottabad is situated close to the Regional Tax Office Abbottabad at the Karakoram Highway. Initially this building was the dancing hall of the British era. Moreover, this hall was also the stable of the British army. The British constructed this building with help of their slaves. The stones and wood have been used in the construction of this building. This building is also tent-shaped, and its roof is made of iron sheets which was later on renovated (Authors' observation at Church, November 12, 2023).



This building is more than 100 years old. The floor of this building was made with wood, and it was also renovated. The Poster house was also constructed near this building, and rooms were also made for the servants. The name of this Church was United Presbyterian Church, which was changed to The Presbyterian Church. This Church is under the Diocese of Islamabad. All expenses of this Church are borne by the Christian community itself. Almost 300 family are the followers of this Church in Abbottabad.

Nazeer is the current elder of this Church, and Abhan is the current poster of The Presbyterian Church (Elder Nazeer, Personal Communication, November 15, 2023).

The Old Christen Cemetery

Wherever the British built cantonments, the graveyards were also built known as Gora *Qabrastan* in the local language. It was established in 1853 which is located at the road leading to Shimla Hills in Abbottabad. The cemetery contains many old graves and historical memorials. The graves in this cemetery belonged to those who gave their lives during the frontier campaigns. The graves of Major Hugh Rees James, Major Leigh Richmond Battye, and Colonel A. W. Crookshank besides others are also in this cemetery. The Rev. Henry Fisher Corbyn of the Bengal Ecclesiastical Establishment spent many years here as Vicar and senior Chaplin was also buried in this cemetery on November 25, 1903 (Henry Fisher Memorial, 1903).



In addition, Major Mugh Rees Huge Rees James, the superintendent of Peshawar division also buried here who was died in October 1864 at the age of 41. Moreover, Joseph William Boode, the assistant commissioner of Abbottabad is also buried here who was died on May 03, 1898, at the age of 34 (William Boode Memorial, 1898). After the Indian partition in August 1947, this graveyard is under the use of local Christian community. Currently, this graveyard is full, and there is no place for the more graves. The residence of Naeem, the caretaker, is within the premises of cemetery. The caretaker's residence was also constructed during the British time. The Muslim family has been providing the caretaker services for many years as employees of the Christian community (Priest Rafique, Personal Communication, November 07, 2023).

Besides religious buildings of the British era, there are also the social setups of the British era which are still providing social services to the community. The social heritage of the British era includes the Lady Garden, a High School, a hospital, and Shahzada Mosque.

The Lady Garden

When the British came to Abbottabad, and they made Abbottabad as a cantonment besides a Station Quarter was also established in Abbottabad. They also established a garden for the British officers and the British community. Thus, the Lady Garden was established in 1853 which was only for the ladies, however, local community were not allowed in this garden. The British had established a separate park for the local community which was known as the Company Garden. Only white families and their children were allowed to enter in the Lady Garden (Maroof, 2018).



The Cantonment Reading Room and the Lady Garden

The pine trees of the Lady Garden were brought by the British from Lebanon and these pine trees are history in itself. The sitting area, gym and playground for the children and a reading room was also part of the Lady Garden. The reading room was established for women of the British officers in 1930 (Ijaz, Personal Communication, November 17, 2023). This reading room is also present in its original condition and is being used as a reading room with having newspapers and a small number of books.

Abbottabad was James Abbott's favorite place, and he wrote a famous poem about Abbottabad while he was sitting in this garden.

I remember the day when I first came here
 And smelt the sweet Abbottabad air
 The trees and ground covered with snow
 Gave us indeed a brilliant show
 To me the place seemed like a dream
 And far ran a lonesome stream
 The wind hissed as if welcoming us
 The pine swayed creating a lot of fuss
 And the tiny cuckoo sang it away
 A song very melodious and gay
 I adored the place from the first sight
 And was happy that my coming here was right

Shamraez, Iqbal, Khan

And eight good years here passed very soon
 And we leave you perhaps on a sunny noon
 Oh Abbottabad we are leaving you now
 To your natural beauty do I bow
 Perhaps your wind's sound will never reach my ear
 My gift for you is a few sad tears
 I bid you farewell with a heavy heart
 Never from my mind will your memories thwart

After the formation of Pakistan, this garden was also opened for the local community. This garden is an epitome of beauty. Now it is divided into two sections; one section is reserved for children and families; however, the second section is for general public.

The Hospital

When the British come to India, they established various dispensaries in the different areas. Before arrival of the British in Abbottabad, there was no hospital in Abbottabad. According to the prominent writer Sher Bahadur Panni, the “European doctors are responsible for the strong foothold of European nations on the land of ancient India” (Panni, 1969). The first hospital in Abbottabad was established by the British in 1872. Currently, there are the offices of municipal committee besides a public vehicles’ stop besides a motor bus stop. This hospital was used for the outdoor patients. The building of present “Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Teaching Hospital” was established in 1876. At that time, only serious patients were admitted to the hospital (Panni, 1969).



Till 1905, military officer was working as district surgeon, however, a civil district surgeon was appointed in 1905. There was a civil hospital and dispensary at Abbottabad which was under the supervision of assistant-surgeon (Watson, 1907). This building was constructed with the stone blocks, mud, and wood. In 1954, the hospital became a women and children only hospital while the male ward was shifted to the newly established District Headquarter Hospital in Abbottabad.

Government Higher Secondary School No. 1, Abbottabad

It is said that initially the school was at the name of British Queen Victoria, and its official name was Victoria Memorial School. It was established as a middle school which was upgraded to the high school in 1911 (Sajjad, Personal Communication, November 21, 2023). The official documents demonstrate that it was Abbottabad district school, which was established in 1861, however, it is not mentioned that the official name of school was Victoria Memorial School (Punjab Government, 1883-84). It is said that the land for this school was donated to the British government by a Hindu lady. The care of the building is still under the British embassy in Islamabad. All the communities such as Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs were studying in the same classrooms. The thousands of students have passed out from this school and served for the nation .One of the British governor also completed his study from this school (Sajjad, Personal Communication, November 21, 2023). The material which was used in the construction of the building are mostly mud, lime, iron sheets, and stones .The roof of the building is made up of wood.

There were four classrooms and one hostel for the students besides a room for the servants, and a room for the guests. The iron sheets were used in the roof which was imported from England. The roofs of the rooms are high, and there are two ventilators on one side of the wall, and windows on the other side of the wall. There is a perfect natural ventilation and the lightening system. The doors are made up of wood and small in size. The upper parts of the doors have aluminum glass, so these rooms are naturally cool in the summer season, and warm in the winter are warm season .All the books of the British time, their postal system, their policies, and public notification are also preserved in school library. All the maps and construction plan of the subcontinent colleges is also safe in the library. At that time, well qualified teachers of math at this school were mostly the Sikhs.



The recruitment record of 1884 armed force pertaining to the year 1884 is also mentioned in a register. All record of the British related to any field like physics, geography and other social and natural sciences is also preserved in the school library. The current name of this school is Government High School No., 1, Abbottabad. There were two other schools such as “Albert Victor unaided Anglo-vernacular High school, a municipal Anglo-vernacular high school, and a Government dispensary” (Government of India, 1908). The

principal of the school said that there was another building in front of the British era hostel, but the building was demolished, and new block is constructed over there. The principal also told that the tender was approved to demolish the earthquake-ridden hostel building of the British era, but the department of archaeology intervened, and they are committed to renovate the building for RS. 20000000/= but the renovation work has not yet started. By the department of archeology.

Government Centennial Model Secondary School Abbottabad

The school is situated in main bazar Abbottabad. As per a panaflex inside the school, the date of primary school is mentioned as 1892. It was upgraded to Middle School in 1925, and a High School in 1935. The Mirza Block and hostel was constructed in 1935. It was named as Government High School No., 2 Abbottabad in 1950.



The building of school where Allama Iqbal delivered his lecture in 1904.

The Vice Principal of School Dr. Khalid Nauman told that Allama Muhammad Iqbal also visited this school in 1904, and he delivered a lecture on ‘National Life’ in the hall of school. This fact is also substantiated in a book that Allama Iqbal visited his elder brother Shaikh Ata Muhammad in Abbottabad in 1904. “...a local literary circle requests Iqbal to deliver a lecture. He develops the contents of this lecture into an essay in Urdu titled ‘National Life’ (*‘Qaumi Zindagi’*)...published...in *Makhzan* in October 1904 and January 1905.” (Anjum, 2014).

Prince (Shahzada) of Bukhara Mosque

Prince Bukhara Abdul Malik built a mosque in 1895 in front of his residential house known as Shahzada Bukhara House (Ijaz, Personal Communication, November 17, 2023). So, this mosque is called Prince (Shahzada) Bukhara Mosque. This mosque still exists in its original condition. The mosque is one of the most beautiful mosques in Abbottabad. Prince Abdul Malik’s children died in their youth, whose graves are still there on one sideline of mosque. Prince Sikander and his sister lived long. Prince Sikandar never married, but his sister married with Baluch Sardar Muhammad Laghari (Abbasi, 2020).

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Now this house is the property of the descendants of Prince Sikandar's sister. The architectural style of this mosque is a blend of Central Asian and the local style. One door of exit is in the north and the other is in the south to avoid having back towards the Holy Kaaba.



Abbottabad Club Limited

The Abbottabad Club was constructed in 1906. It is situated near Saint Lukes Church on Jinnah Road Abbottabad. It remained under the civil administration on lease from 1929-2019. Now, the Abbottabad Club is under the administration of Garrison/Station headquarter of Abbottabad. The memorial of Commander in Chief General Douglas Gracey is date back to 1948, however, the renovation work was completed in 2015 at the instructions of General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The club has a tennis court, health and sports complex, a swimming pool, and other recreational facilities.



As per the list of presidents, Brig. F.R. Harison remained the president of Abbottabad Club from June 1947-October 1947. From November 1946 to September 1948, Major W.F. Dais and Major Shajan served as Honorary Secretaries of Abbottabad Club. The club membership forms of few persons are placed inside Abbottabad Club pertaining to the year 1943.

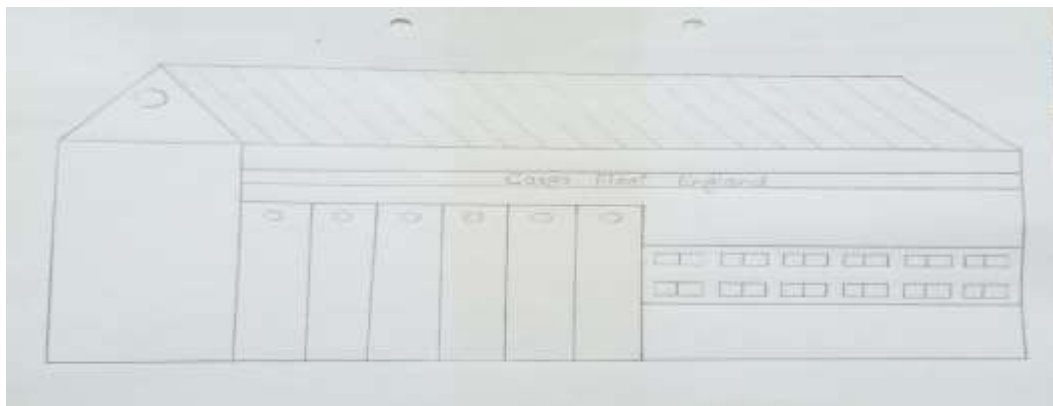
Three buildings inside Army Burn College for Girls

As per caretaker of Army Burn Hall College for Girls, there are three buildings of the British era inside the college. Two buildings are used as administrative offices, and one building is being used as a museum. As per caretaker, prior to the college, these British era buildings were also used as a hotel. The year 1817 is mentioned on one of the building which seems incorrect, and 1917 may be the correct year.



Army Veterinary Hospital Abbottabad

This hospital is situated in Karim Pura in front of Government Postgraduate College No.1 Abbottabad. During the British period, it was a stable for 42 mules used for the military cargo service. There are 42 hayracks and water storage racks in the open ground besides 42 similar setups inside the barrack. The total land is approximately 15 *kanals*. The date of the mules' stable is 1905 and 1907 mentioned on the buildings. The iron sheets of stable contains stamps of Cargo Fleet England which demonstrates that the sheets were imported from England.



There are approximately ten special rooms for mules having size of 8 feet by ten feet. In each room there is a hayrack on left side and the water storage rack on the right side. The experts elaborated that mules are more reliable for military cargo services compared to horses. Besides the stable, there are also residential rooms for the caretakers, and place of hay storage. There is another British era building in front of the stable, and it is said that it was used as a bakery during the British period.

Residential quarters of Military Engineering Service (MES)

Although, the MES administration did not allow the researchers to visit the British era buildings inside the MES office, however, the residential quarters outside MES office are open to visit.



A resident of the quarters told that initially it was the British era stable for mules, and now many employees of MES are living in this building with artificial partitions.

THE BRITISH POLITICO-ADMINISTRATIVE HERITAGE IN ABBOTTABAD

Besides socio-religious heritage of the British era, there are also the politico-administrative buildings of the British era in Abbottabad. These buildings include the old tehsil building, the Town Hall, the forest office, and the residence of Shahzada Bukhara (Prince of Bukhara).

The Old Tehsil Building

Hazra district was divided into three tehsils: Abbottabad, Haripur, and Mansehra. There was a tehsildar, and a naib tehsildar in each tehsil (Government of India, 1908). The tehsil building was established in 1874 (Watson, 1907). The entrance gate was made after the World War II after 1945 when the British were among the victorious powers. The entrance gate is like a dome as a copy of a similar gate in Paris. The inner gate of the dome is made up wood in 1878. The residency of James Abbott was inside the tehsil building

which is a double-story building. This is a fort like building having six rooms in both the floors. The residency building was constructed around 1853. There was also the place of official horses. The total area of the old tehsil is eight canal and nine marlas in *khasra* (plot) number 18/80 (Saqib, Personal Communication, November 27, 2023). The building has approximately 25-30 rooms. All the administrative works concerning revenue was conducted through the offices in this building. The two-room court of James Abbott was also inside the tehsil complex which was constructed with stone, mud, pulses, egg white, and the lime.



The ventilation system of old tehsil building is perfect for the light and fresh air. The roof is made of wood, and iron rods are used which were imported from England. All rooms have three-sided ventilation system besides the windows and doors are made of wood. The aluminum is fixed on the upper side of the doors. The police station was also part of tehsil building complex which was also constructed at the same time of tehsil building. A historical and unique black tree is still present in front of Abbott's. This tree is not present in any other place in Abbottabad which demonstrates that it may have been imported. Currently, old tehsil building is used by the revenue officers such as *patwari* and *girdawars*. The building needs urgent protection and renovation.

Cantonment Police Station

The Police Station Cantt is situated on the back side of old tehsil building in Abbottabad. The officials in Police Station Cantt told the researchers that the building was constructed in 1908. With minor renovation and alterations, most of the building with approximately over 15 rooms is still in its original shape including the main entrance wooden gate and doors of all rooms. The officials call some buildings as old barracks (*Qadeem* barracks).



The Forest Buildings

As per the roll of honours, the buildings of the Department of Forest were established by the British in 1872. The total area of these buildings is of 39 *kanals*. This is also a complex having department of forest besides residence of the conservator of forests. From 1872 to 1880, the assistant conservator of forest had resumed his duties in this office. Mr. .C.F. Elliot was the first deputy conservator of forests from 1880 to 1881. His staff consisted of four rangers, two deputy rangers, five foresters, and 126 forest guards (Watson, 1907). In 1930, the British Indian government created a new post and appointed the first Chief Conservator of Forests. Consequently, MR. G.R. Henniker Gotley was appointed the first Chief Conservator of Forests in of Hazara district. The residence of the Chief Conservator was constructed in 1930.



The building was used for various purposes in which the clerical and other staff also used to perform their duties. Now few rooms of old building are used as a storeroom and a record room. The lime, wood, stone and mud have been used in the construction of this building. The walls of the building are wide and strong. This building suffered some damage in the 2005 earthquake, but it was renovated, and it is still in original and durable condition.

The Town Hall

The Town Hall was established by James Abbott in 1853 (Sadaqat, 2017). The basic purpose of this hall to receive the local delegations for the purpose of the resolution of local issues (Ijaz, Personal Communication, November 17, 2023). This hall was in the center of Company Bagh .The building is constructed with limestone, the mixture of different pulses, and the egg white. The doors are made of wood, and aluminum is used in upper side of the doors. The ventilation system is perfect for the light and the air as per the British cultural style. The roof of the building is made of wood. During the British era, this building was used to solve various social political and administrative problems. This building continued to be used for *Jirga* and also for solving problems between the locals. This hall was also used as the provincial assembly of NWFP. The no-confidence vote against the premier of NWFP Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum was also passed in this hall in late 1937. Moreover, Doctor Khan Sahib was elected in this hall as the premier of NWFP in 1937 with support of the Congress party (Ijaz, Personal Communication, November 17, 2023).



The building was also used for religious and political party meetings and events. It was also used for various functions such as poetry and songs competitions. In 2007-8, it was converted into a museum and named as Abbott Museum. The museum was established by Hazara University, and currently it is used as a museum with the coordination of archeology department and Hazara University. Different types of pottery and historical ornaments of are preserved in this museum. The portraits of archeological sites, utensils besides a picture of James Abbott is also in the museum.

The Prince of Bukhara House

Although, Bukhara House was the residence of a prince of Central Asia, but the political events are connected with his stay in Abbottabad (The British India). During the time of great game, when Czarist Russia captured the Central Asians regions one by one, the state of Bukhara was also unsafe. The ruler of the state of Bukhara Mirza Muzaffar of Bukhara could not counter the Russian advance and he decided in favour of a peace deal

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with Czarist Russia. The son of Mirza Muzaffar, Abdul Malik was not happy with the peace deal of his father with Russians, therefore, he revolted against his own father and captured some areas of Bukhara. Ultimately, in 1868 he faced a humiliating defeat in 1868 by his father with help of Russians (Saifi, 2002). Abdul Malik fled to Afghanistan and requested the British authority for a refuge in India.



Apparently, it seems that the British also wanted to use him against Russia in Central Asia, therefore, they provided him a refuge in British India along with his family in 1872 (Abbasi, 2020). He lived in Peshawar for some time, and then he moved to Abbottabad. The British established a beautiful Bukhara House for his residence in Abbottabad. The British also provided him all sort of facilities such as horses besides various *kanals* of the commercial land (Abbasi, 2020). Abdul Malik (Shahzada of Bukhara) was died in Abbottabad in 1909 and he is buried in the proximity of Shahzada Mosque in Abbottabad.

The court of DC, office of SP, court of District Judge, and the District Jail

There are five administrative buildings of the British era in old *kachehri* (judicatory) within the area of approximately 250 meters.



District Jail

SP/SSP office main side

SP/SSP office outer side



The court of District Judge. The iron hook is said to be used for the horse of officials (Hussain, Personal Communication, November 29, 2023).



An unknown building of the British era.

Court of DC/DRO office

The deputy commissioner (DC) was the executive head of Hazara district, and he was also the district magistrate to try the criminal cases (Government of India, 1908). The remains of the court of DC are still present in the old kachehri on west side of current senior civil judge family court in Abbottabad. The building was damaged by the earthquake of October 2005; however, it was renovated, and it is still being used as an administrative part of the DC office. There was also an assistant commissioner besides two extra assistant commissioners under the British DC “one of whom is [was] Incharge of the district treasury” (Government of India, 1908). That is why it is also an opinion that it was office of District Revenue Office constructed in 19th century (Ihsan Ali, Abid-ur-Rahman., and Mehir Rahman, 2009).

In the eastern side of DC court, there was the office of Superintendent Police (SP). The British police in Hazara district was under the supervision of a superintendent, and “the regular police force consists of 487 of all ranks...” (Government of India, 1908). The office of Superintendent Police of the British era was four *kanal* and seven marlas having 15-20 small rooms. The building was constructed with wood, mud, and the stones. The roof is constructed with the iron sheets. The ventilation and natural lightening system was perfect because there are four windows in the roof of building: one towards the east, one facing west, one towards north, and the last in the direction of south. The doors are small which are made of wood while the aluminum is used in the upper side of the doors.

There is an opinion that it was the office of Senior Superintended Police which was constructed in 1860 (Ihsan Ali, Abid-ur-Rahman., and Mehir Rahman, 2009). Currently, this building is still under the police administration, and record of different police stations is preserved in this office. Inside this office, there was the office of DSP which is now shifted into the police lines. In 2013, the office of disputes resolution council was established with seven rooms which was renovated for this purpose. There were 16 police stations in Hazra district, and the district jail in Abbottabad had “accommodation for 114 prisoners” (Government of India, 1908). The district jail is situated near the DC court; however, the building needs urgent renovation.

The office of District Judge is situated in the eastern side of the DC court. The district judge was responsible for civil cases. District Munsif was also present in Abbottabad (Government of India, 1908). The superintendent of a local court told the researchers that the building of district judge was established in 1934, however, he did not provide any documentary evidence in support of his claim. The district judge was also the additional district magistrate (Imperial Gazetteer of India, 1908). From December 1926 to June 1927, George Leslie Mallam was the district judge at Abbottabad (“We Remember George Leslie Mallam”, n.d.).

CONCLUSION

The British cultural heritage in Abbottabad is significant concerning the tourism and engineering perspectives. Every building of the British era has a history concerning the purpose and use of building. Various heritage buildings of the British era are demolished for construction of the commercial shops. The “The municipality was created in 1867” (Government of India, 1908). Besides the district board in 1880s (Government of India, 1908) but there is a confusion concerning the location of these setups. Probably, the town hall may have served the services of municipal office or the district board. The public works such as construction of barracks, bridges, and roads were “supervised by an officer of the Military Works Department, who [was] stationed at Abbottabad...he [had] one or two Royal Engineer officers under him” (Watson, 1907). It demonstrates that the official buildings of the British era in Abbottabad were constructed after approval of the competent engineers. That is why, despite damage caused by a powerful earthquake in 2005, almost all the buildings are still used by the government functionaries. The British cultural heritage in Abbottabad needs preservation due to its vast significance for the tourism industry.

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